

Good Morning Kashmir

15th Year Of Publication

Dr. S. Jaishankar
@DrSJaishankar



Congratulate Foreign Secretary @ VikramMisri as he assumes his new responsibility. Wish him a productive and successful tenure.

Srinagar • Tuesday 16, July 2024 • Vol: 15 • Issue No: 164 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Fight Against Terrorism, Separatism SCO's Priority: Jaishankar



AGENCIES attended the summit. "There is no doubt that the major challenge faced by the world today is terrorism. It has become a threat to regional and global peace, and it demands urgent action from all of us," he said. "Combating terrorism

ASTANA: With terrorism becoming a threat to regional and global peace, the perpetrators, facilitators, financiers and sponsors of heinous acts of terrorism "need to be identified and punished," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, in a veiled jibe at Pakistan.

In a recent interview with Astana-based Kazinform News Agency, he also emphasised that the "fight against the three evils — terrorism, separatism and extremism — is a priority in SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)".

The 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on July 4 in the Kazakh capital Astana, under the presidency of Kazakhstan. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation to the Summit. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also

STRONGLY believes that SCO through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) has a "reasonable standing"

requires a very comprehensive approach — not just the perpetrators of heinous acts of terrorism, but the facilitators, financiers and sponsors of terrorism — they all need to be identified and punished," Jaishankar said.

The minister emphasised that he "strongly believes" that SCO through

Thousands Take Part In Muharram Procession In Srinagar



REHAN QAYOOM MIR GMK Photo: Ashiq Naik

SRINAGAR: Remembering the martyrs of Karbala, the mourners took out the procession from Guru Bazar here and crossed Dalgate locality in the afternoon hours. Later, the mourners assembled at Imam Bargah Dalgate where they remembered and paid homage to the martyrs of Karbala till around 04:00 PM. Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) was martyred along with 72 companions in the battle of Karbala, Iraq some 1400 years ago as per Islamic calendar 10th of Muharram, 61 A.H.

This year the permission was granted by the administration after the Yadgar-i-Hussaini Committee urged the government to permit the procession.

Syed Muzamil Rizvi, a volunteer with Yadgar-i-Hussaini committee, told KNO that the procession started at Guru Bazar and reached Dalgate via Budshah Kadal via Moulana Azad road.

The procession concluded peacefully at around 4:00 PM, he said, adding that around 60,000

THE MOURNERS ARE CONDUCTING THE PROCESSION IN a very peaceful manner," he stated. "Volunteers are cooperating with the police, and we are here to facilitate them."

'Sabeels' Offer Refreshment, Rest To Mourners

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: As the 8th Muharram procession took place for the second consecutive year from Guru Bazar to Dalgate in Srinagar on Monday, the installation of Sabeels, providing refreshment to mourners turned out to be a common sight all across the procession road stretch.

Shahzad Hamdani, who had set up a tent-based Sabeel said that it gives immense happiness to them to serve people with refreshment on this pious day.

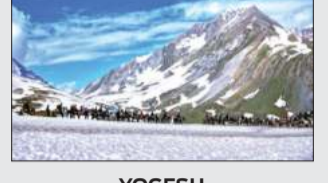
"We are not only serving refreshment, but we have also established a dedicated space for women and elderly people, who during the procession can take rest," he said.

He said that apart from refreshment, they had also made the availability of a doctor and free medicines at their Sabeel base.

Along with the Sabeels, the engine-driven trolleys too were witnessed following the Muharram processions, grabbing the attention of mourners and the people passing by.

These refreshing points, including many trolleys

Amarnath Yatra Surpasses 3 Lakh Mark In 16 Days



YOGESH

JAMMU: Over 3 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas in the first 16 days of the yatra, surpassing the corresponding period last year, officials said on Monday.

An official informed that 14,974 pilgrims visited the shrine for a 'darshan' of the naturally formed ice Shivlingam on Sunday. With this, the total number of pilgrims who have visited the shrine so far this year has climbed to 3,09,977.

Among the 14,974 pilgrims who performed darshan on Sunday were 9,785 males, 3,435 females, 145 children, 230 Sadhus, one Sadhvi, and 1,378 security forces and service providers, he said.

A fresh batch of 4,875 pilgrims left from Bhagawati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu towards the twin base camps of Nunwan Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district under tight security arrangements in a cavalcade of 162 light and heavy vehicles. The batch included 3,464 men, 1,333 women, 14

KPDCL To Disconnect Smart Metered Consumers For Tampering

GMK NEWS NETWORK

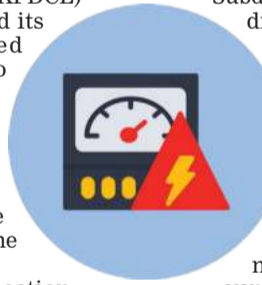
SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Monday advised its smart-metered consumers to shun the practice of unauthorized use of electricity by hooking which attracts punitive clauses under the Electricity Act.

During inspection drives, KPDCL has booked a large number of consumers in urban and semi-urban areas of Kashmir Division for bypassing meters and laying unbridled hooks with the sole intention of stealing power.

In a press statement issued here today, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that reports of hooking have been received from all city Subdivisions and a few district headquarters where smart meters have been installed.

"KPDCL is taking swift action against hooking which begins with remote disconnection of the consumer's electricity supply, followed by recovery of energy consumed illegally," he said, while outlining steps taken by KPDCL for combating power theft.

Some of the smart-metered areas badly affected by hooking include Mominabad, Batmaloo,



Pakistan Infiltrated Civil Society With Help Of Regional Politics In Valley: DGP

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Elaborating on the recent increase in terrorist attacks, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, RR Swain said on Monday that Pakistan successfully infiltrated all important aspects of civil society, thanks to so-called mainstream or regional politics in the Valley. There is ample evidence to show that many had owned the art of running with the hare and hunting with the hound, which left both the common man and the security bewildered, frightened, and confused.

"Visiting the homes of killed terrorists and expressing sympathy in public was normal. While the elimination of new recruits in terrorism was allowed and tacitly encouraged, those who facilitated



CS Asks For Smooth Movement Of Fruit Laden Trucks On NH-44

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here with the stakeholders for working out strategy to further reduce the travel time on Srinagar Jammu National Highway for the fruit laden trucks.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, APD; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; IG Traffic and other senior officers while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

Regarding movement of fruit laden trucks from the valley, the Chief Secretary stressed on making a comprehensive plan for smooth movement of these vehicles to further reduce the travel time for perishable items. He asked for marking the fruit-laden trucks with specially designed stickers for identification and giving



Purple Revolution Lavender Cultivation Thrives In J&K

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The resurgence of lavender cultivation, known as the "Purple Revolution", is currently being witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir. However, this is not a new phenomenon for Kashmir, which produced hundreds of kilograms of lavender around two decades ago.

Dr Abdul Sami Shawl, a well-known scientist formerly in charge of the CSIR Field Station Bonura (formerly CIMAP Field Station Bonura) in Pulwama, explained that lavender was initially introduced to Kashmir in the early 1970s.

He said the initiative was led by Dr Akhtar Hussain, the then Scientist In-charge of the Field Station and founder Director of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow.

Dr Shawl said that after extensive efforts on varietal improvement, a new variety of lavender was developed and its large-scale cultivation began at the Pulwama Station. "Further genetic



improvements led to the introduction of the variety known as B-18. With the propagation of this new variety among farmers, Kashmir used to produce around 700-800 kg of lavender oil," he said, adding that Kashmir is the only temperate zone where even Mediterranean plants can be cultivated.

To promote lavender cultivation among farmers and small producers, the government introduced a buy-back scheme and connected growers with various businesses utilising lavender oil.

"Lavender cultivation was also promoted through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, providing entrepreneurs with technical assistance and knowledge sharing for large-scale production," the scientist said. "Distillation facilities at the Field Station were made available to growers under the PPP mode for oil extraction. Some entrepreneurs were also encouraged to cultivate lavender on government land holdings."

In around 2005, then Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who had a

LG Interacts With Officer Trainees Of ICLS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday interacted with the Officer Trainees of 2022 Batch of Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS), at Raj Bhawan.

The Officer Trainees, led by Deputy ROC J&K, Sh Haamid Bukhari, shared the experience and learning from their visit to Jammu Kashmir, as a part of Domestic Study Tour.

They also briefed the Lt Governor on the functioning of the offices of Registrar of Companies (ROCs) and the dual mandate of ICLS in maintaining the Regulation, developmental role as well as effective enforcement of multiple corporate laws.

The Lt Governor extended his best wishes and asked the probationers to work with honesty and dedication in regulating and enforcing corporate laws.



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Zubair chairs public darbar in Pulwama

Reiterates commitment of the Government to enhance public services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Zubair Ahmad, chaired a public darbar at Pulwama, as a part of Public Outreach Programme of the Government, to assess and redress grievances and demands of the public.

During the Darbar, delegations, members of various associations and individuals brought to fore a range of issues, including the need for the macadamization of certain roads, access to clean drinking water supply in some areas, establishment of playgrounds, adequate street lighting, installation of signboards, issues of persons with disabilities, restoration of springs & improvement of health facilities.

Responding to the concerns raised, the Commissioner Secretary directed all concerned to take immediate action on certain issues that could be resolved immediately. For other matters requiring further attention, he flagged some for consideration of District Administration and assured to



take the genuine left out issues to the government for appropriate resolution. He emphasized on collaborative effort between government officials and the general public to secure a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in addressing the needs of the people.

The event also underscored the administration's dedication in fostering an inclusive and participatory decision-making process, where citizens are encouraged to voice their concerns and contribute to their development. Such initiatives not only serve to

address immediate challenges but also pave the way for sustainable solutions that enhance the overall well-being of the populace.

Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary also inspected stalls set up by various departments and assessed the progress made under different schemes, focusing on achieving the predetermined targets. These stalls showcased a wide range of products and government schemes and services aimed at benefiting the public. Later he also distributed sanction

letters, golden cards and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries of various schemes.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr Basharat Qayoom, who was present in the Darbar deliberated on various issues and apprised the participants about efforts and interventions being made by the district administration for public welfare and development in the district. Additional District Development Commissioner, District Officers of various Departments, Civil Society members and general public were present on the occasion.

JKTPO's e-Commerce Onboarding Drive empowers local Entrepreneurs in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In a significant move to promote local entrepreneurship, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla organized an e-Commerce onboarding drive at Dakbungalow Baramulla.

This initiative aims to bolster economic growth by enhancing the potential of local entrepreneurs.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by the General Manager District Industry Center Baramulla, addressed the forum. In his address, the DC underscored the pivotal role of digital commerce in business growth, providing valuable insights into the e-Commerce network and its numerous benefits.

The primary objective of the drive was to reach out to the grassroots levels, promoting local products and educating entrepreneurs and artisans on the advantages of selling prod-



ucts on e-Commerce platforms. This effort is part of a series of planned drives across the Union Territory aimed at onboarding local products onto e-Commerce platforms.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 250 attendees, including women entrepreneurs, retailers, artisans, exporters, growers, and FPOs. It highlighted the advantages of onboarding onto e-Commerce platforms, encouraging participants to join the online marketplace.

