

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK

Over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance at Mela Kheer Bhawani this year and the administration & citizens had ensured best possible facilities to the devotees. We are expecting to complete the Bhawan in next 8 months and it will accommodate 1000 pilgrims.

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Mela Kheer Bhawani

LG Pays Obeisance, Lays Foundation Stone For Yatri Bhawan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday laid the foundation stone for Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal.

The Lt Governor paid obeisance to Mata Kheer Bhawani and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of one and all. He interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings on the auspicious occasion.

Addressing the media persons, the Lt Governor reiterated the commitment

Calls High-Level Meeting On June 16

HM Amit Shah Reviews J&K Security Situation After Spate Of Terror Attacks



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several terror incidents there, including an attack on a bus ferrying pilgrims, sources said.

He called a high-level meeting on June 16, to be attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the Army, CRPF and others to review the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and steps taken to check terror incidents.

During Sunday's meeting, the home minister will also take stock of the preparedness for the annual Amarnath Yatra which will begin on June 29, sources said.

The home minister was briefed about the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, they said.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire on a 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

On Tuesday, terrorists fired at a joint checkpoint of the Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Baderwah while a search party in the Gandoh area of Doda district was attacked on Wednesday, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a police personnel.

The search operation launched in **•P-06**

ADGP Pays Obeisance At Kheer Bhawani Temple



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order (J&K), Vijay Kumar Friday paid obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla, Ganderbal district.

Talking to reporters, Kumar said that he has been visiting the Temple since his first posting to the district in 1999 as SDPO. "I feel solace here. Today, I sought blessings for myself and for the people of J&K. Devotees from J&K and rest of the country come here," he said.

The ADGP said that the administration and the police have ensured safe and secure environment for the devotees—(KNO)

ON SUNDAY, TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE ON A 53-SEATER BUS CARRYING pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

Govt To Monitor Fulfillment Of Investment Commitments By Industrial Units

MUBASHIR ALAM

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government will monitor fulfillment of investment and employment commitments made by industrial unit holders who have been allotted land in government industrial units.

To begin with, the government has constituted a three-member committee to propose a monitoring mechanism to regularly check and evaluate the fulfillment of commitments vis-à-vis proposed investment and employment as per detailed project reports (DPRs) submitted by the industrial unit holders allotted land in industrial estates.

The committee comprises Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Director Industries & Commerce Jammu and Director SIDCO/SICOP.

The panel has been directed to submit its recommendations to the government within 15 days.

The committee has been constituted at a time when the Jammu & **•P-06**

Kashmiri Pandits Celebrate Annual Mela Kheer Bhawani

WARIS FAYAZ

KUPWARA: The annual Kheer Bhawani festival in frontier Kupwara district saw an emotional and heart-warming reunion, as Kashmiri Pandits from across the Union Territory visited the Valley, many for the first time in the last several decades.

The Pandits expressed their appreciation for the locals as well as administration for ensuring seamless and secure pilgrimage.

Notably, Kheer Bhawani festival, celebrated on Zeisht Ashtami holds great significance for the Kashmiri Pandit community, with the temple dedicated to the goddess Ragnya Devi is considered one of the holiest shrines for Hindus in Kashmir.

Pilgrims expressed optimism and renewed sense of belonging. Many of them hoped the festival would symbolize enduring unity and peace in Kashmir. **•P-06**

CS Launches Competitions On MyGov Portal To Mark 'Int'l Yoga Day'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday launched several online competitions for the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir on MyGov portal (<https://jk.mygov.in/>) to mark 10th International Yoga Day celebration to be observed on 21st June, 2024.

The competitions, themed 'Yoga for Self and Society', included yoga doodle challenge, essay writing, poster making and story-telling video contests. The competitions are live on the J&K MyGov portal and registration is open till June 30, 2024. The topper would be awarded with a cash prize of Rs 10,000, second with Rs. 8,000 and the third would get Rs 5,000. The interested participants can register and submit their entries on the MyGov portal.

In addition, the portal offers opportunity **•P-06**

Kajuwala To Jaisalmeri Elite Non-Local Sheep Breeds Flood Kashmir Markets This Eid-Ul-Adha

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: With Eid-ul-Adha nearing, a variety of elite non-local sheep breeds are flooding Kashmiri markets to give customers a choice to choose best for the sacrifice.

From Kajuwala to Jaisalmeri, Marwari and others, a heavy quantity of sheep are being imported to Kashmir from various states of India to meet the demand this Eid-Ul Adha.

As per the mutton dealers, both the quality and quantity has been enhanced this Eid-ul Adha to give the faithful a better choice to choose a healthy and superior sheep breed for sacrifice.

"We have a variety of sheep breeds in the market currently. From local breeds to non-local, enough sacrificial animals are available in the market so that no dearth is faced this week when the demand for sacrificial animals increases," Khazir Moham-

mad Rigoo, spokesperson for the All Kashmir Mutton Dealers' Association said.

He specified that elite breeds such as Kajuwala, Jaisalmeri, Marwari Garola and others have been imported to meet the expectation of the people.

"These are some of the best sheep breeds who feed on chickpeas to gain weight and meat. Some like to sacrifice Kajuwala, which is a bit costly. Some people like to spend as much as money on the sacrificial animal to earn more rewards. The demand is good for Kajuwala, Jaisalmeri in Kashmiri markets," Rigoo said.

Rigoo said a total of 40 trucks loaded with sheep were entering Kashmir on average daily to meet the demand for sacrificial animals.

"More than 40 trucks enter Kashmir on a daily basis. Each truck carries as many as 140 sheep, **•P-06**



Massive Combing Operation Launched In Doda

AMIR TANTRAY

JAMMU: After two back to back terror related incidents in upper reaches of Baderwah and Tanta Top Gundoh areas of district Doda and Saida Sukhal village of Hiranagar in district Kathua, a joint search operation was launched by Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police in Doda town today.

The searches were conducted on Parmaz road in Doda town where a couple of people were seen moving downwards through bushes in suspicious circumstances.

The search operation was launched around 10 am which lasted till afternoon and was called off without finding anyone.

"We had received information of suspected movement of a couple of individuals on Parmaz road after which the operation was launched. To ensure safety **•P-06**

INOX CINEMA SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

INSIDE OUT 2
(3D ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE)
11:00AM, 04:20PM (U)

CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A)
HINDI ATMOS 01:15PM, 06:35PM
HINDI 11:30AM, 02:30PM

KUDI HARYANE VAL DI (PUNJABI)
05:30PM (U)

MOVIES Schedule

MUNJYA (HINDI)
12:00PM, 06:05PM (U/A)

ROCKSTAR (HINDI)
02:50PM (U/A)

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KHEER BHAWANI

DLSA G'bal held 4-days legal awareness camp for devotees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Following the directions of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief J&K Legal Services Authority), and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal in collaboration with Kashmir Jurists held 4 days legal awareness and welfare camp besides installed a help desk for devotees at Mela Kheer Bhawani Tulmulla from 11th of June to 14th of June, 2024.

The aim of the camp was to impart Legal awareness/ Assistance to the devotees and made them aware about the role of legal services authorities in general and Legal Services Authority Ganderbal and the various Welfare Schemes available to the people.

The camp was held under the active Supervision of Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal.



Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority during his visit to the camp/help desk and gave several directions to the PLVs of DLSA Ganderbal who were serving there and appreciated the efforts of DLSA Ganderbal. He also praised the Kashmir jurists association for their collaboration.

Secretary DLSA Ganderbal also visited the camp, interacted with the devotees and informed devotees as well as other people present there about the role and working of Legal Services authorities. She said, the main motto of

DLSA is to get the helpless, poor and deprived class of people benefited from government projects in the villages & other marginalized areas.

She also apprised the devotees that the sections of the society as enlisted under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act are entitled for free legal services.

During the four days long camp, PLVs of DLSA gave vital legal tips to devotees and asked them to report to their nearest legal services authorities if they faced any legal problems.

They distributed pamphlets containing important legal information among the devotees at the camp. They also apprised devotees about the NALSA Schemes and role of DLSAs/TLSCs and spread awareness among them about their rights during the camp. The PLVs also facilitate the visitors who thronged the event from across the country.

Pertinently, more than Eight thousand pilgrims visited the help desk/ Legal awareness camp who were educated about NALSA Schemes and duties by DLSAs. Several grievances were also received at the camp and almost 10 number grievances were redressed on spot through proper legal advice and at pre litigation stage by the members of Kashmir jurists and PLVs of DLSA Ganderbal.

Among others, Rtd. Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, M.K Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Rtd. Judicial Officers, Advocates also visited the legal awareness camp/help desk of DLSA Ganderbal and appreciated the efforts of DLSA Ganderbal.

Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated with religious fervor in Tulmulla



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits and devotees visited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami at Tulmulla, Ganderbal.

This annual event, celebrated with great religious fervor, brought together devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir to pay obeisance at the holy shrine.

Kheer Bhawani Mela, a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir, is held at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple. The temple, built atop a sacred spring, holds immense spiritual significance for Kashmiri Pandit devotees worldwide.

This year's festival saw enthusiastic participation, with devotees praying for themselves and humanity at large.

Senior officers from the UT administration and police, including Chief Secretary Atul Duloo and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, visited the temple and paid obeisance there.

The festival witnessed the participation of mostly Kashmiri Pandits performing rituals, while local Muslims extended greetings and assisted with arrangements, reinforcing the spirit of communal harmony.

The District Administration of Ganderbal ensured comprehensive arrangements for the smooth conduct of the mela. Provisions included uninterrupted power and drinking water supplies, transportation, security, fire tenders, ration, bedding, and medical facilities. Additionally, free transport was provided for devotees on various routes.

Several NGOs and civil society organizations contributed to the event by offering wheelchairs and other aids to facilitate the convenience of the devotees. In a significant initiative, the District Administration Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Information Centre Ganderbal, facilitated the live streaming of the Mela Kheer Bhawani event on YouTube. This effort allowed devotees who could not attend in person to participate virtually, ensuring wider accessibility to the spiritual experience.

ADC Ramban finalises arrangements for JKSSB exams



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, Friday convened a meeting of all the stakeholders to finalized the arrangements for the upcoming OMR based JKSSB examination, for the post of Supervisor in the Social Welfare Department. Member JKSSB Pritam Lal Thappa sensitised the stakeholders about the conduct of the examination in a fair and transparent manner. He also briefed officers on their specific roles and responsibilities to ensure the efficient execution of

the JKSSB examination throughout the district. The JKSSB written examination for the post of Supervisor is scheduled for June 23, 2024. In the district Ramban, 5 examination centers have been designated for 1000 candidates.

