

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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Chaired a meeting to review preparation for the upcoming 4th Khelo India Winter Games to be held at Gulmarg from February 2. Directed the concerned departments to work together to create memorable experience for athletes and winter sports enthusiasts.

Srinagar • Wednesday 10, January 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 08 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 5/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paise) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Raj Bhawan Bids Farewell To Minga Sherpa



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the officers of Raj Bhawan bid farewell to Minga Sherpa, who served as Additional Secretary at the Lt Governor's Secretariat. The Lt Governor complimented Minga Sherpa for his professional **•P-06**

Jatin Kishore Assumes Charge As Dir Info



JAMMU: Jatin Kishore Tuesday assumed the charge of Director Information. After assuming charge, the Director held a brief introductory meeting with the officers of the department during which he stressed on the need for further strengthening the activities and core competence of the department with the introduction of modern and new media platforms for maximizing its reach. **•P-06**

'Honour To Have You Visit Us' PM Modi Extends Warm Welcome To UAE Prez Al Nahyan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who received UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Ahmedabad airport on Tuesday, described the UAE leader as "my brother" and said it is an honour to have him in India. "Welcome to India, my brother, HH @Mohamed-BinZayed. It's an honour to have you visit us," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X. He attached pictures which reflected the warm bond between the two leaders. The pictures showed two leaders hugging each other and also holding each other's hand at the airport. Another picture showed the two leaders talking after the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary. PM Modi and the UAE President later held a roadshow in Ahmedabad ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. People in large numbers welcomed PM Modi and the UAE President in Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister accorded a warm **•P-06**

Dry Chillai-Kalan Casts Shadow On Kashmir's Major Water Resources

'PROLONGED dry spell leads to water reduction in rivers'
'Our surface water sources not RECHARGED'
'No WEATHER activity till Jan 16'



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: The persistent dry spell in Kashmir especially in the peak time of Chillai-Kalan has cast shadow on Kashmir's major water resources including Jehlum and other streams while the water level in all the surface water sources has registered a significant dip. Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Kashmir, Sanjeev Malhotra said that the dry spell has already started impacting the water resources here. "In absence of the timely snowfall and rainfall, the water level in all the surface water sources here have reduced," he said. He added that the department has been ensuring adequate water

supply to the people by resorting to the curtailments, but certainly it is going to impact in the long run. "The snowfall in Chillai-Kalan is pivotal to have adequate water, but as this period is going on presently on a dry note, it will have a long term effect as well," he said. Furthermore, he stated that the snowfall during the peak time of Chilla-Kalan is important as the **•P-06**

Severe Dry Spell Sparks Concerns Over Fish Production

As Kashmir Valley is grappling with a severe dry spell throughout the hard winter, the experts have raised concerns about its impact on fish production in the region. They said the unusual absence of rain or snow is disrupting the delicate balance of water



bodies, potentially jeopardising fish. However, the fisheries department contends that production has steadily increased over the past **•P-06**

LG Reviews Preparations For Khelo India Winter Games



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for 4th Khelo India Winter Games scheduled to begin on 2nd February at Gulmarg. The Lt Governor was briefed by Sh Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, on the progress of preparatory works assigned to the concerned departments. The Lt Governor directed the departments concerned to complete all works expeditiously through time-bound action plans and ensure all the facilities meet the international standards. The success of previous editions of Khelo India Winter Games has transformed J&K UT into a winter sports hub. It must be ensured that this year too becomes a momentous **•P-06**

Terror Conspiracy Case NIA Files Chargesheet Against Pak National, Two LeT OGWs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said they have filed chargesheet against a Pak resident and two Over Ground Workers of Lashkar-i-Toiba outfit in a terror conspiracy case. In a handout, the NIA said that tightening its noose further around Pakistan-backed terrorist organisations operating in Jammu & Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on charge-sheeted three more persons, affiliated with an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), for conspiring to unleash violent terrorist attacks with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms etc. The spokesman further stated that the chargesheeted accused include a Pakistani **•P-06**

3rd CS Conference CS Sensitizes Adm Secys About New Targets Set By PM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting of all the Administrative Secretaries and other senior functionaries of the administration to take stock of the achievements made on different parameters and goals set during the first two National Conferences of Chief Secretaries besides setting the tone for smooth implementation of new targets set in the 3rd Conference. The Chief Secretary impressed upon all the Administrative heads to look into the progress **•P-06**

Snowless Winter In Kashmir Dampens Tourist Plans



MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: The snowless winter in Kashmir is turning the trip of thousands of tourists into a spoiler, with many deferring their visit to upcoming months. In an unusual turn of events, tourists flocking to Kashmir have found themselves missing the magical allure of snow this winter. The iconic snow-capped landscapes that usually define the winter charm of Kashmir have been notably absent, leaving visitors and locals alike in a state of disappointment. As the region experiences a prolonged dry winter, many tourists who had planned their trips for white Kashmir have now decided to reconsider or even postpone their travel plans. "This year we are witnessing a very unusual climate in Kashmir. Usually Kashmir would have experienced snowfall by now, but it is missing. It is a fact that tourists who have planned their trip to the valley with expectation to witness snowfall leave with disappointment," said Rauf Trambo, President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir. Following dry weather, the usual flurry of activity in popular tourist destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Sonamarg has been subdued, with visitors expressing a sense of longing for the snow-covered mountains **•P-06**

Srinagar Records Minus 2.4°C



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: There was slight rise in night temperature on Tuesday as Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.4°C. A meteorological department official said that the temperature was 0.5°C below normal for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year. He said the Srinagar saw minimum temperature of minus 4.3°C on previous night. Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.6°C against minus 4.2°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 0.5°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 4.4°C against minus 5.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.6°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of minus 1.2°C against minus 2.1°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 2.8°C for the place, the official said. **•P-06**

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Deputy Commissioner Pulwama chairs NCORD meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: A crucial meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) was convened Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom to formulate a comprehensive action plan to tackle the issues of drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, DC highlighted the gravity of the situation, delving into topics such as the prevalence of drug addiction, age groups affected, locations prone to drug peddling, and the cultivation of illicit substances. He urged all line departments, especially members of NCORD, to intensify efforts in combating drug trafficking and to enhance coordination among various Government bodies.

Dr Basharat emphasized the importance of conducting extensive awareness campaigns in schools and colleges to educate the youth about the dangers and detrimental effects of drug consumption. He called for a united front from all departments to break the supply chain, take strict action against those involved in drug trade, and implement a multi-faceted rehabilita-



tion, counseling, and guidance policy.

Recognizing the pivotal role of families, DC sought cooperation from parents and religious leaders in keeping youngsters away from drugs. He underscored the need for a collective effort to address not only drug abuse but also the associated social issues and crimes.

Assuring unwavering support, DC pledged assistance from the District Administration to save the

the attachment of 6 properties in line with prior directives against the offenders.

Additionally, DC stressed the importance of developing an annual plan to comprehensively address the challenges of drug abuse, encompassing coordinated enforcement actions, awareness campaigns, rehabilitation initiatives, monitoring mechanisms and switching over to sustainable crops.

In a proactive move, the DC directed the social welfare department to submit a proposal for a rehabilitation center for drug de-addiction at the district headquarters in adherence to scheme guidelines. He further stressed on setting up rehabilitation centres across the District.

Furthermore, revenue authorities were instructed to issue notices against the cultivation of illicit poppy and cannabis in the district, signaling the administration's commitment to curbing the root causes of the drug problem.

The meeting served as a testament of the ultimate resolution of District Administration in its determination to create a drug-free environment, safeguarding the well-being of the community, and fostering a brighter future for the youth.

During the meeting, officers provided updates on the current drug menace situation, offering suggestions and proposing measures for rehabilitation of drug victims.

Enforcement measures, including FIRs, property attachments, and reducing areas under illicit crops, were reviewed as part of a comprehensive strategy. The chair was briefed on the lodging of 114 FIRs and

youth from the adverse effects of drugs.

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ADDC B'la review preparedness for R-Day celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Aijaz Abdullah Saraf Tuesday chaired a meeting with the Administrative and Police officers of the district to review the preparedness for upcoming Republic Day celebration across Baramulla.

During the meeting, the ADDC took in depth appraisal of the campaigns and events planned by the District Administration in the run-up to the grand celebration on 26th January.

The meeting was informed that the main function of the day will be held at District Police Lines Baramulla, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag followed by inspection of parade. The chair was also apprised that full dress rehearsal for the event would be conducted on 24th of January.

It was given out that march-past will be presented by contingents of JKP, CRPF, Fire and Emergency and other bands which would be followed by a colourful cultural programme by students.

The meeting further held thorough discussion regarding the necessary

arrangements including security, seating, transportation, parking, electricity, heating, refreshments, medical services, ambulance availability, fire department deployment, and sanitation measures.

The ADDC directed the officers from the concerned departments to ensure proper arrangements related to security, sanitation, seating arrangements, barricading, water supply, power supply, issuance of invitation cards and illumination of important buildings etc on the Republic Day eve.

Additionally, Aijaz Abdullah stressed on the importance of close coordination among all departments for the seamless and successful conduct of the event and instructed the concerned officers to designate nodal officers to supervise the preparations.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Divya D; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development, Shabir Ahmad Hakak; Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Syed Faheem besides other officers of Police, CRPF were present in the meeting.

DC Bandipora reviews status of HADP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In order to accelerate the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and ensure its success in Bandipora district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ur Rehman Rather, Wednesday chaired a meeting with the concerned officers.

At the outset, the DC took stock of the progress made under the HADP since its launch in the district and reviewed the status of various interventions such as seed distribution, soil health testing, irrigation infrastructure development, micro-irrigation projects, farm mechanization, farmer training programs, and market linkages.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on overcoming challenges faced in implementing the program, particularly in remote areas. The DC directed concerned departments to work in close coordination with PRIs and farmer groups to

ensure proper planning, execution, and monitoring of HADP activities.

Emphasizing the importance of empowering farmers, Rather called for increased focus on capacity building programs and providing timely access to inputs and technology. He stressed the need for adopting innovative practices and promoting diversification in agriculture to enhance productivity and income for farmers.