During the day-long event, 25 participants were registered on the spot, free of charge, while others began the onboarding process. Detailed sessions by experts elaborated on the benefits of e-Commerce platforms, enhancing participants' understanding and readiness.

The drive aligns with JKTPO's commitment to supporting local exporters by providing diverse marketing platforms and forward linkages.

Representatives from

JKTPO emphasized the importance of the ODOP (One District One Product) and DEH (District Export Hub) initiatives. Additionally, a representative from GeM (Government e-Marketplace) provided a detailed presentation on the registration process and facilitated participant onboarding onto the GeM portal.

A highlight of the event was the one-on-one onboarding sessions, enabling sellers and partners to integrate directly into the GeM marketplace. This hands-on approach allowed participants to swiftly join the digital marketplace.

The event showcased the commitment of JKTPO and the District Administration to empower local entrepreneurs, facilitating their entry into the global e-Commerce landscape. By providing a platform for small businesses to reach a global audience, this initiative aims to boost economic growth and create sustainable opportunities for the vibrant entrepreneurial community in Jammu and Kashmir.

DDC B'la reviews expansion work on Srinagar-Baramulla NH1

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Monday carried out a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing construction and road widening projects along the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway NH1, specifically from Narbal to Uri, during his on-site visit.

During the visit, the DDC conducted a thorough on-site inspection of major construction sites, including the Khanpora Bypass, Delina Flyover, Sangrama Flyover, and other significant locations.

The executing officers briefed the DDC with a comprehensive update covering the current status, progress, projected timeline, challenges, and various aspects related to

the ongoing construction activities.

During the progress review, the DDC directed the executing agencies to accelerate their efforts and ensure the project is completed on schedule, underscoring that timely completion will provide substantial benefits to commuters by notably decreasing travel time.

Minga Sherpa further directed the officers of the various departments to collaborate and swiftly address any impediments hindering construction work ensuring a smooth and timely progression of the project.

The DDC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina and a team of officers from various departments during his visit.

DDC B'la chairs DLIC meeting, reviews implementation of PMVS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa on Monday chaired a meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the meeting hall of DC office here to review the progress of saturation of PM Vishwakarma scheme in the district.

At the outset, the chair provided a comprehensive overview of progress made with respect to the implementation of Vishwakarma scheme in the district since its inception.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on various aspects for the successful implementation of the scheme and specifically focused on the applications pertaining to the 'Tailor' and 'Mason' trades which have seen disproportionate

enrollment as compared to other trades.

During the meeting, the DC directed for the formation of a dedicated committee which will oversee and ensure exhaustive verification of applications received through the portal pertaining to Tailor and Masonry trades for district Baramulla.

The DC further directed that the committee should ensure that only those artisans who have acquired necessary skills and are engaged in the trade currently should be verified as per the PM Vishwakarma guidelines.

The meeting was attended by the General Manager, DIC, Nighat Alam; Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla, Javaid Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Shabir Ahmad Hakak and other concerned officers.

DC G'bal inaugurates new Administrative Block in Safapora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir in presence of DDC member Safapora, Ab Rashid Monday inaugurated a new administrative complex at Block Safapora, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the locals.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani; Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Bashir Ahmad; Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, BDO Safapora besides other officers and local public were also present on the occasion.

The new two-storey building is a modern facility equipped with state-of-the-art amenities aimed at enhancing the administrative efficiency and overall functioning of the Block. This facility includes spacious offices, meeting rooms, and a central

office for the BDO, AEE R&B, Naib Tehsildar, all designed to create a conducive environment for the administration to work effectively.

During the inauguration, the DC highlighted the administration's commitment to addressing the needs of the locals and enhancing the efficiency of public service delivery. He said that the new administrative block would play a crucial role in streamlining administrative processes and provide better facilities for the residents of Safapora.

The DC emphasized that the district administration prioritizes creating public infrastructure and providing facilities directly to the people's doorsteps.

He dedicated the new administrative complex to the people of Safapora and commended the DDC member Safapora for his pivotal role in the construction of the complex.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of SAMAGRA Shiksha projects



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Monday chaired a meeting of Officers to review the progress of various SAMAGRA Shiksha projects in the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) authorities to expedite the pace of ongoing works and ensure the timely completion of all projects.

He emphasized the importance of these projects in enhancing the educational landscape of Kulgam and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards this goal and ensure timely completion of these works.

The DC also highlighted the need for quality assurance in all works undertaken and reiterated the administration's commitment to improving the educational facilities for the students of Kulgam.

The meeting concluded with directives for regular monitoring and follow-up to track the progress and resolve any emerging issues promptly.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including Joint Director Planning (JDP) Zahid Sajjad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Executive Engineer (Exen) of R&B, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), and other officers.

B'pora Admin launches dedicated Cleanliness Campaign in Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The valley of Gurez, known for its breathtaking landscape, balmy climate, and mesmerizing scenery, is witnessing a huge rush of tourists these days, which include both local as well as non-local tourists.

In view of the large tourist influx, the District Administration, Bandipora launched a dedicated cleanliness campaign and constituted teams to monitor cleanliness campaigns and to enforce cleanliness standards effectively.

As per order issued by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Shakeel ul

Rehman, different teams of officials from different departments have been constituted to ensure implementation of prohibition on entry, sale, and carrying of polythene bags in sub division Gurez.

The teams shall monitor overall cleanliness/violation in their respective jurisdiction under the supervision of Tehsildar concerned, reads an order.

Pertinent to mention that, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora issued an order on 28th May 2024, prohibiting entry, sale and carrying of Polythene bags in Sub Division Gurez.

An order reads that, In the interest of conservation

of ecology and environment of Gurez Valley, and as part of eco-tourism and sustainable tourism measures, I shakeel ul Rehman, District Magistrate Bandipora do hereby order that there shall be complete prohibition on entry, sale and carrying of polythene bags in sub-division Gurez

The DC said that the move is aimed to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents and visitors.

He said that the surge in tourist influx to Gurez valley makes it even more critical to maintain our valley's cleanliness.

In his message, the DC urged all residents and

visitors to not litter and join this noble endeavor to make Gurez Valley a pristine and sustainable destination and cooperate with the administration in preserving the pristine beauty of Gurez.

In another order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, the administration has imposed a ban on the installation of temporary tents by tourists and visitors for overnight stays in the area, which was earlier permitted. This measure is part of efforts to manage the environmental impact of increased tourism and to preserve the natural habitat of Gurez Valley.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
 Single Cover System
 ENIT NO. 10 OF R&B / CHADOORA/ 1724-33 of 2024-25 DATED: 15/07/2024
 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/D/Doc (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Re-Construction of Damaged Culvert at Wangipora Kenihama by way of 1.50 x1.50 Mtr (Internal) Span RCC Box Type Culvert.	4.92	200.00	9840.00	12	3054 M&R	DEE

Position of AAA: - Accorded
 Position of TS: - Sanctioned
 Project Authority: Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15/07/2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15/07/2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	15/07/2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	22/07/2024 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	22/07/2024 at 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 1724-33
 Dated: 15/07/2024
 DIPK-3012-24
 DT: 15/07/2024
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Chadoora

Modi crossing 100 million followers on X proud moment: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi crossing 100 million followers on his X handle is a proud moment for the country and he has emerged as a global statement, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

Singh was talking to reporters after addressing the inaugural session of the orientation programme for the fresh batch of MBA students of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at its Jagti campus here.

Asked about Modi crossing the 100-million mark on X the previous day, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said everyone is proud about the milestone.

"The kind of popularity he (Modi) enjoys across the world as the longest serving head of state, most of the other heads of state in other parts in fact look upto him for his advice... he has emerged as a global leader, a global statement, a global counsellor to the galaxy of other heads of state across the world," he said.

Earlier addressing the students, Singh called upon the students to gear themselves up in order to take the leadership role of India of 2047.

"Youth will be the architects of a developed India



when it completes the centenary of its Independence in 2047," he said, adding the government is making tireless efforts to equip its younger generation with new skills and training and world-class education to mould them into architects of a developed India.

"National Education Policy 2020 brought by the prime minister will contribute to this goal," he said.

The Union minister said start-ups require strong industry management linkage for their sustainability and institutions like IIM have an important role to play in it.

Singh said most of the successful start-up stories have been possible due to strong industry linkages.

"For example, in Aroma mission, the government became an enabler by ensuring capacity building of those engaged in agri start-ups in lavender and facilitating the market access to spur sale of

Himalayan products like lavender-made perfumes and other products," he explained.

The minister said tapping the Himalayan bio-resources and unexplored minerals along coastal areas can make great value addition to India's economy and boost 'Atma-Nirbharta' (self-dependence).

"India's coastal states and Himalayan states and UTs like J&K have a lot to offer to the country's future economy," he said.

Talking about the aspirational generation, the minister said better things are happening under the leadership of Modi.

"Start-ups are booming and, as a result, new opportunities are opening. Technology has been a great leveller so that everybody from every region has an opportunity," he said.

The minister said the youth must harness the technology which has created a level-playing field,

for societal good while earlier, the technology was a privilege of a few.

On IIM Jammu's progress, Singh said in just a few years of its establishment, it has risen to become one of the better ones among the new lot of such premiere institutions of higher learning in the country.

"Beginning from infancy, when we were finding difficulty even to find faculty, it has come a long way in its small journey," he said.

He said the establishment of IIM Jammu is a significant step towards realising his dream of providing quality education and producing leaders who will drive the nation towards unprecedented growth and development to achieve the target of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Singh advocated for forging collaboration and synergy among institutions for greater benefit to their students.

"The age of working in silos is over. The era of collaboration is here," the minister declared, encouraging IIM Jammu, AIMS Jammu, IIT Jammu and Central University of Jammu to enter into partnership by inking memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on research and development and artificial intelligence.

BJP alone can wipe out terrorism in J&K: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: Blaming the Congress, NC and PDP for compromising the national security during their tenures of governance in terror stricken Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana Monday said the decisive, assertive and bold NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone is capable of combating terrorism with iron fists.

Addressing the media after a party meeting at District party headquarters here this afternoon, Mr Devender Rana reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the BJP to safeguarding the lives of people and upholding the territorial integrity of the nation.

He referred to the multi-pronged strategy adopted during the past over a decade in dismantling terror networks and isolating its ecosystem post Article 370 abrogation, saying this led to a discernible transformation in the security situation with businesses, tourism



and other socio-economic activities gaining momentum in the Kashmir Valley. Unnerved by the huge turnaround in the overall scenario, the terror masters across the neighbouring rogue nation unleashed isolated acts of terrorism in the Jammu region with tacit cover of residual ecosystem. They know that terrorism is taking its last breath in this part of the country due to synergized operations by the security forces and active support of the people, he added.