The ADC held detailed discussion with stakeholders on the comprehensive arrangements necessary to ensure the seamless conduct of the examination.

The meeting covered essential aspects such as drinking water facilities, power supply, seating arrangements, security protocols and videography procedures.

DC Jammu for discipline, punctuality in Education sector



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: We need to ensure punctuality and foster initiative and ingenuity among the teaching staff for improvement in the education sector, said Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya while reviewing the status of the education sector in the district.

He urged that ZEOs set targets in improving the overall academic performance of government schools in their jurisdiction.

The entire system should make efforts for inculcating discipline and critical thinking among students, he underscored. The DC also took broad review of the condition of school infrastructure and areas requiring improvement in the education sector.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, Chief Education Officer, J.K Padha, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh besides other concerned officers from the Education Department.

DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav Friday chaired a pivotal meeting with key officers from the Department of Rural Development and other concerned departments to review the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan scheme in the district. The meeting also discussed the proposals for innovative projects under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

The meeting witnessed the participation of ADC Kishtwar, Phulail Singh all Block Development Officers (BDOs), Ex-En Irrigation Department, Sunil Sharma and AEE PDD, Sudhir Sharma, along with representatives from agriculture and allied sectors.

During the in-depth discussions, the DC stressed the importance of effective cleanliness measures and the proper functioning of plastic Waste segregation and management units across all blocks. He emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards plastic waste in rural areas, underscoring the significance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.



He emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards plastic waste in rural areas, underscoring the significance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. The DC directed the BDOs to identify and designate model Village in each of the 13 blocks of the district, which are to be free of plastic waste. This initiative aims to set a benchmark for other villages/ panchayats to follow, fostering a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

It was highlighted in the meeting that Block Kishtwar proudly operates all its waste collection vehicles efficiently, ensuring comprehensive waste collection and management across all panchayats, thereby bolstering efforts towards achieving a plastic-free environment. Besides, during the

meeting, some key issues affecting the effective implementation of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBM) were brought to the attention of the Chair. The Chair assured for immediate resolution. In parallel, discussions were held regarding the execution of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan in the district. The officers from the Irrigation Department, Power Development Department, and allied sectors were urged to expedite the process for projecting innovative under RGSA. These innovative projects should be envisioned to provide multifaceted benefits to farmers, promoting holistic development in agriculture and allied sectors. DC underscored the need for a concerted effort to ensure the timely and effective implementation of these initiatives.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for celebration of Int'l Yoga Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for celebration of International Yoga Day in the district falling on June 21st.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of Yoga Day celebrations and directed officers to work in close coordination to make the event a grand success in the district. She stressed upon the officers to plan all the activities in a synchronized fashion to ensure smooth conduct of the Yoga Day and Youth Engagement event in the district.

A threeday discussion was held in the meeting during which various arrangements including participation of youth, trainers and people, live streaming of the main event, screening of the central event and other relevant things were reviewed in detail. It was given out in the meeting that the main Yoga event will be held at Government Degree College Kupwara on 21st June in which more than one thousand people are expected to participate in Yoga activities. It was also given out that Yoga events will also be organized in all Government Degree Colleges, Schools, besides at District headquarter Kupwara.

Arrangements for the youth engagement programme on 20th June was also reviewed during the meeting. Meanwhile, ADDC Kupwara and ACR Kupwara were designated as Nodal Officers for Main Yoga Day and Youth Engagement day events respectively. Principals of GDCs, District Ayush Officer Kupwara, CMO, Dy. CEO, besides, Officers from Youth Services & Sports and other concerned attended the meeting.

100s of devotees throng Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple in Kupwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Hundreds of devotees on Friday thronged the temple of Ragnya Devi, a revered goddess, to celebrate the annual auspicious festival of Mata Kheer Bhawani at Tikker Kupwara.

Annual festival was celebrated with religious fervor and great enthusiasm. Devotees paid obeisance at the holy temple and participated in Pooja Archana, Havan and offered floral tributes to the idol of the Mata. Walking barefoot, the devotees carried rose petals, milk and offered tribute to the goddess.

Hundreds of devotees participated in the evening aarti. The religious sanctity of Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, built close to a holy spring, has a special spiritual significance among Kashmiri Pandit devotees across the world.

Annual festival presented the emotional scenes of harmonious coexistence, communal harmony, and cultural bonding between the Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims, as people from all walks of life, irrespective

of their faith, had gathered at Tikker Kupwara where hundreds of Kashmiri Muslims welcomed the devotees. The district administration Kupwara had made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan along with SSP Kupwara, Shobhit Saxena visited several times the holy temple along with district officers to take stock of arrangements for the pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner extended her hearty greetings on the auspicious occasion of Mela Kheer Bhawani.

During her interaction with devotees, the DC extended her best wishes to all the devotees. Devotees thanked the District administration, especially DC Kupwara and SSP Kupwara for making elaborate arrangements. Devotees are also paying obeisance at other religious places in Kupwara district like Sharda Mata Temple Teetwal, Badarkali Temple Handwara, Chandi Mata temple Chandigam Lolab, Gushi and Trehgam.

Market checking conducted in Baderwah ahead of Eid Ul Azha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH: Naib Tehsildar, TSO Baderwah and officials from Municipality and Police conducted an extensive market checking in Baderwah town in view of the upcoming Eid Ul Azha.

The market checking was conducted to ensure the control of rates for essential commodities required during the festival and to prevent black marketing.

The drive focused on maintaining fair prices for essential goods, particularly mutton. This intensive crackdown aimed to protect consumers from inflated prices and ensure that all residents could access necessary items at reasonable rates. As the Eid festival approaches, the Baderwah administration has intensified its market oversight to guarantee the availability and affordability of essential commodities.

DC Reasi reviews Rent Assessment, Change of Land Use Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: The Deputy Commissioner of Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to discuss cases related to Rent Assessment and Change of Land Use (CLU) in the district.

The committee reviewed a total of nine Rent Assessment cases. After thorough deliberation on various aspects of the policy, six cases were approved, while three cases were deferred for further consideration.

In the Change of Land Use segment of the meeting, two cases were presented for discussion. Of these, one case was approved, and one case was rejected. During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidelines and policies while considering CLU cases.

ACR Anshumali Sharma, PO Poshan Mohammad Anwar Bandy, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers were present.

Div Com, ADGP meet members of Civil Society Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Anand Jain Friday convened a meeting with members of Civil Society Jammu regarding smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra and countering misinformation regarding the prevailing situation in Jammu region.

DIG JSK range, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, ADM Jammu, religious leaders, heads of social, religious, organizations, Transporters, Business community and other prominent citizens were present.

At the outset of the meeting, the Div Com Jammu invited suggestions from the Civil Society for better conduct of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2024. He impressed on the crucial role of civil society and the general public in the smooth and successful conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

A number of prominent citizens including heads of religious organizations, charitable trusts, business and transporter associations spoke on the occasion. They put forth



valuable suggestions for ensuring best facilities for the pilgrims of SANJY-2024 and increasing tourist footfall at tourist destinations of Jammu region.

All the members of the civil society Jammu expressed commitment for full cooperation and assistance towards serving the pilgrims during the annual holy Yatra. Suggestions were given regarding decongestion in the city, ample parking spaces, CCTV surveillance, proper lighting, drinking water and other amenities

for pilgrims and tourists.

The meeting also discussed measures to counter misinformation regarding the prevailing situation in Jammu region with the help of the general public. The participants presented their views and expressed concern over the rumors that spread on Social media during sensitive times.

The ADGP Jammu while interacting with the members of the civil society appealed to the Civil Society members and general public to not pay any attention or believe on

any information unless it is confirmed and provided on authorized platforms. People should refrain from forwarding misleading and unconfirmed information on social media platforms and whatsapp groups as this could create a panic and unnecessary problems, he added.

The Div Com Jammu urged all the participants to act as informed citizens for providing continuous cooperation to the administration for the greater good and safety of the general public of Jammu. He asked for increasing the Police Public meetings and making it a regular feature of the working of police in rural and sparse areas.

DIG JSK range and Deputy Commissioner Jammu also advised the people to keep a close vigil in their areas and inform the authorities about any suspected activities in their areas.

SSP Jammu said that all the significant points voiced during the meeting have been noted for appropriate action. Business owners and heads of religious and charitable institutions were asked to install CCTV cameras around their shops and establishments.

J&K Bank unveils comprehensive online loan journeys for housing, gold loans

Online loan journeys will benefit our customers: MD

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards complete digital transformation, J&K Bank has rolled out automated processing of Home Loan and Gold Loan products besides launching TAB Journey and Current Account Online for customer onboarding. These initiatives aim to enhance customer experience by offering seamless, efficient, and quick loan processing and convenient customer onboarding.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash launched the new digital products at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters in presence of top management and other senior officers of bank.

Speaking on the occasion, MD Baldev Prakash emphasized the bank's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction. "Our new digital loan journeys are a testament to J&K Bank's dedication to leveraging technology to provide superior banking experiences. By automating and streamlining



our loan processes, we are not only enhancing efficiency but also ensuring our customers enjoy quick and hassle-free access to credit."

"This digital initiative is part of our broader strategy to modernize our services and meet the evolving needs of our customers. We are confident that these online loan journeys will significantly benefit our customers, offering them flexibility, convenience, swiftness and transparen-

cy", he added. The Bank's Deputy General Manager Mohammad Muzaffar Wani gave a detailed overview of the newly launched products on the occasion.

Notably, designed with state-of-the-art features, the Bank's Housing Loan processing is now entirely automated, integrating multiple in-house systems such as Core Banking System (CBS), Risk Scoring System, and third-party solutions from Credit Bureaus and Fin-

techs. The solution also blends workflow management and decision support systems to enhance process efficiency, leading to improved Turnaround Time (TAT) and service quality, thereby ensuring a swift, smooth and efficient service delivery. Besides, the Bank has further enhanced customer convenience by launching its TAB and Current Account Online Journeys for customer onboarding with assisted account opening journey for both savings and current accounts. For business premises verification of current accounts, it has geo tagging feature with an elaborate system in place for performance tracking.

LG meets Int'l Para Shooter to represent India at Paris Paralympic Games



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday met Sh Amir Ahmad Bhat, International Para Shooter for J&K who is going to represent India in Pistol Shooting Competition at Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Lt Governor congratulated Sh Amir Ahmad

Bhat for his remarkable achievements in national and international events and conveyed best wishes to him for the upcoming Paralympic Games.

The International Para Shooter, hailing from Dammah village of Anantnag District, is also serving as a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army.

