

HEADLINES TODAY

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News Brief

Young girl dies after consuming poison in Tral

Pulwama, Mar 17. : A young girl died after allegedly consuming poisonous substance at her home in Tral town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Local sources said that a young girl from Tral (name withheld) was taken to a nearby hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance, however, doctors referred her to Srinagar hospital, where she succumbed.

The immediate reason behind this extreme step by the girl couldn't be ascertained.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident. [KNT]

Property of militant 'supporter' attached in North Kashmir's Handwara

Handwara, Mar 13. : The government on Friday attached the property of a North Kashmir resident for providing support to militants.

Police said that the order of attachment of property had been confirmed by the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir against Muhammad Abdullah Mir, son of Khazir Mohd Mir, resident of Yaroo, Handwara for his involvement in providing logistics and shelter to militants.

An FIR 327/2018 U/S 307-RPC 7/27-Act,18,19,25 UAP Act against the said militant associate stands registered at police station Handwara. [KNT]

Mehvish Ayoub of Baramulla qualifies prestigious GATE-2023

BARAMULLA, MARCH 17: In a remarkable achievement, Mehvish Ayoub of Nahidul Baramulla has brought laurels to the entire district by qualifying in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) exam, 2023.

Coming from an educated background, Mehvish had set her goals and never lost focus on her goal of qualifying this prestigious examination. Mehvish attributed her success to her parents saying that they always motivated her that she can achieve success in any competitive exam. She said hard work and staying focused on her goal have been key elements in achieving this feat. Dr. M Ayoub Wani, Mehvish's father credited her perseverance and hard work besides remaining focused on her goal for qualifying GATE examination. GATE is considered one of the toughest competitive examinations in India and qualifying this exam opens up a number of opportunities in the field of engineering.

Kashmiri youth arrested by police in Bihar

Bihar, Mar 17: A local from Central Kashmir's Budgam district has been arrested by police in Bihar for his suspicious movement in the Shaheed Chowk of Katihar.

The arrested youth has been identified as Nasir Yusuf Waza. Reports said that Muhammad Yousuf, the father of the arrested youth had been killed in an encounter in Kashmir valley.

Media reports said after reaching Katihar from Nepal, he was going to Kolkata by train, but he missed the train. Therefore he checked into a hotel at Shaheed Chowk in the Nagar police station area.

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Every Sort of Assistance for Conservation, Development of Mata Vaishno Devi Traditional Route : LG Manoj Sinha Releases brochure of the traditional Mata Vaishno Devi ji route

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha presented 'Mata ki Chunni' for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg procession to be organized on March 26 from Kol kandoli Nagrota to Oli temple.

On the occasion, the members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Shrine Sanstha, led by Sh Devender Singh Rana, Senior BJP Leader and former legislator also presented the Lt Governor the traditional 'Dogra Turban' and 'Mata ki Chunni' amidst the chanting of Ve-



dic mantras by the priests of the traditional route temples. The Lt Governor assured every support and assistance from the UT administration in the conservation and development of traditional Mata Vaishno Devi ji route. He also issued on the spot directions to Divisional Commissioner Jammu

for ensuring smooth conduct of the Navratra celebrations on the pracheen marg. The Lt Governor also released a brochure of the traditional Mata Vaishno Devi ji route prepared by INTACH Jammu Chapter containing information regarding heritage temples, step wells, ponds, Bowlis, other heritage structures including lodging sheds for devotees. Sh S M Sahni, Convener, INTACH Jammu Chapter, office bearers of the organisation and others members of the local community were present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan.

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Asia's largest Tulip garden on the foothills of Zabarwan in Srinagar ready to welcome visitors from March 19. PHOTO UNI

MeT predicts rain in plains, snow on higher reaches of J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 17 (UNI) Meteorological office on Friday predicted rain, thunderstorm at scattered places in plains while snowfall over higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours.

Intermittent rain, thunderstorm accompanied by gusty winds at scattered places whereas snowfall is likely over higher reaches from March 18 to March 20, the MeT office said adding there is no forecast of any heavy rain or snow during the period.

It has also advised the farmers to postpone spraying of orchards during this period. Currently the weather is cloudy at most places of Kashmir valley.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.6 degree Celsius against 5.5 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 1.9 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season.

Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu national had a low of 4.5 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 0.9 degree above normal for the gateway of Kashmir.