Devender Rana said the BJP's robust approach to counter terrorism will make the terror regime lick the dust. They are destined to complete annihilation on the face of an abject

rejection of radicalised ideology by forward looking people of Jammu and Kashmir, who believe in inclusivity and harmony. It is this innate strength of the people that has marginalized the Pakistan sponsored terror grid and its ecosystem, which has been sustaining on boiling Kashmir. He said the people of the Union Territory in general and the Valley in particular have developed stakes in peace and that is what bothers terror monsters.

Referring to the Prime Minister's firm resolve of overcoming the challenges and building a safer and more secure future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Rana said

this has instilled a sense of confidence among all to face the situation with grit and resilience.

Devender Rana cautioned the people to remain vigilant from elements inimical to peace, saying their machinations to create confusion and apprehensions are play to derail the peace process. Such elements have always played politics on graveyards and therefore they are required to be shown their rightful place if Jammu and Kashmir has to progress and become the country's growth story. He exuded confidence that the people will continue to support the country's strong leadership in the larger interests of peace.

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in Keran, 3 foreign terrorists killed: Army



WARIS FAYAZ

KUPWARA: Security forces on Monday said they eliminated three hardcore foreign terrorists who attempted to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran Sector of north Kashmir's frontier Kupwara district. A large quantity of arms, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered from their possession.

During a joint press conference, Commander 268 Infantry Brigade, Keran Sector, Brigadier NR Kulkarni, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of the district, Shobhit Saxena, informed the media about the operation.

Brigadier Kulkarni said that for the past few weeks, intelligence inputs indicated that terrorists were trying to infiltrate the LoC along the Keran Sector, intending to carry out sabotage and subversive activities, particularly aiming to disrupt the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

"On July 12, specific intelligence inputs were provided by their agencies, which were corroborated by the Jammu & Kashmir Police, regarding a group of foreign terrorists likely to infiltrate by leveraging the dense forest cover and

thick undergrowth along the nullahs. In response, multiple ambushes were jointly laid by the army, police, and the BSF from the night of July 13 to 14 along the infiltration routes," he said, adding that the area was monitored and kept under surveillance.

Brigadier Kulkarni said that on July 14, around 15:00 hours, heavily armed and well-trained terrorists, equipped with sophisticated weapons, attempted to infiltrate across the LoC, taking advantage of the dense forest cover and poor visibility due to unfavourable weather conditions. "This triggered intense firefights. In the ensuing battle, three hardcore foreign terrorists were neutralised," he said.

Following the gun battle, a thorough search operation was conducted in the area, leading to the recovery of a large quantity of war-like stores, including three AK series rifles along with magazines, four pistols, grenades, and more," Brigadier Kulkarni said, adding, "This successful intelligence-based operation, named Operation Dhanush II, exemplifies the close synergy between the Indian Army, BSF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police."—(KNO)

Security forces will soon crush terrorism with resilience, valour: Kavinder

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Monday expressed unwavering confidence in the capability and dedication of security forces dealing with terrorism.

In a statement issued to media persons, the senior BJP leader emphasized on the importance of solidarity and support for the brave men combating terrorism from the front. He said that re-emergence of terror in some parts of Jammu Province will soon be crushed by the security forces through resilience, bravery, and utter professionalism, as these are already on job to take violence mongers head on.

Highlighting the recent terror incidents especially the Kathua terror attack, Kavinder condemned the same, and reassured the public that every necessary measure shall be taken by the security forces to ensure the safety and security of the region.

"These cowardly acts of terrorism are desperate attempts to destabilize the Jammu

the people. However, they will not succeed. Our security forces are well-equipped and prepared to handle any threat posed by these terror mongers," he said and called upon the citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with the security agencies by reporting any suspicious activities.

"The fight against terrorism is not just the responsibility of our security forces, rather it is a collective effort. We must all play our part by staying alert and supporting our security forces in every possible way," he maintained while praising the government's ongoing efforts to enhance the capabilities of the security forces through better training, advanced equipment, and improved intelligence networks.

The former deputy Chief Minister said that the BJP Government under the realms of PM Narendra Modi is committed to provide all necessary resources to security forces to help them in bolstering the security of the region and enable them to eliminate every single entity indulged in terror activities. (KNS)

Kashmir's Real Estate Market Sees Surge in Newlywed Investors

MUBASHIR AALAM WANI

SRINAGAR: In a surprising trend, newlywed couples in Kashmir have emerged as the primary customers in the local real estate market.

As per the real estate agents, many couples are investing in properties, often selling their gold jewellery to fund these purchases.

Sajad Ahmad Khan, a real estate agent said newlywed couples comprise their almost 40 per cent clientele in Kashmir.

"We often get queries from newlywed couples. They are interested in investing their savings into the real estate sector, which in Kashmir has been witnessing a vertical growth. Almost daily, we receive 10-15 calls from newlywed couples for purchase of plots, houses and flats," he said.

The surge in demand for real estate agents is attributed to a combination of factors, including rising aspirations for homeownership and the desire for stability amid ongoing economic changes.

Real estate agents report a significant increase in

inquiries from young couples looking to buy their first home.

According to local developers, newlyweds are drawn to various housing options, from apartments to family homes, as they seek to establish a secure foundation for their future.

The practice of selling gold, traditionally seen as a symbol of wealth and security, has become a practical solution for these couples to finance their property investments.

"Newlywed couples are now more focused on building assets rather than simply acquiring jewellery. They view real estate as a long-term investment that can provide stability and growth over time," said Imran Malik, a real estate agent in Srinagar.

Zuhaib Ahmad, owner of property developing firm Valley Real Estate said the real estate is slightly getting back to normalcy after sluggish demand for a long period.

"For the last few weeks, we have been getting some clientele but their number is very less. In coming months, we may witness some activity in the sector," Zuhaib said—(KNO)

SANCTUARY FOR AMARNATH YATRIS

Baltal offers refuge to pilgrims as devotee number crosses 3 lakh



RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Amid the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, the base camp at Baltal has become a hive of activity with scores of pilgrims embarking on their spiritual journey to the Holy Cave. Enroute, langars (community kitchens) are serving as a lifeline for yatriss offering them food and water. Since June 29, the 52 day yatra is proceeding smoothly from both the shortest Baltal route and the traditional Nunwan-Pahalgam track.

According to sources, thousands of yatriss (pilgrims) are departing daily from both routes towards the Cave.

A pilgrim Shekhar Gupta from Delhi hailed the arrangements saying it ensures comfort to pilgrims.

Similarly, Kavita Raj, who traveled from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh highlighted the administration's efforts in catering to the needs and requirements of the yatriss while highlighting the importance of do's and don'ts for a safe and secure yatra.

A duo from Panchkula appreciated the authorities for their efficient services, clean sanitation and quick issuance of RFID cards.

A volunteer who has been serving pilgrims for 32 years has praised the exceptional support and assistance from the Shrine Board and other government departments in managing the Bhandara. The arrangements for the yatra are truly commendable, they said. The widening of the yatra tracks has made the journey even more comfortable and enjoyable for every pilgrim. The excellent organization and facilities have enabled pilgrims to have a wonderful experience."

The Amarnath Yatra continues to be a well-coordinated event, with dedicated efforts from various

departments ensuring a memorable pilgrimage for all devotees.

Meanwhile, over 3 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine in the first 16 days of the yatra, higher than the corresponding period last year, officials said on Monday.

The officials said 14,974 pilgrims visited the shrine for a darshan. The total number of pilgrims who have visited the shrine so far this year has climbed to 3,09,977. Among the 14,974 pilgrims who performed darshan today included 9735 male, 3435 female, 145 children, 230 Sadhus, one Sadhvi and 1378 security forces and service providers.

While 4875 pilgrims left from Bhagawati Nagar Yatri Niwas here towards the twin base camps of Nunwan Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district under tight security arrangements in a cavalcade of 162 light and heavy vehicles. The batch included 3464 Men, 1333 Women, 14 Children, 57 Sadhus & 7 Sadhvis (female sadhus).

Of these 1918 pilgrims left for Baltal base camp at 3:05 AM and 2957 for Pahalgam base camp at 3:50 AM from where they will proceed for their further journey to the holy cave. All these pilgrims reached their respective base camps by this evening wherefrom they will proceed towards holy cave early tomorrow morning for darshan.

Officials said that the pilgrims who had reached twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also proceeded towards holy cave early this morning while those having night haltage at Chandawari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni halting stations also started their onwards journey early this morning while—(KNO)

Secretary Health reviews healthcare arrangements for Muharram

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the 10th Muharram, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Monday visited Zadibal and adjoining areas to assess the healthcare facilities being provided during the auspicious occasion.

Dr. Abid visited the shrine of Mir Shamsuddin Iraqi (RA) at Khushal Sar, the main Imam Bara of Zadibal, and took firsthand appraisal of the facilities being provided to the people. He also visited the UPHC Zadibal and had a detailed round of all sections of the hospital.

The Secretary directed the Director Health Services Kashmir to ensure that the best possible services are provided to the people

during Muharram.

He was accompanied by the Director Health Services Kashmir, Deputy Director Health Services, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar and other officers of the department.

Dr. Abid interacted with the senior citizens and Intizamia Committee members, who expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements being made and the services being provided. He assured them that the department will provide best possible healthcare facilities to the people during Muharram.

"The Health Department is committed towards providing quality healthcare services to the people, especially during important religious occasions like Muharram", maintained the Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC HOSPITAL DIVISION KASHMIR

E-mail: hdepwdkrm@gmail.com

NIT No.: HDE/16 of 2024-25 Dated: 12/07/2024 For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of J&K, sealed bids (Two Cover) valid for 180 days are invited from Registered Electrical Contractors / OEMs / firms having sufficient experience of the relevant job for the following works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (2%) (in Rs Lacs)	Cost of tender documents (Rs) (Non - Refundable)	Head	Time of Completion
1	Electrification of New Post Graduate Boys Hostel of Govt. Medical College Srinagar	52.56	1.06	3000/-	Capex	90 days

The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website <https://jktenders.gov.in>

CRITICAL DATES

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	12/07/2024
2	Document download Start Date	12/07/2024 at 2:30 p.m.
3	Document download End Date	26/07/2024 at 3:30 p.m.
4	Bid submission Start Date (Online)	12/07/2024 at 2:30 p.m.
5	Bid submission End Date (Online)	26/07/2024 at 3:30 p.m.
6	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	27/07/2024 at 3:30 p.m.

DIPK-2990-24 DT: 15/07/2024

Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) Electric Hospital Division, Srinagar.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Climate Change Predictions

A weather studying app has suggested massive overhaul changes in weather patterns which includes increasing heat, humidity, and more precipitation during summer and winter months. The app gives us an idea that Jammu would look like any district in the Thar desert of Rajasthan while Kashmir valley would resemble places like Reasi. This is indeed a horrifying scenario as increased desertification of Kashmir would rip it of its pristine weather conditions hampering the prospects of tourism in the future. The app suggested all this could be happening in the next three to four decades. The whole silver lining is that if carbon emissions are restricted to an acceptable level then only can we postpone this desertification for another three decades but eventually with increase in population and lesser number of trees and imminent desertification will happen. A famous political philosopher once said that the third world war would be fought over water. If we see the above report that we can easily deduce that the philosopher was not way off the mark. With this level of gradual desertification, water would be the most costliest item, perhaps costlier than silver and copper. Men has machines and when water supplies run out there would be wars over water. This tragedy can be averted only and only if we put a curb on carbon emissions right now and adopt environment-friendly fuels for locomotion and industry.