The DC set clear time-lines for achieving specific targets under the HADP program and directed officials to submit regular progress reports. He assured all possible support from the district administration to ensure the successful implementation of the program.

The meeting was attended by the officials from the Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Sheep Husbandry Department, Fisheries Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and farmer representatives.

SMC extends VBSY to Khankah e Moula, Maharaj Gunj areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Tuesday expanded the reach of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) to Khankah e Moula and Maharaj Gunj.

This expansion was marked by the welcoming of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van by Mudasir Husain Bandy Chief Transport Officer SMC.

The VBSY events encompass activities at Gandhi Memorial College and Marriage Hall Rajori Kadal, representing a significant

milestone in the Corporation's efforts to engage with the general public within its jurisdiction.

Throughout the VBSY events, representatives from designated departments actively participated, utilizing the platform to elucidate the core objectives and procedural intricacies of their respective schemes.

The primary goal of this concerted effort is to bridge information gaps and ensure that citizens are well-informed about the multitude of benefits and assistance programs made available to them by the Government of India.

Empowering Pulwama

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra uplifts Communities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, continuing its inspiring journey, has become a transformative force, extending its reach from Panchayats to the heart of Pulwama's villages.

In a momentous stride, the Yatra recently graced six villages, igniting vibrant celebrations and fostering a profound sense of community spirit. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans crisscrossed these villages, delivering the visionary message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Yatra's mission, as residents wholeheartedly embraced the Sankalp

pledge. The cultural tapestry of Pulwama came alive through captivating performances by students



and locals, echoing the essence of the Yatra. Government departments actively engaged with the community, showcasing schemes and providing on-

the-spot services, creating avenues for exploration and empowerment.

A highlight of the event was the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment,

where beneficiaries shared heartfelt stories, vividly illustrating the tangible impact of Government interventions. The Yatra has undeniably achieved its core objective ensuring the saturation of Government schemes, reaching every individual in line.

Going beyond rhetoric, the Yatra has translated aspirations into reality, ensuring that the benefits of Government schemes touch the life of every citizen. As it progresses, the Yatra solidifies its role as a catalyst for positive change, instilling hope and progress throughout District Pulwama.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands not merely as a journey of promises but as a transformative force, empowering progress in the very heart of Pulwama.

DC Ganderbal inaugurates playground in Surfraw

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In a momentous event Tuesday, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir, inaugurated the newly constructed playground at Baghi Surfraw.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including DDC member Gund, Norani Ahmad Jara, BDC member Gund, Rafeeq Ahmad Poswal, Sarpanch Ghulam Qadir Khatana, DYSSO Ganderbal, Tehsildar Gund, SDPO Kangan, and SHO Gund.

Addressing the gathering during an impressive function, the DC dedicated the playground to the local community, emphasizing the crucial role sports play in the holistic development of the youth.

He urged the local youth to actively utilize the newly established facility, high-

lighting that engagement in sports can serve as a deterrent to social issues, particularly the menace of drug abuse.

In his interaction with the PRIs, the DC commended them for their pivotal role and unwavering support in the development of all corners of the district. He also expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders involved in the successful completion of this project.

The inauguration of the playground has brought immense joy to the youth who hailed the efforts of the district administration of Ganderbal for their commitment to fostering recreational spaces for the community.

This initiative aligns with the broader vision of promoting sports and physical well-being, fostering a healthy lifestyle among the residents of Ganderbal.

DC B'pora holds interactive meeting with District Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, Wednesday convened an introductory meeting with all district, sectoral officers at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

On the occasion, the DC, while chairing the maiden meeting after assuming the charge of Deputy Commissioner, enjoined upon all officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment and ensure speedy execution of works for holistic development of the district and adoption of proactive approach in public service delivery.

He further called upon all to be responsive and accessible to people at all times and nurture quick decision-making abilities in

resolving public grievances.

He called for maintaining close coordination among departments for holistic and planned development of the district.

While interacting with District/Sectoral officers, DC asked for adopting a people friendly approach and maintaining accountability and transparency in the working of all Government offices.

The DC also took extensive details of working and priority areas/projects of all departments and emphasized on timely completion of all targets and directed to have separate department-wise reviews in due course of time.

He also directed the officers to have focused attention on all flagship schemes and projects of the government, including HADP, Ring Road, PMAY, MGNREGA, BADP, ABDP, ADP etc.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION BIJBEHARA
 e-NITNo. 106 OF 2023-24 No: PHEB: 13790-801 Dated:-08.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (in Rs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work(days)
1	P/L and Fitting of pipes, Construction of 02 No. Sluice chamber, construction of 5000 gallons RCC SR, Collection Sump at Bakerwal Check for WSS Cheki-Dadoo under JJM	As per Annexure-I to this bid document-	03% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
 The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

	Publish Date	09.01.2024 09.00AM
i	Document Download/sale start Date	09.01.2024 09.00 AM
iii	Bid submission start date	09.01.2024 09.00 AM
iv	Bid submission end date	15.01.2024 04.00 PM
v	Date and time of Bid opening	15.01.2024 04.30 PM

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara.. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub division Bijbehara
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at pehbjbehara230@gmail.com

SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	WSS Cheki Dadoo	P/L and Fitting of pipes, Construction of 02 No. Sluice chamber, construction of 5000 gallons RCC SR, Collection Sump at Bakerwal Check for WSS Cheki-Dadoo under JJM	JSD Bijbehara	13.37	BEE CEE DEE	90 days

DIPK-14987-23
 DT: 09/01/2024

Executive Engineer
 JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

Winter snowfall crucial for Kashmir's agricultural prosperity, say experts

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Snowfall in the winter season is indispensable for the Kashmir region as it plays a vital role in irrigating agriculture and horticulture crops, according to experts.

Renowned glaciologist, climate change researcher, and earth scientist, Professor Shakil A Romshoo, said winter snowfall provides essential water for crops and contributes significantly to the region's water security when it melts during spring and summer.

"Our research findings have confirmed a strong positive correlation between the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and winter precipitation in the Kashmir region. In months where the NAO index is greater than 1 (positive), the subtropical jet is significantly more intense than in months where the NAO index is less than 1 (negative). Positive NAO leads to more active western disturbances (WDs) that bring the majority of winter precipitation to the Kashmir region," he explained.

"However, we had a negative NAO during December 2023 and a strongly negative NAO is predicted for



January 2024, which could easily be one of the top four most negative NAOs of the past 25 years, leading to very low snowfall during December and January months this winter," he added.

Romshoo expressed concern about potential water shortages during the summer due to less-than-normal snowfall, impacting the water-intensive paddy culture in Kashmir. While it is too early to predict snowfall/rainfall for February, March, and April, which are typically wet months, he remains hopeful for sufficient precipitation during this period.

Dr Suhaib A Bandh, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at S P College Srinagar, highlighted that prolonged dry weather adversely affects orchards and fruit crops in Kashmir, posing substantial challenges to agricultural productivity. "Dry spells disrupt natural irrigation patterns, reduce water availability for crops, and create conditions favourable for pests and diseases, impacting fruit trees' growth and development," he said.

Dr Bandh said there is a need for strategic water management practices, drought-resistant crop varieties, and adaptive

agricultural techniques to mitigate the impact of prolonged dry weather on Kashmir's vital fruit crops.

Dr Tariq Rasool, a senior scientist at SKAUST, acknowledged the uncertainty in predicting the impact of the current period on next year's farming. While there may be enough precipitation in the remaining winter days, a prolonged dry winter could potentially lead to fruit quality issues next year, he said.

"If the whole winter turns dry, there are likely chances of fruit quality issues next year depending on various other factors," Dr Tariq added—(KNO)

3rd District-Level Bankers' meet held in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In a significant step towards fostering economic development and financial inclusion, the 3rd district-level bankers' meet was successfully held at Dak Bungalow Khanabal under the able chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF, Hamid.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the pivotal role that banks play as crucial institutions for the economic development of society. He highlighted the importance of synergy between the banking sector and the local community to facilitate financial growth and inclusion.

Strategies to enhance financial services accessibility for the underprivileged sections of society were deliberated upon. The goal is to ensure that banking facilities reach every corner of the district, contributing to overall economic growth, he added.



Recognizing the role of small and medium enterprises in economic development, discussions centered on providing financial support and tailored solutions to entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Acknowledging the changing landscape of banking, the meeting emphasized the importance of embracing digital technologies to enhance efficiency and accessibility of banking services. The DC urged banks to

develop and implement credit outreach programs to support local businesses and individuals, thereby stimulating economic activities in the region.

He expressed gratitude to all participating banks and stakeholders for their commitment to the cause of economic development. He encouraged ongoing collaboration and urged banks to actively engage with the local community to address their financial needs.

The 3rd district-level bankers' meet serves as a testament to the collective effort towards building a robust and inclusive financial ecosystem in Anantnag district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by JD Planning, M Ashraf; DDM NABARD, Rouf Zargar; LDM Anantnag, Omar Moharkan and representatives from various line departments and financial institutions.

Comm SMC chairs Introductory Meeting with Municipal Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Dr Owais Ahmed Tuesday presided over an introductory meeting with all Municipal Officers to initiate discussions on forthcoming strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the city's development and ease of living.

During the course of meeting, Commissioner was briefed about each vital functions of SMC viz. Urban Planning, Enforcement, building permissions, Anti encroachment, Civil/ Mechanical/ Drainage works, Public Health, Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, Veterinary functions, Finance, Purchase and procurement, Estates, Birth and Death Registration etc.

Commissioner passed on directions to ensure time bound duties in a transparent manner and provide hassle free services to the citizens.

On building permission, Commissioner SMC directed concerned wing to facilitate building permission smoothly and issue permissions in a stipulated time so that all the citizens applying for building permissions shall abide by law and proceed for obtaining Building permissions under law.

Similarly on Sanitation, the chair directed officials to improve and upgrade overall Sanitation in Srinagar city and go for repairing of street lights wherever required.