JKEDI, Govt Polytechnic College sign MoU



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Government Polytechnic College Bikram Chowk, Jammu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Friday to work together and help the students enhance their skills and knowledge with regard to entrepreneurship, innovation and startups.

The MoU was signed in a formal ceremony held at JKEDI, Baribrahmana campus and attended by key officials from both the institutions. The signatories were Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Director JKEDI and Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal Government Polytechnic College, Jammu in presence of Er. Jasdeep Kour, HOD Instrumentation and Control Department, Er. Ajay Thapa, OIC TP Cell Government Polytechnic Jammu, Er. Sanam Gupta, Lecturer Grade-I Mechanical Engineering Department, Er. Amit Kapoor Workshop Instructor Government Polytechnic, Jammu, Zahid Ali Dar, I/c CIIBM, JKEDI and Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager, F&A, JKEDI.

The purpose of the MoU between the two institutions is to work together for Curriculum Design, by way of providing valuable inputs in teaching / training methodology and suitably customize the curriculum so that the students fit in the entrepreneurial scenario meaningfully, followed by industrial training and visits, Internship for the students, Research and Development, skill development programs and guest lectures.

Speaking on the occasion, Director JKEDI, Rajinder Kumar Sharma said, "JKEDI shall extend support for internships to students of the Government Polytechnic College, Jammu based on recommendations through proper channels subject to suitable positions and criteria fulfillment. Principal, Government Polytechnic College, Jammu, said that this partnership is a significant stride to help the student community benefit by enhancing their skills and knowledge with regard to entrepreneurship, innovation and startups. He further informed that Government Polytechnic Jammu has established a Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) to impart training in latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Automobile Engineering conforming to Industry 4.0 with the help of Tata Technologies Ltd Pune.

This MoU is aimed at offering the students enhanced opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills and contribute to the region's economic growth. Both institutions will collaborate on faculty development programs, including workshops, seminars, and training sessions to enhance teaching methodologies and subject expertise.

CORRECTION

I have changed my name from Haseena Akhter Bhat (Old name) to Haseena Akhter (New Name). In future, i will be known as Haseena Akhter (New Name). If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be heard after 7 days.

ASPIRANTS EXPRESS CONCERN

UGC NET June 2024 Schedule Clashes with Eid ul-Adha

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The schedule of the UGC NET exams on June 18, 2024, has caused significant concern among aspirants as it coincides with the celebration of Eid ul-Adha. Many students are worried about their ability to attend the exams due to the unavailability of public transport and the religious significance of the festival.

Aspirants across the valley have voiced their distress over the clash. Rehana Ahmed, an aspirant from Srinagar, shared her dilemma, saying, "Eid ul-Adha is one of the most important festivals for us. It's a time for family and religious observance. The lack of public transport on this day makes it nearly impossible for many of us to reach the exam centers."

Another candidate, Faisal Khan, from the old city of Srinagar, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the logistical challenges. "On Eid, most public transport services are either suspended or very limited. It will be

extremely difficult to travel to the exam center, and many of us do not have alternative means of transportation," he said.

This scheduling conflict has sparked widespread concern among the student community. Many are requesting the National Testing Agency (NTA) to reconsider the exam dates. "It's not just about missing the festival; it's about the practical difficulties of reaching the exam center," says Amir Fayaz, an aspirant from north Kashmir. "We are ready to take the exam, but the timing is very problematic."

When reached to the National Testing Agency (NTA) for comments regarding the scheduling conflict, there was no response to emails and texts.

The situation has left many students in a state of anxiety, torn between their academic responsibilities and religious commitments. Aspirants are hoping that the NTA will acknowledge their concerns and take swift action to address the issue—(KNO)

WORLD BLOOD DONATION DAY

Pulwama man donates 203 pints of blood so far

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A 62-year-old man from Pulwama, who is known for his social work and cleaning hospital premises, is also known as a blood man of Kashmir as he has donated around 203 pints of blood so far.

Abdul Majeed Bhat, hailing from Pingalgam Singhoo Narbal in Kakapora Tehsil of Pulwama district, has been donating blood since 1984 and has so far donated 203 pints of blood. Majeed, commonly known as Majeed Narbali or Majeed Gangeen said that since 1984 he has been donating blood and "Every year, I donate blood at least three to four times on humanitarian grounds."

He said that youth in his area have got inspired through his social work and whenever there is an emergency, they themselves visit hospitals and donate blood, adding that his family members are not allowing him to donate more blood now but despite that he has donated two pints of blood this year as well.

Majeed said that he has never asked anyone about his religion and has been



donating blood irrespective of religion as humanity is above everything.

"There were several instances when I received SOS calls for blood donation, I didn't ask them about the credentials of the receiver. I only confirm the address where I have to reach," he said.

Majeed has been very active in arranging money for marriage of orphan girls, arranging for needy in hospitals besides cleaning hospital premises and other important places. "There is a need to educate our youth about humanity which most of them are lacking as it is above religion and other things," he said. "In order to get solace, spiritual healing and satisfaction, youth must come forward in all social works including donating blood as it saves lives," he said—(KNO)

CLASS 10TH RESULTS

5 specially-abled students of Abhinandan Home achieve remarkable feat

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In an inspiring display of perseverance and determination, five specially-abled students of Abhinandan Home Rambagh Srinagar have achieved outstanding results in this year's matriculation examinations, proving that no obstacle is too great to overcome with hard work and dedication.

These remarkable students, hailing from various areas have not only met but exceeded expectations, scoring exceptionally high marks. Their achievements have become a beacon of hope and motivation for many others facing similar challenges.

Mudasir Ahmad, Principal of the Abhinandan Home Rambagh said that five students from the

School appeared in Class 10th examinations this year and all have passed with distinctions.

He said that credit goes to the students, who worked hard despite being deaf and dumb, and teachers who guided them very well and parents for their support.

He identified the students as Aabid Hussian Sheikh, who secured 402 marks, Tawheeda with 378 marks, Muskan 373 marks, Burhan Fayaz 386 marks and Muhammad Umaiq 387 marks.

Among the top performers is Aabid Hussian, who is deaf and dumb. Aabid scored an impressive 80 per cent marks in his exams, attributing his success to his supportive family and dedicated teachers.

"I want to thank everyone who believed in me. This is just the beginning, and I

hope to continue breaking barriers," he said to his sister who understands the sign language of Aabid.

Muskan, who secured around 75 marks, expressed her gratitude towards her teachers, who employed innovative teaching methods to ensure she could grasp every concept. These students are determined to continue their academic journey and make significant contributions to society.

They, however, said that there is a need for one specially-abled school at least at Tehsil level so that such students won't suffer and can get education in their own areas.

They said that students from all across Kashmir have only one option that is Abhinandan Home Rambagh and Zaiba Apa Bijbehara but many such students

aren't getting educated as they aren't in a position to stay in Srinagar as such students need one normal person to look after them.

They said that after 12th such students have no option other than to join a common college where they are unable to grasp things properly.

They said that this is just a beginning as they want to break more barriers but they need government support for schools at tehsil level and separate colleges.

Parents and teachers are hopeful that these achievements will inspire and encourage specially-abled students to pursue their dreams without hesitation.

They said that their exceptional performance highlights the critical role of inclusive education in unlocking the potential of every student—(KNO)

Dir Horticulture reviews departmental functioning in Jammu division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director Horticulture Jammu, C. L Sharma Friday convened a meeting of Field Level officers of all the districts of Jammu Division at Hor-

Gupta. During the training, detailed deliberations were held on implementing the flagship scheme in the field. Various issues being faced by the officers on operating HADP portal were also raised



iculture Complex, Talab Tillo, Jammu to review the progress of various developmental activities being carried out during the current financial year in Jammu Division.

During the course of the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held at various agenda points and the officers appraised the chair about the status of various works, expenditure incurred, liability, progress made in the implementation of various developmental schemes and progress regarding production of quality planting material in the Departmental Nurseries.

Training on implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was imparted to the participants through Power Point Presentation by Nursery Registration Officer Jammu, Pardeep

in the forum, which were addressed by the Nursery Registration Officer.

The Director instructed the officers to ensure better implementation of Departmental schemes for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers and also asked them to gear up for Revised Modified High Density plantation of different fruit crops during the ensuing rainy season.

Further, a folder depicting the schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was also launched during the programme. This folder will serve as a ready reckoner for the officers to implement the schemes in the field.

Among others, Deputy Director Horticulture (Central), Deputy Director Planning, Assistant Director and other officers were also present in the meeting.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Reading Culture

Libraries are the soul of any civilization. It is the workshops where minds get sharpened, ideas are generated and critical evaluation gets spawned. It is the most important building of a throbbing civilization. There is not even a single civilization that did not prioritize building of high-quality libraries. Libraries are the melting point of ideation, evaluation, and literary pursuit. To make a nation progress developing a reading culture should be of topmost priority.

Coming to Kashmir valley we had a one SPS library which has now been christened and relocated to a new place in the centre of the city. There is another library in the centre of the city in Srinagar. It can get the notorious award of being the most oddly placed library in the world as it is right in the eye of iron Smith's, eateries, and the most crowded Municipality office of the city. Finding it is in itself a challenge which only a few lucky ones manage to tide over.

Then we have the core academic Allama Iqbal Library where admission to the common readers is restricted. Apart from these three prominent libraries there is not a single library where one could quench his intellectual thirst. Even these prominent libraries are open mainly from 10am in the morning to 5pm in the evening. These are core working hours for businessmen, government as well as private employees and also for the general citizens. How can we expect that the footfall in these libraries would increase?

From Rambagh bridge to Chadoora Township where a substantial chunk of the city population has migrated to there is not a single namesake library. I mean we are talking about a cumulative three lakh population that does not have a single library to quench their intellectual thirst.

The bookshops we have are too small and their collection too mainstream. Most of the books that the intellectual community needs for research have to be ordered online.

The present administration needs to increase the number of libraries in the city as the population of the city is growing very fast. The Administration must take due care of the location of these libraries and also increase their functional hours so that citizens across the vast working class can also benefit from these libraries.

Social Pollution - Annseen Epidemic

SYED SHAMIM-UL-HASSAN

"The lack of peace of mind is due to the diminishing of nature, human beings are restless in this present world which is because of rapid spread in artificiality."

We can say the planet Earth is not in the healthy form today, the form in which Almighty Allah has made it. It is different from that form today. It was God's asset but we have misappropriated it by doing unnecessary interference with it, its balance has been disturbed by taking wrong steps which are against nature and are based on unscientific methods. The slogan of UNO is to keep nature as it is; "sustainable development." The green mountains have been cut when roads are carved out of these and buildings are built, so naturally the greenery of these mountains remains no more. Similarly, when large buildings are constructed in green paddy fields, it affects not only the beauty but also the agricultural economy of a country. It means the development should be eco-friendly and not at the cost of nature's damage. Still, the present development goes against the ecosystem as we see the pure air has become polluted, poisonous, and foul-smelling.