The very prospect of seeing Jammu city desert Jaisalmer or Jodhpur is frightening. They say in another two to three decades Jammu city could resemble any part of Rajasthan. Kashmir has been predicted to look like Reasi or Ramban. And that leads us to the next question, do apples grow in Reasi? No, is the answer. That effectively means that once the desertification sets in the first casualty could be our horticulture sector which has the potential to break the back of our economy. God forbid if this scenario happens people would be forced to migrate to other places for work.

Let us cling on the silver lining in this report and plant more trees, lessen pollution and carbon emissions. Let us grow for vertical expansion so that we still have enough land for our forests and paddy fields. Let us keep Kashmir as Kashmir, a pleasant heaven known for a pleasant climate!

Marriage - A Delicate Balance



SYED MAJID GILANI

Marriage is a beautiful institution, divinely designed and celebrated on earth. In every religion and society, the roles of husbands and wives are well-defined. A good husband and wife relationship is built on mutual trust, respect, and understanding. This foundation is essential for a harmonious and joyful married life.

A good husband is truthful, faithful, and trustworthy, with unwavering dedication to his wife. He is transparent in all dealings, committed to their relationship, and dependable in all aspects. He stands by his wife through thick and thin, supporting her in all genuine endeavors. He encourages and supports her dreams, goals, and aspirations, and values her positive thoughts and ideas. Such a husband is a treasure to his wife and family. Unfortunately, such husbands are often misunderstood and underappreciated. They desire joy, happiness, and love only from their spouses, but often face neglect and mistreatment. Despite facing neglect and mistreatment, a good husband remains loving, caring, and respectful, seeking a deeper connection and reciprocity in his relationship with his wife, built on mutual trust, faithfulness, and support. Their unwavering commitment to their marriage and family is admirable and deserves recognition.

On the other hand, a good wife is kind, respectful, family-oriented,



and embraces cultural and traditional values. She understands the importance of her husband's role and shows affection, gratitude, and obedience. She maintains a good relationship with his family and avoids unnecessary interference from her own relatives. Her supportive nature and care for her husband's well-being are essential for a harmonious marriage. To cherish a harmonious married life, a wife should avoid dominating, dictating, or subordinating her husband, instead striving to meet his needs and respecting his authority. She should be considerate of his financial situation and avoid being overly demanding. By doing so, she

can create a joyful and harmonious union that deserves their utmost care and dedication.

A successful marriage requires a delicate balance of strength and fragility, care and dedication. By embracing each other's roles and aspirations, husbands and wives can create a beautiful and harmonious union that brings joy and happiness to both partners. This balance is crucial, as it allows both partners to grow and flourish together. In a successful marriage, both partners complement each other's strengths and weaknesses. They work together as a team, supporting each other through life's challenges. They communicate effectively, listen actively,

and understand each other's needs. Such a marriage is a beautiful union that brings joy and happiness to both partners and their families.

In conclusion, a successful marriage requires effort and dedication from both partners. By embracing each other's roles and aspirations, husbands and wives can create a beautiful and harmonious union that brings joy and happiness to both partners. By understanding and appreciating each other's strengths and weaknesses, they can build a strong and lasting relationship.

Syed Majid Gilani is a GST Inspector and writer. He can be mailed at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Teaching Beyond Classrooms

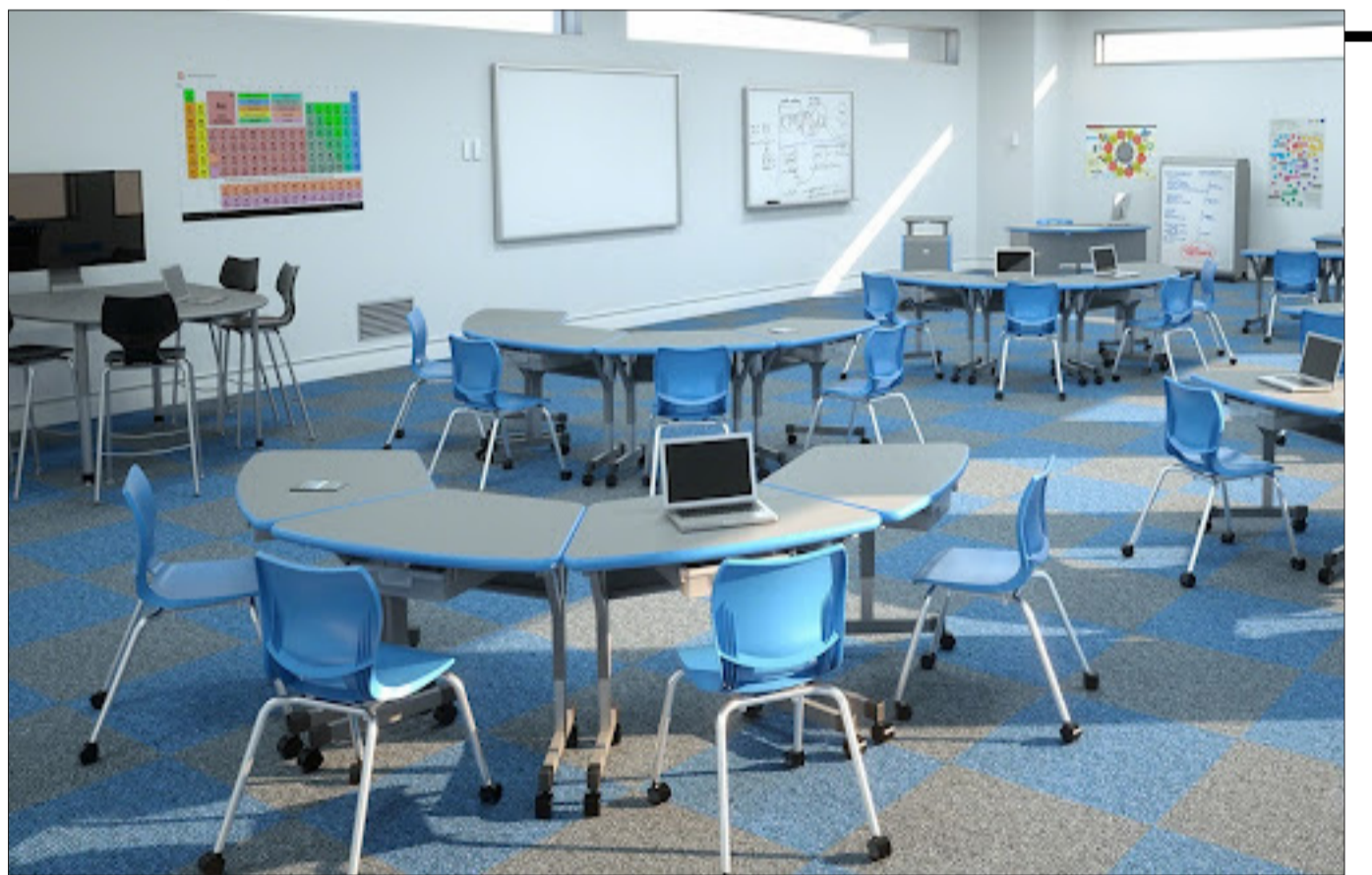


QYSAR UL ISLAM SHAH

Overcoming the adversities associated with primitive teaching methodologies of modern education is imparting knowledge more effectively and impeccably. The education system is adapting itself to the new realities and getting rid

During my schooling days determination of the entire content in school was always summed up within the four walls, the curriculum was pre-determined, bookish, and narrowly conceived, internet was the distant dream.

of the age-old techniques and approaches that ruled teaching and learning for centuries. With the advent of science and technology, perception of teachings got immensely modified from primary to higher level.



The confined classrooms are being replaced with modern methodologies aiming to inculcate critical thinking, learning outcomes, techno-savvy knowledge, and information.

Students engaged in learning experiences outside of the classroom report having higher levels of motivation recall the course material more vividly and have proven academic performance in the class at a satisfactory level. Learning beyond the classroom is an active process wherein students encounter authentic problems, first-hand cum concrete learning, construct novel hypotheses, test for real situations, and interact with others to make sense of the world around them.

Let me appraise you all, the teachings beyond the prescribed content. During my schooling days determination of the entire content in school was always summed up within the four walls, the curriculum was pre-determined, bookish, and narrowly conceived, internet was the distant dream. I recall

my days when students in the classroom persuaded one of our instructors to simulate teaching, and the way attention, motivation, discipline, and accuracy we used to maintain gave the entire class a scintillating experience.

Advancements in technologies in contemporary times make it relatively easy and affordable for students to bring digital technology with them when they leave the classroom. Within the classroom the teacher can use drone footage, mobile apps, and programs like Google Earth to bring an outdoor environment inside the classroom, thus bringing far-away or inaccessible outdoor phenomena to all students.

Over the past few years, many advanced technological methods have emerged in the field of science such as tablets and satellites that have completely replaced manual or obsolete methods of teaching. Confining in one place and attending lectures passively has no place in the present scenario. Teachers now can use modern methods

to create an easy learning environment for students and help them to be more creative. The smart board-the high-resolution computer screen controlled by touch has revolutionized teaching methods and techniques.

Using technology the right way makes learning easier and more accessible and builds the foundation for lifelong learning. Beyond classroom teaching prepares not only for government jobs but also creates employability. Teenage students are extremely fascinated with technology and wouldn't they be? From virtual reality to augmented reality, these children are experiencing it all. Employing differentiated learning techniques is an excellent way to keep students engaged in their lessons. Beyond classroom teachings, teachers can use the right examples and start from what the students already know to make learning more engaging and enjoyable. Such a teaching method ensures that the students are attentive in the classroom right

from the beginning and able to connect to it based on their existing knowledge.

Teaching behind classrooms involves modern teaching methods focused on student-centric learning, active participation, and the use of technology and real-world application. Modern and activity-based teaching enhances critical thinking, problem-solving, thought-provoking, and utilization of digital tools and resources to enhance the learning experience. Within the four walls, we are bound to a limited range of content, while beyond classrooms have a wide range of content. Teaching styles have changed significantly over the years. The traditional way that education was delivered was through recitation and memorization techniques whereas the modern way of doing things involves interactive methods. Focusing on the broader concept of teaching is the real essence of education.

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

Good Morning **Kashmir**

Printer, Publisher, Owner, Editor in Chief:

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor:

Mir Suhail

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

Manager:

Peer Sajad

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

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

>>> Deep Investigation

Teaching Methods From The Quran



FAROOQ AHMAD BAKLOO

The Quran, treasured by Muslims as the sacred book bearing Allah's words revealed to Prophet Muhammad, in 23 years, is not only a spiritual guide but also a valuable source of instructional approaches. Providing insights that are relevant in modern educational environments. This article dives into the many teaching methods outlined in the Quran, emphasising their significance and effectiveness.