Moreover, to curb the encroachment activities and unauthorized constructions, the concerned wing were directed to remain vigilant and act under law.

Meeting was attended by all the Senior Officers of the corporation.

Ganderbal's Baba Dariya Din villagers rue lack of basic facilities

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Inhabitants of Baba Dariya Din in Ganderbal district Monday complained about lack of development in their village, causing them inconvenience.

The villagers alleged that they had been neglected by the successive regimes and the remote area had lagged much behind on the development front.

They said the village lacked basic facilities like electricity, mobile connectivity and potable water supply.

"In the modern era, when smartphones are easily available to all, basic amenities like potable drinking water, streets, roads, medical, transportation, electricity and network connectivity are a distant dream to us," Bilal Ahmad a local said.

He said that the government has failed to address the problems of common masses forcing many families to shift to other locations.

Mushtaq Ahmad, another local, said that there are many problems in the village, but the crisis of drinking water has been unresolved for decades.

They requested the concerned authorities to look into the matter at the earliest and provide basic facilities to the area so that they too could avail benefits of development.

DDC Ganderbal C Molvi Mohd Yousuf admitted the village is without some basic facilities and said that issues were highlighted by him recently during the visit of top government officials there. "I hope that the problems of these basic facilities of the village will be solved very soon," he said—(KNO)

NATIONAL TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP

Athletes from border sector Keran win bronze, silver

TASADUQ HUSSAIN

KUPWARA: In a remarkable accomplishment for the border sector, two athletes from Keran participated in the 6th National Taekwondo Championship in Odisha, securing Bronze and Silver medals. This marks the first such achievement from their region.

The J&K Taekwondo team emerged victorious, clinching a total of 19 medals at the championship. The team showcased exceptional skill and determination by winning 9 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze medals.

Arslan and Aliya Azmat, natives of the border area in the Keran sector, located in the north of Kashmir's Kupwara district at an altitude of 8000 ft, brought home the bronze and silver medals, respectively. They were the first representatives from their area to participate in a national event outside the Union Territory.

Aliya shared her experience, saying she competed against participants from Chandigarh and Delhi and won the silver at the national games.

Despite facing defeat in the third fight round against Nagaland, Aliya expressed satisfaction with her performance. She thanked her parents and coach for their unwavering support and emphasised her determination to elevate the names of the valley in general and Keran sector in particular in the field of sports.

Mohammad Arsalan, who secured the bronze at the national championship, told KNO that he faced competitors from Chandigarh and Maharashtra in the first two rounds. Expressing joy and pride, Arsalan said it was his first national game and he managed to secure the bronze.

Both athletes expressed their aspirations to reach new heights in Taekwondo in the future.

Meanwhile, the locals in Keran celebrated the achievements of these athletes. They said there is a need to promote a sports culture in the region to provide more opportunities for youth. Such accomplishments will encourage more youth to engage in sports, they said—(KNO)

Devastating blaze destroys 13 residential houses in Khanabal



AGENCIES

ANANTNAG: More than a dozen structures were gutted in a massive fire that broke out in Boat Colony area of Khanabal in South Kashmir's Anantnag district late last night, officials said on Tuesday.

An official said that the fire broke out last night at around 03:00 AM from one of the structures, which later spread to others, causing damage to the houses belonging to 13 families.

He said that soon after the incident, the fire tenders reached the spot to douse off the flames, however, by then, the houses had suffered extensive damage.

The official said that there was no loss of life reported in the incident.

According to locals, the damaged houses belong to Javid Ahmed Shaksaz, Abdul Gaffar Shaksaz, Mukhtar Ahmed Guroo, Baby Jan, Mohammed Ashraf Pushoo, Nisar Ahmed Guroo, Reyaz Ahmed Guroo, Muzaffar Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed Handoo, Mohammed Rafiq Shah, Mohammed Ashraf Wani, Sajad Ahmed Wani and Abdul Gani Wani.

Meanwhile, locals urged the government to provide compensation to the affected families.

"In this harsh winter, the government should compensate the families and relocate them to safer places," they said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid visited the spot on and assured the families of full support from the district administration—(KNO)

MD, NHM visits Kupwara, chairs Mega Public Darbar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Mission Director to the Government, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K, Nazim Zai Khan Tuesday visited Kupwara and chaired a Mega Public Darbar at Government Higher Secondary School Kralpora and took stock of Public grievances, developmental activities and other issues.

Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; ADC Kupwara, Gh.Nabi Bhat; District officers, PRIs, besides other representatives and a large number of People of the area attended the Mega Public-Outreach programme.

Highlighting the importance of the Public Darbar, MD NHM said that public out-reach programs act as a bridge between the administration and the people, where highest level government functionaries

connect with people and redress their grievances.

The Mission Director said that "I am encouraged to see the youth in Kupwara district turning to entrepreneurship which is an important untapped source of economic growth. Entrepreneurs are becoming job providers rather than job seekers.

He said that Kupwara district is famous for walnut and honey production and there is a great scope in Sheep farming, dairy farming and Trout fish farming due to the conducive geographical location of the district.

He emphasized that unemployed youth of the district should take benefit of different schemes of the government and turn towards these sectors and generate dignified employment avenues.

Deputy Commissioner said that "demands of the Public are aspirational as people want better than the best day by day. It is

better to prioritize the demands. Given the limited resources and capacity we will make every effort to redress the genuine issues and demands."

She congratulated officers of district administration for successful conduct of VBSY in which all 385 Panchayats and 39 Municipal wards were covered and several schemes were saturated. The DC expressed her gratitude to people of the district for their active participation and cooperation. She further said that service delivery in the district has improved and there is development in all sectors.

While replying to the demands raised by the public, DC announced that Operation theatre of Sub District Hospital Kralpora will be operationalized under the Aspirational District Plan within two months and directed CMO Kupwara to meet the deadline.

DC said that for the

augmentation and infrastructure development of the power sector in the district, RDSS is underway which will help to improve the power scenario in the district to a great extent.

Vice Chairman, District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir also spoke on the occasion and said that all schemes are being implemented in the district satisfactorily with utmost dedication.

VC demanded ATM in Kralpora town and development of infrastructure of Government higher secondary school Kralpora.

During the event, under Meri Kahani-Meri Zubani theme, various success stories pertaining to the golden card, HADP of the Sheep Husbandry Department, accidental insurance of PM social security Scheme and Honey production were shared by beneficiaries. They urged youth to come forward and earn a dignified livelihood for them through welfare schemes.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 Office of the Zonal Education Officer Kupwara

No:-ESTT/ZEOK/023/4626
 Dated:-08/01/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

- Whereas, this office is in receipt of a representation put forth by Lone Tarique Ahmed Teacher UPS Bungam, Zone Kupwara for correction in his name and parentage in Ret Engagement and confirmation orders.
- Whereas, after proper scrutiny of the documents it has been established that actual name of the teacher as per school certificates stands as LONE TARIQUE AHMED S/o: LONE ALI MOHAMMED instead of LONE TARIQ AHMAD S/o: LONE ALI MOHD.
- Whereas, through the medium of this notice this office is inviting objections from General Public regarding the correction in name & parentage of the teacher in question within a period of seven days from the date of issuance of this notice.
- Whereas, after the expiry of the Cut off Date no claim or objection whatsoever shall be entertained.

DIPK-14943-23
 DT: 09/01/2024

S/d
 Zonal Education Officer
 Kupwara

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

EXTENSION NOTICE No. 02

Due to poor response to this office E-NIT No. 24 of 2023-24 dated 08-12-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/LJHP/1696-1702 dated: 08-12-2023 for Complete Refilling Of CO2 Fire Extinguisher Bank and Portable Cylinders in Power House (Complete Job) (ID: 2023_SPDC_239520_1), the critical dates are rescheduled as under:

S.No	Activity	Date already tendered	Dates as per new schedule
1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	08.12.2023	08.12.2023
2.	Bid document download start date	08.12.2023 to 08.01.2024	08.12.2023 to 20.01.2024
3.	Bid uploading start date	23.11.2023	23.11.2023
4.	Bid uploading last date	08.01.2024	20.01.2024
5.	Last date for receipt of hard copies of techno commercial (RFQ) (one original plus one copy)	09.01.2024	22.01.2024
6.	Opening of techno commercial bids(RFQ)	10.01.2024	23.01.2024

All the terms and conditions shall remain the same.
 NO: GD/LJHP/2205-10
 DATED: - 09.01.2024

DIPK-NB-5171-23
 DT: 09/01/2024

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
 Generation Division LJHP,
 Gantamulla Baramulla

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Beyond Engineering And MBBS

Harvard University recently added scores of online courses that would be duly certified by it. All this is absolutely free of cost and students in hundreds would benefit from it. Times have changed a great deal. Today, there are hundreds of ways of earning meaningful employment. Gone are the days when one would be pursuing engineering and medicine tirelessly as if it was the be-all and end-all of life. The world has moved on.

It is very sad to note that in our Kashmir valley, there are still thousands of students who have made admission to an engineering and medical college as the be-all and end-all of their lives. In their flawed worldview, those who make it to an engineering college or a medical college are successful people, and those who do not are not successful. The world has gone forward in scores of ways. Today is the age of artificial intelligence. A course in business intelligence, big data, or artificial intelligence can fetch two to three times more than the basic salary of an engineer or a doctor. Someone who knows coding well can earn multiple times over as compared to an engineer or a doctor. Then there are online coaching platforms, or online writing assignments, or online editing assignments. To add to that, if one is good at describing his/her feelings and is good with gadgets he/she can start his/her own YouTube channel and earn good money. These are the times of expressive intellect. If you possess intelligence and talent, show it to the world – and earn money. This is the age of influencers and stock traders. The students of the Kashmir valley need counseling on this front. To spend thousands of man hours in pursuing engineering or medicine degrees is just a collective waste of time. This energy can better be utilized in courses which are more hands on and skill you enough to earn a decent living for yourself. Kashmir needs some serious counseling sessions in this regard. Especially for those who are first-generation learners in their families.