Similarly, the soil and water are the victims of the demerits of modern science and technology. In the past the atmosphere was full of purity, there was a fragrance of cultivated and especially wild medicinal plants, but now it has been replaced by the noxious air, we consume poison, through air, water, fruits, vegetables, even milk and meat. The artificially created things have engulfed each and everything. The source of these problems are industries, vehicular emissions nuclear tests etc. Scientists should keep in mind to minimize the disadvantages of harmful things before inventing something as possible as they can. Before the invention of any scientific equipment the treatment of its harmful effects should be given importance. It is usually said that before every ailment, the treatment is made. We should focus on zero defects like the electric buses have zero emissions. If it's not possible fully at least one could try to make



the least-producing damaging effects.

As we go away from nature psychological as well as physical problems come into existence. Nature acts as a medicine for the heart and mind. The lack of peace of mind is due to the diminishing of nature, human beings are restless in this present world which is because of the rapid spread of artificiality. The different kinds of beautiful birds disappear day by day due to the telephone towers and other environmental factors, their population is declining. Now it's everyone's responsibility to save this planet from more damage. We are now aware of taking such problems seriously but there is now a need for practical steps taken for its safety. Recently, I have gone through Facebook and I got this news from the Kashmir reader: "Sparrow songs silenced; iconic bird disappears from Kashmir's skies". This is true such types of examples are many and it means the development according to our view is not the actual development but the destruction of nature created by present human beings. The greenery of fields and mountains which was soothing to our eyes and mind is replaced by concrete buildings. Nature is nowhere now and it will become history that can be found only in books.

A lot of light has been thrown on the topic of environmental pollution, now the main concern is social pollution which is more dangerous than the other types of pollution and can also be called intellectual pollution which has engulfed the whole society like wildfire. Society is degraded to the extent

that dogs and cats are being given preference over humans whereas humans are thrown out of their homes into the old age homes. Their spaces are replaced by animals and these shameful social evils can only be treated by religious scholars, spiritual personalities, and other real intellectuals. Its eradication is highly important otherwise it can be called the rule of the jungle and this barren land should be irrigated by the water of moral education and its values. Had it not been more dangerous the Almighty Allah would not have sent one lakh and twenty-four thousand prophets upon this soil and other preachers, saints, etc to keep the orderly society.

I once met the then professor and HOD of pathology GMC Jammu Prof (Dr) K. K. Kaul in his conversation with me pointed his index finger towards his chest and said: "Diseases of the physical body can be treated easily but not the diseases of society, which are treated with difficulty". The diseases of society are hatred, jealousy, hypocrisy, conspiracy, corruption, pride, Intellectual Dishonesty, bad social relations, communication gap, dogmas and lack of affectionate relationships, rights of neighbors, poor and oppressed people. The unnecessary use of loudspeakers, excessive use of mobile phones, drug addiction, indiscipline in families, and abandonment of the mother tongue. If there is tremendous development in space technology or biotechnology, all this is in vain unless society is not healthy. Another huge social evil is begging, beg-

gars are seen everywhere for example in the streets, buses, shops, public parks, offices, etc. The people are being looted by them. Besides this, we are seeing the emergence of other agencies for example in the name of charity, and other religious institutions that loot people. If such people will get counseling from experts and social reformers there is a possibility of change in their behaviour. They can be transformed into good citizens. Hence Social reformers have a greater responsibility than other professionals because they reform and give salvation to society from dangerous social evils. If the footprints of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are followed all the problems will be solved because He(PBUH) is the greatest social reformer Almighty Allah sent on the soil of Arabia where girls were buried alive and it was his teachings that eradicated this shameful and barbaric practice forever.

Like other social evils, today's medical and education professions have been transformed into a business hub whereas once both of these professions were considered noble professions and the persons who were associated with these fields were used to consider their mission and not profession. These social ailments have derailed society from its track. Technologically we are modern but socially we are backward. In Western countries, dogs and cats are treated very highly but parents are thrown away in old age homes. It means dogs and cats have replaced the places of humans. Unfortunately, we as humans have lost the real essence of being humans. This is the utmost moral degradation. The treatment of demerits of technology is in the hands of scientists but the treatment of society is in the hands of social scientists. They should come forward for the treatment of this morally corrupted society. I want to mention the verse of Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal:

"Ho Mera kaam gharuboon ke himayat karna, Dardmandoon se Zaeefun se mohabbat karna"

(It should be my creed to stand by the poor And to love the suppressed, the fragile, and old.)

Now I want to conclude with the saying of Albert Einstein, "Science has denatured the nature of Plutonium but not the evil in the heart". The evil in the heart can only be treated by moral education.

The author can be mailed at syed-shameemulhassan@gmail.com

MULTIPLE DETERMINANTS

Thought Process Of A Girl Child

DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

The thinking and mentality of a girl child are influenced by a variety of factors, including her environment, upbringing, cultural norms, and individual personality: Early Childhood (0-5 years): At this stage, a girl child is highly influenced by her immediate surroundings, including family members and caregivers. Her thinking is concrete and egocentric, focusing on her own experiences and needs. Middle Childhood (6-12 years): During these years, she begins to develop more complex thinking skills. She starts understanding the perspectives of others, develops a sense of right and wrong, and becomes more aware of gender roles and societal expectations. Adolescence (13-18 years): This stage is marked by significant cognitive, emotional, and social development. A girl child begins to form her own identity, question societal norms, and develop more abstract thinking abilities. b. Influence of Environment and Upbringing: Family: The family environment plays a crucial role in shaping a girl child's mentality. Supportive, nurturing families can foster self-confidence and a positive self-image, while negative family dynamics can lead to issues such as low self-esteem and anxiety. Education: Access to quality education can empower a girl child, providing her with the tools to think critically, solve problems, and pursue her interests.

Individual Personality and Traits: Each girl child has a unique personality that affects her thinking and behavior. Traits such as resilience, curiosity, and empathy can influence how she navigates challenges and interacts with others. Her interests and hobbies also play a role in shaping her mentality. Encouraging a girl to explore her passions can foster a sense of purpose and fulfillment. d. Psychological and Emotional Development: A girl child's emotional development is intertwined with her

thinking patterns. Encouraging emotional intelligence, such as understanding and managing emotions, can help her build healthy relationships and navigate social situations. Psychological support, such as counseling, can be beneficial for girls facing mental health challenges, helping them develop coping strategies and resilience. Understanding and supporting the thinking and mentality of a girl child involves recognizing the various influences on her development and providing a nurturing, empowering environment. The development of a girl's thinking historically has been

receive some level of education, learning to read and write, but their primary role was still seen as managing the household. b. Middle Ages: Medieval Europe: Education for girls in medieval Europe was primarily focused on religious

instruction, often provided by convents. Nuns played a key role in the intellectual development of girls, especially those from noble families. Notable figures like Hildegard of Bingen contributed to knowledge in fields such as medicine, music, and theology, demonstrating the intellectual capabilities of women in this era. Islamic Golden

Technology: The advent of the internet and global communication has opened up unprecedented educational resources for girls worldwide. Initiatives like the Malala Fund and campaigns for girls' education in developing countries aim to address gender disparities in education. STEM Focus: There has been a significant push to encourage girls to pursue studies and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, traditionally dominated by men. Programs and scholarships specifically targeting girls help to close the gender gap in these areas. The historical development of girls' thinking and education reflects broader societal changes and the ongoing struggle for gender equality. Determining factors

The thinking and behavior of a girl child are shaped by a multitude of factors that interact in complex ways. Understanding these factors can provide insight into how to support her development and well-being. Here are some of the primary influences: a. Family Environment: Parental Influence: Parents' attitudes, behaviors, and parenting styles significantly affect a girl child's thinking and behavior. Supportive, nurturing parents can foster confidence and independence, while overprotective or neglectful parenting can lead to issues with self-esteem and autonomy. Siblings: Interactions with siblings can influence social skills, conflict resolution abilities, and collaborative behaviors. Older siblings often serve as role models. Extended Family: Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members can provide additional support, guidance, and cultural continuity. b. Education: School Environment: The quality of education, teacher attitudes, and school resources play critical roles in cognitive and social development. Positive school experiences can enhance self-esteem and academic achievement. Peer Relationships: Friendships and peer interactions are crucial for

social development. Positive relationships can promote prosocial behaviors and emotional well-being, while negative experiences such as bullying can have detrimental effects.

c. Socio-Economic Status: Access to Resources: Economic stability affects access to educational resources, extracurricular activities, healthcare, and nutritious food, all of which contribute to overall development. Stress and Stability: Financial stress in the family can lead to emotional and psychological challenges for a girl child, affecting her behavior and mental health.

d. Community and Social Environment: Neighbourhood Safety and Resources: Living in a safe neighborhood with access to parks, libraries, and community centers can positively impact a girl's social and physical development. Social Support Networks: Community support systems, including clubs, religious organizations, and social groups, provide additional layers of support and enrichment. Mentorship Programs: Structured mentorship programs can provide guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for growth. e. Technology and Internet Access: Educational Tools: Access to technology can enhance learning opportunities and provide access to a wealth of information and resources. Social Media: Social media can influence self-esteem, body image, and social behavior.

Positive interactions can foster community and support, while negative interactions can lead to issues such as cyberbullying. In conclusion, these factors, caregivers, educators, policymakers, and communities can create supportive environments that foster positive development and empower girl children to reach their full potential.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a youth motivator and former Head of the University Department of Political Science, B.N. Mandal University



influenced by a range of societal, educational, and cultural factors. Here's an overview of the evolution of girls' cognitive development and opportunities for intellectual growth throughout history: a. Ancient and Classical Periods: Ancient Civilizations: In many ancient societies, girls' education and intellectual development were often limited compared to boys. In Ancient Greece, for instance, while boys received formal education, girls were typically educated at home in domestic skills. However, there were exceptions, such as Spartan girls who were educated to be strong and knowledgeable to contribute to a powerful state. Roman Empire: Similarly, in Ancient Rome, education for girls was mostly confined to wealthy families. Girls from affluent households might

Age: In contrast, during the Islamic Golden Age, there were greater opportunities for intellectual development for girls. Women like Fatima al-Fihri, who founded the University of Al-Qarawiyyin, played significant roles in education and scholarship. c. 19th and Early 20th Centuries: Industrial Revolution: The Industrial Revolution brought significant social changes, including increased advocacy for girls' education. Compulsory education laws began to emerge in various countries, gradually including girls. Suffrage Movement: The women's suffrage movement also played a crucial role in advocating for girls' education and intellectual development. Education was seen as a pathway to achieving equality and independence. d. 21st Century: Globalization and

Are We On Track To End AIDS, Viral Hepatitis By 2030?