Storytelling

Central to the Quranic approach is the art of storytelling. Throughout its verses, narratives abound, from the stories of prophets and nations to parables that convey profound moral lessons. Storytelling serves multiple purposes: it captivates audiences of all ages, simplifies complex concepts, and embeds moral teachings within vivid contexts. For instance, the story of Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) not only illustrates themes of patience and resilience but also offers practical insights into interpersonal relations and governance.

Classroom Implication

Storytelling is a powerful way to capture students' attention and convey complex ideas in an engaging manner. Teachers can use stories to impart lessons in their respective subjects, especially in social sciences. For example, a teacher can craft lessons from the narratives they wish to teach. To make the lesson more engaging, the teacher can use the local language to make the stories more relatable. This approach helps students connect with the material on a personal level.

Significance of Storytelling

Modern educational research consistently highlights storytelling as a powerful and effective teaching method. Its ability to engage students, enhance memory and retention, promote critical thinking, support cultural and moral development, and improve language and social skills makes it a valuable tool in any educator's repertoire. By leveraging the natural human affinity for stories, teachers can create rich, immersive learning experiences that resonate with students and foster lifelong learning.

Encouragement of deep observation and engaging the Senses and Intellect

In several Quranic verses, believers are encouraged to observe the world around them with keen senses and intellect. Allah repeatedly invites humanity to reflect upon natural phenomena and their own existence. For instance, in Surah Al-A'raf (7:179), Allah admonishes those who possess faculties yet fail to comprehend spiritual truths. This method emphasizes the importance of sensory perception and intellectual reasoning in understanding divine messages, making learning not just a mental exercise but a holistic engagement of mind and spirit.

Classroom Implication

Encouraging students to observe and reflect on their surroundings can deepen their understanding of the subject matter. Teachers can organize outdoor activities and nature walks, where students can observe natural phenomena and relate them to their lessons, such as studying plant life in biology. On these observation walks students need to be instructed to observe the causes of different socio, ecological problems and then use their head to solve. In classrooms, teachers can conduct simple experiments and projects that require students to use their senses and intellect, like observing chemical reactions, and ask students to note their observations. This will also help them in developing research skills.

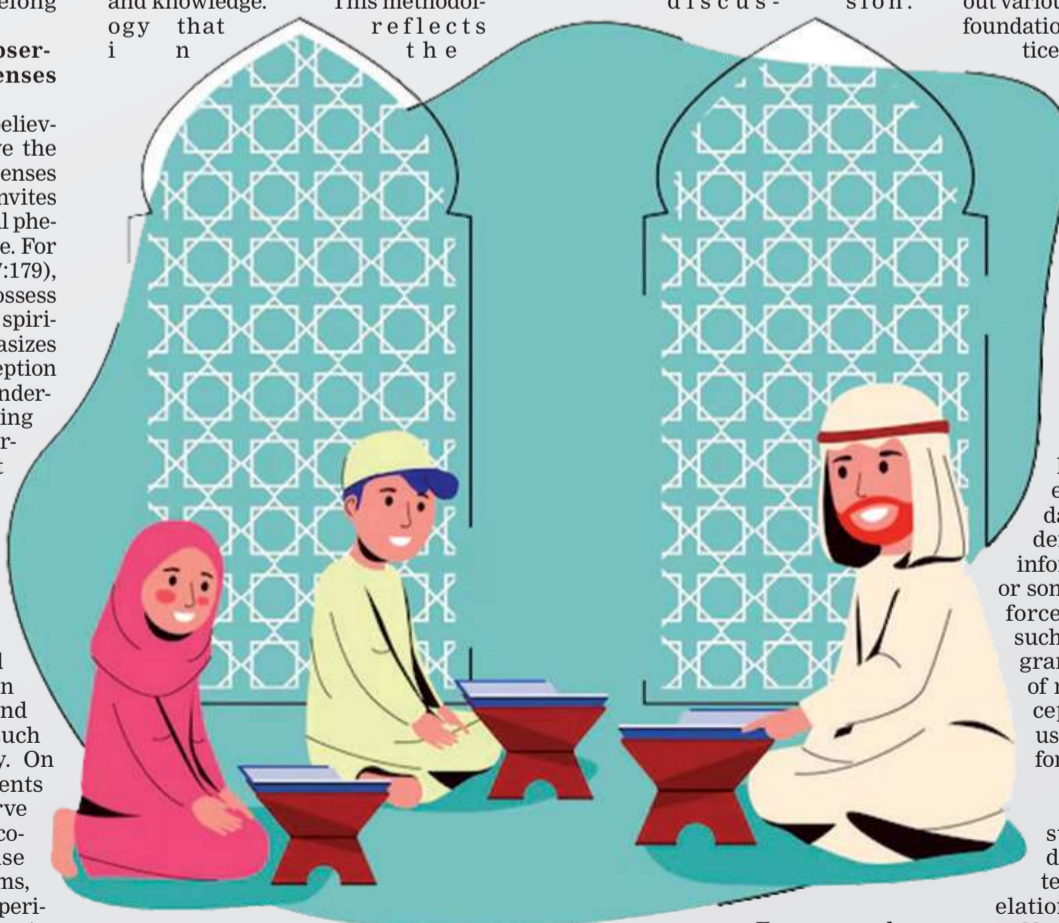
Interdisciplinary Approach

The Quran employs an interdisciplinary approach by incorporating diverse subjects such as cosmology, embryology, zoology, botany, history, and even physics into its teachings. For instance, Surah An-Nur (24:35)



poetically describes the phenomenon of light, while Surah Al-Furqan (25:53) contrasts the properties of different bodies of water. The Quran's references to the water cycle reflect a profound understanding of natural processes that were not fully comprehended in the scientific community until centuries later. Quran describe the entire cycle, from the evaporation and formation of clouds to precipitation, infiltration into the earth, and the flow of water in rivers and springs. This comprehensive depiction serves as a reminder of the intricate and purposeful design in nature, encouraging believers to reflect on the signs of God's wisdom and power. Besides this, the description of embryo development, The Quran's detailed description of embryonic development is seen as a remarkable convergence of faith and science. These verses, revealed in a time when such scientific knowledge was inaccessible, highlight the Quran's depth and the belief in divine revelation. The accuracy of these stages continues to inspire reflection and appreciation for the intricate processes of human development, reinforcing the Quran's role as a source of profound wisdom and knowledge.

This methodology that reflects the



Quran underscores the interconnectedness of knowledge and encourages a comprehensive understanding of the universe as a sign of Allah's creation.

Classroom Relevance

Integrating different subjects on a specific topic helps students to comprehend the lesson in a more tangible way. With this approach, students also acquire different perspectives on a single topic across various subjects.

Instructors can design lessons that combine subjects, such as a project on water conservation that includes elements of science, geography, sociology, political science, and environmental studies. Collaborative projects can encourage group work that requires students to apply knowledge from multiple disciplines, such as creating a model of a sustainable city or how mitigate the climate change at local level.

Question Answering

Throughout the Quran, rhetorical questions are posed to provoke introspection and critical thinking among believers. For example, in Surah Al-An'am (6:32), Allah challenges humanity to consider the origins of life and creation. This method fosters intellectual curiosity and encourages learners to seek deeper insights independently, promoting a dynamic engagement with the text and its teachings.

Classroom Implication

Teachers need to stimulate students' curiosity and critical thinking through questions to enhance their learning experience. This can be done by using open-ended questions to encourage deep thinking and discussion.

bles such as the metaphor of the good tree in Surah Ibrahim (14:24-26) highlight the importance of cultivating virtuous qualities, while contrasting the fate of believers and disbelievers serves to underscore the consequences of one's choices. Such vivid illustrations make abstract concepts tangible and relevant, aiding in moral guidance and character development.

Classroom Implication

Using examples and comparisons can make abstract concepts more tangible. Teachers can use real-life examples and relate lessons to real-life situations and current events. For instance, comparing historical events to contemporary issues can highlight their relevance. Teachers can also use analogies and metaphors to explain complex concepts, such as comparing the human body to a machine to teach biology.

Repetition of Important Messages and Core Concepts

Repetition is a prominent feature in the Quranic style, serving to reinforce essential messages and emphasize key teachings. For instance, the phrase "wa aqimoo as-salata wa atuz-zakata" (establish prayer and give charity) is reiterated throughout various chapters, emphasizing the foundational pillars of Islamic practice. This method ensures that fundamental principles are ingrained in the hearts and minds of believers, facilitating their application in daily life.

Classroom Implication

Repetition helps reinforce key concepts and ensure retention. Teachers can regularly review important topics and concepts through quizzes, discussions, or summarizing previous lessons. Furthermore, teachers can assign homework and practice exercises that reinforce the day's lessons, ensuring students revisit and retain key information. Repetitive chants or songs can also be used to reinforce important information, such as multiplication tables or grammar rules. This exercise of repetition of important concepts and key terms is very useful in memorizing the topic for a long period of time.

Gradual Learning

The Quran recognizes the stages of human cognitive development and adapts its teachings accordingly. Revelation occurred progressively over 23 years, accommodating the evolving needs and capacities of the early Muslim community. This gradual approach allowed concepts to be introduced incrementally, ensuring comprehension and retention while nurturing spiritual growth. It exemplifies a pedagogical strategy that considers the learner's readiness and supports sustained learning over time.

Classroom Implication

Teachers can use this approach to

introduce new concepts slowly, ensuring each step is understood before moving on. For example, teaching basic arithmetic before progressing to more complex calculations. Teachers can also provide tasks that cater to different learning levels within the classroom, ensuring that all students can progress at their own pace.

Focus on Dialogue: Facilitating Interactive Learning

The Quran frequently presents dialogues between prophets and their communities, illustrating effective communication strategies and addressing diverse perspectives. For instance, the conversations between Prophet Musa (Moses) and Pharaoh in Surah Ta Ha (20:44-48) demonstrate respectful discourse and persuasive argumentation in conveying divine messages. This method encourages interactive learning environments where questions are welcomed, viewpoints are respected, and understanding is nurtured through meaningful exchanges.

Classroom Implication

This approach of dialogue and interaction makes learning more dynamic. Teachers can encourage group discussions and peer teaching, where students can explain concepts to each other. Role-playing activities can simulate real-life situations and encourage active participation. Additionally, involving parents and community members in discussions about education and local issues can create a supportive learning environment.

Sum-up

To summarise, the Quran is not only a spiritual guide, but also a timeless repository of efficient teaching methods. From heart-warming storytelling to dynamic observation that engages the senses, from an interdisciplinary approach that connects knowledge streams to developing critical thinking through question answering, Quranic approaches are diverse and applicable. Embracing these techniques allows instructors to improve learning experiences, create holistic knowledge, and cultivate moral and intellectual growth in students, all while reflecting the profound wisdom inherent in the holy Quran.

Through these insights, we see the Quran not just as a scripture, but also as a profound educational guide that has inspired and illuminated minds for millennia. Teachers can produce interesting and effective educational experiences despite limited resources by adapting Quranic teaching methods to the setting of developing and underprivileged areas. Storytelling, vibrant observation, multidisciplinary approaches, question responding, examples and comparisons, repetition, slow learning, and dialogue may all be adjusted to local situations, making learning more relevant and impactful. Educators can use these strategies to encourage curiosity, stimulate critical thinking, and promote holistic development among pupils.

