

Good Morning Kashmir

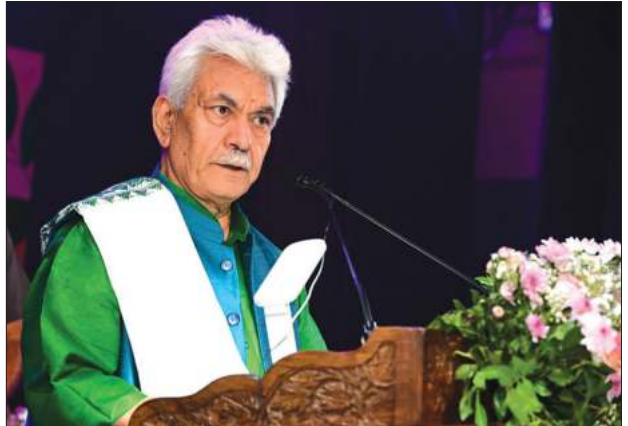
15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji had dedicated Rs.5013 Crore's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and its 29 projects are being implemented for creating a strong and commercially viable agriculture and allied sector.

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Won't Rest Till We Root Out Terrorism: LG Sinha



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday called upon the members of artist community to play their part against terrorism. "We must stand united in the fight against terrorism. I have full faith in our Police and Security forces who are working round the clock to ensure a safe and secure environment for the people. Won't rest till we root out terrorism," he said.

The Lt Governor was addressing the Artists at Jashn-e-Bahar Traditional Folk Festival at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

He said the Artists can provide vital support and through their awareness campaign expose those elements condoning or helping terrorism ecosystem.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration, under

LG Attends 'Paddy Transplantation Festival'

ANANTNAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday attended 'Paddy Transplantation Festival' at Bijbehara, Anantnag.

In his address, the Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration, under

WE MUST STAND UNITED IN THE fight against terrorism. I have full faith in our Police and Security forces who are working round the clock to ensure a safe and secure environment for the people.

4 Encounters In 96 Hours Two Terrorists, CRPF Man Killed In Kathua Encounter

AMIR TANTRAY

BHADERWAH: Jammu seems to be fresh target of terrorists as two heavily armed terrorists and a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed whereas seven security forces personnel including five soldiers, a Special Police Officer (SPO), a policeman and a civilian were injured in three different firefights in Jammu's Kathua, Bhaderwah and Gandoh areas.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Jammu-Samba-Kathua range and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua had a narrow escape in the encounter which lasted for a few hours in Hiranagar area of Kathua.

The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Anand Jain, while talking to reporters said that two terrorists, who had recently infiltrated, entered a house in Saida Sukhal village in Hiranagar area of Kathua district and asked for the water.

"As soon as the information was received, the teams of SHO and SDPO reached the spot. One of the



terrorists was killed in the exchange of fire last night whereas another was killed today," he said.

"One CRPF Jawan and a civilian were injured in the fierce firefight but the RPF jawan succumbed to his injuries whereas the civilian is stable," he said.

"The second terrorist, armed with an US-made M4 carbine assault rifle, was holed up in the forested region and was eliminated this afternoon. There were rumours that many people were injured and three are dead. But only one civilian was injured, other than this all information regarding hostages being held and death, are rumours," the ADGP added.

Meanwhile, in Chattergala area on Bhaderwah-Bani road in district Doda terrorists attacked a joint army and police party in which five soldiers and a SPO were injured who were evacuated to sub-district hospital Bhaderwah and later on shifted to command hospital Udhampur for the treatment.

"#Army and #Police joint Naka has engaged #terrorist in Chattergala area of #Doda. Firefight is going on. More details to follow," ADGP Jammu informed on X.

DIG Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range, Shridhar

THE SECOND TERRORIST, ARMED WITH AN US-MADE M4 carbine assault rifle, was holed up in the forested region and was eliminated this afternoon. There were rumours that many people were injured and three are dead.

Narrow Escape

Two senior police officers, including a deputy inspector general (DIG) and a senior superintendent of police (SSP) had a narrow escape after terrorist fired a barrage of bullets on their vehicles amid the ongoing anti-terror operation in Kathua. "However, both the senior officers and other policemen accompanying them escaped unhurt," they said.

Recovery

Security forces recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from ongoing encounter site in Kathua village of Jammu. The arms and ammunition recovered include three magazines containing 30 rounds, one magazine containing 24 rounds, 75 rounds in a separate polythene bag.

High Alert

Jammu has been high on the terror radar with these attacks being reported from areas known to be free of terrorism. Two days earlier, a bus on its way to the Shiv Khori cave temple came under attack in Reasi. The terrorists opened fire after the bus driver but lost control and fell into

Major Administrative Reshuffle Expected In JK

ALI ASAD

SRINAGAR: In the wake of a newly formed central cabinet, the Jammu and Kashmir administration is poised for a significant administrative reshuffle.

Anticipated in the coming days, this shake-up will involve substantial transfers within the civil administration, affecting key postings in departments such as Public Works (PWD), Finance, and Education.

Reliable sources said the primary objective behind this reshuffle is to enhance the efficiency and coordination of various critical departments in the region. "The union government closely monitors the functioning and progress of these departments, especially since the erstwhile state's transition to a union territory.

Following a recent cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office on June 10, a directive has been issued to the Jammu and Kashmir administration, emphasizing the need for prompt service delivery and the expeditious clearance of pending projects," sources

'World Day Against Child Labour' Committed To Eradicating Child Labour: Govt

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: On World Day Against Child Labour, officials in Jammu and Kashmir said that the government is working diligently to fully eliminate child labour in the region. They said public cooperation is crucial to end this menace.

Hafsa Qayoom, Assistant Labour Commissioner of Pulwama, said there might still be areas in J&K where child labour exists. However, she noted that her department has been conducting extensive drives across the region, and such cases are rarely found.

Hafsa said that district-level committees, including members from the labour department, social welfare, health, and police are actively working to ensure there are no instances of child labour.

"The government's efforts, in collaboration with NGOs, focus on improving working conditions for any children forced into labour, ensuring they receive proper healthcare and educational opportunities, and gradually working towards the complete eradication of child labour," she said.



Terrorists' Design To Shift Focus To Jammu Will Not Succeed: Dr. Jitendra

YOGESH

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh Wednesday said that the terrorists are desperate following the pressure by security forces in the Kashmir Valley are on the run and are trying to shift the focus of their activities to the Jammu region but their design to shift focus to Jammu region will not succeed.

Dr. Singh stated this while meeting the injured civilian Om Prakash in the Kathua Hospital. Speaking to media persons later, Dr. Singh said the basic difference that the sponsors of terrorism from across the border fail



to understand is that they will never be able to get the ground support of the local population in this region if they have expected it to be to their advantage.

He said that this entire region including the Hiranagar sector where this incident

K-Panchayats CS Reviews Measures To Ensure High Speed Internet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired the meeting of 5th State Broadband Committee, constituted to overlook the process of providing affordable and universal broadband access to all rural and far off pockets of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides ACS, Forests, Principal Secretary, PDD, Principal Secretary, Finance, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Secretary, RDD, Secretary, R&B, Secretary, Revenue was attended by representatives of J&K Licensed Service Area, Union Ministry of Telecommunications and BSNL.

The Chief Secretary, while assessing the works executed, so far, by the telecommunication agency in the UT for covering all the remote areas under broadband and 4G network, emphasised on fixing timelines for completion of each of the components. He asked for carrying out joint survey by the RDD and BSNL for assessing the readiness of all the Panchayats for installation of OFC and functionality of VSATs.



Ahead Of Eid, Buzz Missing From Srinagar Markets



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Just a few days left for Eid-ul-Adha, no hustle and bustle has been witnessed in the markets across Srinagar and elsewhere, pushing the shopkeepers to face huge losses.

Usually, the days leading to Eid are marked by a flurry of activity in markets across Kashmir, with artisans and vendors displaying their finest goods to cater to the festive demand. However, this year, the situation is starkly different.

As per the details gathered, the silence from the side of shoppers, attributed to various factors including economic uncertainties, logistical challenges, and "online shopping" that has left many shopkeepers grappling with dwindling stock and uncertain prospects for the festive season.

"It's like the soul has been sucked out of the market," laments Mohammad, a shopkeeper in Srinagar's renowned Lal Chowk. He added that normally, by this time, they would be struggling to keep up with the demand, but this time, it feels like just waiting for customers to walk through the door.

"Before Eid, we usually depend on sales to get through slower months, but this time has been really hard," says Faheem, a downtown Srinagar shopkeeper. "With no customer rush, we have to keep our stock within limits and wait for it to be sold out, before we can buy new," he added.

Pertinently, the subdued atmosphere in the markets has not gone

Light Showers Bring Mercury Down In Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The gusty winds with light showers have brought the mercury down on Wednesday evening even though the day temperature settled around 30 degree Celsius in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in the Valley.

Srinagar along with the other parts of Kashmir received light showers in the evening hours, bringing down the mercury.

However, the maximum temperature in Srinagar and elsewhere continued to settle around 30 degree Celsius today amidst the forecast of heat wave in Jammu & Kashmir till June 17.

The details available reads that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.9 degree Celsius while Qazigund, the

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WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Labour department organizes virtual seminar with stakeholders

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SRINAGAR: The Labour Department organized a virtual seminar with the theme 'Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour' to commemorate 'World Day Against Child Labour'.

The seminar witnessed participation of senior officers of Police, Labour, Social Welfare and Health Departments, Chairpersons and members of district Child Welfare Committees, members representing Juvenile Justice Boards, representatives of Child Line, Advocacy groups, Traders Federations and other stakeholders working in the field of Child Labour across all the districts of J&K.

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, in his address, touched upon the theme emphasizing the need for collective action to eradicate child labour and protect children from exploitation. He said abolition of Child Labour is enshrined in the Constitution besides Acts and Laws have been enacted on the issue. Recently, India has



ratified the two main conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) on Child Labour which mandate countries to take immediate effective measures to secure prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency, he added. He further said that the conventions also necessitated fixing of a minimum age for entry into work or employment besides establishment of national policies for elimination of child labour. He added that enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 further strengthened the legal framework against

child labour by expanding prohibition of employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes, except where the child helps his family in non-hazardous occupations or sectors.

Charandeep Singh said despite legislative measures and efforts by the governmental and non governmental organizations, child labour remains prevalent across the country, particularly in rural and informal sectors. He emphasised the importance of conducting extensive awareness campaigns besides ensuring continuous monitoring and strict enforcement mechanisms

to ensure compliance with child labour laws and swift interventions in cases of violations.

Detailed presentations on various topics was also made during the seminar with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Anantnag, Peer Zameer Ahmad, speaking on the topic 'Child Labour Policies', Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kupwara, Arshid Qadir on 'Role of Statutory and Law Enforcement Bodies' and Assistant Labour Commissioner, Udhampur, Sapna dwelling upon the role of various stakeholders in eradication of Child Labour.