Recognizing The Signs

When Social Drinking Crosses The Line Into Alcohol Dependence



DR. GORAV GUPTA

Social drinking is becoming a common and widely accepted practice in our culture, often serving as a means of relaxation, celebration, or socializing. While moderate alcohol consumption is generally considered safe for most adults, it's important to be aware of when social drinking may evolve into a more serious issue like alcohol dependence.

Recognizing the signs of alcohol dependence early on is crucial for taking proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle:

Increased Tolerance

One of the early warning signs that social drinking might be turning into alcohol dependence is an increased tolerance to alcohol. If you need more drinks than before to achieve the desired effect, it could indicate a developing dependence. The body adapts to the presence of alcohol, requiring larger amounts to produce the same level of intoxication.

Frequent Cravings

Craving alcohol, especially during non-social situations, is another sign of potential dependence. If thoughts about having a drink become persistent and difficult to ignore, it may indicate a psychological reliance on alcohol to cope with stress, anxiety, or other emotions.

Loss of Control

Loss of control over your drinking



behaviour is a key red flag. If you find it challenging to limit the amount you consume or have difficulty stopping once you start, it may signify a shift from social drinking to dependence. Loss of control can contribute to risky behaviours, impaired judgment, and negative consequences.

Withdrawal Symptoms

Experiencing withdrawal symptoms when not drinking is a clear indicator of alcohol dependence. These symptoms can include irritability, anxiety, shakiness, sweating, and even nausea. The presence of withdrawal symptoms suggests that the body has become physically dependent on alcohol.

Neglecting Responsibilities

Alcohol dependence often leads to

neglecting personal and professional responsibilities. If you consistently prioritize drinking over work, family, or other obligations, it may be a sign that alcohol is exerting a significant influence on your life.

Continued Drinking Despite Negative Consequences

Persisting in drinking despite experiencing negative consequences is a classic sign of alcohol dependence. This might include strained relationships, health problems, legal issues, or job-related troubles. The inability to cut back on drinking, even when fully aware of these negative outcomes, is a strong indicator that the line between social drinking and dependence has been crossed.

Recognizing the signs that social drinking is transforming into alcohol dependence is crucial for early intervention. If you or someone you know is exhibiting these signs, seeking professional help and support is essential. Whether through therapy, counseling, or support groups. Addressing alcohol dependence early on can lead to successful recovery and a healthier, more balanced life. It's important to remember that help is available, and taking that first step towards acknowledging the issue is a crucial part of the journey towards recovery.

Author is a Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Founder & Director - Tulasi Healthcare

Beyond The Stops

The Epic Tale Of Bus Journey

DR. RIZWAN RUMI

In an era where our steel chariots rule the roads, opting for a public bus journey can be a revelation, unlocking a realm of unexpected joys and connections. As I steered away from the routine grind, choosing a bus ride to R S Pora from Jammu, little did I know that this decision would unveil a trove of untapped pleasures in the world of public transport.

Hailing an auto to reach the bus point, I found myself engaged in a friendly banter with the humble auto driver. Negotiating the fare turned into a heartwarming chat about his daughter pursuing a master's in economics at Jammu University. A simple auto ride transformed into a lesson on dedication and the silent struggles our fathers endure – a genuinely unique experience. Upon reaching the bus stop, I decided to grab a cup of tea from a roadside vendor. This impromptu tea break turned into a lesson in patience as I interacted with locals, gathering insights about the road and bus timings. Little did I know that waiting for a bus could become a masterclass in staying calm amidst the hustle.

When the bus finally arrived, the conductor greeted me with a reassuring smile as I requested a ticket to R S Pora. His words echoed, "Don't worry, sir. Sit back and relax." Setting aside the comfort of my car for a Sunday bus ride, I braced myself for the unexpected encounters that lay ahead.

Seated next to a middle-aged man with a vibrant blue turban, a member of the Sikh community, our initial awkwardness melted into warmth as our conversation unfolded. The diverse group of passengers became a living tapestry of community on wheels, sharing stories and cultural exchanges that transcended age and background.

As the bus meandered through scenic fields and trees, the surroundings became a catalyst for shared narratives. Engaging with my seatmate and fellow passengers, tales of life's experiences seamlessly filled the air. It dawned on me that the camaraderie in these



As the bus meandered through scenic fields and trees, the surroundings became a catalyst for shared narratives. Engaging with my seatmate and fellow passengers, tales of life's experiences seamlessly filled the air. It dawned on me that the camaraderie in these communal spaces is a treasure often overlooked in the rush of our individualized lives.

communal spaces is a treasure often overlooked in the rush of our individualized lives. Reflecting on this journey, the intrinsic value of public transport became evident beyond its functional purpose. It serves as a microcosm of society where strangers become temporary companions, sharing fragments of their lives during the course of a ride.

The communal experience, heightened by the passing scenic backdrop, is a reminder of the vibrant tapestry of human connection waiting to

be explored. This journey prompted contemplation on safety and etiquette associated with public transport. From signaling the driver to respecting fellow passengers' personal space, each act contributes to a smoother and more enjoyable ride. These principles extend to train travel, emphasizing safety precautions and the potential benefits of alternative transportation methods like Park and Ride or Park and Share.

In a broader context, embracing public transport goes beyond individual advantages. From reducing traffic congestion and stress to minimizing one's carbon footprint, the benefits ripple through communities and the environment. This article aims to spotlight the transformative power of choosing public transport, not just as a means of transportation but as a gateway to shared experiences, environmental responsibility, and a richer, more connected way of life.

So, why not swap the steering wheel for a bus pass? After all, you never know what delightful stories and unexpected connections await you on the next bus journey – it's like a mobile social club with wheels!

The author is a freelancer. Writer and columnist. His work has been published in various national and international publications. Currently, he is pursuing his post-doctorate and can be mailed at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com.

Good Morning Kashmir

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:

Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

Manager:

Peer Sajad

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

12th Fail – An Inspirational Movie

WASEEM AHMAD BHAT

“12th Fail” is a brilliantly scripted movie, masterfully delivered by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. It instills the belief that with energy and clear goals, anything is achievable in life. Similar to “Super 30,” this movie effectively conveys its message through emotive storytelling. Each character delivers exceptional performances, adding depth to their roles. Emotions remain consistently portrayed throughout the film, captivating the audience from the opening scene to the conclusion, spanning nearly two and a half hours. Despite a modest budget and the absence of prominent Bollywood stars, the movie’s strength lies in its script and the filmmakers’ confidence in the entire cast. The actors, in turn, have proven their worth, justifying the trust placed in them by the filmmakers.

The characters Vikrant Massey (Manoj) and Anshumaan Pushkar (Gauri Bhaya) evoke thoughts of Plato and Socrates. Just as Socrates’ wisdom lives on through Plato, Gauri Bhaya’s essence is seen in Manoj’s character, adding significant value to the movie. Manoj faces and overcomes numerous challenges, eventually passing one of India’s prestigious IPS exams. The film highlights the struggles of honest individuals and the limitations they confront. Despite these obstacles, the movie justifies the satisfaction that



comes from sticking to moral principles, which is undoubtedly deserving.

Characters like Anant V Joshi (Pandey) is always a significant presence in anyone’s life because a friend who is empathetic, understanding, and values your emotions is truly invaluable. Similarly, Medha Shankar’s (Shraddha) character, loving

a boy who lacks financial resources, speaks volumes about the depth of the script and its underlying intentions. Particularly in a time where marriage and selecting a life partner are often influenced by wealth and materialistic desires, Shraddha’s choice of a man with no financial means imparts a significant lesson to the current gen-

eration. The movie also sheds light on the educational system and coaching institutions, showcasing both their positive and negative aspects.

“12th Fail” is not merely a movie; it’s an emotional journey that deeply resonates. This film beautifully captures life’s struggles, triumphs, and complexities through vivid characters

and gripping storytelling. It strongly reinforces the belief that determination and a clear vision can conquer any challenge. It serves as a poignant reminder that success is not solely about societal norms, but about personal integrity and valuing relationships. Family support and the courage to restart after failure are essential themes echoed throughout.

This emotionally charged and thought-provoking cinematic masterpiece evokes empathy, inspires resilience, and highlights the importance of moral values, elevating it to a significant pinnacle in Indian cinema. It transcends mere entertainment, educating and challenging norms, leaving an indelible mark on the heart and mind of the viewer. The movie serves as an excellent source for understanding life’s challenges while pursuing significant goals, emphasizing that opportunities are accessible regardless of one’s background. The commendable characters crafted by the writer and brought to life by the director contribute to its status as an outstanding film in Indian cinema. To conclude, dedicating two and a half hours to this movie is a better choice than spending time gossiping. Moreover, Manoj’s unwavering determination and eventual success portrayed in the film contribute more depth and significance to its storyline. (C-Counter Currents)

The reviewer can be reached at waseembhat94@gmail.com

View From The Past

Early Earth Environment



DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

The concept of the “earliest environment” is often associated with the pristine and untouched aspects of the natural world as it existed before significant human intervention and its key features include, biodiversity, the earliest environments were rich in biodiversity. This biodiversity is crucial for the health of the planet, as it ensures the resilience of ecosystems against changes and disruptions. b. Clean Air and Water: Before industrialization and widespread pollution, the air and water were much cleaner. This is vital for the health of all living organisms, including humans. c. Natural Carbon Sinks: Forests, oceans, and wetlands in their natural state act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and helping to regulate the global climate.

Ecosystem Services: The natural environment provides numerous ecosystem services, such as pollination of crops, purification of water, and regulation of the climate. e. Human Health and Well-being: There is increasing evidence that connection with nature is beneficial for human mental and physical health. The earliest environments offered abundant opportunities for such connection. f. Genetic Reservoir: The variety of species in untouched environments serve as a genetic reservoir, which is important for the future of agriculture, medicine, and biotechnology. g. Climate Regulation: Natural environments play a key role in climate regulation through processes like photosynthesis, transpiration, and the storage of carbon. h. Inspiration and Learning: The complexity and beauty of the earliest environments have always been a source of inspiration and learning for people, influencing art, science, and philosophy.