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SMC Ensures Seamless Observance Of 8Th Muharram Procession

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) reaffirmed its dedication to ensure seamless observance of the 8th Muharram Procession by providing essential civic facilities and is committed to enhance the overall experience for mourners, the Corporation meticulously monitored and facilitated key amenities during the significant procession.

SMC's proactive approach including close supervision of sanitation arrangements, provision of drinking water, deployment of mobile toilet vans,



and maintenance of street lighting to ensure the safety and comfort of all

involved. The collaborative efforts of designated SMC officials underscored the

importance of upholding cleanliness, hygiene, and safety standards through-

out the procession.

With a steadfast commitment to improve civic ame-

ilities and infrastructure, SMC actively participated in enhancing the overall

experience for mourners during the 8th Muharram Procession. By prioritizing public health, cleanliness, and convenience, the Corporation exemplified its dedication to promote a positive environment during religious observances.

Dr. Owais Ahmad IAS, Commissioner of SMC, commended the dedication and hard work of SMC officials for their round-the-clock efforts in providing seamless services during the 8th Muharram procession. Their commitment to excellence played a crucial role in ensuring a successful and safe observance of this important event.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Fight Against

the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) has a "reasonable standing" to propose measures against terrorism in the region.

Jaishankar said he is happy that Kazakhstan, during its chair, negotiated an updated programme to combat terrorism, separatism, and extremism, which was adopted at the Astana Summit, according to the transcript of the interview shared by the Ministry of External Affairs.

During the SCO New Delhi Summit last year, one of the two joint statements adopted was on 'Countering Radicalisation leading to Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism,' which included various elements of radicalisation - including ideology, media campaign, as well as radical and terrorist content on the internet, he said and added, "Kazakhstan, during their chairmanship, carried forward the spirit of that joint statement."

"The updated programme to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism is critical and timely. But I want to emphasise that what is more important is the actual implementation of the programme that we have now successfully drawn up, which includes an unambiguous commitment by all the Member States to getting rid of all forms and manifestations of terrorism in the region, including cross-border terrorism," the Minister said.

Speaking about the importance and potential impact of the two significant initiatives, related to terrorism and the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy, adopted at the Astana Summit, Jaishankar said, "Drug trafficking is another issue that we need to combat together, and is very closely related to two other issues in the region - terrorism and stability in Afghanistan."

"There is a consensus on the establishment of an Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe. This is a welcome move and is much needed. The Anti-Drug Centre together with the proposed Universal Centre will be an effective weapon in combating drug trafficking," Jaishankar added.

The Astana Declaration issued after the July 4 summit also said, "The Member States are unanimous in recognising the need to improve SCO mechanisms to counter security challenges and threats and expand specialised cooperation in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as drug trafficking, arms smuggling and other types of transnational organized crime."

"Today, after decades of taking measures against terrorism in global forums, including through the UN Security Council, terrorism continues to be a threat to the region. The UN-designated terror outfits are still functioning in the region," he said, referring to wanted Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists like Hafiz Saeed receiving state support.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. (Agencies)

Thousands Take

mourners participated in the procession since the wee hours of this morning.

The NGOs and other organizations had erected stalls today and over 300 volunteers—both from the Shia and Sunni communities, were providing water and other things to the mourners.

The administration had also made adequate arrangements for the procession; he said and appealed to the administration to allow the procession on 10th Muharram as well.

Moreover, several religious clerics, Molvi Imran Ansari, Molvi Masroor Abbas Ansari and Aga Syed Mujtuba also participated in the procession.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V.K. Birdi, made a compassionate gesture during the 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar by personally distributing water and refreshments among the mourners.

IGP Birdi commended the mourners for their disciplined conduct, emphasizing the importance of cooperation between the community and the police.

"The mourners are conducting the procession in a very peaceful manner," he stated. "Volunteers are cooperating with the police, and we are here to facilitate them."

Expressing the police force's dedication to serving the people, IGP Birdi added they are ready to protect and support the community at all times. "The message from

the police is clear: we are here to ensure the safety of the people of Kashmir and to serve them whenever needed," he added.

Regarding the upcoming 10th Muharram procession, IGP Birdi said that the decision to permit the event rests with the district administration.

Division Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri told reporters that arrangements this year are better than last year. "Security forces and the local administration have played a great role to facilitate the Muharram procession," he said. "Today's peaceful procession is the dividend of the peace process."—(KNO)

'Sabeels' Offer

turned into Sabeels, served as refreshing points, providing a range of beverages, tea, snacks and bread to mourners.

People associated with the operation of Sabeels said that the refreshment arrangements were made for the mourners, who had come early morning and had arrived from different parts of the valley.

"It is nothing new, establishing Sabeels or serving refreshment has been ages-old practice. It is just that people were not aware of it because the 8th Muharram procession was not allowed for decades," said a group of people associated with the operation of Sabeel.

Imran Ahmad, a mourner who had come from Budgam district, said that apart from serving water bottles to quench the thirst, the availability and volunteer service by Sabeels is much-needed during the Muharram mourning processions.

"Not only Srinagar, people have come from far-off areas and some have come very early and must be hungry. It is Sabeels only, who are providing them refreshment," he said—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

children, 57 Sadhus, and 7 Sadhvis.

"Of these, 1,918 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp at 3:05 AM and 2,957 for the Pahalgam base camp at 3:50 am, from where they will proceed on their further journey to the holy cave," the official said, adding that all these pilgrims reached their respective base camps by this evening, wherefrom they will proceed towards the holy cave early tomorrow morning for darshan.

He further added that the pilgrims who had reached the twin base camps of Baltal and Nunwan also proceeded towards the holy cave early this morning, while those having night haltage at Chandanwari, Sheshnag, and Panchtarni halting stations also started their onward journey early this morning.

Here in Jammu, thousands of pilgrims are arriving daily from different parts of the country to embark on the holy pilgrimage, which started on June 29.

The 52-day annual yatra to the holy shrine will culminate on Shraavan Purnima, coinciding with the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan, which falls on August 19—(KNO)

KPDCL To Disconnect

Tengpora & Alocha Bagh in ESD Huzuribagh, Mini Housing Colony and Rose Enclave in ESD Chanapora, Bemina in ESD Watalkadal, KP Bagh in ESD Sheikh Bagh, Buchwara in ESD Dalgate, Nadroo and Old Baghat in ESD Baghat, the spokesman said, adding that illegal hooking by consumers has also been reported from KK Moulla, Pather Masjid, Habba Kadal, Rainawari, Khanyar, Hawal, Zakura, Nishat, Anantnag, Baramulla I and Sopore I & II Subdivisions.

KPDCL, which has mapped all consumers round involved in hooking, shall also present challan in the Designated Courts under the Electricity Act for imposition of hefty fine on consumers habitual of meter tampering and hooking on bare conductor. "FIRs have also been registered against 35 consumers for tampering and bypassing of smart meters," he added.

The spokesman further stated that KPDCL has so far installed 2,99,755 smart meters in Kashmir Division under PMDP I & II, out of which 1,21,651 smart meters have been converted into prepaid mode. "Prepaid consumer has the advantage of daily bill generation and checking of energy used. He also has the advantage to recharge his account in advance to enjoy reliable power supply," he added.

Pakistan Infiltrated

recruitment and arranged finances were never investigated. SP rank officers were arrested and put in jails alongside terrorists, for crimes they had never committed. The drowning of two girls in 2014 was allowed to be hijacked by narrative terrorism, which held the Valley at ransom, hartals, and rioting for many weeks. A very detailed investigation by the CBI and verified by the AIIMS forensics proved it was an accident," he added.

The J-K DGP also pointed out that things had come to such a pass that the so-called mainstream political parties had started cultivating leaders of terror networks and sometimes directly to further their electoral prospects.

Further, RR Swain emphasized that due to the strategy of the government, security forces and population, this dubious duplicity has been put to an end.

"It is the unflinching stance and strategy of the Government of India and security forces backed by a population since last several years that this duality and dubious duplicity has been put to an end or an attempt has been made towards it which has put the national security adversary to the back foot," he said.

"It is the call of the highest level of policy-making that political and economic opportunity would no longer be prerogative of privileged few but will be available to all," the J-K DGP added.

'Infiltration Taking

We tried to deliberate between ourselves as to the new methods and the modus operandi they are adopting," Swain told reporters on the sidelines of a function at Indian Institute of Management here.

"We also talked about tunnels. How to sort it out. We talked about how to address more effectively their use of tunnels to infiltrate," he said.

Senior BSF and police officers had gathered at an interstate security review meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua on Thursday, days after terrorists, who are believed to have infiltrated from across the International Border, ambushed an army patrol.

On the increase in terror attacks in J-K in the recent past, he said that the terrorists are not much in number in Kashmir, but that does not define the situation because they are unaccountable entities.

"I will give you the statistics. There are not many terrorists... there are only a few. But as I said, the situation is often not measured by the numbers. Because they are unaccountable entities," Swain said.

"So even one unaccountable entity, an outside killing machine, or a man sent to kill, indiscriminately, without any connection to this land, with no purpose but to repeat the level of violence or increase it, is a challenge," the officer added.

CS Asks For Smooth

unhindered access to reach the Mandis outside so that the growers don't suffer any losses.

While calling for enhancing level of enforcement especially on the critical stretches of the road, the Chief Secretary told the officers to utilize alternate assets like Mughal Road and Jawahar Tunnel optimally to reduce the traffic congestion on NH-44. He asked them to ensure that oil tankers and other empty trucks moving towards Jammu should be directed to take towards Mughal road. He said that the fruit trucks should have an option to make use of Jawahar tunnel in case there is an apprehension of delay via Quazigund tunnel.

He asked the concerned officers to make use of lean windows optimally by diverting most of the heavy vehicles during the underutilized period. He also asked the NHAI to further improve the overall road surface besides blacktopping of potholed portion near Magarkote and sort out all other minor issues without any undue delay.

In his presentation, the IG Traffic, Bhim Sen Tuti, highlighted the pattern of traffic on the highway through various studies and algorithms. He presented the day-wise and seasonal behavior of traffic along with analysis of time taken by each class and size of the vehicle. He also dwelt upon causal analysis of each aspect of this traffic behavior besides highlighting certain remedial measures.

He said that travel time has reduced considerably between Navyug and Chenani-Nashri tunnels over the corresponding years due to efficient traffic management and better road surface.

Lavender Cultivation

keen interest in lavender, developed a lavender park in Pahalgam. Following the initial success, entrepreneurs like Dr Ghazala and others brought around 2000 kanals of their land under lavender cultivation, Dr Abdul Sami said.

Although lavender was also introduced in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and other northeastern states, excessive rainfall during the flowering period hindered its expansion in these areas, he added.