In his concluding

remarks, the Labour Commissioner called for collective dedication towards eradicating child labour which has been a dark stain on society, depriving countless children of their childhood and robbing them of the chance to receive an education and a better future.

"By recognizing the socio-economic factors that contribute to child labour, providing support and resources to vulnerable families, empowering them to overcome poverty and securing a better future for their children through commitment and collaborative initiatives can bring an end to this injustice" the Commissioner maintained. He said that the seminar was conducted to mobilize stakeholders and fostering collaboration to create a world free from child labour.

Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu, Kashmir and Central, Inspector of Factories Jammu and Kashmir, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors of all districts participated in the seminar.

Div Com Jammu flags-off Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra from Nagrota



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Amid tight security arrangements, the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar from Nagrota Wednesday morning.

Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic Jammu, Director Health Services, Joint Director Tourism, other officers and community leaders were

present on the occasion.

The Divisional Commissioner said that all the necessary arrangements have been put in place en-route the Yatra by the concerned district administrations and stakeholder departments. The arrangements include busses for transportation, security, accommodation, langar and other facilities for the devotees.

Around 5000 yatrins on board 176 buses left for different destinations of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela viz Tulumulla (Ganderbal),

Tikker (Kupwara), Devsar & Manzam (Kulgam) and Logripora (Anantnag).

The main congregation will be held at Tulumulla (Ganderbal) on the auspicious occasion of Zyesht Ashtami on June 14, 2024. Relief Organisation, in collaboration with concerned district administration has made all the necessary arrangements for the convenience of the pilgrims of the devotees of Mata Kheer Bhawani. Yatra shall return back on June 15, 2024, it was informed.

SHA rebuts news titled "Hospitals stop taking cases under Ayushman Scheme"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir State Health Agency (SHA) has rebutted the news published in Daily Excelsior reporting that the hospitals in Jammu have stopped taking new cases under Ayushman Bharat scheme due to ongoing tussle between State Health Agency (SHA) and the concerned Insurance Company resulting in non payments to empanelled private hospitals.

As per a communique received here today in this regard, the SHA has clarified that the private empanelled hospitals are key stakeholders in implementation of free treatments to the beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. In the past two years, the private hospitals have been paid regularly as per the guidelines of the scheme without any interruption. The primary cause of the delays in payments to the private empanelled hospitals is the ongoing legal proceedings involving IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company for the premature attempt to exit from contract from 15th March 2024, which was initially set to run until March 2025 (contract is for 3 years tenure).

The document added that government of Jammu and Kashmir is acutely aware of the issues concerning delayed payments

by the Insurance company IFCO Tokio to the private empanelled hospitals and dialysis centers under the AB-PMJAY/SEHAT scheme. It fully comprehend and acknowledge the financial strain these delays have imposed on our healthcare partners due to non payment from the side of IFFCO Tokio. The empanelled private hospitals have also sought interim relief from the Hon'ble High Court and are fully ceased of the legal matter.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has already engaged in extensive discussions with these private healthcare providers and has assured them of a timely resolution of the payment-related issues. SHA has assured all the private empanelled hospitals that their money is safe and secured and the Government ensures that all pending payments are cleared as swiftly as possible. SHA expressed heartfelt gratitude to the private empanelled hospitals and dialysis centers for their unwavering support and commitment in implementing the scheme, despite not receiving payments since March 15, 2024. SHA appeal to all the empanelled private hospitals to continue treating patients under the scheme and discharge their responsibility as a responsible partner under the scheme", read the communique.

J&K SHA deeply regret the inconvenience caused to the empanelled hospitals and dialysis centers and appreciate the patience and understanding of our healthcare partners during this challenging period. Rest assured, the Government remains steadfast in its commitment towards supporting the empanelled hospitals and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services to beneficiaries across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHA has urged upon all the empanelled hospitals and dialysis centers to continue their invaluable services to the public emphasizing the critical importance of patient care and public well-being, as it is working diligently to resolve the issues. The health and well-being of citizens of J&K remain the top priority, and SHA is committed towards upholding the objectives of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana/SEHAT.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir will take all necessary steps and ensure that all patients get desired treatments free of cost under the scheme and the scheme shall continue without interruption. The patients are advised to call the toll free number 14555 or call centre 104 for any assistance related to their treatment under the scheme.

Two day interactive session on Macroeconomic Aggregates concludes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The two day interactive session on Macroeconomic Aggregates, organized by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Planning Development & Monitoring Department in collaboration with National Accounts Division, Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, at Directorate of Economics & Statistics Srinagar, concluded here Wednesday.

The valedictory session was presided over by ADG and Head National Accounts Division, Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Dr. Prafulla Chandra Mishra, who was accompanied by a team of senior officers comprising Romshoo, Director (Evaluation), DES J&K, Suneel Kumar Pandita, Director (Central), DES J&K, Mudhasir Latif Tasir, Additional Secretary, PD&MD and other senior officers of Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Chief Planning Officers of J&K, District Statistics & Evaluation Officers of J&K and representatives from UT of Ladakh.

The session commenced with programme overview by the Director General (E&S), who emphasized the critical role of macro-economic aggregates in shaping economic policies and strategies. The keynote address by Additional Director General, National Accounts Division, MoSPI, set the tone for the discussions, focusing on the significance of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), District Domestic Product and other vital economic indicators.

The session featured several expert presentations and panel discussions, covering key topics such as Compilation of Gross State Domestic Product in J&K, discussion on compilation of District Domestic Product and issues faced in compilation of DDP, compilation of expenditure side Aggregates, discussions on bifurcation of some of the administrative information between J&K and Ladakh.

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Ramban Admin finalises Eid-ul-Azha preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: District Magistrate Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary finalised the preparations for the Eid-ul-Azha Wednesday at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC office complex.

Reviewing the arrangements made for the joyous Eid celebration, the DM sought feedback on the steps taken by the respective departments for supply of essential commodities, sanitation water and power supply, market regulation to keep check on overpricing and quality of

items. The DC directed the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department to make adequate supply of essential commodities like foodstuff, LPG, etc across the district.

The PHE and PDD departments were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply throughout the festival period, while asking the authorities to avoid unscheduled power cuts. He directed to get prior permission from the DM's office for unavoidable power shutdown.

The Traffic Police Department was tasked

with ensuring smooth traffic flow on all major roads, especially near Eid Gahs, Jama Masjid and other religious places. The Health Department was instructed to maintain full preparedness to handle any medical emergencies. The Police Department was instructed to ensure adequate security arrangements during the festival.

The DC also urged the general public to cooperate with the administration by following all safety guidelines and ensuring a peaceful and harmonious celebration of Eid-ul-Azha.

SANE KIDS SECONDARY SCHOOL MALIK SAHIB GOJWARA SRINAGAR

Table with 4 columns: S.NO, NAME, S/D/W/O, RESIDENCE, DESIGNATION. Lists members of the managing body of Sane Kids Sec. School.

Handwritten notice in Urdu regarding school matters, including a list of members and dates. Includes a signature and date: 11-06-2024.

DC Rajouri finalises arrangements for Eid Ul Azha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: The necessary arrangements for Eid- Ul-Azha were Wednesday finalized here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat.

The meeting was attended by all stakeholders, including concerned officers, traders and representatives from religious organizations.

The essential aspects were deliberated upon with main focus on power and water supply, regulation of prices of essential commodities, sanitation, traffic management, security, electricity, health facilities, and other logistics crucial for the auspicious occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the concerned officers of Jal Shakti and the Power Development



Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply throughout the festival.

Furthermore, stringent measures were outlined to curb black-marketing and overpricing of essential commodities. The Deputy Commissioner mandated regular market inspections by officials from the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Food Safety, Police and Legal Metrology depart-

ments to uphold fair practices and prevent exploitation of consumers during this period of heightened demand.

The officers of Municipality were asked to uphold standards of cleanliness and sanitation within the town. The meeting decided to conduct special cleanliness drives with special focus on religious places to ensure pristine surroundings conducive to spiritual observances.

The Fire Services Department was instructed to maintain readiness and deploy fire tenders to promptly address any fire-related incidents.

In addition, the Health Department was asked to ensure availability of comprehensive medicare facilities throughout the festival. The concerned officers were directed to maintain proper healthcare facilities, including adequate medical supplies, staff,

and emergency response protocols.

During the meeting, members of the religious organizations actively highlighted important issues and gave valuable suggestions for the smooth and successful celebration of the holy festival.

The meeting was attended by the ASP, Musadiq Majid Basu; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ACR, Mohammad Jhangir Khan; CAHO, Dr. Khalid Hussain; DSHO, PP Sagotra; AD FCS&CA, Rohit Kumar; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohammad Rashid and other concerned officers.

Besides, the meeting was attended by traders and members of the religious organizations including President Beopar Mandal, Rajesh Gupta; Molvi Farooq; Shafiq Mir; Asif Bhatt; Mohd Yousaf and others.

JK BJP Chief Slams Farooq Abdullah For Advocating Dialogue With Pakistan

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday criticized National Conference president Farooq Abdullah for advocating dialogue with Pakistan and asked "what type of talks will be held with an enemy nation which has destroyed Jammu and Kashmir through its sponsored terrorism".

He said the BJP would respond to Pakistan only in the same language which it understands.

"Abdullah should stop advocating for Pakistan which had bled Jammu and Kashmir and brought destruction to the region by training, arming and pushing terrorists into this side to kill innocent citizens. Instead of condemning Pakistan, showing it the mirror and exposing its black face to the world, he is advocating dialogue



Ravinder Raina, BJP president in Jammu and Kashmir, speaking at a podium.



Farooq Abdullah, National Conference president, speaking at a podium.

which is highly regrettable," Raina said.

Earlier in the day, Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir will not end unless talks are held with Pakistan.

"I have always said that terrorism is not going to end unless there is an understanding between the two nations (India and Pakistan). Terrorism will continue and we will have to face it. The tragedy is that innocent people are getting killed... and that

the people whether Pakistan is behind the bloodshed which is happening in Jammu and Kashmir or not.

"Pakistan Army is conducting training for the terrorists and providing them weapons before pushing them into Jammu and Kashmir," Raina said, adding having sympathy for Pakistan is not good and instead Abdullah should boost the morale of the Indian Army, police and paramilitary forces and salute their sacrifices for safeguarding the region by fighting terrorism.

"You (Abdullah) are a former chief minister, a former Union minister and you know Pakistan is behind the bloodshed in J&K. What type of talks can be held with an enemy (nation) which is involved in bloodshed. We will respond to Pakistan in the same language it understands," the BJP leader said.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT

Pvt hospitals in J&K await govt funds to continue services

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Empanelled private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir continue to provide services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme despite not receiving funds since March 2024.