SHOBHA SHUKLA

Well, it seems to be a mixed bag of gains and losses. While there are reasons to celebrate, significant gaps remain to be plugged. The latest Global Health Sector Strategies Report of the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that while there has been a substantial increase in expanding service access for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), 2.5 million people are still dying every year due to these three infections. Thus, these illnesses continue to pose a major global health challenge.

In lead up to the world's largest AIDS conference this year - 25th International AIDS Conference or AIDS 2024, there is a growing call to #PutPeopleFirst. People-centred responses grounded in human rights can help accelerate progress towards ending AIDS, viral hepatitis and STIs.

Are we keeping the promise?

If a person living with HIV is virally suppressed, then undetectable equals untransmittable (#UequalsU) becomes a reality - as there is zero risk of transmission while the person remains healthy and productive (comparable to others without the infection).

On the positive side, globally, 86% of people living with HIV know their status, 76% of them are on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, and 71% of them are virally suppressed.

- 5 countries have already met the 2025 targets of 95-95-95 (95% of people with HIV should know their status, 95% of them be on antiretroviral therapy, and 95% of them be virally suppressed by 2025).

- 16 other countries are likely to reach these targets by 2025.

- 19 countries have eliminated vertical (mother to child) transmission of HIV and/or syphilis. Also, dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests are being rolled out for pregnant women in antenatal care and for key populations.

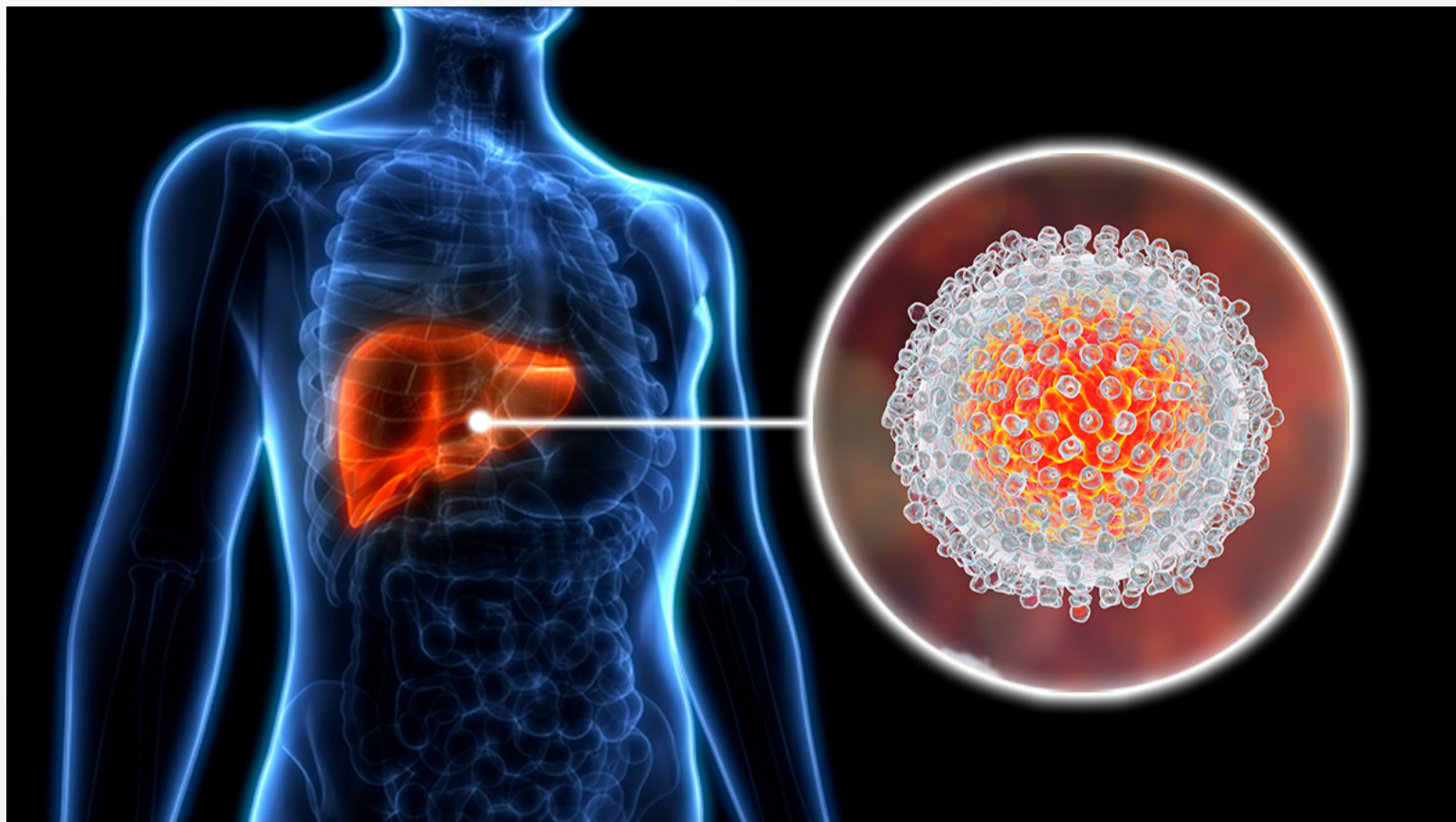
Infection rates are declining but are they declining fast enough?

Yet many indicators remain off-track to achieve the 2025 and 2030 global targets. While HIV incidence and HIV-related deaths are declining, the rates of decline are not fast enough. There were 1.3 million new HIV infections and 630,000 HIV-related deaths in 2022 - many of them due to late engagement in care and structural barriers to service access.

By the end of 2022, only 13% of people living with chronic hepatitis-B infection had been diagnosed and 3% had received antiviral therapy, while only 36% of people living with hepatitis-C infection had been diagnosed and 20% had received curative treatment. Despite having a vaccine for preventing hepatitis-B, it resulted in an estimated 1.1 million deaths in 2022.

More than 1 million new cases of STIs occur every day

In an exclusive interview given to CNS (Citizen News Service), Dr Meg Doherty, WHO Director of the Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes, said: "We have the tools to be on the pathway to reach our 2025 targets and our 2030 goals. For HIV, we have done very well in terms of increasing service coverage, access to testing, treatment and viral load testing. But we are off the mark on our impact targets - the number of people dying from these infections, the number of people getting new infections. Even in countries reaching the 95-95-95 service targets, new cases are occurring among young girls or women in sub-Saharan Africa. We have to do much more work with key populations - men who have sex with men, transgender persons, people who inject drugs, people in prisons, people who sell sex - because they often get left



behind in the response. There needs to be extra political commitment and community involvement to ensure that they have the same approach to having equitable access to testing, access to treatment, access to viral load testing and being virally suppressed."

Why are sexually transmitted infections on the blindspot?

Globally every year 374 million people (183.4 million of them being women) get infected with a range of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as trichomoniasis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis, even though these infections are treatable, curable and preventable.

There were 8 million syphilis cases in 2022. Moreover, an estimated 220,000 deaths every year are attributed to syphilis alone. The report also shows that more women suffer from chlamydia than men and almost the same number from syphilis.

born infant. This is really a breakthrough of public health programmes. Perhaps testing may not be happening for syphilis for pregnant women. There are also problems with accessing penicillin for treatment of syphilis in some places."

Person centredness in healthcare

Dr Meg Doherty stressed on having more people-centred, rights-based and gender transformative responses for controlling STIs, just as there are for HIV control programmes.

"It is important for people to feel that they are in control of their health. In our technical guidelines we have self-testing, self-care, and self-collection of samples for STI testing. We want to instill ownership in people - not only over their choice but also to become aware of STIs and their treatment. It is the person centeredness we have to have in healthcare facilities. Primary

reminds Dr Doherty.

Hepatitis-B vaccine is a 3 dose vaccine given at 0, 1 and 6 months. But for the kids, the 1st dose must be given within 24 hours of birth.

If the mother is an active carrier of chronic hepatitis-B the birth dose has the strongest influence on reducing the acquisition of hepatitis-B for the infant. But many countries are not fully implementing the birth dose vaccine. The problem is again of linkage to care. People are not accessing treatment. Also, countries are not purchasing the lowest cost or the best access price for the treatment or for the diagnostic tests. Just like we did for HIV, we have to get access price for hepatitis diagnostics and treatments to scale them up. Otherwise we are only serving a small proportion of the infected population. The message has to be spread and people have to start demanding, and unless they know how they would demand," says Dr

are at least two new medicines that are coming up to address drug-resistant gonorrhoea," said Dr Doherty.

She added: "In hepatitis we have not seen a lot of resistance yet but we are doing surveillance to keep an eye on it. For HIV we have been doing surveillance for many years and right now we are reassured that dolutegravir-based regimens are still the working horse of HIV treatment. WHO recommended combination of Dolutegravir, Tenofovir and Lamivudine-based regimen is working well for most people living with HIV. But we have seen in certain settings that if not used properly or if used in people who have had a lot of different regimens in the past, there could be resistance developing [in the virus] against dolutegravir. So we have to be very careful as we want to protect that regimen. That also means we need to have a second-line regimen ready that might be able to be an alternative in the future. But right now dolutegravir is working very well for the majority of the people."

Connect, reconnect and recommit to end AIDS at #AIDS2024

Dr Doherty shares her message for the upcoming 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024): "My message is to connect, reconnect, and recommit to ending AIDS by 2030 - and - do it by bringing along other disease areas as well. We will only get there in this new world of multiple problems - whether it is climate change, or new infections, or NCDs or emergencies - if we work collaboratively with others. Also, do not lose energy. We need to work harder now because it is the last mile for HIV. HIV is not going to go away, people will be living their lives with HIV for years to come. But getting to a place where countries are in control of the number of new infections and they own their programmes. That is an awful lot of hard work that we need to do in the next six years. I hope that we can get ourselves to a point by 2030 where we have a significant number of countries that are able to manage their HIV epidemic and other diseases in their country and that people are living happy and long lives - not just with HIV but also with their NCDs, and with other infections."