Currently, Bhandarwah is recognised as the epicentre of the Purple Revolution, with farmers adopting lavender for its increased profitability compared to traditional crops. Since 2009, thousands of rooted lavender plants from the Pulwama Station of CSIR have been taken to Bhandarwah, promoting large-scale cultivation. As a result, more farmers are switching to producing lavender oil and dry flowers.

The CSIR Aroma Mission, an initiative under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has significantly promoted the cultivation of various industrially important aromatic crops, including lavender.

Other crops like rose, rosemary, and clary sage, also targeted under the Aroma Mission have the potential for similar exploitation due to the high market demand for their essential oils and value-added products, Dr Shawl said.

He said the essential oils produced in the valley meet international standards, comparable to those produced in Bulgaria and France, adding that efforts to strengthen market linkages and industry connections are crucial.

Lavender is widely used in perfumery, the floral industry, aromatherapy, and therapeutics in Europe. It has medicinal properties, including antibacterial and antidepressant effects. Aromatherapists use lavender in inhalation therapy to treat headaches, nervous disorders, and exhaustion, while herbalists treat skin ailments such as fungal infections, wounds, eczema, and acne with lavender oil. It is also used in healing baths for joint and muscle pain. Once planted, lavender can remain productive for around 20 years without the need for replanting.

Lavender cultivation is now widespread, providing a livelihood for hundreds of farmers. "There is a need for further genetic improvement and trait enhancement to develop improved cultivars that match international market standards," Dr Shawl said, adding that efforts are ongoing at the Field Station Bonura Pulwama to achieve these goals—(KNO)

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UP govt's ambitious 594 km long Ganga Expressway project nears completion



IAN S

LUCKNOW: The Ganga Expressway is on track to become the second-longest expressway in the country. Scheduled for completion by December 2024, the expressway aims to enhance connectivity between eastern and western Uttar Pradesh and facilitate the grand Maha Kumbh 2025...

The Ganga Expressway, currently under construction at a cost of Rs 36,230 crore, will span 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Covering approximately 7,453.15 hectares, the expressway will traverse 518 villages. Initially designed as a six-lane expressway, it will later be expanded to eight lanes...

(151.70 km), and Unnao-Prayagraj (156.85 km) — are being constructed by M/s Adani Infrastructure. The target for completing the main carriageway of the Ganga Expressway is set for December 31, 2024, with the remaining works slated for completion by November 2025.

over the Ramganga River between Badaun and Hardoi, both of which are currently under construction. The Ganga Expressway will feature 14 major bridges, 7 rail overbridges (ROBs), and 32 flyovers. Additionally, it will include a 3.5-kilometre airstrip near Jalalabad in Shahjahanpur...

India recognises priorities, needs of Pacific Island nations: Jaishankar

IAN S

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, on Monday, highlighted the strengthening partnership between India and the Marshall Islands during the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fund Four Community Development Projects in the island nation.



national Day of Yoga last month. I thank Excellency President Dr Hilda Heine for presiding over the celebrations held in Majuro. Jaishankar highlighted the long history of friendly bilateral relations between India and the Marshall Islands...

Pacific Ocean islands are "large ocean countries" rather than "small islands." The EAM reiterated: "We consider it our responsibility to support the Pacific Islands in their quest for sustainable development. Climate change, natural disasters, poverty alleviation and healthcare are common challenges that we need to address together. And India is privileged to be a partner of the Pacific Islands in that regard."

Projects," Jaishankar said, mentioning projects, including a community sports centre in Ailuk Atoll, an airport terminal on Mejit Island, and community centres at the Arno and Wotje Atolls, stressing that these would "surely provide better infrastructure to the people of the Marshall Islands."

Oli thanks PM Modi, vows to take India-Nepal ties to new heights

IAN S

KATHMANDU: Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his congratulatory message, Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli on Monday vowed to elevate the "historic ties" between two neighbouring countries to new heights.



"Thank you, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for your warm congratulations. I am committed to working closely with you to strengthen Nepal-India relations for our mutual benefit. Together, we can elevate our historic ties to new heights," Oli said in a post on X.

CPN-UML as the country's Prime Minister for the fourth time. Prime Minister Modi today congratulated Oli on his appointment and expressed hope to work closely to further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship between our two countries and to further expand our mutually beneficial cooperation for the progress and prosperity of our peoples," said PM Modi.

ship and expand the mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Nepal. "Congratulations K P Sharma Oli on your appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal. Look forward to working closely to further strengthen the deep bonds of friendship between our two countries and to further expand our mutually beneficial cooperation for the progress and prosperity of our peoples," said PM Modi.

Opposition running 'violent' narrative against PM Modi: BJP

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Referring to the reasons emerging for the attack on former US President Donald Trump, BJP has alleged that INDIA bloc and Congress are running a violent narrative against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP workers in India similarly. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, on Monday, said with regard to the attack on the former US President, who narrowly escaped and is safe: "The question arises about the circumstances in a democracy like the US that led to this political violence and how such a hateful and violent atmosphere was created."



end, and there will be no elections. Referring to several past incidents, the party spokesperson further said that Congress used derogatory words for PM Modi, and Randeep Surjewala used derogatory language for BJP supporters, adding that whenever there was an attack on PM Modi, whether during his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat or as the country's Prime Minister, Congress "celebrated" it.

Delhi court extends Manish Sisodia's judicial custody till July 22

IAN S

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday extended the judicial custody of AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia till July 22 in the alleged excise policy scam case. Special Judge Kaveri Bajwa of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the order upon the expiry of the previously granted judicial custody. In a related development, Supreme Court judge, Justice Sanjay Kumar, last week, withdrew himself from hearing Sisodia's bail pleas.

court had disposed of the former Deputy CM's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases after Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, the second-highest law officer of the Centre, made an undertaking that the final charge sheet/complaint in the liquor policy case would be filed by July 3. Earlier, the Delhi High Court had denied bail to the senior AAP leader, saying that he failed to pass the triple test for grant of bail in the corruption case and the twin conditions required under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

OP Jindal Global University inks MoU with United Nations University

IAN S

SONIPAT: O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) and the United Nations University (UNU), Japan, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish ties of friendship and cooperation in the areas of higher education and research. The landmark agreement symbolises a significant step towards promoting academic collaboration through fostering knowledge, cultural and personnel exchange between the two institutions.

The MoU signifies the synergy shared by JGU and UNU in sustainability, social and economic development and environmental studies. Both partners are committed to leveraging their collective expertise to address global challenges and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in these critical fields. The collaboration will facilitate promotion of joint research projects, faculty and student exchanges, and the development of innovative academic programmes.

Highlighting the potential of this collaboration, professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University, said, "This MoU represents a unique opportunity of bringing together two institutions dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time. The synergy between UNU and JGU, particularly in sustainability and social development, is profound and will undoubtedly lead to excellent research and impactful initiatives."

Echoing these sentiments, professor C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University, said, "We are truly honoured to be the first university in India to sign an MoU with the United Nations University, headquartered in Japan. This agreement highlights our commitment to global higher education and our dedication to fostering international collaborations that enhance academic excellence and address global issues for the common good."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION ZAINAPORA NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Includes details of the tender for road works, estimated cost, and submission dates.

J&K BJP Chief calls for early Assembly Elections

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ravinder Raina, Chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the Election Commission of India to announce the Assembly Election dates without delay.

"After BJP's spectacular victory, we are now preparing for Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir," Raina said, emphasizing the party's readiness and confidence by urging the Election Commission to announce the dates for the assembly



elections as soon as possible. Raina as per KNS stated, "We are confident that just as BJP achieved a remarkable win in the

parliamentary elections in J&K, we will achieve a similar victory in the assembly elections, and the next government in J&K will be led by BJP."

The BJP Chief stated that the party's support base in Jammu and Kashmir is growing, and the BJP is hopeful of securing a majority in the Assembly elections.

One of the BJP leaders mentioned that the party's strong performance in the recent parliamentary elections has boosted its confidence. This success has made the BJP eager to achieve similar results in

the upcoming state assembly elections. The leader explained that by pushing for early elections, the BJP aims to take advantage of the current favorable political climate, which would boost party morale and present a strong image of inevitable victory.

Sources indicate that the Election Commission is preparing for the Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring all necessary processes are in place. Other political parties have also appealed to the Election Commission to conduct the elections soon. (KNS)

Secy RDD reviews first quarter progress of departmental schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, conducted a first-quarter review of departmental schemes in several Jammu districts on Monday.

The review focused on Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, and Samba, following earlier assessments in Baramulla, Shopian, Kulgam, and Kupwara.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director JKRLM, Indu Kanwal Chib, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, Director Finance, Umar Khan, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, CEO IWMP, Rajnish Kumar, COO, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma, Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja and ACDs, ACPs of these districts.

Detailed deliberations were held on various issues pertaining to UT Capex Budget, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and Himayat.

Progress on convergence works, the status of Panchayat Ghars, co-location of Common Service Centers (CSCs), Development of District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) buildings were assessed.

The Secretary held detailed deliberations with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACDs) and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACPs), instructing them to focus on achieving the targets set for various schemes.

Dr Shahid stressed the importance of timely implementation and follow-up on decisions made in previous meetings.

He asked concerned officials to focus on implementing NRLM-compliant infrastructure projects. The Secretary emphasized the need for swift action in finalizing estimates and beginning construction of facilities like goat and sheep



sheds under NRLM in convergence with MGNREGA. Dr Shahid emphasized the need for close monitoring of key performance indicators, particularly under MGNREGA and PMAY-G. He stressed the importance of regular progress assessments to ensure the timely achievement of set targets.

He underscored the importance of inter-departmental convergence to ensure effective resource utilization and accelerated progress at the district level. Dr Shahid called for enhanced collaboration among different departments and stakeholders to achieve set goals efficiently.

The Secretary directed officials to focus on optimal utilization of available resources to maximize the impact of rural development initiatives in the region.

He said that this

approach aims to create synergies between various schemes and departments, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable rural development.

The meeting assessed the status of completion of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centers (CSCs).

Dr Shahid emphasized the need to expedite any pending works in this regard.

The Secretary also reviewed the progress of ongoing construction of District Development Council (DDC) and Block Development Council (BDC) buildings and urged officials to prioritize their completion.

Dr Shahid also conducted a comprehensive review of the status of ongoing projects funded under the UT Capex budget.

He instructed officials to closely monitor these projects and address any bottlenecks promptly.

The Secretary directed that funds should be released and utilized promptly. He asked district officials to provide detailed requirements to facilitate the timely absorption of funds, emphasizing the need for immediate action to prevent delays.

Earlier, the Secretary reviewed the progress of different RDD&PR schemes in Baramulla, Shopian, Kulgam and Kupwara districts.

Fertiliser spraying drones to revolutionise agriculture sector

Technology promises increased efficiency, environmental benefits: Official



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The introduction of drone technology for spraying fertilisers in Kashmir is set to revolutionise the agriculture sector.

A demonstration showcasing IFFCO Nano Fertiliser (Nano Urea & Nano DAP) in collaboration with Ojas Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. was recently held in Handwara, District Kupwara.