According to details available, the association of empanelled private hospitals had earlier written to the Chief Secretary of J&K, stating their inability to continue services beyond the end of May 2024.

"The private hospitals and dialysis centres empanelled under the SEHAT scheme have not received any payment since March 15, 2024. We will be unable to continue with the said scheme beyond June 1, 2024," reads the letter, a copy of which is with KNO.

Despite this, the empanelled private hospitals have continued their services while awaiting their payments. Private hospital owners have previously stated that they have exhausted their funds and cannot continue services

under the scheme past this month.

Last November, IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company, the insurer for Ayushman Bharat in J&K, informed SHA authorities of their decision not to renew the contract after its expiry on March 14, 2025. Initially, the scheme was implemented through Bajaj Allianz GIC, whose contract ended in 2022. IFFCO-TOKIO was subsequently brought in but attempted to exit the scheme citing financial losses. Despite SHA's requests for them to continue in the interest of patient care, the company refused.

The SHA approached the High Court to stay the exit, but the petition was dismissed on February 2, complicating matters further for both SHA and ben-

eficiaries across the union territory. The government has since approached the division bench to stay the single bench order, making the issue sub-judice.

Due to non-payment since March 15, empanelled hospitals said they are facing severe financial strain, affecting their ability to provide services under the scheme. Hospital owners have stated that starting June 1, they will not accept golden cards, and patients will need to pay for services.

Despite it being June 12, private hospitals continue to provide services under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, as they do not want poor people to suffer from lack of treatment, hoping that the government will release their payments soon. They have once again urged higher authorities to address the

issue and release pending funds promptly.

Officials from SHA assured that the scheme is functioning normally and that the ongoing dispute with the insurance company does not affect its implementation. "Empanelled hospitals are aware that funds allocated for them are documented, though delays are expected due to the dispute," they said.

Approximately 1,500 patients benefit from this scheme daily in J&K, and services will continue for these patients, according to officials.

Sanjiv M Gadkar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the State Health Agency, Jammu and Kashmir, told KNO that empanelled private hospitals have continued their services despite not receiving payment on time, and expressed gratitude for their commitment. "We are one of the stakeholders in the implementation of the scheme and all possible steps are being taken to resolve the issue on priority," he said—(KNO)



Shikarwalas issue advisory against alcohol consumption at Dal Lake

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: Days after an incident of boozing by tourists took place at Dal Lake, Shikarwalas have come up with an advisory for tourists for a ban on drinking alcohol within the lake.

The recent viral video showing tourists consuming alcohol during a shikara ride has led to the backlash from political and religious leaders in Jammu and Kashmir. The video shows a group of people drinking alcohol during a boat ride in Srinagar's Dal lake.

Now the shikarwalas have come up with a strong message of ban on alcohol consumption at the lake.

"We held a meeting yesterday and it was decided that a ban will be imposed on alcohol consumption around and within Dal Lake. We also took a strong decision against lettering in the lake as well," Wali Mohammad Bhat, president of Shikarwala Association, told KNO.

He said those found boozing will be handed

over to the police with a strong action from the association against the service provider as well.

"We took the decision to hand over the guilty to the police. We as an association will also take action against the shikarwalas who offer service to them," Bhat said.

Meanwhile, the Shikarwalas have installed "no drinking allowed" sign boards on their boats and houseboats.

Scores of the houseboat owners and shikarwalas took this step after wide condemnation against the incident at the lake.

President Shikarwala Association said they are going to hold a meeting after Eid-ul-Adha to send a message across India regarding ban on alcohol consumption at the lake.

"We will call all the stakeholders including tour operators, hoteliers, and other service providers to seek cooperation against banning alcohol consumption around Dal Lake. This meeting will take place after Eid-ul-Adha," Bhat said—(KNO)

JKRLM inks MoU with CII to empower rural entrepreneurs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards empowering rural entrepreneurs, the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Wednesday to empower rural entrepreneurs through Industry Led Mentorship Program.

The MoU was signed by Mission Director, JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib and representatives from CII in presence of Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary RDD commended the JKRLM team for their self-motivation and inspiring work they have been doing. He expressed gratitude to the Mission Director, JKRLM and her entire team for their efforts and assured them of the department's support in capacity building and other areas.

Dr. Shahid also acknowledged the significant contribution of the program to public health and extended his compliments to both JKRLM and CII for their collaborative efforts towards empowering rural communities.

The collaboration between JKRLM and CII is expected to provide a significant boost to the rural entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, enabling rural women

to access industry expertise, market linkages and guidance to scale up their businesses and contribute to the region's economic growth.

The collaboration aims to implement the Industry Led Mentorship Program, which will focus on bridging the gap between rural enterprises and the industry. Through this program, CII will conduct gap analysis and establish a state-level aggregator for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) engaged in tourism and food processing sectors.

One of the key objectives of the program is to provide mentorship and training to JKRLM staff and community cadres. This initiative will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support and guide rural entrepreneurs.

Additionally, the program will facilitate market linkages, branding, and raw material sourcing for SHGs involved in tourism and food processing sectors, enabling them to enhance their competitiveness and accelerate growth.

Indu Kanwal Chib, expressed her gratitude to Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary for his unwavering support and commitment to the mission's initiatives. She commended his approval for establishing JKRLM's own offices and training centres in every district, which will provide a dedicated space for rural women entrepreneurs to work and learn.

Indu Chib highlighted

the significance of collaboration with CII, emphasizing that it will facilitate a gap analysis to identify the challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary guidance and resources to scale up their businesses. She further said that JKRLM has identified tourism and food processing as the two key sectors for the initial phase of collaboration. She said that these entrepreneurs often face limitations due to the lack of proper guidance, branding and licensing information. The collaboration with CII aims to address these challenges by providing expert mentorship and equipping the entrepreneurs with the necessary knowledge and skills to expand their businesses legally and sustainably. She shared data on the existing food processing units under JKRLM, with approximately 2698 units in Jammu and 2803 units in Kashmir.

MD, JKRLM drew attention to the potential of the dairy industry, suggesting that JKRLM could aim to reach the level of success achieved by brands like Verka in Punjab. She highlighted the opportunity to diversify dairy products and explore areas such as milk, curd, paneer, chocolate and other value added products. She highlighted other focus areas, including mushrooms, spices, pickles, dry fruits, pomegranate, flour, sattu (roasted gram flour), bakery items, cereals, nutritious food products and animal feed and fodder.

Athar Aamir chairs monthly DLC meeting under NCORD

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting thoroughly reviewed the actions taken by concerned departments to combat the drug menace. It was shared that 16 Panchayats have been declared drug-free in the district so far.

Additionally, it was reported that 15 drug peddlers were arrested, and 12 FIRs were registered during the current month.

The DC instructed the concerned authorities to convene regular meetings of Tehsil and Gram Pan-



Athar Aamir Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, chairing a meeting.

chayat level committees. He emphasized the implementation of stringent measures to ensure zero cultivation of illicit crops in the district. The Social Welfare Department was tasked with formulating a comprehensive plan for impactful awareness programs and providing necessary training to the already constituted Panchayat Level Committees.

They were directed to devise a training schedule on a Tehsil-wise basis. The Assistant Drug Con-

troller reported on the recent inspections of pharmacies, with 67 inspections conducted during the current month. Notably, it was mentioned that a 100% target had been achieved in the installation of CCTV cameras.

The DC directed to achieve a 100% target in CBS (Control Board System) by the end of this month. Furthermore, the Assistant Drug Controller was instructed to intensify pharmacy inspections and cancel the licenses of those not adhering to the guidelines.

Ayushi Sudan reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Wednesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for celebration of the upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Adha across the district.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC impressed upon the officers to work with added zeal and enthusiasm, and ensure availability of all essential amenities to the people so that they can celebrate the holy festival of Eid-ul-Adha with traditional fervor.

The DC stressed upon all the officers to make their field staff more active and responsive on ground so as to cater to the grievances and needs of the people.

She directed the Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and KPDC to ensure availability of uninterrupted water and power supply to the people during the festival period so that they do not face any inconvenience. She asked the Ex. Engineer PHE for establishment of a Control Room for addressing the grievances of the people.

Regarding availability of sacrificial animals, the

DC directed the District Sheep Husbandry Officer to designate and publicize the spots for sale of sacrificial animals.

Regarding sanitation, the Municipal Committees were directed to ensure cleanliness and proper sanitation in and around Eidgahs and market places in towns.

Regarding market checking, the DC directed the concerned officers of civil and police to intensify the market inspections in major towns of the district to put strict vigil on profiteering, hoarding and other unfair trade activities.

Ayushi also reviewed availability of food supply/essential commodities, security and other relevant arrangements.

Meanwhile, several members from Auqaf Committees put forth their demands and grievances before the chair which were heard patiently. The DC assured them that their genuine issues will be resolved well in time. She said that the District Administration will resume the process of conducting public darbars across different areas of the district to redress the issues of the people at their doorsteps.

Commissioner SMC reviews AMRUT 2.0 Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmad Wednesday conducted a review meeting to address the water supply challenges in Srinagar city and directed the acceleration of projects under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

During the meeting, various key projects under AMRUT 2.0 were discussed in detail. These included Hydraulic Modelling, the construction of a 4 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) Water Treatment Plant at WWD Srinagar, and the installation of Overhead Tanks (OHTs) at multiple locations across the city.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Works), ADP Planning, all Executive Engineers, off-

icials from line departments.

It was revealed that out of the 22 identified projects under AMRUT 2.0, 12 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been approved, with the remaining 10 DPRs expected to be submitted within the set timeframe.

Following a thorough deliberation, Commissioner emphasized the need to expedite the formulation of the pending DPRs and to promptly initiate the tendering process for the approved projects. This strategic approach aims to enhance the existing water supply infrastructure, thereby providing much-needed relief to areas in Srinagar currently facing water scarcity.

The Commissioner particularly underscored the urgency of installing smart meters to ensure an uninterrupted 24x7 water supply to the residents of Srinagar.

Government Of Jammu and Kashmir
DISTRICT INFORMATION CENTRE GANDERBAL
 ROOM NO. 248, MINI SECRETARIAT, DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from registered and reputed vendors for hiring of ponys/ Palkis/ Pithoos for the upcoming SANJY-2024 at Baltal. The quotations should be submitted by or before 18/06/2024 in sealed envelopes, super scribed with, "Quotation for Pony " addressed to District Information Centre, Ganderbal, and will be opened on 19-06-2024 at 2.00pm in presence of District Information Officer, Ganderbal. The interested party should quote their GST registration number.