Sustainable Resources: When managed sustainably, natural environments can provide resources like food, medicine, and materials without depleting them. Environment and human health: The earliest environment, often characterized by its pristine and natural state, played a significant role in shaping human health in various ways. It can provide insights into how modern environments might be impacting our health and well-being today. In ways more than



one the earliest environment influenced human health: a. Air Quality: The air in the earliest environments was free from the pollutants that are common today. Breathing clean air reduces the risk of respiratory conditions, allergies, and even some neurological disorders. b. Water Quality: Clean and uncontaminated water sources in the earliest environments meant lower risk of waterborne diseases, which are still a major health concern in many parts of the world.

Physical Activity: The lifestyle in the earliest environments often required more physical activity, which is beneficial for cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and overall physical well-being. d. Diet and Nutrition: Early human diets were more reliant on natural and unprocessed foods, which are generally healthier. This meant lower rates of modern diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. e. Exposure to Microbes: The natural environment exposed early humans to a wide variety of microbes, which helped in developing a robust immune system, potentially reducing the risk of autoimmune diseases. f.

Mental Health: Being in nature and natural environments has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. The earliest environments offered abundant opportunities for such natural interactions. g. Social Interaction and Community Health: Early environments often fostered strong community bonds and social interactions, which are important for mental and emotional well-being. j. Reduced Exposure to Harmful Chemicals: The absence of industrial chemicals and pollutants in the earliest environments meant lower exposure to substances that can contribute to chronic diseases, including cancers. Understanding the health benefits associated with the earliest environment highlights the importance of preserving natural spaces and incorporating elements of nature into modern urban planning and lifestyles.

Deficiencies of the environment: While the earliest environments offered many benefits, there were also significant challenges and demerits that affected early human life and health. Understanding these challenges provides a more

balanced view of our relationship with the natural world. The key demerits of the earliest environment include: a. Lack of Medical Knowledge and Technology: Without modern medical knowledge and technology, early humans had limited means to treat injuries and diseases. This led to higher mortality rates from conditions that are now easily treatable. b. Exposure to Natural Hazards: Early humans were more exposed to natural hazards such as floods, fires, earthquakes, and extreme weather conditions, without the infrastructure and technology to mitigate their impacts. c. Limited Food Security: Hunting and gathering were unpredictable and could lead to periods of scarcity or famine. d. Predation and Dangerous Wildlife: Early humans coexisted with a range of dangerous wildlife, posing risks of attacks and injuries.

Infectious Diseases: While exposure to a variety of microbes could strengthen the immune system, it also meant a higher risk of infectious diseases, some of which could be fatal or cause serious epidemics.

f. Physical Strain and Injuries: The physically demanding lifestyle of early humans, necessary for survival, often led to injuries, wear and tear on the body, and could be particularly harsh for the elderly or infirm. g. Shorter Lifespans: Due to the combination of the above factors, early humans generally had shorter lifespans compared to modern humans. h. Lack of Comfort and Convenience: Early environments lacked the comforts and conveniences of modern life, such as heating, shelter, and sanitary facilities, making life physically challenging. i. Limited Knowledge and Communication: Without advanced language, writing, and education systems, the transfer of knowledge and communication was limited, slowing down the pace of technological and societal advancement. Thus, although, the earliest environment was more natural and less polluted, it also presented substantial challenges to survival and well-being.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a youth motivator and Professor of Political Science. He can be mailed at apurvadarsh11@gmail.com

Khyber Industries Leads Environmental Stewardship With Plantation Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant stride towards environmental conservation, Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd., as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, organized a massive plantation drive on the 26th of December 2023. The event, conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department of Kashmir Division, aimed to contribute substantially to the region's green cover.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Mumtaz Majeed Sofi, Deputy Director of Forest Protection Force, and A.K Akhoo, Assistant Director of Forest Protection Force, along with other esteemed members of the Forest Department. The presence of the Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. (KIPL) team underscored their commitment to environmental conservation through such initiatives.

"Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd.'s consistent efforts towards environmental protection were recognized during the event, as it was highlighted that approximately



4000 saplings of various trees had been planted during this mega plantation drive. Director Operations Khyber Industries Pvt. Ltd. Riaz Ahmad Trambo expressed, "This initiative stands as a testament to KIPL's dedication to fostering a sustainable and green

environment. It's worth noting that Khyber Industries Pvt. Ltd. has been actively participating in CSR initiatives, particularly in the realm of environmental conservation. Last year, the company successfully planted around 14,000 tree saplings as part of their CSR

endeavors, all conducted under the resonant slogan, "Go Green."

Umar Trambo - Director Corporate & Strategy, Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. expressed enthusiasm for Khyber Industries Pvt Ltd. mega plantation drive stating, "Our commitment to environmental stewardship sets a positive precedent for the industrial sector. Actively engaging in tree plantation and aligning CSR with ecological preservation, the company symbolizes the crucial role businesses play in fostering a greener planet. As saplings grow into flourishing trees, the impact extends beyond industrial success, leaving a lasting legacy of environmental responsibility and sustainable development."

Khyber Cement holds the title of the largest cement manufacturer in the state of Jammu & Kashmir, serving as an integral part of the Khyber Industries PVT Ltd. Founded by visionaries Dr. Gulam Rasool Trambo and Haji Muhammad Maqbool Trambo, and advanced by Umar Trambo, the cement unit epitomizes excellence and innovation.

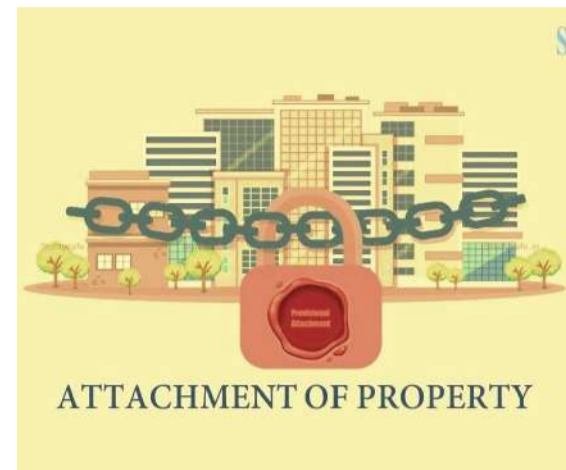
Properties Of Notorious Drug Peddlers Attached In Pulwama: Police

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Pulwama on Tuesday said to have attached properties of two drug peddlers in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

A police spokesman in a statement issued, said a double-storied residential house valuing approximately Rs 20,97,291/- belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Fayaz Ahmad Rather son of Gh Mohd Rather resident of Karimabad and Two Shops with 2nd floor as residential apartment valuing approximately Rs 27,35,186/- which belongs to a drug peddler namely Mohd Maqbool Bhat @Tola son of Ali Mohd Bhat resident of Dalipora Pulwama under section 8/21-29 NDPS Act 1985.

This action follows a thorough investigation, identifying these properties as illegally acquired



during the course of illicit drug trafficking. Both individuals are currently under legal custody, reinforcing J&K Police's commitment to combating activities detrimental to public safety and national security, police said. The attachment was carried out in accordance with the due legal process outlined in FIR No. 301/2023 U/S 8/21-29 NDPS Act of PS Pulwama, underscoring the vigilant stance of Pulwama Police against those involved in the drug trade, the statement said. "This action reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area have hailed the initiative of Police with regard to the attachment of properties, which have been raised/ used from illicit trafficking of narcotics by the drug peddlers in the District Pulwama," it added.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

PM Modi Extends

welcome to the UAE leader on his arrival. "PM @narendramodi welcomed HH @MohamedBinZayed at Ahmedabad airport. His distinguished presence at the @VibrantGujarat Summit makes the Summit even more special," PMO said in a post on X.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra and senior officials were also present at the airport.

Apart from the UAE President other leaders including Timor Leste President Jose Ramos Horta will attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit. Prime Minister will inaugurate the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

He will hold a meeting with CEOs of top global corporations. The Prime Minister will then travel to GIFT City where he will interact with prominent business leaders in the Global FinTech Leadership Forum.

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was started in 2003 under the leadership of Modi when he was the state chief minister.

The tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit is being held from 10 to 12 January 2024 in Gandhinagar. Its theme is 'Gateway to the Future'. This Tenth Edition of the Summit will celebrate "20 Years of Vibrant Gujarat as the Summit of Success".

There are 34 Partner countries and 16 Partner organisations for this year's Summit. The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region will also utilise the Vibrant Gujarat platform to showcase investment opportunities in the North-Eastern regions. (With Inputs from Agencies)

Dry Chillai-Kalan

snowfall after this period will not have sustainability like today's period.

"Our surface water sources are not getting recharged in absence of the snowfall and rainfall, so the precipitation at this juncture is must to get our sources recharged well in advance for the future months," he said.

Moreover, the weatherman here has predicted a dry spell till January 16, but added that a few feeble Western Disturbances would affect Jammu & Kashmir after January 16.

"Dry weather would likely continue till 16th Jan with cloudy on 12th evening," Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO, adding that a few feeble WDs are approaching after 16th Jan.

He added that the maximum over many stations of Kashmir region today was 7-8 degree Celsius above normal while the dense fog over plains of Jammu would likely continue during the next three days.

Pertinently, the parts of Kashmir continued to witness sub-zero temperature amidst the ongoing 40-day harshest winter period, Chillai-Kalan, which commenced on December 21, 2023 and will end on January 31.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.4 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir also recorded a low of minus 2.6 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 4.6 degree Celsius.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist place, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.4 degree Celsius. In Kupwara, the mercury settled at minus 4.5 degree Celsius while in Kokernag, a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degree Celsius was recorded—(KNO)

Severe Dry Spell

four years and is anticipated to rise further in the upcoming season.

Dr Imtiaz Ahmed Khan, Chief Proctor at Kashmir University and renowned Ichthyologist said the effect of the dry spell on fish in Kashmir is evident.