The event, which saw participation from farmers and progressive growers, aimed to introduce them to cutting-edge fertiliser technology: Nano Urea and Nano DAP, along with drone technology.

An official said that one bottle of Nano Urea or Nano DAP can cover 1 acre (8 kanals) when mixed with just 10 litres of water and sprayed using a drone.

"Impressively, the entire spray process is completed within 6 to 7 minutes," he said, adding that one bottle

of Nano Urea and Nano DAP is equivalent to one bag of traditional Urea and DAP. "This innovation promises to revolutionise agricultural practices by enhancing efficiency and reducing labour costs," he added.

The official further said that the benefits of this technology include increased efficiency, reduced usage, cost-effectiveness and enhanced crop yield, along with environmental benefits and convenience.

District Agriculture Officer, Kupwara, Yuzi-wander Singh told KNO that this technology offers many advantages, including lower labour costs, reduced use of chemicals, precision farming, AI intervention, and the ability to cover every part of the target crop or tree. "Such technology ensures fast coverage, time-saving and is environmentally friendly," he said—(KNO)

Shia-Sunni unity on display as 8th Muharram procession culminates peacefully

Volunteers distribute refreshments along Guru Bazar to Dalgate route



REHMAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: As a heartwarming display of communal harmony, Shia and Sunni volunteers joined hands on Monday to distribute refreshments among the mourners during the traditional 8th Muharram procession, which started from Guru Bazar and culminated at Dalgate.

The procession, marked by prayers and reflections, brought together people from diverse backgrounds to honor a significant occasion with reverence and solidarity.

Amidst the crowd, a collective effort stood out as volunteers from both Shia and Sunni communities worked side by side, setting up stalls to provide refreshments under the scorching heat. Their unified presence was a testament to the shared values of compassion and unity that transcend sectarian differences.

Among the other stalls (sabeels), one such stall was installed at Dalgate

Srinagar by the cricket fraternity of Dalgate, where Sunnis distributed refreshments among the mourners.

During the traditional 8th Muharram procession, a Shia mourner, Abbas Ali, who was providing water to the thirsty, while speaking to KNO, said, at times like these; it's important to come together as one community.

"Our differences fade away when we focus on serving others and showing empathy," he said. Fatima, another mourner, present at the Sunni stall at Dalgate Srinagar, said, "I am touched by the kindness shown by Sunni volunteers. Their presence here demonstrates that despite our differences, we stand united in times of sorrow."

Pertinently, the J&K administration allowed the 8th Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate for the second consecutive year, in which thousands of mourners participated—(KNO)

Over 3.25 Lakh Youth trained through HDFC Bank Parivartan's SDP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On World Youth Skills Day, HDFC Bank Parivartan is proud to celebrate a significant milestone, having engaged over 325,000 youth across India through its various skilling programmes.

Instituted in 2014 by the United Nations General Assembly on 15th July, World Youth Skills Day celebrates the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship, as well as for addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development.

Skilling is a global demand, and investing in skill development remains pivotal since as per the United Nations, the number of young people aged 15-24 globally comprises 1.2 billion individuals. This demographic is projected to rise to 1.3 billion by 2030, representing 16 per cent of the world's population. India occupies a unique position, with over 50 per cent of the total population below 25 years of age. However, recent data from the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) reveals skill gaps in high-demand sectors like IT, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and renewable energy, underscoring a critical need to skill, up-skill,



and right-skill the country's youth.

Ms. Nusrat Pathan, Head of CSR at HDFC Bank, stated, "At HDFC Bank, we believe that empowering our youth with the right skills is crucial for the socio-economic development of our nation. Our Parivartan training programmes are designed not only to provide vocational skills linked with market demands, but also to instil confidence and ambition in young minds. By collaborating with esteemed partners and focusing on sectors with high growth potential, we are committed to bridging the skills gap and creating a robust and inclusive workforce for the future. Our mission is to ensure that every young individual we reach has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to India's dynamic economy."

HDFC Bank Parivartan undertakes several impactful projects to enhance skills and employment opportunities for youth, across India. (KNT)

Police distributes laptops to NOKs of martyrs in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As a goodwill gesture and to remember the sacrifices of Martyrs, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kulgam under the CAP (Civic Action Programme) distributed Laptops among NOKs of Police Martyrs.

The event was graced by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, who distributed the laptops among Next of Kins of Police Martyrs at District Police Office Kulgam. Moreover, Addl SP Kulgam, DySP Hqrs Kulgam, DySP DAR

Kulgam & other officers of District Police Kulgam were present on the occasion, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

SSP Kulgam interacted with all the beneficiaries and assured that Police will always play its eminent role in providing every possible support and cooperation to them. The NOKs present on the occasion were advised not to indulge in any criminal/subversive activities, & to study with zeal and zest so that they can adopt any career of their choice.

J&K Athlete shines at Commonwealth Junior, Cadet Fencing Championship 2024

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chhavi Sharma, a promising athlete of Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, Jammu and Kashmir, has made the nation proud by securing a bronze medal in the Sabre Girls team event held at the 2024 Commonwealth Junior and Cadet Fencing Championship, Christchurch, New Zealand.

The other team members representing the country included Zaferin from Tamil Nadu, S. Tanvi from Karnataka and Tanishya Singh from Delhi.

Pertinently, KISCE Fencing has been established at M.A Stadium Jammu, where athletes receive regular training under the expert

guidance of High Performance Manager, Coaches, and Scientific Staff.

Former Member of J&K Sports Council & International qualified Referee in Fencing, Rasheed Ahmad Choudhary, Senior Fencing Coach JKSC, Rachna Jamwal, and Fencing Instructor JKSC, Shottu Lal Sharma, applauded the performance of young fencer Chhavi Sharma.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, congratulated the JKSC athlete and the Indian team contingent, emphasizing that KISCE's Fencing and Rowing facilities in Jammu and Srinagar respectively are designed to prepare athletes for international competitions.

Sylvain Saudan, 'father of heliskiing in Kashmir' dies at 87

Kashmir skiers, adventure sports persons pay rich tributes

MANZOOR-UL-HASSAN

SRINAGAR: Sylvain Saudan, the 'godfather of extreme skiing' and founder of heliskiing in Kashmir is no more. He was 87.

Saudan died of a heart attack on Sunday evening, at his home in France's Chamonix Valley, local media reported.

He was known for skiing down large and steep mountains, including those in the Himalayas, North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

In 1982, he entered the Guinness Book of World Records for descending the highest and steepest slope ever skied.

The native of Valais in Switzerland started skiing at the age of 5 and traveled around the world. He accomplished his first feat in 1967 by hurtling down a dizzying slope on the Rothorn in Switzerland. He was considered by the skiing fraternity, to be the master of extreme skiing, earning him the name "skier of the impossible".

In 1972, he ran Himalaya Heliski, based in Srinagar offering heliskiing trips in the Kashmir region. In 2007, he survived a helicopter crash in Kashmir.

While condoling his death, the President Winter Games Association of Kashmir, Rauf Tramboob said that with Saudan's demise, the adventure sports fraternity lost a great skier and adventure guru of present times.

Tramboob, who had worked with Saudan in 1980s, remembered him as a man of courage and sport-

ing spirit for he slayed many high and steep mountains in the world.

"Saudan was the 'father of heliskiing in Kashmir' as he put Kashmir on the heliskiing map of the world," Tramboob told KNO.

According to him, Saudan's favorite heli-skiing locations were Gulmarg, Lidder, and Sind valleys.

"He also skied down 7200 meters high Mount Nun in Suru valley of Kargil Ladakh," Tramboob said.

Kashmir's international skiers also expressed shock over Saudan's death and paid tributes to him.

India's first Olympian and former in-charge of winter sports, Gul Mustafa Dev, termed Saudan as a "great skier" and "adventure sports expert".

"I met him in Gulmarg during my youth and skied with him. He was a great teacher and challenger," he said.

Dev said that Saudan discovered and triumphed over many steep peaks in Kashmir and elsewhere. "His way of skiing was different and extreme. It taught us new things

Another legendary skier GM Hajam termed his death as a personal loss.

"Saudan was my teacher and instructor and good friend. When I first visited France for a skiing course, he was the one who taught me skiing on the unbeaten slopes," he said.

Hajam said Saudan will be remembered as a big supporter of Kashmir skiing.

"He explored Kashmir slopes like no one did," he added—(KNO)

HED mulls 'Private University Policy' for establishment of Pvt Universities in JK

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department is drafting a 'Private University Policy' for establishing the private universities in the region.

Top officials of the department said that it was in contact with all stakeholders for the clearance of all the related issues.

"In order to send a concrete proposal to the Ministry of Education (Mo) and to invite the private players to establish the universities, we are holding discussions regularly with all concerned stakeholders and we are seeking suggestions from them," the official said.

He further said that the policy will be sent to various concerned departments for suggestions and discussions, including Finance, Law, Revenue, Industry, and Planning.

The policy draft, as per official sources, will address crucial issues such as land allotment and obtaining necessary permissions for setting up universities. Once finalized, the draft will be presented for approval at the Administrative Council meeting.

As per the official sources, the policy will include provisions for reserving seats for local youth, providing scholarships to needy students, and other relevant issues to promote education within Jammu and Kashmir. "This initiative is expected to be instrumental in attracting investors and enhancing the educational infrastructure in the region."

Meanwhile Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar acknowledged that it was working on drafting the private university policy.

"Yes we are working on drafting the private university policy. However, I cannot share further details in this regard as of now," he said.

Pertinently, KNO in February-2024 reported that in Jammu and Kashmir only 15 percent of higher education students prefer to study in private unaided and aided colleges.

The official documents in this regard had revealed that the enrollment of private and government colleges based on actual response in a survey states that there were a total of 2,13,213 students enrolled in private and government colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the total number of enrolled students, 23,580 were enrolled in private unaided colleges, 4038 in private aided.

However, in comparison to the private colleges, the official figures reveal that in government colleges across Jammu and Kashmir, at least 1,85,595 students were enrolled.

Besides, the documents state that there were a total of 337 private and government colleges functioning in Jammu and Kashmir.

The survey based on actual response received from the sampled stakeholders reveals that a total of 127 private unaided, 21 aided, and 189 government colleges were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of ICDS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Monday convened a meeting, to review the implementation of the ICDS schemes and programmes including Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Early Childhood Care and education (ECCE), Immunization, and non formal pre-school education to children in the age group of 0 to 6-years.

District Programme Officer (DPO) ICDS Kulgam



through a PowerPoint presentation apprised the chair that there are 1208 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) operational in the district. He informed that in order to meet the staff deficiencies,

37 Workers and 129 Anganwadi helpers have been engaged till date.

The meeting discussed in detail the functioning of Integrated Child Development Services in district,

especially availability of Medicine Kits and Pre School Kits and other facilities at Anganwadi centers.

The DC instructed CDPOs and supervisors to visit their Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) on regular intervals to assess working of these centres and to enhance the effectiveness of services focussing on targeted beneficiaries especially, Adolescent girls, Pregnant and Lactating women with special focus on Stunted, Wasted, Under-weight and Obese Children.