No:- INF/DIC/Gbl/2024/53
 Dated:-11-06-2024

DIPK-1299-24
 DT: 12/06/2024

District Information Officer,
 Ganderbal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 PWD (R&B) DIVISION PATTAN**

e-Mail: rnbdivisionpattan@gmail.com

e-NIT No. 03 / R&B / Divn./ Pattan of 2024-25

For and on Behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan invites short term e-Quotations from the registered tour and Travels agencies for requirement of one No of following type of vehicle required for office use.

S.No	Type of Vehicle	Cost of Tender in Rupees	For the Year	Class of contract
1	Requirement for Hire charges of one number vehicle require for Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan Like as Innova Mahindra, Balero, Scorpio, Mahindra Xylo or equivalent in fit condition are not less than 2184 cc engine capacity including driver but excluding fuel.	300/-	202425	Regd. Tour and Travel agencies

CRITICAL DATES

1	Date of Issue of	12-06-2024
2	Period of downloading of documents	12-06-2024
3	Submission Start Date	12-06-2024
4	Submission End Date	20-06-2024 4:00 pm
5	Date & time of opening (Online)	20-06-2024 4:30 PM

Terms and Conditions:-

- The payment shall be debited to Work charge contingencies. The rates quoted must be inclusive of all the Taxes and Vat. Latest GST clearance and Pan Card/ Company Registration.
- 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.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as are in vogue for the similar nature of work.
- All bidders have to submit 05 years' experience certificate of Driver by any Government Department
- Documents to be downloading viz Registration Certificate, Valid Licences, Insurance etc.

No: R&B / Divn./ Pattan:764-69
 Dated : 12 -06-2024-

Sd/
 Head Draftsman

Sd/
 Technical Officer

Sd/
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Pattan

DIPK-1280-24
 DT: 12/06/2024

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Time For Girls To Shine

A video of a girl selling tea on a cart is catching attention of social media enthusiasts in Kashmir. The girl is interviewed in the video and says that she felt she could earn a decent living through this. Well, she has every right to think that way. It is her life. Let her live the way she wants to live.

Some time before netizens in Kashmir were questioning girls for riding scooters. And before that there was a debate on girls wearing jeans. The simple fact of modern life is that a woman has been liberated. The constitution gives her a right to clothes herself the way she feels comfortable and to take up any job that suits her personality. We are not one to judge a girl riding a scooty or wearing jeans. These are life choices and one must be given the freedom to make these life choices.

It was heartening to see that in the centre of downtown Srinagar a girl is willing to sell tea on a cart instead of being dependent on her brother's or parents pocket money. Or it is heartening change to see girls promoting local brands on social media platforms like Instagram.

Times have changed. Girls are outperforming boys in every field. Name one field in academics where girls do not outperform boys? Girls are more focussed and career-oriented.

Trolling a girl for the life-choice she made is the worst thing we can do. It is a positive change that a girl has decided to be independent. We must respect her choice and mind our own business.

Times have changed. We must align our world view accordingly.

Shah-e-Hamadan (RA): Spiritual Leadership



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Hazrat Amir-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) often referred to as the founder of Islam in Kashmir came to the valley with a large group of comrades of Sayeds who were all amirs and since he was their leader, so he is known as Amir-i-Kabir. Hazrat Shah-e-Hamdan was born on the 21st of October 1314 AD in a noble and pious family. His both parents Syed Shahabuddin and Syeda Fatima were the direct descendants of the holy Prophet (PBUH). His father was an administrator of Hamdan and his maternal uncle Syed Alluddin Simnani took the responsibility for his upbringing.

Under his guidance, Shah-e-Hamdan learned and memorized the holy Quran. An eminent scholar and Sufi of the time, Sheikh Sharfudin Mazdaqani initiated him into the Kubrawi order. He became his Murshid preceptor and was involved with his religious, educational, and spiritual upbringing. A brutal Tatar Zulchi invaded Kashmir in the early 14th century AD, he and his companions created havoc for eight months bringing death, destruction, and misery to the people, only eleven families survived in the city.

After his going back in 1320 AD, a Buddhist from Ladakh Rinchan Shah became the king of Kashmir. During his reign, Syed Sharfudin Abdul Rehman Suharwardi ra also known as Bulbul Shah from Turkistan came to Kashmir. It was through him that Rinchan Shah accepted Islam and was renamed Sadruddin. Before arriving in Kashmir, Shah-e-Hamdan sent his two followers/cousins Syed Tajuddin Simnani and Mir Syed Hussain Simnani to the valley to take stock of the situation. Shah-e-Hamdan made three visits to the valley. His first visit to the valley was in 1372, when the ruling king Sultan Shahabuddin had



gone on an expedition to Attock.

The companions of Shah-e-Hamdan who were less than a hundred in number alongside their head were received by Sultan Qutubuddin who later became his disciple. He stayed for six months following which he left for Makkah. During his second visit in 1380, he was accompanied by 700 Syeds who were warmly welcomed by Sultan Qutubuddin. This large group settled on the banks of river Jhelum near the present-day Khanqah Moila of Srinagar. At that

time the place was called Allaudin Pora. Shah-e-Hamdan and his disciples would offer prayers there, later the foundation of the Khanqah was laid there. On this visit, Shah-I-Hamdan stayed for thirty months in the valley and traveled across the length and breadth of the valley to propagate the true teachings of Islam along with his companions. His third visit to Kashmir is recorded in 1384 AD, during which he felt ill after spending less than a year and then left. Shah-e-Hamdan and his party left Kashmir for

Turkistan via Ladakh. They stayed at Shey village of Leh, and constructed a mosque there to worship making it the first Muslim site of worship in Ladakh.

Traveling through the town of Pakhli, the party arrived at Kunnar, it's king Khazar Shah pleaded with him to stay for a few days there as a royal guest, however, due to illness his soul left for a heavenly abode on 19th January 1385 AD. Due to harsh winter weather, his body was buried at Swat but in accordance with his wish, he was later laid to rest at Koulab on 4th of July 1385. His entire family is buried there. Wherever Shah-I-Hamdan went he left his imprints in the form of mosques and Khanqahs. Such Khanqahs were built in different parts of the valley during his visit. These constructions were undertaken under the direction of his beloved son Mir Mohammad Hamdani (RA). These include Khanqah Faizpanah Tral, Khanqahi Amirya Pampore, Khanqahi Walla Wachi, Khanqahi Amirya Monghama, and Khanqah of Shey Ladakh near Leh. However, the largest and most important one is the Khanqah-i-Moula of Srinagar. Khanqahi Moula is the most revered not only the place of worship but it also represents more than six hundred years of our heritage.

The architecture of the Khanqah is distinctively Central Asian with wood, sculpted stones, and small bricks used as the building material. The foundation and the stone plinth of the Khanqah was laid by Shah-e-Hamdan himself while the task of the building was undertaken by his beloved son Mir Mohammed Hamdani when he visited the valley in the 8th century AH during the reign of Sultan Sikandar. Its construction began in 1396 AD and was completed in 1399. The cooperation and generosity of Sultan Sikandar and Seh Butt were instrumental in the timely completion of the grand project. Mir Mohammed Hamdani came to Kashmir to continue the mission initiated by his pious father, the generosity and cooperation of the reigning king Sultan Sikandar helped him to extend a network of Khanqahs and mosques in each corner of the valley.

The author can be mailed at rayees-kumar31@gmail.com

Towards A Pollution-Free Environment

SAHIL MANZOOR

Environment is a broad term; it needs several books to describe every single component of it. Briefly, the environment can be defined as our surroundings, like plants, trees, herbs, shrubs, birds, water bodies, soil, hills, mountains, and small water bodies like ponds canals, etc. It means everything surrounding us is included in the environment. Our environment must be neat, clean, and free from all types of pollutants. Nature is kind; be kind to it. Nature bestows us unlimited blessings in different forms; it includes living as well as non-living things.

There are two main components of the environment: biotic and abiotic components. Biotic components include all living things like plants, trees, animals, microorganisms, fish, grass, etc. Abiotic components: these include non-living things like water, soil, and air, which are abiotic components of the environment. One thing that is quite awesome is that abiotic and biotic components are interrelated. Every micro-to macro-object in this universe is beneficial, and none is unwanted or harmful until any human interference takes place and disturbs nature.

Today, the whole world is concerned about the environment. Every year on the 5th of June, World Environment Day is observed. I think instead of celebrating, we should observe, as there is nothing special that humanity has given to this environment. Humans are the main culprits who pollute the environment in different ways. I will mention this in this article at the end. World Environment Day can be brief, as the United Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972, which was the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. World Environment Day is observed every year with a specific theme and slogan that reflects the environmental issues of that time. The theme of 2024 is land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.

How can our environment



cause pollution? Environmental pollution is caused by human interference and can occur naturally. How the environment gets polluted naturally, due to intensive earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions etc. How humans can pollute the environment: Humans play an immense role in polluting the environment, like the construction of giant buildings, roads, bridges, railway networks, etc. Where there is the presence of humans, there is pollution. Humans are not adopting and implementing scientific techniques to tackle environmental-related issues.

In my district, Budgam brick kilns are the main source of air pollution and cause desertification-like scenes. Villages like Panzan and Gutlibagh in the district of Budgam are look-

ing deserted due to sterile land and dust. Brick kilns should be minimized, and alternatives should be found for the construction of buildings, houses, etc.

Air pollution: the composition of the air consists of different gases like 78% nitrogen (N), 21% oxygen (O), 0.003% carbon dioxide, and CO2. The remaining gases are present in trace amounts in the air, like krypton, xenon, argon, etc. Air can be polluted due to harmful gases released from factories and vehicles. As we know today, transport is increasing rapidly. As we can consider the situation in Delhi during the winter, the air pollution makes the lives of people dreadful. The air should be pollution-free. Plantation drives are very important in cities along the

roads. The government should provide fresh plants to residents annually during the peak season, or it should be mandatory for households to plant trees if they have available spaces in their lawns. Plants and trees play a great role in minimizing the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere and providing us with fresh and healthy oxygen to survive.

Soil pollution: Every day we are experiencing new products on the market: packets with harmful polythene, plastic boxes, and chip wrappers. Solid waste is destroying the soil as it gets sterile, and harmful microorganisms are generated from unwanted solid waste in cities, towns, etc. Soil pollution can be minimized by keeping available garbage sheds in the village, and proper management

should be taken into consideration.

Water pollution: water bodies are getting polluted due to household sewage, garbage, etc., and need the attention of vigilant individuals everywhere. We have several pollutant-causing agents, and every pollution-causing agent should be taken into consideration and should be redressed on a priority basis.

Polythene is one of the major causes of soil pollution, and it stops the growth of plants as its presence under the soil stops the roots from getting important nutrients from beneath the soil. Polythene takes 700 years to decompose.

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

From **The Frontlines**

Homeless Person Won Over Alcoholism, Survived Floods, Defeated TB



SHOBHA SHUKLA
BOBBY RAMAKANT

After suffering debilitating TB symptoms for over a year, a homeless person got lifesaving help from a community health worker. Thanks to her, he was eventually diagnosed with TB of the lungs and put on treatment, quit alcohol, and survived one of the worst Delhi floods during his treatment, and got cured.