When the water level decreases, it forces the fish out of their comfort zone, he said,

adding, "In winter, fish usually stay in lower water zones where the temperature is higher compared to the upper layers of water. The decrease in water depth affects the temperature stratification zone, disrupting the fish's comfort," he said.

Dr Khan said that in running water, oxygen exchange occurs, and nutrition comes from the catchment area, benefiting both stagnant and flowing water. "However, during dry weather, water from the catchment area doesn't reach, affecting the fish. In the breeding season, if you kill a single fish, you are responsible for killing hundreds of fish," he said.

Natural fish breeding in Kashmir usually happens in February and March. Dr Imtiaz said eating fish during this season is beneficial. "The dry spell affects fish breeding as well as production due to reduced water levels, disrupting the specific breeding spots of fish," he added.

Director of Fisheries, Mohammed Farooq Dar, remained unresponsive to calls and messages from this reporter.

Meanwhile, a Fisheries Department official said that the fish production in J&K has witnessed a substantial surge in the last four years and is expected to increase further in the coming season.

"The fish production in Kashmir has increased by 5840 tons, generating 366.12 lakhs of revenue during this period," the official said.

He added, "The production of trout has increased from 598 tons in 2019 to 1990 tons during the financial year 2022-23. To enhance fish productivity, the department imports fish seed from foreign countries." 1144 Trout Rearing Units have been set up in the private sector, and 56% (611 units) were established in the last four years to generate employment opportunities for the youth.—(KNO)

Raj Bhawan Bids

conduct and sincere dedication towards work.

He felicitated Minga Sherpa and wished him good health and all the success in future.

Jatin Kishore Assumes

The Director called upon the officers for timely dissemination of accurate information to the public, fostering transparency and enhancing communication channels between the government and the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Director took round of the office complex and interacted with the employees.

Meanwhile, the officers and officials of DIPR also accorded an affectionate farewell to outgoing Director Minga Sherpa, who has been posted as Deputy Commissioner Baramulla.

LG Reviews Preparations

occasion for athletes and winter sports enthusiasts coming to J&K UT from across the country. We will have an opportunity to present our rich culture and warm hospitality and everyone must work together to create memorable experience for them, he said.

The meeting also discussed the comprehensive strategy for promotional campaigns, establishment of joint control rooms, deputiation of Nodal officers, smooth flow of traffic, parking spaces, lodging, transportation, uninterrupted power & water supply, medical facilities, public utility and other amenities. The Lt Governor directed the concerned departments for effective coordination for the smooth conduct of the games.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dullo Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; senior officers of Police and Civil administration attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

Terror Conspiracy Case

national Habibullah Malik @ Sajid Jutt @ Saifullah @ Noomi @ Numan @ Langda @ Ali

Sajid @ Usman Habib @ Shani, hailing from Kasur district in Pak Punjab. He has been found to have been involved in various terrorist attacks in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Habibullah, along with Hilal Yaqoob Deva @ Sethi Soab and Musiab Fayaz Baba @ Shoaib @ Zarar, both hailing from Shopian in Kashmir, has been named in the Supplementary Chargesheet filed today before the NIA Special Court, Jammu, under the relevant sections of IPC and UA (P) Act, 1967. The Supplementary chargesheet follows investigations in the case (RC-05/2022/NIA/JMU) registered suo-motu by the NIA on 21st June 2022. The case relates to a conspiracy hatched physically as well as in cyberspace by various proscribed terrorist organisations to spread fear and terror and disrupt peace in J&K, he said.

Habibullah Malik was an active Commander of Pakistan-based The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the proscribed LeT terrorist outfit. He was engaged in motivating vulnerable Kashmiri youth to join the TRF/LeT for carrying out terrorist activities in J&K, he said.

As per NIA investigations, Habibullah had radicalised the other two accused, Hilal and Musiab, both of whom had started working as Over Ground Workers (OGWs) for him. On Habibullah's directions, the two OGWs had collected and transported funds and weapons from/to his other OGWs to facilitate and support terror attacks in J&K, he said.

The entire conspiracy was found to be part of the bigger plans of the banned terrorist outfits to commit acts of terror and violence by indoctrinating local youth and mobilising overground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in J&K, he said.

With the various banned terrorist organisations floating new outfits to carry out their terror related activities in J&K, the NIA has stepped up its crackdown and investigations in the region in recent months. Under the NIA scanner are outfits such as The Resistance Front (TRF), United Liberation Front Jammu & Kashmir (ULFJ&K), Mujahideen Gazwatul-Hind (MGH), Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters (JKFF), Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others. These outfits are affiliated to Laskhara-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda, etc. The anti-terror agency has intensified its operations to thwart the conspiracy of these organisations to revive terrorism and disturb the peace and communal harmony of Jammu & Kashmir, reads the statement.

3rd CS Conference

of implementation of all the focal points given in the first two conferences by the Prime Minister to States/UTs. He asked each of them to apprise him about the status of each of them. He called for devising an effective strategy to achieve all the targets in a set timeline besides submitting Action Taken Reports (ATRs) to his office in next few days.

Regarding the 3rd Conference which was held at New Delhi between 27th to 29th December previous year and was attended by Dulloo himself, he directed for taking all the pre-emptive measures to transform them into the reality in a time bound manner.

The Chief Secretary called these targets very ambitious and highly transformative that is going to change the style of governance for betterment of the common people. He made out that frequent reviews of these goals should be taken by each Administrative Secretary besides he himself desired to take periodical review of these targets each month.

While elucidating the Chief Secretary highlighted several areas on which the Prime Minister laid emphasis upon. He enumerated that the areas like provision of quality drinking water by resorting to testing by the consumers themselves. Further the focus on micro irrigation, millet promotion, natural farming, creation of farmer database in agriculture sector was also underscored in the Conference, the CS revealed.

Dulloo also shared that in Health sector the Fir India Movement, Har Ghar Yoga, enhancing Health & Wellness Centre capacities were laid emphasis upon. It was given out by the

CS that it is also among the deliverables of the conference to frame export plan for each district, promotion of e-commerce and implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme in industrial sector.

Moreover it was said that equal focus should be laid on the development of clean energy including solarization, energy storage, e-vehicle promotion in transport sector. Enhancing the number and strengthening of SHGs in rural livelihoods mission, creation of multi-purpose PACS in cooperative sector, enhancing Disaster Management capacities, iconography of historical monuments were few other points the Chief Secretary pointed out among the major takeaways from this recent Conference.

The three day Conference also held special sessions on Cyber Security: Emerging Challenges; Perspectives on AI, Stories from the Ground: Aspirational Block & District Programme; Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure; AI in Governance: Challenges & Opportunities besides a discussion on best practices evolved in central ministries and other States and UTs across the country.

Srinagar Records

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.5°C against minus 5.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 4.6°C against minus 4.0°C on the previous night and the temperature was 3.2°C above normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 5.1°C against 4.3°C on previous night, and it was below normal by 2.3°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of minus 0.0°C, Batote 2.1°C and Baderwah 0.6°C, he said.

Kashmir valley is under 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter, which will end on January 30. However it does not mean an end to the winter. It is followed by a 20-day-long period called 'Chillai-Khurd' that occurs between January 30 and February 19 and a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which is from February 20 to March 1.

The MeT official said that from January 10-14, generally dry weather is expected. "Overall no significant weather activity is expected till January 15."

Snowless Winter

that have become synonymous with Kashmir.

"Even the winter sports have been postponed. Majority of the tourists who postpone their trips are either sportspersons or adventure lovers who have planned to experience adventure during winter in Kashmir," Trambo said.

He said a good proportion of scheduled trips in the first two weeks of January got postponed or rescheduled for late January or February.

"We have a good number of bookings for late January and February. We are hopeful to witness a snowfall so that tourists come in heavy numbers and enjoy the adventure sports in the valleys of Kashmir," Trambo added.

Umar Ahmad said January used to be the peak season of winter tourism. "Kashmir during Chillai Kalan used to receive a good number of tourists. The visitors loved to experience the winter chill and especially the winter wonders including frozen dal lake and Frozen Drung waterfall. This year so far winter has been dry without snow, which doesn't seem to attract tourists," he said.

The delayed snowfall is equally hitting hard the ATK and sleigh owners who struggle to receive customers.

"January is the peak earning time for us. We are now struggling to earn a livelihood. Such is the conditions that pony walis operate in Gulmarg who would otherwise leave the destination in November," said Nazir Ahmad, a sleigh owner—(KNO)

PM Modi inaugurates Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show

IAN S

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show in Gandhinagar on Tuesday, marking the beginning of his two-day visit to the state for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit and related events.

The Trade Show, recognised as one of the world's most significant, brings together many industries and business sectors under a single roof. Prime Minister Modi will lead a roadshow in Ahmedabad in the evening.

The Trade Show features products from diverse sectors, such as e-mobility, startups, MSMEs, the blue economy, green energy, and smart infrastructure, all showcasing state-of-the-art technology and innovations.

Reflecting the global interest, the Ambassador of Japan to India, Hiroshi Suzuki, expressed excitement over the participation of 70 Japanese companies focusing on semiconductors and green growth industries. Similarly, the Thai envoy to India, Patarat Hongtong, noted the active involvement of Thai-



land with an exhibition showcasing the success of Thai investments in India.

Set to continue its legacy, the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, initiated in 2003 under Modi's chief ministership, enters its 10th edition this year, running from January 10 to 12. Celebrating '20 Years of Vibrant Gujarat', the summit's theme, 'Gateway to the Future', focuses on futuristic opportunities and partnerships.

On January 10, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to formally inaugurate the

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. The event will then see him engaging with CEOs of leading global corporations, followed by his visit to GIFT City, where he will interact with key players in the Global FinTech Leadership Forum.

This year's summit has garnered international attention as 34 partner countries and 16 partner organisations are participating. The Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region is also

leveraging this platform to highlight investment prospects in the North-Eastern regions of India.

The summit is expected to witness the signing of various projects and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), propelling industrial and technological advancement in Gujarat. Notably, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will showcase its capabilities, and discussions around Elon Musk's Tesla plant in Gujarat are anticipated, though official confirmations are pending.