Shobha Shukla is the award-winning founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of Citizen News Service and is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She is a former senior Physics faculty of prestigious Loreto Convent College and current Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT Media) and Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA). Follow her on Twitter @shobhaIshukla or read her writings here www.bit.ly/ShobhaShukla

Dr Doherty agrees that, "We have been ignoring STIs for a long time. Our public health programmes for STIs have somehow not got the attention that they need. Also, as compared to HIV, there is even greater stigma and discrimination when it comes to STIs. People like to keep their sexually transmitted infections quiet; they like to maybe go to the private sector, to take their antibiotics on their own and not have to share that - because often many STIs are self-limiting or can be treated in a few days to a week. But there are some STI with major consequences affecting many people around the world - like the human papilloma virus (HPV) and the associated cervical cancer, anal cancer; and we also have the herpes viruses. We are seeing a rise in congenital syphilis that can be fatal for the new-

health centres should be able to offer multiple testing in one area - test for HIV, syphilis, other STIs, viral hepatitis - for people at risk."

Need to do more on addressing viral hepatitis

Currently, 50 million people are infected with hepatitis-C virus (HCV) and 254 million with chronic hepatitis-B virus (HBV) around the world, with 1.2 million new hepatitis-B infections each year. As per latest data, only 13% of people with hepatitis-B infection had been diagnosed and only 3% (7 million) were on treatment. Only 36% of people with HCV had been diagnosed and 20% had received curative treatment, even though antiviral medicines can cure more than 95% of persons with HCV infection.

"We have had a vaccine for hepatitis B for so many years,"

Protecting the medicines that protect us

A cause of concern is that multi-antibiotic resistant gonorrhoea cases are being reported in parts of the world, and we also have cases of resistance to dolutegravir - the wonder drug used in HIV treatment.

"Knowing about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) allows us to have a good public health response to it. We have good surveillance systems for multi-resistant gonorrhoea with 87 different sites around the world reporting on it. But apart from setting up surveillance systems for STIs, we are also changing the guidelines - advocating for good communication and knowledge sharing, ensuring good stewardship of antibiotics, and also working for better regimens to come forward. There

Follow These Diet Tips This Summer For Better Cardiovascular Health

A healthy diet in summer is crucial for heart health because the increased temperatures can strain the cardiovascular system, making it essential to support the heart with nutritious foods. Diet changes can significantly help by providing essential nutrients, maintaining hydration, and managing blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Consuming a variety of healthy foods can reduce inflammation, improve lipid profiles, and enhance overall heart function. Keep reading as we share a list of summer foods you can add to your diet for better heart health.

10 Diet tips to follow this summer for better cardiovascular health:

1. Eat more fruits and vegetables

Fruits and vegetables are rich in antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, and fibre, which help reduce inflammation, lower blood pressure, and improve cholesterol levels. Aim for at least 5-7 servings a day. Include a variety of colours in your diet, such as berries, leafy greens, and bell peppers, to ensure a wide range of nutrients.

2. Choose whole grains

Whole grains contain fibre, which can help lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease. Replace refined grains with whole grains like oats, brown rice, quinoa, and



whole wheat bread. Start your day with oatmeal or switch to whole-grain pasta for meals.

3. Include healthy fats

Healthy fats, particularly

omega-3 fatty acids, can help lower triglycerides, reduce inflammation, and improve overall heart function. Consume fatty fish like salmon,

mackerel, and sardines at least twice a week. Use olive oil for cooking and dressings, and snack on nuts and seeds.

4. Limit saturated and trans

fats Reducing intake of saturated and trans fats can help lower LDL cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease. Choose

lean cuts of meat, remove skin from poultry, and avoid processed foods high in trans fats. Opt for cooking methods like grilling, baking, or steaming

instead of frying.

5. Reduce sodium intake Excess sodium can increase blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease. Limit processed and packaged foods, use herbs and spices for seasoning instead of salt, and choose low-sodium options when available. Aim for less than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day.

6. Stay hydrated Proper hydration helps maintain normal heart function and blood pressure levels. Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day, and more if you are active or spending time in the heat. Include hydrating foods like cucumbers and watermelon in your diet.

7. Consume fibre-rich foods Fibre helps lower cholesterol levels and supports overall heart health. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains. Aim for at least 25-30 grams of fibre per day. Add beans to salads, eat whole fruits, and choose high-fibre snacks like nuts and seeds.

8. Limit added sugars Reducing added sugars can help prevent weight gain and lower the risk of developing heart disease. Avoid sugary drinks, candies, and desserts. Read labels to check for added sugars in packaged foods and opt for natural sweeteners like honey or fruit when needed.

By following these diet tips, you can enhance your cardiovascular health and enjoy a healthier, more energetic summer.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Pays Obeisance,

He said, over 30,000 devotees paid obeisance at Mela Kheer Bhawani this year. Around 200 buses have arrived from Jammu and the administration and citizens have ensured best possible facilities to the devotees, the Lt Governor said.

During his visit to the holy shrine at Tullmulla, Ganderbal, the Lt Governor also interacted with the members of Kashmiri Pandit Community and discussed various issues.

Ms Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal; Sh Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department; Sh. Shyambrir, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; senior officials of the Civil and Police Administration and pilgrims in large numbers were present on the occasion.

HM Amit Shah

Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims continues, officials said.

Officials said security forces launched a fresh search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village on Thursday following information about the presence of two more terrorists. This came a day after two suspected Pakistani terrorists and a CRPF jawan were killed in the village after an over 15-hour operation.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including one M4 Rifle, an AK assault rifle, a satellite phone and more than Rs 2.10 lakh besides Pakistan-made eatables, medicines and electronics were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorists, one of whom was said to be a top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit.

Police had on Wednesday released sketches of four terrorists involved in two attacks in Doda district and announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh for information leading to their arrest.

In Reasi district where terrorists had attacked a bus carrying pilgrims on Sunday, police said so far 50 suspected persons were detained as the search operation was intensified to remote pockets.

Police had also issued an advisory, urging residents of the Jammu region to stay vigilant regarding the movement of suspicious individuals and objects.

The advisory was issued following intelligence inputs suggesting the possibility of a terror threat in parts of Rajouri and Jammu districts.

Meanwhile, police in Jammu and Kashmir have started preparation for the two-month-long Amarnath yatra.

Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar last week directed the security forces to fortify the existing security infrastructure, improve surveillance tactics and bolster personnel deployment along the Amarnath pilgrimage route.

He also directed officials to mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the Yatra routes to identify and neutralise any potential terror threats.

Kumar also held a joint meeting with the officers of the police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other agencies and discussed the overall security arrangements to be adopted for the safe, smooth and incident-free conduct of the pilgrimage.

Services of specialised forces like the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) may also be utilised in order to get vulnerable points along the pilgrimage route mapped so that these can be monitored on a regular basis to enhance the overall safety measures, officials said.

Security will be enhanced to mitigate

potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the Amarnath Yatra route to identify and neutralise any potential terror threats, they said.

Govt To Monitor

Kashmir government is pushing for massive industrial development to create employment avenues for the youth.

In the past few years, the J & K government received investment proposals worth Rs 90182 crore which have potential to generate employment for 4, 01,965 youth.

Since 2019-20, an investment worth Rs.5319 crore has been made in J&K.

The Union Territory government has launched the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30 to attract new investment, create employment opportunities for youth, develop backward regions and expand existing industrial units—(KNO)

Kashmiri Pandits

valley. Speaking on the occasion, the Kashmiri Pandits at Kupwara temple expressed immense gratitude towards local Muslims, the administration as well as the security agencies for their efforts in ensuring a smooth and secure pilgrimage.

"We are feeling refreshed, good and safe here. The security measures and the facilities are excellent. The warm welcome we received, particularly being greeted with fruits by the security personnel, is a unique and heart-warming experience for us," Chandra Pandita, a Jammu resident said.

Pandita, who originally hails from Watrighani Kupwara, said that she visited after a decade to the valley. The atmosphere here is truly cherishing and brings back fond memories. It fills me with immense joy and nostalgia, she said.

"This is my first visit to Kupwara temple. I am deeply touched by the warmth and the hospitality of the people here. The locals are loving and helpful and at no point do we feel like strangers," Sumita Bindroo, another devotee said.

Bindroo, originally from Karan Nagar in Srinagar said that she has been to the valley after decades and the experience as well as the atmosphere she got was entirely friendly and brotherly.

The facilities provided are excellent and the respect and the assistance from the security people, administration and especially from the local Muslim community are unforgettable. They ensured we had everything we needed and wanted, she said.

"I pray to Lord for peace in the valley, so that we can reunite with our Muslim friends, brothers and sisters," Bindroo added.

"It has been decades since we left the valley, and I can see the situation has changed a lot with visible development on the ground. Returning here after 35 years is an emotional and overwhelming experience. I'm happy to reunite with old friends here at Mela," a devotee originally from Botingoo, South Kashmir said.

It was painful and emotional, she said while recalling the moments of leaving the valley. We are incomplete without the Muslim community. We want to be here forever, she said.

We are thankful to the people of Kashmir who played an important role in making the festival a success and grand. It was not possible for the administration alone to accommodate the thousands of devotees here in Tikker Kupwara, the devotee said.

"I observed our Muslim brothers wholeheartedly opening their homes for us, even though several people stayed there, which is a great and positive step. There is always a brotherhood. What was more fascinating was Kashmiri Dum Aloo and Haakh, which keeps our culture and roots intact," said

Avtar Krsishan, a devotee, who like others had visited the valley after decades.

The festival served as a platform for healing and reconciliation, as many returning Pandits had not visited the valley since their exodus in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

It's worth mentioning that meticulous security measures were put in place to ensure a smooth and secure experience for the Yatris, even as the Kupwara Police chief, Shobhit Saxena had earlier stated that their aim is to maintain and enhance this environment every year.

Kupwara is fortunate enough to have such a great number of devotees and we are hopeful for an even larger surge in the years to come", the SSP earlier said. He said that it sends a clear and loud message that Kupwara is safe for Yatris and devotees—(KNO)

CS Launches Competitions

to the citizens to upload their selfies by June 30, 2024. In this regard, a custom frame has been designed to allow the citizens to capture their yoga selfie sharing moments of achievement, peace and self-discovery through Yoga, promoting a movement of wellness and self care.

While launching these competitions, the Chief Secretary asked the concerned for providing opportunity to maximum citizens including school children. He also exhorted upon the Deputy Commissioners to promote citizen involvement at the district level.

Accentuating the significance of Yoga, the Chief Secretary said that the ancient practice fosters mindfulness techniques that aid in relaxation as well as reducing stress and anxiety. "It improves physical, mental and spiritual health by balancing the body, mind and the spirit through postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), meditation and ethical guidelines.

"Yoga has now become an increasingly popular form of therapy, coping mechanism, and complementary treatment for mental health", maintained the Chief Secretary.