A month before the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024) opens in Munich, Germany, here is a real-life story from the frontline that makes a clarion call to #PutPeopleFirst.

Surendra migrated to Delhi from Bihar state of India in search of livelihood. For some years he tried his hands as a cycle rickshaw puller, worked in a school, and eventually settled as a ragpicker. He now lives in a temporary dismal slum on the banks of river Yamuna in East Delhi with his partially paraplegic wife and earns whatever he can through ragpicking.

Diagnostic delays in key and vulnerable populations

"I was an alcoholic, and a bidi smoker (bidi is a leaf filled with tobacco). Continuous drinking took a toll on my health, which started deteriorating. I lost my appetite and became very weak, so much so that I could not lift even a glass of water. I lost weight and there was no strength left in my body. I would cough day and night and had fever. My whole body would ache, and it became difficult for me to walk even a few steps without support. I had become a bundle of bones. My neighbours said that I had TB and told me to go to Pushta (an elevated road near the river Yamuna) and get treated for TB. They even threatened to throw me out of the slum. But there was no one to support me get treated. My wife is physically incapacitated and is herself unable to walk properly. I had no strength left in me to go to a clinic on my own. I suffered like this helplessly for over one year," Surendra said to CNS (Citizen News Service) in early April 2024.

The difference which community health workers make

It was just like any other day with Surendra lying limp on a side. Priyanka, a frontline community health worker who works as a Field Officer of Humana People to People India (HPPPI), chanced to pass by him. She was on her round of mapping the area for active TB case finding. She saw Surendra's pitiable condition. He was unable to even stand up because of his cough, fever, and extreme weakness. From her experience in the field, she thought it could be TB.

After counselling, Surendra agreed to take a TB test. She gave him a container (to collect his morning sputum). Next morning, she took him on a cycle rickshaw (as he was unable to walk even that short distance) to the nearby TB clinic which is part of the government-run Shastri Park hospital.

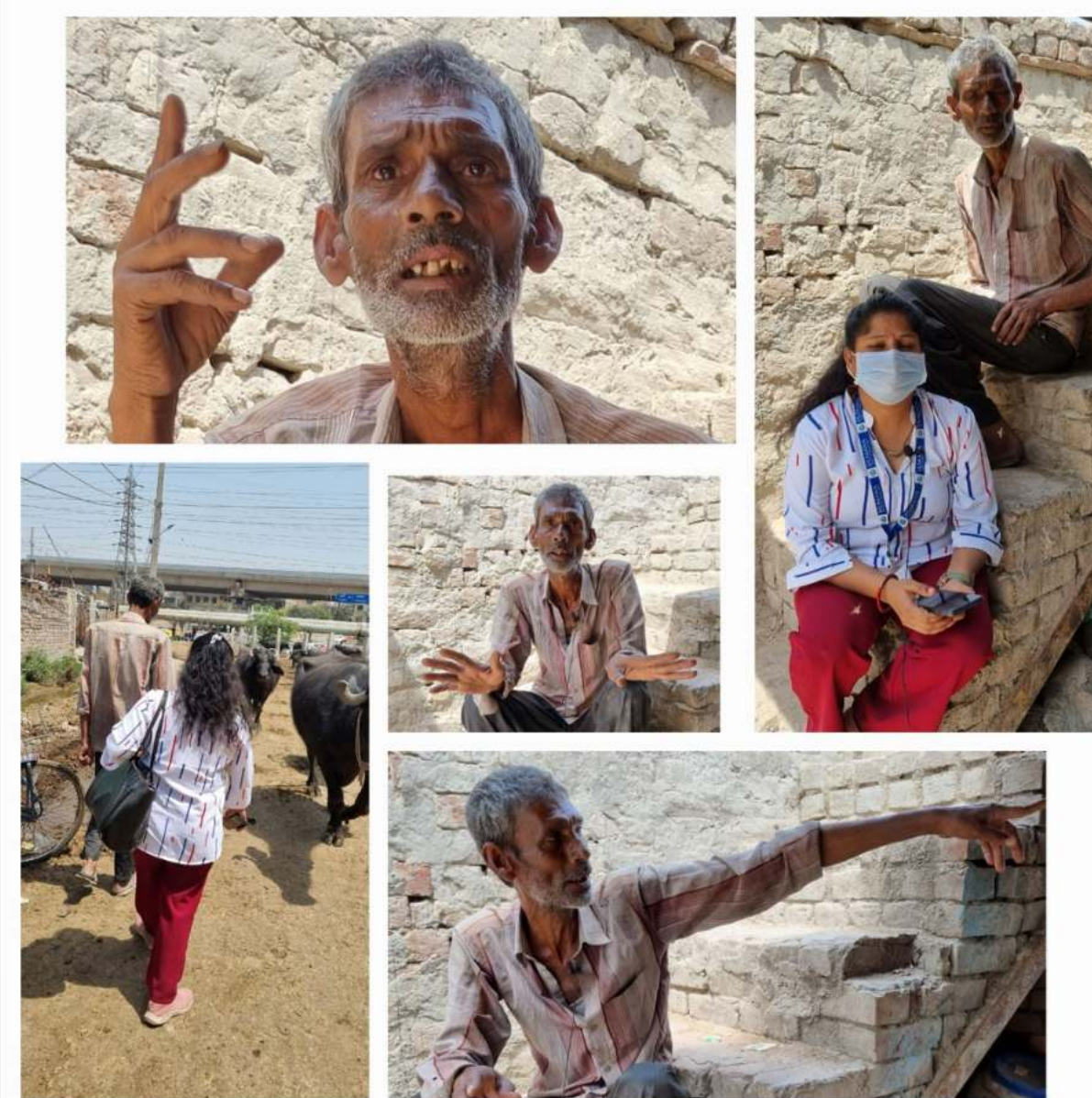
Although WHO recommendation is to offer a molecular test upfront to every person with presumptive TB (as microscopy underperforms in diagnosing TB), Surendra could only get sputum microscopy done, which gave a negative result. But his x-ray indicated presumptive TB. Based upon x-ray and clinical evaluation, the doctor's advice was to put him on TB treatment immediately.

Surendra's TB drug susceptibility test via Line Probe Assay (LPA) was also done to ensure that the TB bacteria that infect a person are not resistant to the medicines he or she is treated with. His HIV test was negative.

As Surendra was too weak to stand, Priyanka queued up in the clinic to collect his medications so that his treatment could start without any further delay.

She then counselled him on how to take his 3 pills every day, importance of treatment adherence, nutritional support, and other health and treatment literacy related issues.

Priyanka also briefed him about the nutritional support offered by the government of India: Ni-kshay Poshan Yojna under which he was



able to get INR 500 every month during his TB treatment. She helped him complete all the formalities so that he can receive this benefit.

As there is a likelihood of TB of the lungs to spread to others, Priyanka also counselled his wife to consider taking a TB test, which she did and tested negative.

Surendra's arduous journey through the treatment pathway

At the onset, he faced severe side

effects related to TB medication. He would feel very dizzy after taking his medicines. Upon consulting the doctor, his medication was changed, and side effects subsided eventually.



The next obstacle was his alcohol addiction. Priyanka told him that he would have to quit alcohol if he wanted to get cured of TB. He said that was an impossible task for him to do. She retorted that in that case the TB medicines would be ineffective, and he would die sooner or later. That perhaps set alarm bells ringing and Surendra promised to try to quit

alcohol. And he eventually did.

"Madam (Priyanka) had taken a lot of pains to get me started on treatment. Now I had to quit alcohol to get cured. This was not easy for me. I thought, let me have a quarter of a bottle of liquor at least. I went to the shop with money in my hands. But suddenly I do not know what came over me. I came back to my hutment without buying any liquor, drank a glass of water and lay down. That moment I left drinking

flood-like situations in several pockets because of heavy rains. Many media reports described it as the worst floods in the last 40 years (in terms of volume of rain that poured in a single day).

Like many other homeless people, Surendra and his wife were washed away in the swirling flood waters.

"All my belongings, including my medical documents and medicines, were swept away in flood waters. Only the clothes I was wearing were left. I was carried far away by the flood waters and almost got drowned under a big pipe. It was only Madam who searched for me and found me lying unconscious on the bridge. She got my medical documents made again, arranged for my medicines, and got me food ration also", recalled Surendra.

Priyanka had searched for him frantically. Eventually she found him after a few days in some faraway place alongside the elevated road, unconscious and shivering, wrapped in a plastic sheet.

"I used to follow up Surendra. Initially I did it daily. But as his condition improved it was once a week. When I went to him on one of the days, I found the whole area inundated with flood waters. People said that many had been washed away. I wondered if Surendra too was one of them. After 3 days of hopeless searching, I found him in a very bad condition. But I was relieved that I had at least been able to find him. I was so relieved. We save the photo of our patients in our phones. When I was looking for him, I showed his photo to the many people lying on the road. One of them recognised his face, and pointing in a particular direction he said that 'this man was lying there.' When I reached there, I found him lying unconscious wrapped in a plastic sheet. I woke him up. He said he had no food to eat, his medicines were also washed away, he was unable to walk. I told him not to worry, as I was there to try my best to help him," shared Priyanka.

Reaching the unreached to stop missing TB cases

The likes of Priyanka are engaged in the daunting task of finding TB in the unreached populations – referred to as the key and vulnerable populations, such as, homeless, migrants, slum dwellers, daily wage earners- and connecting them with the healthcare system. As per the India TB Report 2024, key and vulnerable populations are those with heightened exposure to TB bacilli, constrained access to health services on account of socio-economic determinants of health, or an elevated risk of TB due to compromised immune function.

Priyanka's work at Humana People to People India is part of LEAD (Leveraging, Engaging and Advocating to Disrupt TB Transmission) project, supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and JSI Research and Training Institute (JSI), in close coordination with Indian government's National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

She straightaway rushed to the TB clinic in Shastri Park hospital, met the doctor and told him about the predicament of her homeless patient. The doctor and other healthcare workers all came forward to help Surendra. They gave her his medicine supplies, new documents were made, and also a Poshan Potli (a bag full of food grains). Priyanka also sought help to arrange some clothes for him.

Priyanka's yeo(w)man service brought Surendra back to life

Surendra is hugely obliged to Priyanka: "I owe my life to Madam (Priyanka), she has done a lot for me. She got all my tests done. She would collect

the medicines for me from the health centre, as I was too weak to stand in the queue for long. Her unflinching support gave me courage. I started regaining my confidence and determination to get well. I would take my medicines regularly on time. On her insistence I even left alcohol. This took immense efforts, but once I left it, I never went back. Now I feel much better. And the entire credit goes to Madam, who gave me a new lease of life. If I had not met her, I would have died, even before starting the treatment. It was only due to her continuous support that I could complete my 6 months long treatment and defeat TB".