Timor-Leste Prez to support India's permanent membership in UNSC

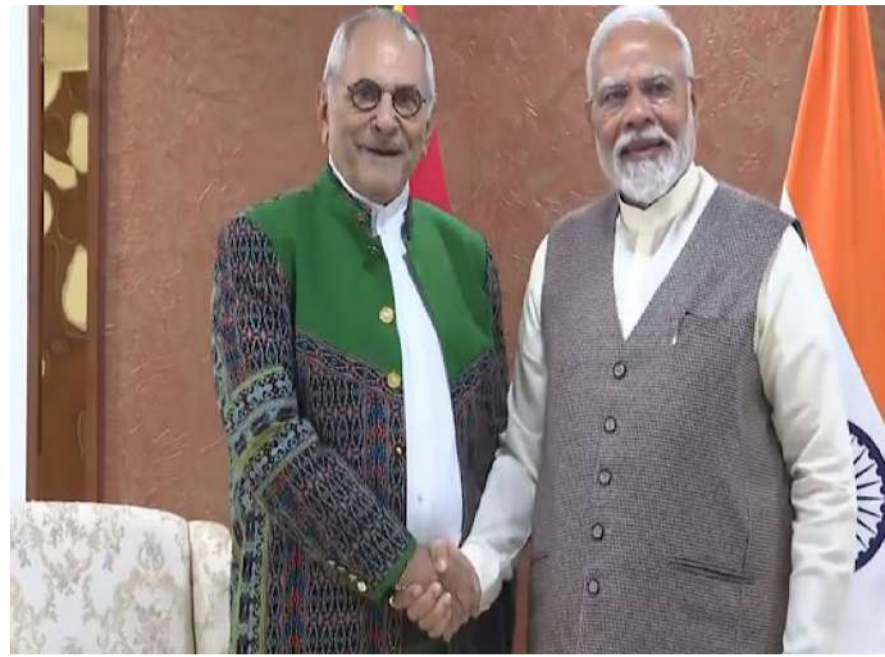
IAN S

NEW DELHI: President of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos Horta on Tuesday expressed strong support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

The PMO said that PM Modi and President Horta met in Gandhinagar on Tuesday. Modi extended a warm welcome to President Horta and his delegation to the 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit' on what is the first ever Head of State or government level visit between the two countries.

PM Modi re-affirmed India's commitment to build a vibrant "Delhi-Dili" connect. In September 2023, he had announced the opening of the Indian Mission in the country. He offered assistance to Timor-Leste in capacity building, human resource development, IT, fintech, energy and healthcare including traditional medicine and pharma. He also invited Timor-Leste to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

He congratulated Presi-



dent Horta for ASEAN's in-principle decision to admit Timor-Leste as its 11th member and expressed hope for its attainment of full membership soon.

President Horta thanked the PM Modi for the invitation to participate in the Summit. He sought support from India in meeting its development priorities, particularly in the areas of healthcare and capac-

ity building in IT, official added.

The PMO said that the two leaders also discussed regional issues and developments in the Indo-Pacific. The leaders committed to continue their excellent cooperation in the multi-lateral arena. Prime Minister appreciated Timor-Leste's active participation in the two editions of the Voice of Global South Summit. They agreed that countries of the Global South should synergise their position on global issues.

The PMO said that the bilateral relationship between India and Timor-Leste is anchored in shared values of democracy and plurality. India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Timor-Leste in 2002.

Acclaimed classical singer Rashid Khan passes away at 55

IAN S

KOLKATA: Acclaimed classical singer Rashid Khan passed away at a Kolkata hospital on Tuesday morning. He was 55.

On Tuesday morning, his medical condition started deteriorating fast and he had to be put under ventilation support at the private hospital he was admitted to last month.

Sources close to him said the singer died at 3.45 p.m. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rushed to the hospital on getting the news. However, then officially, the event of his passing away was not announced.

Later, the Chief Minister came out of the hospital along with the doctor attending to the acclaimed classical singer.

"We tried our best by giving him ventilation support. However, we could not finally bring him back to the path of recovery and he died at 3.45 p.m.," the doctor said.

Banerjee said that the late classical singer was like her younger brother.

"I received a phone call

after I came back to the state Secretariat from my district tour. I came here and heard this news. I feel so sad that I will not be able to listen to his songs further," she said.

It is learnt that his body will be preserved at a mortuary on Tuesday night. On Wednesday his mortal remains will be placed at Rabindra Sadan in central Kolkata for his fans to pay floral tributes. Thereafter first his mortal remains will be taken to his residence at south Kolkata and from there it will be taken to a burial ground at Tollygunge in South Kolkata.

Born in 1968 at Uttar Pradesh's Badaun, Rashid Khan hailed from the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana, which has its origin in Mehboob Khan and his son Inayat Hussain Khan. He migrated to Kolkata when he was just 11 years old and started his career in classical music after receiving the scholarship from Sangeet Research Academy.

A recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan, Khan was mainly acclaimed as a classical singer. However, his fusion and film number also received accolades.

WR recruitment exam scam

CBI raids 12 locations in multiple states

IAN S

MUMBAI: The Central Bureau of Investigation has raided 12 places in multiple states in connection with the ongoing probe into the leakage of question papers of the Western Railway's competitive exams, an official said here on Tuesday.

The raid operations pertained to the leakage of question and answer papers of General Departmental Competitive Examination of the WR's Railway Recruitment Centre in Mumbai, and the CBI has recovered incriminating documents and digital evidence.

Among the 12 locations where the CBI swooped were in Mumbai, as well as Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Navsari, Amreli (Gujarat), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and Buxar (Bihar), said the official.

The CBI was acting on a December 30, 2023 complaint lodged by the WR Vigilance Department against at least 15 persons including several railway officials and officers of Aptech Consultancy Pvt. Ltd, a private Mumbai-based company which had

conducted the exams in January 2021.

The CBI probe revealed that some of the 8,600-plus candidates who appeared for the clerical grade exams, confessed they had received the question papers a day before the exams were conducted, either through WhatsApp messages and others even physically at a hotel in Surat, on payment of money.

The accused booked by the CBI are: unidentified officials of the Aptech Consultancy, Andheri (Mumbai), and railway officials from different parts of India - Ulness Kumar Prajapati, Abhay Priyadarshi, Guddu Saroj, Alok Kumar, Jay Prakash, Shivshankar Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Rupesh Kumar, Anil Kumar, Sahid Raza Siddiqui, Bunt, Akhilesh Kumar, Ganesh Kumar Singh, Ajeet Kumar and other unknown persons.

The exams were held for posts of non-technical popular categories like junior clerk-cum-typist and trains clerk, which were conducted at 28 centres in different states, and further investigations are underway.

Govt tightening rules to check misleading ads, fake claims by coaching centres

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority's (CCPA) committee held its first meeting on Tuesday to discuss the draft guidelines to prevent misleading advertisements and false claims regarding success rates in coaching institutions.

Consumer Affairs Secretary & CCPA Chief Commissioner Rohit Kumar Singh highlighted the need for clarity, specifically in addressing certain aspects related to advertisements in the coaching sector. He further stated that CCPA firmly believes in safeguarding the rights of consumers and ensuring no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions

of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The guidelines shall be applicable to all the coaching institutes whether online or physical and cover all forms of advertisement regardless of form, format, or medium.

The guidelines also prescribes Do's and Don'ts that need to be observed before coming up with advertisements: The coaching institute shall mention requisite information with successful candidate photo, including the rank secured by successful candidate, the course opted by successful candidate, the duration of course, and whether it is paid or free

Coaching institutes shall not make claims on 100 per cent selection or 100 per cent job guaranteed or guaranteed preliminary or mains.

The font of disclaimer/disclosure/important information in the advertisement shall be the same as that used in the claim/advertisement. The placement of such information shall be at a prominent and visible place in the advertisement.

It was also clarified that penalty for misleading advertisements by the coaching sector will be governed as per Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and the guidelines are just in the nature of clarification to the stakeholders and violations of the provisions of the act shall continue to be governed under the existing provisions of the act.

The Committee observed that there is an urgent need to issue the guidelines and the draft as discussed in the Meeting should be issued at the earliest.

The CCPA had taken suo motu action against misleading advertisements by coaching institutes.

In this regard, it has issued notices to 31 coaching institutes for misleading advertisement and imposed fine on 9 of them for misleading advertisements.

The CCPA has observed that some of the coaching institutes mislead consumers by deliberately concealing important information with respect to course opted by successful candidates, duration of the course so attended, and the fees paid by the candidates. It also said that some of the coaching Institutes also indulge in making claims like 100 per cent selection, 100 per cent job guaranteed and guaranteed preliminary and main examination without providing verifiable evidence.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
Email Id. xenrbchd@gmail.com Fax/Phone. 01951-257060

E-NIT No. 149 of R&B /10432-40 Dated: - 09/01/2024

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, e-quotations are invited in Single cover system from the registered Local Tour & Travels Agencies/Taxi Stand Unions/transport firms for hiring of one no. of following type of vehicle along with an experienced driver on monthly rental basis for official use of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora for the financial year i.e. 2024-25_

SN	Type of vehicle	Cost of tender document (E-challan)	For the year	Earnest Money (Rs)	Class of contractor
1	Hiring of the Vehicle of the Type Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio/ Mahindra Bolero for the financial year 2024-25 for office use by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora inclusive of all maintenance costs of vehicle & Road taxes including hiring of an expert Licensed Driver excluding the cost of fuel.	Rs 300/-	2024-25	Rs 5000/-	Regd. Local Tour & Travel Agencies/ Taxi Stand Unions

1. Critical Dates:

1	Date of Issue of Quotation	09/01/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09/01/2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	09/01/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	16/01/2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16/01/2024 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora.

2. The vehicle should be only registered with RTO Kashmir and shall fulfill the conditions laid in the Public Notice issued by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir vide No. RTO/K/Est/2023/11270-73 dated: 24/03/2023.

3. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

a. Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-tenders carefully before uploading soft copy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

b. Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24/2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

i. Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

ii. The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a) Any bidder withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above under Critical Dates.

9. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:-The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a) All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids: Documents to be uploaded (Any shortfall shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive)

i. Valid Registration Certificate with Tour and Travels with latest renewal.

ii. All bidders shall upload valid Treasury Challan and Earnest Money.

iii. All bidders shall upload Valid PAN Card/No. and GSTIN Registration/No.

iv. Registration certificate of Vehicle, Photograph of vehicle showing the Number plate.

v. Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B i.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter/ latest Month to the Issuance of NIT.

Illustrations:

For the NIT issued by or before 20th of this month, the bidder has to upload the latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter i.e. July-September 2023-24 /Latest month i.e. November-2023.

vi Bidders who are registered as Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE's) can avail the option of uploading bid security deceleration as per (annexure A) instead of Earnest Money Deposit. Further the cost of tender document is also exempted for MSE's. However, the bidders shall have to upload the proof of MSE registration to avail the above mentioned benefit. Moreover, if declared, L-1 bidder, they have to submit EMD/CDR as performance security as mentioned above.

b) The EMD/CDR in case of successful bidder shall be treated as performance security and shall released at the end of the financial year only after successfully delivering the services.

c) All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

d) The payment shall be debited to Work charge contingencies/ proper Head of Account.

e) The rates quoted must be inclusive of all the Taxes, VAT, GST and annual comprehensive insurance and maintenance charges.

f) The vehicle should be sophisticated and in very good condition of Model 2018 onwards.

g) The POL shall be supplied by the Department as per the consumption certificate issued by State Motor Garage.

h) The bidders shall be responsible for completion of all documentation of the vehicle viz. Fitness, Pollution certificate, Road permit, Insurance, etc.

i) If the successful bidder failed to provide the vehicles as per the terms and Conditions the matter shall be taken with RTO Kashmir for cancellation of Registration.

j) The maintenance of the vehicle, expenses whatever incurred on the vehicle should be borne by the Vehicle Owner.

k) Vehicle found unroadworthy by any means after put in use by this office shall be withdrawn immediately without any notice.

l) The Vehicle will remain engaged for full time with Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora.

m) The driver must be polite, disciplined, physically fit and Alert, smartly dressed in uniform.

n) Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No. documents (s) which has / have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

o) In the event of any mechanical failure / break down of the vehicle, the agency shall arrange for the replacement by another similar Vehicle and also repair/maintenance charges, if any, shall have to be borne by the bidder/agency.

p) In case of any accident resulting in loss or damage to property or life, the sole responsibility for any legal or financial implication would rest with the agency. The Department shall have no liability whatsoever.

Insurance:- Insurance cover to Driver & Vehicle shall be mandatory.

15. Laws Governing the Contract:-The contract shall be governed by Laws of the land.

16. Court's Jurisdiction:- In case of any disputes/ differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K UT.

17. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

18. License:- The driver driving the vehicle should be having valid driving license issued by the competent authority.

19. All other terms and conditions of the said NIT shall remain same as are in vogue for the similar nature of work. No. 10432-40 Dtd. 01/09/2024

Executive Engineer
PW (R&B) Division
Chadoora

DIPK-14983-23
DT: 09/01/2024

Kashmir's last Surnai artisan struggles to keep ancient craft alive

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Amid the waning demand, Bashir Ahmad Kharadi perseveres as the last Surnai artisan in Kashmir, crafting the traditional instrument with dedication. He laments the fading cultural heritage and the absence of initiatives to preserve this ancient craft Kharadi.

47, is firmly handling a block of wood against an electrical sander in his nine-by-eight shop tucked between two four-storey residential buildings. He occasionally looks away at the minaret of the Sufi saint Syed Simnania's shrine which overlooks his dingy shop. He hums some chants, returns his gaze to this wooden block, and starts boring small holes in it. Kharadi is again making a traditional Kashmiri musical instrument called Surnai. When finished, this surnai will adorn a shelf in the shop already stacked with years-old Surnais.

"I still make it for my own happiness and satisfaction, even though the instrument is not in demand today and nobody has asked for it in many years," Kharadi said.

According to musicologists, the Surnai was brought to Kashmir from Iran through Central Asia. The playing of Surnai was regarded as extremely auspicious in Kashmiri culture, and the Bhandis here prominently featured it in their plays.

"The players used to visit the farms during harvest time and perform for the farmers' amusement while also taking the crop for themselves in exchange for the perfor-

mance," Bashir said, adding that Surnai is played with the mouth; musical notes are produced by blowing into it and pressing fingers against the stops.

Surnai is made up of three components: the nai, a wooden pipe with nine holes, the barg, a locally sourced wheatgrass reed, and a copper disc into which the barg is fixed.

To ensure accuracy, Kharadi asked Abdul Jamal, a local Surnai player and Kangri maker, to play it for him. "Even a minute change can spoil its musical tones," he said.

Kharadi is a member of a line of artisans of Kulgam, thought to be the only professionals in Kashmir to have ever produced this traditional instrument.

Mohammad Abdullah Kharadi, Bashir's father, was tasked by a businessman from Kishtwar to make a Surnai. Once he got going on making it, he was successful on his first try.

The demand for Surnai increased over time to the point where he gave up traditional carpentry and concentrated solely on this instrument. His reputation as a skilled Surnai maker spread throughout Kashmir among its players, particularly the folk theatre performers. Nearly 50 years into his practice, he received orders from all over Kashmir.

"Before starting to make a Surnai, I used to offer a ritual at the local shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Simnani (RA) as I believe this instrument is very pious," Kharadi said.

Abdullah passed away in 2012, but before that, he had

given his son the legacy of this craft. Bashir had already started crafting Surnai at the age of 17.

Kharadi noted the declining interest in traditional musical instruments, saying the last order for a Surnai was placed about eight years ago. He has not sold a single Surnai since then.

"The quantity of Surnai my father and I produced varied greatly. Previously, districts in Kashmir and neighbouring states would request such instruments, but as modern music has taken centre stage, this art form is on its death-bed," he lamented.

Abdullah's Surnai was sold at Rs 400, whereas the same Surnai today would cost Rs 3,500, Bashir said, adding that it normally takes him a day or two to make it.

"There has also been no initiative from the government to save this rare craft," he lamented.

To make ends meet, Kharadi makes wooden household items like big spoons, bowls, meat pounders, beaters, pestles and other items which he then supplies to retailers in Srinagar. "Surnai making is just a hobby now; our main business is to make other items," he said.

Kharadi said he is proud of his craftsmanship but laments that no one in his family has taken over this art. "I am the last one in my family to know this craft. Nobody after me will ever carve any instrument. I cannot ask my son to learn this as I know it won't fetch him enough money to survive," he said—(KNO)

Vipul Sharma Wins Silver Medal in Judo

AZHAR HAJINI

JAMMU: Vipul Sharma an exceptional Judo athlete, achieved a remarkable feat at the 67th National School Games held in Ludhiana on Tuesday.

Sharma competed in the 73 kg weight category and secured the prestigious Silver Medal.

Under the expert guidance of Judo Coach Rajive Kumar, Sharma displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout the competition. The journey to the Silver Medal was not easy, but Sharma's dedication, perseverance, and intensive training paid off, allowing him to excel in his performance.

Upon learning about Shar-



ma's remarkable achievement, the Director of the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K Subash Chander Chhibber expressed his heartfelt congratulations and good wishes to the deserving player and his Coach Rajive Kumar. "This recognition

from such a reputable authority serves as a testament to the hard work and commitment put forth by Sharma and the coaching team" he added.

He further said that the National School Games is one of the most prestigious tourna-

ments in which young athletes from across the country showcase their talent every year and compete at the highest level. Sharma's impressive performance reflects his exceptional skills and potential in the sport of Judo.

Deputy Director Central of YSS Jatinder Mishra while expressing his joy on the impressive performance of the athlete has said that, Sharma's outstanding success at the event not only brings pride to his school and coach but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring Judo athletes across the nation. This achievement serves as a reminder of the importance of determination, discipline, and perseverance in pursuing excellence in sports.

Dr Piyush Singla reviews working of SED



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: After assuming charge of School Education Department as Secretary, Dr. Piyush Singla, took a comprehensive review of the department Tuesday at the Civil Secretariat here.

A detailed presentation on various facets of the department was made by the officers of the department.

The meeting had detailed discussion on functioning of the department, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, physical and financial progress made under UT Capex, issues of HRM and best practices and initiatives of the department. Secretary laid emphasis on

timely completion of DPCs, finalization of seniority and ensuring availability of quality infrastructure to students. He enjoined upon all the officers and officials to uphold the principles of punctuality, discipline and ensure quality education. He also instructed them for effective implementation of new initiatives such as PM SHRI, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Samiksha app and JK attendance app.

The meeting was attended by both the Directors of School Education, Director Finance SED, Special Secretaries SED, Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Joint Director Planning and other officers of the department.

KTMF Delegation call on DC Srinagar



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SRINAGAR: A delegation of Kashmir Traders Manufacturers Federation(KTMF) Tuesday call on Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here in Office Chamber in DC Office Complex and warmly welcomed him on assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

The delegation of KTMF headed by its President Hilal Ahmad Mandoo, Chairman Abrar Khan and General Secretary Altaf Ahmad greeted the Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat for being posted as DC Srinagar and hoped that all issues and concerns confronting to the Trade Community of Srinagar would be resolved in a time bound manner for their overall welfare.

On the occasion, the delegation

appraised the DC about various issues of public importance particularly of the Trade community of Srinagar.

The Deputy Commissioner after giving patient hearing to the delegation and assured that all the issues and demands projected by them would be looked on priority. He also assured them that the Administration will take all necessary measures for welfare and development of the trade community of Srinagar District.

The delegation included representatives from Batamaloo, Parimpora, Kralkhud, South City, Rambagh, besides Women Entrepreneurs, Transporters, Artisans, Industrialists and Social activists.

Meanwhile, scores of public delegations also visited the DC Office Srinagar and met Deputy Commissioner.

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