He encouraged the people to overwhelmingly participate in the competitions to share the changes they have experienced by incorporating Yoga into their lives. He reiterated that these initiatives aim to inspire the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to embrace Yoga for holistic well being and share their personal journeys, fostering a community united by health and harmony.

The Chief Secretary fervently appealed the participants to register and submit their entries on MyGov portal and join the celebration of International Yoga Day throughout the region.

Among others present on the occasion included Administrative Secretaries and HoDs of various departments, Deputy Commissioners and other officers.

Massive Combing

of people and the district headquarters security forces are letting any chance to go waste. After thorough searches nothing was found and forces set wild bushes on fire to ensure nobody is hiding in the area," an intelligence source said.

Since June 9, terror related incidents in Jammu region have increased when a bus carrying pilgrims was attacked by terrorists in Pouni area of Reasi district in which nine people lost their lives and 33 others got injured followed by a fire-fight with freshly infiltrated terrorists in Saida Sukhal village near the international border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district. While the firefight in Kathua district was going on, terrorists attacked a joint patrol party of Army and J&K police in

Chattergala area of Bhandarwah in district Doda in which five soldiers and a special police officer were injured.

On Wednesday evening, terrorists injured a policeman in Tanta top area of Gundooh in Doda district and fled from the area. Since then the security forces have launched massive search operation in forests of Chattergala and Tanta top and are trying to track down the terrorists.

The intelligence source said that both these areas have dense forests and operation has to be conducted by following the standard operating procedures.

Meanwhile, the search operation is also going on in Hiranagar sector following information of presence of more terrorists in the area but nothing has been found so far.

With increase in militancy related incidents in different areas of Jammu region, security forces have been kept on tenterhooks by the information, fake or genuine, which are forcing them to launch search operations in different areas without getting any results—(KNO)

Elite Non-Local

which means 2,24,000 sheep are being imported from various states to Kashmir daily," he said.

Pertinently, people in Srinagar prefer sheep for sacrifice. Apart from sheep, camels, and goats too have been imported by the dealers from various markets of India.

An official from the sheep husbandry department said that almost 40 percent of the demand will be met locally by the bakarwals and farmers in Kashmir.

"Bakarwals have already moved towards plains and they are selling sheep in various markets of Kashmir. Similarly, we have farmers who have set up their units and cater to the demand for Eid," he said—(KNO)

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India's aviation sector takes off for next 25 years of growth under PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India, which is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets with domestic air passenger traffic touching record high, has seen robust growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paving the way for shaping the future of the aviation industry for the next 25 years.

On November 19 last year, airlines in India flew 4,56,910 domestic passengers. This was highest single-day air traffic since the pandemic hit, marking a remarkable 7.4 per cent surge above pre-COVID averages, as per the Ministry of Civil Aviation data. According to Sumesh Patel, President of SITA, Asia Pacific, the PM Modi-led government has ensured affordable and broader access to air travel for Indians in the last 10 years.

The PM Modi-led government's focus on the aviation sector has led to a considerable increase in the number of airports in the country.

According to the government, the number of airports in the country has increased to 157 from 74 in the last 10 years. The aviation ministry recently



reviewed the full list of 453 airstrips in the country and around 157 of them are operational.

More than 91 lakh passengers availed the facility of Digi Yatra, and over 35 lakh users downloaded the app in 2023.

The government is now looking at calibrating regulations for major and small airports, aimed at further boosting air connectivity, especially to Tier 2 and 3 cities.

According to Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammoan Naidu, the government under PM Modi is going to formulate and implement a 100-day action plan to

drive immediate progress in India's aviation sector.

"This plan will serve as a stepping stone towards achieving the long-term vision of 'Viksit Bharat' as India celebrates 100 years of its independence in 2047," the minister said.

The minister assured that the ministry would prioritise passenger comfort and convenience in all policy decisions.

The PM Modi-led government's priorities would be to create an 'ease of flying' scenario, making air travel more accessible and convenient for every citizen.

Murlidhar Mohol, Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said over the past decade, the ministry has significantly enhanced facilities across various sectors, boosting employment and rapidly increasing the number of airports.

"We are making remarkable progress, establishing connections with countries worldwide, and transforming the nation's landscape. The dream of common people to travel by aeroplane is becoming a reality, which is also uplifting their economic status," said the minister.

CII pegs India's GDP growth at 8 pc for 2024-25

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) expects the country's economy to grow at 8 per cent in 2024-25 on the back of a better performance of the agriculture sector and higher levels of private investment, according to Sanjiv Puri, the newly elected President of the apex industry body.

The farm sector which was hit by erratic weather in the last financial year is expected to perform better with the forecast of normal monsoon this year which will lead to higher rural consumption driving growth, Puri, who is also ITC chairman, observed.

CII's projection comes after RBI upgraded its estimate for India's GDP growth to 7.2 per cent last week.

"The growth estimate hinges critically on addressing the unfinished reform agenda on priority, in addition to improvement in world trade prospects aiding our exports, twin engines of investment and consumption doing well, and expectations of a normal monsoon, among other factors," Puri was quoted as saying in a CII statement.

According to CII's forecast, farm sector output is likely to grow at 3.7 per cent in FY25, up from 1.4



per cent in FY24. It also expects industry to grow at 8.4 per cent against 9.3 per cent in the year before, and services at 9 per cent compared to 7.9 per cent in the year ended March.

"The stellar growth performance, expected during the current fiscal, is propelled by six growth drivers which have pivoted the economy to an accelerator mode," a statement from CII said citing Puri.

The participation of private sector investment in the India growth story, public investment in physical and digital infra-

structure, well-capitalised banking system, booming capital market and reduced dependence on oil are igniting the India growth story, Puri said.

According to CII's January-March 2024 business confidence survey, three-fourth of the over 200 respondents anticipated an improvement in private capital expenditure in the first half of the current fiscal, compared to the same period a year ago.

Gross fixed capital formation, or investments in plant and machinery, by the private sector stood at

23.8 per cent of nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY23, higher than the level seen in the pre-pandemic years of FY19 and FY20.

Infrastructure-linked sectors like cement and steel, sectors such as electronic production, food processing and telecom that are benefiting from the government's production-linked incentives, logistics, renewable energy, automobiles and semi-conductors are witnessing an improvement in private investment levels, Puri added.

SC says it won't order ex-parte CBI probe into NEET (UG) paper leak

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said that it would not pass any ex-parte CBI probe into the allegation of paper leak and other irregularities in the NEET (UG) 2024 examination.

"Petition considered. We do not pass an ex-parte order. What CBI investigation? Can a CBI investigation be ordered ex-parte today? Is that your submission?" a vacation bench presided over by Justice Vikram Nath asked a lawyer praying for an "imminent CBI investigation" into the matter.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Sandeep Mehta, said that the National Testing Agency (NTA) may file its reply to the fresh petitions seeking CBI/SIT probe into the allegation of paper leak within two weeks.

Further, it turned down the prayer to direct Bihar Police to file a status report of the alleged paper leak probe before the next date of hearing. "You have made



all the allegations in your petitions. We have given them (NTA and others) two weeks time to file their response. They will come up with their response," the apex court said.

The batch of petitions, including pleas seeking cancellation of the exam, will be heard next on July 8.

In the past, the top court had repeatedly refused to stay the admission counselling process to medical programmes pursuant to the NEET (UG) 2024 examination.

In an order passed on Thursday, the Supreme Court decided to close the issue relating to the grant of grace marks

in the NEET (UG) exam after NTA submitted the scorecards of 1,563 candidates, who were awarded compensatory marks on account of loss of time, had been withdrawn and cancelled.

These candidates may choose to appear in a re-test to be held on June 23 or appear in counselling on the basis of actual marks obtained in the exam without normalisation.

The apex court took note of NTA's submission that the counselling schedule announced earlier will not be disturbed since the results of the re-test would be declared by June 30.

'Black Friday' at Kochi airport as people pay homage to victims of Kuwait fire tragedy

IAN S

KOCHI: Kerala's Kochi airport has never witnessed such sombre scenes as were seen on Friday when bodies of those who died in a fire in Kuwait, arrived.

"On Friday, everyone at the airport was grieving and all had tears flowing. It's never happened before, so many dead bodies arriving at the same time. It is unbearable," said an airport official.

A top Airport Authority of India official said, "Since these bodies are treated as 'cargo', early morning we held a meeting of all stakeholders from the various departments. We decided to clear the bodies in about 15 to 20 minutes. Customs, emigration and health clearances will be done quickly for all 45 bodies, and of these 31 will be handed over here. A special area was designated where the 31 bodies were kept for all to pay their homage. Ambulances are there to take each one to respective homes," said the top AAI official.



The special IAF aircraft with the remaining bodies will depart for Delhi.

As the plane arrived, the airport was filled with wailing. Parents, children, spouses and other relatives were full of emotions.

A father who worked in the same company in Kuwait was unable to control himself as he said after he retired, he sent his son to the same company.

"My son came last here in January after his mother-in-law passed away and now I have come to 'receive' him," he said while breaking down.

Stephin Abraham, 29, who hailed from Pampady in Kottayam was an engineer and worked in Kuwait for the past six years.

"His new house is almost complete. He was here a few months back to finalise the furnishings of his home. We are unable to handle this tragedy of Stephin. This is life," said his relative who was wailing.

Incidentally, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who arrived at the airport here when the flight landed earlier to receive the 31 dead bodies.

Also present were newly ordained Union Minister Suresh Gopi, Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan, state cabinet ministers, priests and hundreds of ordinary people.

It was a never-before-seen Black Friday on June 14 at the airport.

Not able to digest defeat, Cong targeting Yediyurappa: Pralhad Joshi

IAN S

BENGALURU: Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Friday lashed out at the Congress government in Karnataka, saying that it



was targeting former Chief Minister Yediyurappa as the party was unable to digest defeat in the Lok Sabha election.

Taking to social media, Minister Joshi claimed that the state government, to hide its misrule, was conspiring against the 81-year-old former CM by having a false case registered against him.

"The Congress party was defeated in the recently held general election. Unable to accept the defeat, it is indulging in using the administration according to its whims and fancies,"

Joshi said. "Home Minister Dr G. Parameshwara said four months ago, when the POCOS case was lodged against Yediyurappa, that the complainant was filed with malicious intent. However, after the elec-

tion Congress leaders have started a new drama..." Joshi said.

Joshi further stated that Home Minister Parameshwara himself mentioned that the woman who filed the complaint had lodged more than 60 cases against various IAS, IPS officers, and politicians. "Now, with the sole intention of hiding their misrule, Yediyurappa is being targeted," said the Union Minister.

"Dragging Yediyurappa into a false case is vendetta politics. They will learn a lesson from this act," he stated.