He added: "I do feel giddy at times. I also cough sometimes, especially in the mornings. Perhaps that is due to my habit of smoking bidis. My body aches if I walk for long or lift heavy load. Ragpicking is hard work. But it is my only source of income, so I cannot leave it," added Surendra, who is back to his arduous job of ragpicking.

Even after completing the treatment, when a need so arises, Surendra calls Priyanka to get nutritional support and receives it as possible.

Though same day test and treat became a reality for Surendra, it happened perhaps a year or more too late. He began his treatment for drug-sensitive TB of the lungs in August 2023. He completed his treatment in February 2024. Early TB diagnosis remains vital if we are to stop the spread of infection, reduce human suffering and eventually end TB.

TB survivor champions the fight against TB

Surendra has become a TB advocate in his locality and spreads awareness on TB in the community. He tells them to contact Priyanka in case of any TB symptoms. He shared Priyanka's phone with a presumptive TB patient who contacted her. She got his x-ray done and sputum tested. He too tested positive and is now on treatment.

Surendra's message for everyone is that "if you want to get well, you must quit alcohol. And if you have symptoms like prolonged cough, fever, or weight loss, please get screened for TB. All TB patients should take their medicines on time as advised by the doctor, eat properly, and complete their treatment. The support of Madam and others like her (community health workers) or friend is essential for people like me, to share our problems, get help, and defeat TB."

Priyanka is very happy that she was able to save the life of Surendra who had lost all hope. Her words echo a lot of empathy for the homeless and other people who are forced to live in dehumanising conditions: "Some people may not have anyone to care for them. They do not know how to navigate the health system. A little bit of help from us will go a long way in mitigating their problems. I want all TB patients to take their medicines on time and complete their treatment - not leave it midway - and take a nutritious diet. Then we will be able to defeat TB. TB will be vanquished, and we will win the battle against TB".

Reaching the unreached to stop missing TB cases

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(Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant lead the Editorial team of CNS (Citizen News Service) and are part of Global Antimicrobial Resistance Media Alliance and Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media). Follow them on Twitter: @Shobha1Shukla and @BobbyRamakant)

LG Inspects Progress Of SASB's Office, Yatri Niwas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday conducted the on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the Office and Yatri Niwas of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

The Lt Governor directed for accelerating the pace of works and timely completion of the project.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor & CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Sh Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir and officials from other concerned departments.

Dulloo Chairs DRC Meeting Of RDSS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired the Distribution Reforms Committee (DRC) meeting of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to work out strategies towards accelerating the process and achieving reduction in distribution losses in the Union Territory.

Among others the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PDD, members of the committee including ACS, Jal Shakti Department, ACS, Forests, Principal Secretary, Finance, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Secretary, RDD, MD, JPDCL/KPDCL, Chief Engineers besides other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary described this ambitious

scheme as crucially significant in turning the fate of J&K's power sector towards new dimensions. He maintained that reducing Actual Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses is the key towards revolutionizing power scenario in the UT. He asked all the concerned to play their roles devotedly for timely realization of objectives of this scheme in J&K. He said that with completion of all requisite there would be substantial increase in energy stock to be provided to the consumers at affordable rates. He enjoined upon the Discoms of both the Divisions to lay added focus on execution of these work to ensure quality power supply and achieve targets within the deadline.

The Chief Secretary, while assessing various activities, enquired about the status of

smart metering works accomplished in different districts of the UT. He also asked about the physical progress registered under each package of work awarded to PIA besides the possible deadline by which these would be put into use by the department.

In a presentation, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad, highlighted a detailed description about the progress on RDSS works across different districts of the UT. He informed that the scheme aims at improving the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to customers through an efficient distribution system. He revealed that other objective of the initiative is to reduce the AT&C losses to just 12-15%, which currently revolves around 60% in the UT.

As far as the funding for this scheme is concerned, it was informed that the Government of India supports for smart metering with 22.5% per meter share and for loss reduction (LR) works it is being done on 90:10 basis shared by the Centre and the UT. It was appraised that smart metering works amounting Rs 1053 crore and LR works worth Rs 4567 crore are being undertaken in different districts of J&K.

While giving details about the smart metering, it was revealed that 14,07,045 smart meters and 88,037 system meters had to be installed in the UT. For carrying out other LR works, different project implementing agencies including PESL, NTPC and RECPDCL have been assigned tasks to complete them in different areas in a time bound manner.

Administrative Inspections Enhancing Accountability, Efficiency Across Govt Business

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of ARI & Trainings is conducting series of Administrative inspections across the UT and on Wednesday teams headed by Secretary technical ARI and trainings, Dr. Abdul Kabir Dar conducted inspection of Government Medical College Srinagar and Super Speciality Hospital, underscoring the critical importance of administrative inspections in government offices.

The team met Principal GMC Srinagar, Dr. IFFAT Hassan Shah; Administrator Associated Hospitals, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak and various HoDs of different specialities.

These inspections play a vital role in ensuring accountability, efficiency and transparency across all levels of government operations. They ensure that government offices adhere to laws, regulations, and policies, reducing the risk of corruption and misuse of public resources. By fostering a culture of integrity and transparency, these inspections bolster public trust in government institutions.

These inspections also enhance efficiency and effectiveness by identifying inefficiencies and areas needing improvement. This leads to better allocation of resources, streamlined processes and improved service delivery, ultimately benefiting the public.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Won't Rest Till We

important role of society to foil nefarious design of terror ecosystem that is aiding and abetting acts of terrorism.

Every section of the society is distressed and anguished by the heinous crime committed by the terrorists against humanity in Reasi. We should work together to identify and isolate the elements trying to disrupt peace, the Lt Governor said.

He urged the citizens to provide any crucial information they come across to law enforcement agencies to crush terrorism.

Unity in diversity is our biggest strength. Each one of us must discharge our responsibility in eliminating terror elements for a peaceful and prosperous future of Jammu Kashmir and the nation, he said.

The Lt Governor also appreciated the endeavours of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, All J&K Folk Artists Association and other such organizations for promoting peace and harmony through art and culture.

Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture department; Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Sh Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association, senior officials and prominent artists were present on the occasion.

LG Attends 'Paddy

the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to empower the farming community and to rejuvenate the agriculture & allied sector.

"Paddy cultivation is the backbone of J&K's economy and our farmers with their unwavering commitment are playing a vital role in ensuring food security and maintaining the agrarian tradition," the Lt Governor said.

He expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for dedicating Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) worth Rs.5013 Crore. He said the HADP and its 29 projects are being implemented for creating a strong and commercially viable agriculture and allied sector.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed that the policies and projects of the Government under HADP are based on the principles of economy, equity and ecology to put J&K on a new trajectory of growth, almost doubling the output of the sectors, boosting exports and making agriculture & allied sectors sustainable.

The Lt Governor also shared various key interventions and necessary steps being taken by the J&K Government to make the farmers of Jammu Kashmir entrepreneurs par excellence.

In Kashmir Division, an area of 1,27,167 Hectares would be brought under paddy cultivation this year and total 2,94,821 Hectares of net area under cultivation during Kharif Season, he observed.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure timely supply of critical inputs, promoting innovative technologies, and to tap the potential of diversification and intercropping to improve farm productivity. He informed that the administration is going to launch the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan 3.0, soon.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the important role of educated youth, experts, officials and farmers of J&K in agriculture & allied sector.

He commended the District Administration Anantnag for providing a huge chunk of land to industries department and facilitating the establishment of CA stores in the district.

Addressing the issues pertaining to development of Jablipora Fruit Mandi, the Lt Governor informed that the project in this regard has been approved.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor e-inaugurated various components worth Rs 3.13 cr established under HADP. He visited the stalls put up by various departments and farmers and distributed sanction letters to beneficiaries under different schemes.

Progressive farmers also shared their success stories and expressed gratitude to the Administration for support and assistance.

Mohammad Yousuf Gorski, Chairman DDC Anantnag; Sh Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Sh Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; HoDs, senior officials, farmers, stakeholders and people in large number were present.

Two Terrorists, CRPF

Patil told media persons here that a joint army and police post was established at Chattergala which probably have hindered the movement of terrorists in the forest areas. "Last night some suspicious movement was observed by alert sentry and soldiers which was challenged and terrorists opened fire on security forces. The fierce firefight continued for half an hour in which five soldiers and a SPO were injured. Terrorists managed to flee from the area in darkness but the search operations have been initiated to trace and kill them," he said.

Immediately after the fire fight broke out more forces have been rushed to the area and traffic movement on Bhaderwah-Bani route has been suspended. No vehicle of tourist is being allowed to move towards Chattergala whereas security has been heightened in the entire region.

Sources said that after the initial firing, militants have fled from the area and a massive manhunt has been launched.

Meanwhile, this evening another firefight started in upper reaches of Gandoh area of Doda district in which one policeman was injured.

Another search operation was going on in Kalal village near the line of control in Rajouri district after movement of suspicious people in the village.

For the last 96 hours, Jammu region has witnessed four firefights and attacks in which two terrorists, one CRPF Jawan and nine civilian were killed in Kathua and Reasi districts whereas several others were injured. Firstly, terrorists attacked a bus carrying pilgrims from Shiv Khori towards Katra in Pouni area on Sunday evening and on Tuesday encounter started in Hiranagar area followed by firefight with terrorists in Chattergala area of Bhaderwah and now Gandoh area. Before that in Sanai forests of Surankore area in Poonch district one IAF personnel was killed in first week of May whereas one village defence guard member was killed in Basantgarh area of Udhampur.

At most of the places, terrorists have managed to flee the area after carrying attacks and only in Hiranagar they have been neutralized.

Recovery

three live grenades. The recovery also includes currency notes of Rs 500 denomination worth 1 lakh, eatables including Pakistan-made chocolates, dry chickpea and stale (bread) chapatis, Pakistan-made medicines and pain killer injections, two packs of A4 battery cells, one handset having antenna and two wires hanging from the handset.

High Alert

the gorge. Nine people were killed and 33 injured in the incident. The attack was carried out on the directions of Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Abu Hamza, officials said—(KNO)

Major Administrative

privy to the development told KNO.

A communique was sent to the Jammu and Kashmir administration following a cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's office on June 10, urging immediate measures to ensure the prompt delivery of government services and the establishment of a robust mechanism to clear pending projects. "Many developmental projects had been stalled due to the imposition of the Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha elections. These projects are now being expedited at a rapid pace," sources divulged.

It was informed further that several senior bureaucrats, who currently lead important departments, are likely to see changes in their postings. Performance evaluations will guide the decision-making process, ensuring that the right officials are placed in key roles. Notably, adjustments within the Public Works Department (PWD), Education, and Finance sectors are expected to be prominent features of this reshuffle—(KNO)

Committed To

"Thamogay Hathoon Mai Hath Jo Cha-

logay Inkay Sath, Hongay Hathoon Mai Inkay Kalam, Tabi Taraqi Karaygay Hum," she said while highlighting the importance of education and cooperation in achieving progress.

Another official from the labour department said the Jammu and Kashmir government is making significant strides in rehabilitating children in street situations. "New policies propose strict legal actions against those employing children, urging the registration of FIRs against violators under the Child Labour Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the Indian Penal Code," he added.

Officials said there is a critical need for public cooperation to end child labour. They urged the people to contact the labour department or other relevant authorities immediately if they witnessed any incidents of child labour.

The officials explained that poverty, unemployment and low literacy rates among parents are primary drivers of child labour in the region. "Efforts to improve educational opportunities and economic conditions for families are essential in reducing child labour and ensuring a better future for these children," they said.

Child labour refers to the employment of children aged 5 to 17 years, depriving them of their childhood and forcing them into a life of deprivation and illiteracy—(KNO)

Terrorists' Design

has taken place is inhabited by people who are nationalist and patriotic to the core and this was evident even during the present incident where the civilians stood by the security forces in not only providing decisive information about the movements of the suspected terrorists but also helping the security forces to nab the terrorists in hiding.

Being a land of Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Dr. Dr Singh said, people of this region have for several decades struggled against the anti-national forces in every form and therefore the terrorists and their sponsors should understand once and for all that the misadventure of seeking to sow the seeds of anti-India terrorism in this region will not only boomerang on them but also teach them a befitting lesson.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism as the basic Mantra of government's approach, Dr. Singh said such incidents are also an indication of terrorism having entered its last phase and terrorists finding themselves at their wit's end.

He said unlike the earlier governments, the government headed by PM Narendra Modi has proven to the world its ability to strike at the right moment and at the right place which was evident in the surgical strike and similar other decisive proactive operations which were undertaken in the last one decade and have contributed to the restoration of peace and normalcy in the Kashmir Valley.

Appreciating the coordination between the civil administration and the security forces, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "Certain important suggestions have been received today from the security experts which will be placed before the concerned authorities and which might serve as further deterrent for any possible future terror activities."

The VDGs (Village Defence Groups), said Dr. Jitendra Singh, are in the process of being revived and made more effective. Security posts will also be set up wherever required, he said. During his visit to the bereaved family of Amarjeet Sharma, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "The family will be provided much more relief, assistance and help than is normally expected after such incidents." Moreover, he said, he, his supporters and the entire team of BJP takes up the responsibility of looking after the family members of the deceased and ensuring the smooth education of their children. He said a proposal is being mooted to provide nursing job to one of the trained members of the family and similarly other members will also be taken care of.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also appreciated the administration and the medical staff of GMC Kathua for having carried out timely and successful orthopaedic surgery on the left humerus of Om Prakash who is completely out of danger—(KNO)

CS Reviews Measures

provided earlier. He enjoined upon the telecommunication agency to facilitate the department as per the earlier MoU signed

between them.

He stressed on giving them access to the Customer Management Portal and establishing the helpline for registration of grievances with proper follow up of the same by provisioning a team of technicians for each block. He also asked for accomplishing these tasks within next few days. He assured the company of all possible assistance by the UT government enabling better environment for execution of its programmes. He said that the government is committed to provide the amenities like land, power and other requisite support to help the agency complete its works in time.

In a presentation, the BSNL threw light on overall performance regarding each of its works undertaken here under this broadband mission. It was informed that the objective of this mission is to bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

It was appraised that the outcome of this national mission is to ensure broadband access to all villages, availability of high broadband speed besides accelerating fiberization there. It was added that the company is going to enhance connectivity and improve quality of service by increasing tower density, fiberization of telecom towers and facilitating roll out of 5G network and strengthening of 4G network in rural areas.

It was revealed that out of the 847 identified sites in J&K, land has been allotted for 751 locations by both Revenue and Forest Departments for 4G saturation in the UT. It was informed that the foundation work at 333 locations has been completed while the same is under process in 118 more locations. Moreover, 231 towers had been erected, of which, 26 have been commissioned and 11 BTS put on air, so far.

Regarding the status of VSAT in Gram Panchayats, it was informed that the same has been provided at 692 locations. It was added that some of those had developed technical snags or other problems rendering many of them non-functional.

The CGM, BSNL, assured of framing roadmap for restoration of these non-functional GPs shortly.

As far as the Amended Bharat Net Program (ABP-Phase III) is concerned, it was informed that GoI has approved it for pan India including J&K. It was revealed that all 427 GPs and BHQs covered in the Phase I shall be covered in OFC ring architecture and all 692 GPs covered on satellite would be brought on OFC ring.

For the remaining 3180 uncovered GPs and BHQs, it was said that under ABN there is provision to bring them on the OFC ring architecture with MPLS routers to be installed at all the 4299 GPs and 285 BHQs.

Further, it was informed that OLT shall be installed at all GPs for extending the FTTH high speed broadband connections to the GPs, BHQs, adjoining government institutions and the rural population in the vicinity.

Light Showers

gateway of Kashmir, recorded 31.0 degree Celsius today.

As per the data, Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 26.0 degree Celsius while the mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at 29.1 degree Celsius.

In Kokernag, the mercury settled at 30.0 degree Celsius while in Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, it settled at 20.8 degree Celsius.

The details further reveal that Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 43.6 degree Celsius. The other stations, however, recorded above 30 degree Celsius including Banihal, Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah. Banihal recorded 31.8 degree Celsius while Batote recorded 32.1 degree Celsius. The data further reveals, adding that the mercury in Katra and Bhaderwah recorded 39.9 degree Celsius and 32.8 degree Celsius respectively.

The weatherman has predicted a heat wave in Jammu and Kashmir till June 17.

However, Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad had said that the weather would remain generally dry till June 17 while the possibility of light rain and thunder cannot be ruled out—(KNO)

Ahead Of Eid,

unnoticed by shoppers, many of whom are expressing disappointment at the lack of variety and choices available to them this Eid—(KNO)

MISSION LiFE

DSEK emphasizes impact of climate change on local communities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The lush lawn of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh was a sight of vibrant energy and enthusiasm Wednesday, as students from various institutions across District Srinagar came together for an impactful Environment Awareness Programme (EAP) and Mega Rally.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Tasaduq Hussain Mir, Director School Education Kashmir, and graced by distinguished guests including Rakesh Magotra, Project Director Samagra Shiksha; Abdul Hamid Fani, Chief Education Officer Srinagar; Ajeet Kumar, State Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha; Nusrat Bukhari, Principal GGHSS Kothibagh; Mohammad Bilal Madoo, Range Officer, Social Forestry Range Srinagar; and Nazrana, DNO Summer Camps Srinagar, the programme was an inspiring display of commitment to environmental conservation.

The event commenced with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address by Nusrat Bukhari, Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, shedding light on the Summer Camps based on Mission Life Themes.

Director School Education Kashmir emphasized the impact of climate change on local commu-



nities and the need for proactive measures. He underscored the mantra of Mission LiFE, 'Lifestyle for Environment', and the pivotal role of Summer Camps as a mass movement to raise awareness and equip students and communities with strategies to combat environmental challenges.

Project Director Samagra Shiksha, highlighted the success of Summer Camps in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing their unifying power in protecting the Earth and inspiring positive change in everyday life. He applauded the enthusiastic participation of all the Districts of Union Territory and commended the efforts of Chief Education Officer

celebrating the remarkable achievement of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Territory, ranking 2nd in the entire country in the e-waste collection category.

Students of GGHSS Kothibagh, sang a self composed song on the environment protection. Student of GGHSS Khanyar performed LadiShah on e-waste. The performance of both the schools was applauded by all.

All the participants took the 'Say No to Plastic' Pledge.

Later a powerful Mega Rally, spearheaded by Director School Education Kashmir, Project Director Samagra Shiksha, State Coordinator Samagra Shiksha, and Chief Education Officer Srinagar, echoed through the streets of Srinagar, amplifying the urgent call to protect the environment.

The rally, which commenced from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, wound its way through the bustling thoroughfare of Poloview before culminating at the iconic historical clock tower of Srinagar. Students, with vibrant placards bearing compelling messages on environmental conservation, led the charge, raising fervent slogans advocating against plastic usage and highlighting other critical environmental concerns.

Srinagar, for organizing Summer Camps in both Government and Private Schools, garnering national recognition on the Ministry of Education Official handle.

Chief Education Officer Srinagar, emphasized the unifying nature of Summer Camps, which garnered maximum school participation and focused on crucial themes such as adopting healthy lifestyles, sustainable food systems, reducing e-waste, waste, saving energy and water, and advocating against single-use plastic.

State Coordinator Samagra Shiksha, presented a detailed report on the Summer Camps, cel-

GDC B'la successfully hosts 'Inspire, Lead & Succeed' Mentorship Convention

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A one-day Mentorship Convention on 'Inspire, Lead & Succeed' was organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College (Autonomous) Baramulla, here.

The event exemplified the college's commitment to its Mentor-Mentee programme, aligned with the objectives outlined in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). The convention provided a dynamic platform for students to interact with seasoned professionals for immersive learning, networking and mentorship.

Prof. (Dr.) Neelofar Bhat, Principal GDC Baramulla/ Programme Director inaugurated the programme and delivered a warm welcome address, highlighting the pivotal role of mentorship in fostering robust relationships between mentors and mentees, thereby nurturing student growth.

Held at the College Auditorium, the programme was attended by around 300 students of the college.

Earlier, Dr. Syed Mutahar Aaqib, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)/ NAAC in his address emphasized the significance of the programme as per the NEP-2020, and detailed the theme and objectives of the



programme. Renowned experts delivered insightful lectures during the convention. Dr. Geer Mohammad Ishaq, Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at Kashmir University, provided valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of mentorship, elucidating the multifaceted role mentors play as advisors, counselors, consultants, and educators.

Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Suhaff, from the Department of Psychiatry at GMC Srinagar, delved into the intricate interplay of mental health on both mentors and mentees, offering strategies for navigating challenges and presenting case studies demonstrating student success through effective counseling interventions.

Dr. Mir Zaffar Iqbal, Director of Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Srinagar, addressed the psychological nuances inherent in the mentor-mentee relationship, stressing the importance of mentors understanding student psyches while safeguard-

ing their own mental well-being, thereby providing constructive feedback, encouragement and emotional support. An engaging panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Humaira Qadri, furnished practical advice and real-world anecdotes on fostering and sustaining effective mentorship relationships. The panel comprised esteemed figures such as Dr. Geer Mohammad Ishaq, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Suhaff, Dr. Mir Zaffar Iqbal, Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Dr. Abdul Rouf Bhat and Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khaja each contributing their expertise to the discourse.