Global fund investments in India will accelerate in future: Analysts

IAN S

MUMBAI: The Indian stock market has seen a significant rally in recent months and is now attracting global funds which are going to accelerate in the near future, according to top analysts.

The Indian stock market performance has been very impressive for the last one year. National Stock Exchange (NSE) benchmark Nifty surged nearly 6 per cent in the last month, 11.84 per cent in the last six months, 765 per cent since the beginning of this year, and nearly 25 per cent in the last one year.

According to Jonathan Garner, Morgan Stanley's Chief Equity Strategist for Asia and Emerging Markets, during the peak of the China markets, the global fund held nearly two to three Chinese e-commerce internet stocks.

"Now they hold two or three mega-cap Indian companies in their portfolio," he was quoted as saying in media reports.

He further said that the shift has already begun and things are only accelerating from here.

Right now, India is the second-largest emerging market after China. Global investors now prioritise liquidity and can't afford to ignore the Indian stock market, which is booming with retail investments, according to Garner.

On a positive rating action, Fitch's Asia Sovereign Ratings Director Jeremy Zook was quoted as saying in media reports that India's fiscal consolidation strategy beyond 2025-26 to lower the Debt to GDP ratio will play a major role for any kind of a positive ratings action.

With 150 mn customer visits, Myntra concludes 20th edition of EORS

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The 20th edition of Myntra's marquee fashion event, the End of Reason Sale (EORS) concluded marking a record over 150 million customer visits.

Celebrating a decade of revolutionising fashion in India, this edition of EORS witnessed over 30 lakh styles showcased by more than 8,800 brands, marking around a 47 per cent increase in brands catalogued and about a 50 per cent increase in trend-first selection, as opposed to the previous summer edition of the EORS.

"It was heart-warming to witness 150 million customers across the country visit the platform during the milestone edition. The spike in demand from the tier 2+ cohorts also points to the rise of premiumisation in the country, and we are glad to be at the

forefront of catering to this demand," said Neha Wali, Head of Revenue and Growth, Myntra.

This edition of EORS saw 55 per cent of the demand coming in from the non-metro regions. Some of the top metro cities that fuelled the demand included, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad among others. Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Jammu, Mysore, Fatehabad, Panipat, Hisar and Udaipur were among the cities and towns that indulged with much gusto in EORS-20.

This edition also witnessed millions of shoppers flank the platform to get their hands on the best offers on International Brands. Some of the brands lapped up by shoppers included Mango, Nike, adidas, H&M, Victoria's Secret, Levi's and Puma, among others. Owing to a notable surge in demand,

the International brands portfolio saw about a 1.85x rise in demand over business as usual (BAU).

Women's Indian and Casual wear, Men's Casual wear, Sports Footwear, Kids Wear, Personal care and Home Furnishings were some of the most in-demand categories with shoppers.

Most sought-after items were T-shirts, Shirts, Kurtas & Kurta sets, Perfumes, Dresses, Makeup and Skincare products, Denims, Running Shoes, Trolley Bags, and Headphones, among others. On average, a whopping 167 T-shirts, around 60 pairs of shoes and about 20 lipsticks were bought every minute.

D2C brands were all the rage with shoppers with around 90 brands such as Banana Club, Urban Monkey, Dida, Exotic



India and Lea Clothing, participating in EORS for the first time. Bewakoof, The Souled Store, Snitch, Rare Rabbit, Salty, Assem-

bly, Kidbea and Uptownie, were among some of the leading D2C brands that grew by 2x over last year. Exclusive collections from the likes of Cultsport, Globus, Rain & Rainbow and Alcis were also a big hit with shoppers.

Myntra's Beauty and Personal Care (BPC) category with over 1 lakh styles across more than 1,660 brands was one of the most popular categories and witnessed around a 3.6x uptick in demand over BAU.

Customers were catered to with the best-in-class products, ranging across skincare, makeup and fragrances with value offers at play from brands across the globe. Brands such as MAC, Bath & Body Works, Huda Beauty, Victoria's Secret and Bobbi Brown, among others, were the top favourites with shop-

pers during the shopping carnival.

Apart from Fashion and Beauty, emerging categories took centre stage, with Luggage and Travel Accessories witnessing around a 3x spike in demand over BAU. Home Furnishings and Wearables also saw a significant uptick in demand as the platform showcased an array of value offers across trend-first brands in these segments.

The 'Assisted Sale Shopping Experience' saw more than 300 inspirational influencer content videos, via Myntra Minis, the platform's signature short-form video content offering.

Additionally, over 20 brands participated in the EORS customer gratification construct, enabling a wide spectrum of rewards, which ranged from hotel stays and paid vacations to iPhones and Vespa Scooters.

ACB unearths land scam in Jammu involving revenue, custodian officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: J&K Anti Corruption Bureau achieved a major success by unearthing major land scams in Jammu and Kashmir after custodian land in Asarwan, Mishriwala and Bhalwal area of Jammu district was found usurped by the land mafia in connivance with officers and officials of Custodian, revenue department and police. In a statement, it said after obtaining the search warrants from the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu, search teams comprising ACB officers, Independent Witnesses, Magistrates were deputed to sixteen locations throughout Jammu and its adjoining areas which are still going on. ACB said that inputs were received that Custodian land in thousands of Kanal situated at Asarwan, Mishriwala and Bhalwal Jammu has been fraudulently grabbed by the land



grabbers/gangsters in connivance with the Revenue and police officers/officials. "The revenue records have been tampered and land has been sold to various persons," it said. During a formal verification by the ACB, it said they found that in furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, FORM 3-A (Form Alf) along with power of attorneys (POAs) were obtained from various POK Refugees, alluring them of additional lands and providing them instant money ranging from 5000 to 50,000 by the conduits of land grabbers. "Thereafter insertions/

additions regarding additional chunks of custodian lands were made in the revenue records by the officials/officers of the Revenue and Custodian department, by sheer abuse of their official positions. These lands were sold by the conduits and attorney holders to various persons including their own gang leaders and members, by resorting to fraudulent means, thereby causing a huge loss to the government," it added. The ACB said that owing to the establishment of prima facie nexus of the criminal elements, land grabbers and Rev-

enue/Custodian officers/officials in alienation of Custodian land through fraudulent means, a case has been registered 5 formal case FIRs in P/S Central J&K for investigation under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and fraud. "In addition to 5 FIRs registered, verification is still in progress to unearth the remaining usurped custodian land by land mafia in connivance with officers and officials of Revenue, Police and Custodian department," it added—(KNO)

DC Doda reviews arrangements for 10th Int'l Yoga Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting Friday at the conference hall of the DC office complex in Doda to review preparations for the upcoming 10th International Yoga Day.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sudershan Kumar, ACR Sunil Bhutyal, ACD Manoj Kumari, DIO Doda, Nisak Ul Farooq, CEO PL Thapa, District AYUSH Officer Ajay Koul, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, and Executive Engineers from PHE, JKPDC, Mechanical Division, and executive officers from Doda, Bhalderwah, and Thathri. The main focus was on reviewing arrangements such as power supply, ground preparation, sani-



tation, network facilities and the public address system. DC directed the Executive Engineer R&B to arrange a stage at the sports stadium in Doda for the Yoga Day celebration. The DIO Informatics was asked to set up a big LED screen for the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's program on Yoga Day. The CEO was tasked

with arranging for school students' participation, while the District Youth Services and Sports Officer was asked to bring in sports youth. The District Program Project Officer was asked to ensure ASHA workers attended the celebration. Nodal officers were to be nominated for smooth arrangements, and the Xen PHE was instructed to pre-

pare the sports stadium in advance. It was decided that the district headquarters in Doda would organize International Yoga Day at the Sports Stadium and Gatha Resort Park in Bhalderwah. The District AYUSH Officer was asked to arrange around 1,000 yoga mats for the event. The ASP Doda was directed to involve paramilitary forces and police personnel for security. The Executive Officers were asked to provide toilet facilities and ensure sanitation at the venue. Furthermore, the Executive Engineer JKPDC was asked to arrange for power backup to avoid any interruptions during the event. These comprehensive arrangements aim to ensure a successful and smooth celebration of International Yoga Day in Doda.

Police attaches property worth 1.43 cr of drug peddlers in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Continuing its action against drug peddlers, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam on Friday said to have attached properties belonging to notorious drug peddlers in the district. Police in Kulgam attached properties (Double storied residential house measuring 1093.50 Sq ft and Cowshed measuring 437.25 Sq ft (both valuing

70 lakhs approx) belonging to notorious drug peddler namely Bashir Ahmad Ganie Son of Mohd Ahsan Ganie a resident of Nassu Badragund, Qazigund presently lodged in central Jail Kot Balwal Jammu under PIT NDPS Act and, newly constructed two storied residential house measuring 941.36 Sq ft (valuing 73 lakhs approx) of Ghulam Nabi Kuttay Son of Abdul Aziz Kuttay resident of Kaladrund, Frisal, pres-

ently under Police custody, a police spokesman said in a statement issued. The actions were taken under sections 68-E read with 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985 & are linked with case FIR no 40/2023 U/S 8/15 of NDPS act of Police Station Qazigund and FIR number 26/2024 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act of Police Station Yaripora, respectively, police said. "The properties were identified as illegally acquired properties during

the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Kulgam Police. The properties were prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic drug and Psychotropic substances by the above mentioned drug peddlers," police said. This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace. Local people of the area hailed the initiative of Police, the statement added—(KNO)

Udhampur gears up for 10th International Yoga day 2024

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, convened a meeting with officers from various departments to finalize the arrangements for the smooth celebration of International Yoga Day. The meeting took place in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal, and other senior officers from various departments.

Detailed discussions were held to finalize various aspects of the event, including the venue, participants, matting, stage setup, refreshments, publicity, public address system (PAS), parking, security, and other necessary arrangements. It was decided that the main event would be organized at the Sports Stadium in Udhampur. The concerned departments were directed to make the necessary arrangements well in advance. The DC called for inter-departmental coordination and emphasized ensuring mass participation to make the event a grand success.

Mega Yoga Camp held in Batote

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: In a significant initiative of District Administration Ramban leading up to the 10th International Day of Yoga 2024, the Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the Education Department, organized a Yoga Camp at Government High School Batote. This event was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Bascer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary. The Yoga session, aimed at promoting health and well-being through yoga practices, was meticulously

coordinated by District Nodal Officer for Yoga, Dr. Masood Iqbal. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members, who engaged in various yoga exercises and techniques. This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of the Department of AYUSH and the Education Department to integrate yoga into daily routines and highlight its benefits for physical and mental health. Later, a quiz competition was also organized by the Department in which all the participants participated.




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