A notable highlight of the event was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing Ceremony between GDC Baramulla and the University of Kashmir, graced by the presence of Director North Campus, Prof. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad. He underscored the significance of fostering academic collaboration, promoting research endeavors, facilitating skill development initiatives,

and fostering student-faculty exchange programs. In the concluding remarks, Dr. Syed Humayoun Shabir meticulously presented the comprehensive report of the convention, encapsulating the day's essence and underscoring the importance of reflection and documentation in educational endeavors.

The convention successfully facilitated the establishment of new mentor-mentee connections, fostered knowledge dissemination on effective mentorship practices, and bolstered student development and career readiness.

Recommendations for future iterations of the convention encompassed expanding participant diversity to offer a myriad of perspectives, conducting mentorship training workshops aimed at equipping mentors and mentees with essential skills for cultivating successful relationships, and soliciting feedback to iteratively refine the program's efficacy and address potential areas of improvement.

The one-day Mentorship Convention 2024 underscored the indispensable role of mentorship in student development, significantly enhancing career prospects through the establishment of symbiotic connections between aspiring students and seasoned professionals.

Pulwama Admin intensifies Market Checking ahead of Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In order to curb the practice of illegal profiteering and black marketing, the Special Market Checking teams of District Administration Pulwama conducted/ intensified market checking in various parts of the district ahead of the upcoming festival of Eid ul- Adha.

The drive was conducted on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables.

The checking squads headed by Tehsildar concerned and Officers from Police, Food Safety, SMC, FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments conducted intensive market checking in various Tehsils of the district and inspected various markets within their jurisdiction.

During the drive, at least 50 violations were spotted in the district in the last 02 days. Besides imposition of fine for violating different

provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 05 cases have also been registered against the violators.

Several erring shopkeepers were also booked for failing to maintain the quality of food items, not displaying rate lists of essential commodities, selling expiry products, besides indulging in practices of illegal profiteering and sale of underweight products.

During the drive conducted today, the market checking teams inspected business units including Bakery, confectionery, grocery, vegetable, fruits, milk, meat and chicken selling shops. The teams also checked several food processing units to check hygienic conditions. While the Date of Manufacture, Use-by Date etc was also checked.

Meanwhile, the DC stressed on owners of all Business establishments/ shopkeepers to maintain quality and standard of essential commodities and ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates. He asked the Market checking teams to continue the drive.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK

HKM College Bandipora organizes Painting Competition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In continuation with the series of activities organised to celebrate the World Environmental Week-2024 from 5th June to 11th June 2024, the NSS Units of HKM Degree College Bandipora conducted a Painting Competition, here.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Masood Ahmad Malik, with the presence and support of NSS Programme Officers Prof. Bilquees and Dr. Irshad.

The competition aimed to engage students in creative expression, focusing on the theme of environmental preservation and the relationship between man and nature.

Prof. Bilquees and Dr. Irshad addressed the participants, providing an insightful briefing about the theme's significance in the current environmental context.

Students participated

enthusiastically, showcasing their artistic talents and diverse perspectives on environmental issues.

Through their paintings, they expressed a variety of ideas about the environment, its abundance, the importance of preservation, and the intricate relationship between humans and nature.

The event provided a platform for students to reflect on and visually communicate their thoughts on these critical topics.

The Painting Competition was a successful and enriching event, highlighting the creativity and environmental awareness among the students of HKM Degree College Bandipora. The activity not only celebrated World Environmental Week but also fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation for the environment among the participants.

JKSC Football Academy selected for historic AIFF Blue Cubs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a historic moment and first of its kind for our region, the J&K Sports Council Football Academy has been chosen for the esteemed AIFF Blue Cubs Development Centre initiative, and has been recognized by the All India Football Federation as the Best Grassroots Center 2023-24. This is a big step in developing football talent at the grassroots level.

AIFF Blue Cubs Development Centre strives to nurture young footballers, giving them professional training and exposure from an early age. Undoubtedly, this project will benefit the UT by producing a new generation of talented football players and raising the bar for the sport in Jammu & Kashmir.

Established in 2017, the J&K Sports Council Football Academy has produced players for ISL & I-League Teams every year. In addition 13 players have represented Indian National Teams in various age groups. Among them were Saahil Khurshid, Jehangir, Muheet Shabir, Abdul Salha, Rishi Rajput, Sajjad Hussain, Suhail Ahmad, and many others.

The game of football in J&K has been reviewed with significant assistance from the academy.

Currently, more than 1500 aspiring players receive football coaching every day from the 12 Khelo India Football Centers and 13 JKSC Academy District Units spread throughout J&K. Toddlers also receive attention towards the game in large numbers in JKSC Football School at Srinagar and Jammu.

The government's investment in sports facilities and the platform it has built for the players over the years have resulted in the honors the JKSC has been bestowed with today. Besides, JKSC coaches are also performing well at both the national and international levels in addition to the players' success in the international arena.

The academy's coaches, staff, and trainees were warmly praised for accomplishing this remarkable achievement by Secretary YSS, Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary JKSC Nuzhat Gul. Sports in J&K have flourished under the directions of Hon'ble LG J&K, Sh. Manoj Sinha, who also happens to be the President of JKSC, said Secretary YSS.

Since football is the most popular sport in the region, with these kinds of initiatives, we aim to see our more and more footballers making the country proud in the future, Secretary JKSC stated.

District Summer Camp organized in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The District Summer Camp was Wednesday organized at Borihalan Shopian under the guidance of Chief Education Officer Shopian and with the support of the Cultural Wing of the Chief Education Office Shopian.

The camp commenced with great enthusiasm at the Borihalan Eco-Park, and witnessed active participation from both government and private schools across the district.

The summer camp aimed to instill a sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation and sustainability among students. Various activities were organized to engage and educate the young minds on these critical issues.

The highlights of the event included painting competition, essay writing competition, model exhibition, cleanliness drives, interaction programme and sports activities.

In the Painting Competition, students showcased their artistic skills and expressed their views on environmental conservation through vibrant and thoughtful paintings.

Similarly, in Essay Writing Competition participants penned down insightful essays, reflecting their understanding and commitment to preserving the environment.

Also in the Model Exhibition, innovative models related to eco-friendly practices and sustainable developments were displayed, highlighting the creativity and awareness of the students.

During Cleanliness Drives, emphasis was laid on the importance of a clean environment; students actively participated in cleanliness drives, promoting the message of 'Clean and Green'.

Further under the Interaction Programme, an interactive session was held where students discussed various environmental issues and shared their ideas on sustainable living.

Under the Sports Activities programme, various sports activities were conducted, fostering teamwork and emphasizing the significance of a healthy lifestyle in harmony with nature.

The Chief Education Officer, M Shabir expressed his delight over the enthusiastic participation of students and emphasized the importance of such events in nurturing environmentally conscious citizens. He appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Wing and all the participating schools for their dedication towards this noble cause.

The District Summer Camp Eco-Club at Borihalan Eco-Park stands as a testament to the collective effort of the educational community in Shopian towards building a sustainable future.

3rd Inter-College Volleyball cum T.T Tournament culminates at GCoE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 3rd Inter College Volleyball cum Table Tennis Tournament (Men/Women) 2024 organised by Department of Physical Education, Govt. College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar from 10th June, 2024, under the leadership and guidance of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz culminated here Wednesday.

A total of 38 teams participated from 14 different Colleges of the Valley along with the constituent and affiliated colleges of the Cluster University Srinagar. In the volleyball tournament, 11 Men and 08 Women Teams participated whereas in Table Tennis (T.T) Tournament total 08 Men and 11 Women Teams



showed their participation with great zeal and zest.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat (HOD Education) along with Dr. Mohammad Yasin Pir (Convener Sports), Prof. Mansoor Ahmad Lone (Co-convener) Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Wagi (Staff Secretary), Dr. Irfat Ara, Prof. Abdul Gani Kumar, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malla and Daljeet Kour inaugurated all the events

of the tournament on 10-06-2024 (Monday).

In the brief Inaugural ceremony Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat (Dean Students Welfare) encouraged the participants and highlighted the importance of Games and Sports in the day today life.

In the Volleyball Category (Men), the final match was played between the AAAM Degree College Bemina and GDC, Aloo-

Bagh in which AAAM Degree College, Bemina defeated GDC, Aloo Bagh and bagged the volley trophy.

In the Volleyball Category (Women), the final match was played between Govt. Women's College M.A.Road, Srinagar and S. P.College, Srinagar in which Govt. Womens' College M. A. Road defeated S.P. College, Srinagar and bagged the volley trophy.

In the Table Tennis Category (Men), the final match was played between the S.P. College Srinagar and Gandhi College, Srinagar in which S.P. College Srinagar defeated Gandhi College, Srinagar and bagged the Table Tennis Trophy.

In the Table Tennis Category (Women), the final match was played between GCET, Safapora and Amar

Singh College, Srinagar in which GCET, Safapora defeated Amar Singh College, Srinagar and bagged the trophy.

The brief valediction function was held today in the multipurpose hall of the college in which trophies and medals were distributed to the Winners and Runner Ups by Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat (Dean Students Welfare) and college sports committee.

The event was officiated by four officials deputed by District Youth Services & Sports Department (UT of J&K).

The 3 days event was smoothly conducted by the Department of Physical Education comprising Dr. Mohd Yasin Pir (Convener, Sports), Dr. Bilal Ahmad (PTI), Daljeet Kour (APTII) and Girdari Lal.

Awareness Programme on Drug De-Addiction held at GDC Ajas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Government Degree College (GDC) Ajas in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora and Ali Sports Academy Bandipora organized an awareness programme on drug de-addiction and career counseling at GDC Ajas.

The programme was aimed to educate students and community members about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of making informed career choices.

The programme featured guest speaker Faisal Ali Dar, a Padma Shri Awardee, known for his contributions to sports and youth empowerment. Mehraj Din Dar, Assis-

tant Professor Education Government Degree College Ajas, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the day's events.

Faisal Ali Dar, a Padma Shri Awardee, delivered an inspiring keynote address. He spoke passionately about the perils of drug addiction, drawing from real-life examples and statistical data to underline the severity of the issue.

He also shared his journey and experiences in sports, illustrating how engaging in sports can serve as a powerful deterrent to drug use.

Faisal encouraged the youth to pursue their dreams with determination and resilience, stressing the importance of hard work and dedication in achieving success.

The programme included interactive workshop and activities designed to engage participants actively.

The workshop covered a range of topics, from skill development to stress management, providing practical advice and strategies for personal and professional growth. The inclusion of sports activities, facilitated by Ali Sports Academy, underscored the importance of physical fitness and teamwork.

Mehraj Din Dar reiterated the commitment of Government Degree College Ajas to continue organizing such meaningful programmes in the future, aiming to empower the youth and build a healthier, more informed community.