Tourist hot spot of Pahalgam recorded a low of 1.6 degree Celsius on Friday against 0.8 degree Celsius a day ago and it was 1.5 degree above normal for the valley of shepherds in south Kashmir. Kokernag recorded a low of 4.6 degree Celsius, 1.1 degree above normal of 3.5 degree Celsius for the famous

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5 MOs, Suspended, 15 others put on notice in Bandipora after found absent from duties

HT NEWS NETWORK

Bandipora, Mar 17: Five more Medical officers were suspended and 15 paramedics have been asked to explain their position after they were found unauthorizedly absent from their legitimate duties in Bandipora medical block.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, that five Medical officers and 15 paramedics were found unauthorizedly absent following a surprise inspection at different health centres of Bandipora by the Block medical officer (BMO) Dr Masarat Iqbal today. "A show-cause notice has been served to the employees asking them to explain their position before action shall be taken against them," he said.

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Conman from Gujarat poses as PMO official arrested in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 17 (UNI) A conman from Gujarat masquerading as an 'Additional Director in the Prime Minister's Office' was arrested by Jammu and Kashmir police earlier this month, officials said.

The arrest of the alleged imposter identified as Kiran Bhai Patel son of Juddesh Bhai Patel resident of Ahmedabad Gujarat was made on March 3 and kept a secret by the police till Thursday.

Police on Friday said the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wing

of J&K Police on March 2 informed about the arrival of an impersonator in Kashmir. Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar immediately sent a team led by SP East to Lalit hotel after which he was arrested, they said.

"The particulars of this person were found as Kiran Bhai Patel son of Juddesh Bhai Patel resident of Ahmedabad Gujarat who was impersonating himself as Additional Director (Strategy and campaigns) PMO New Delhi. As his replies were found suspicious, he was taken to

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Advisor Bhatnagar chairs AGMs of SCST&BC Corporation Reviews performance, functioning of the Institute

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today chaired 26th to 43rd Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, (SCST&BC) Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda; Managing Director SC, ST and BC Corporation, representatives from finance, Planning, shareholders of the Corporation and other concerned departments both in person and through video confer-



encing. During the AGM, Advisor held detailed deliberation on financial position of the Corporation and also reviewed various aspects related to overall growth of this corporation. The AGM which was held after a gap of eight years took some significant decisions for improving the

overall health of the corporation. The AGM adopted the accounts of the corporation which were pending till date since a very long time.

Advisor Bhatnagar, who is also the Chairman of Corporation, advised the management of Corporation to hold the AGMs on timely and regular basis so that the corporation can work effectively and reach to its zenith for which it has been established. Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also reviewed the performance and functioning of the SC-ST&BC Corporation. Addressing the officers, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that the SC, ST, BC Corporation has been able to make a significant difference in the lives of the marginalized communities by providing them with financial assistance for education, housing, and entrepreneurship. He asked the management of corporation to

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Prabhari officers of top ranking Panchayats in Aspirational Panchayat index to be felicitated: CS Reviews various social security & beneficiary-oriented schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the overall progress on different schemes being executed across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Home Department, R.K. Goyal; Principal Secretary, PWD, Shaileendra Kumar; various Administrative Secretaries, Special DG CID, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners of all districts and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.



While reviewing the Aspirational Panchayats programme, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the deputy commissioners to utilise this scheme effectively so as to transform the most backward panchayats of their districts into model panchayats. He highlighted that the work

and achievements of Prabhari of each panchayat will be reflected through this scheme. The Chief Secretary also announced that in coming Aspirational Panchayats ranking index, which will be released soon, the Prabhari whose

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Online Applications invited for Trainers for Hajj-2023

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Online Applications are invited from the desiring Muslim Govt. Employees (Permanent) of the Jammu & Kashmir for imparting Orientation/ Training to the Pilgrims of Hajj-2023. The applicants (Male/Female) must be between the age-group of 25-60 years as on 27-03-2023. (i.e. those who will complete 25 years of age on 27-03-2023 and would complete 60 years of age on 27-03-2023) They must

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Opening of Zojila Road, Only Light Goods Vehicles to be allowed from Today: Div Com Kashmir

Also reviews readiness of Transit Accommodation Wandhama

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 17: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited District Ganderbal where he convened a meeting of officers at VC room, DC Office Ganderbal for managing open-



ing/closure of the Zojila Pass. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir, SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, SSP Traffic Rural, ADC Ganderbal, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, ACR, ARTO Ganderbal, officials from MeT/BRO, besides the meeting was also attended by Div Com Ladakh, DC Kargil, SSP Kargil, and officials from Vijayak through Video Conferencing. At the outset, all the issues concerning the road opening were discussed thereabout including condition of road, Snow clearance, and it was decided that the road will only be open for the LGVs

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AMRIT KAAL BUDGET

Futuristic 2023-24 Budget lays special focus on employment generation, women empowerment, social inclusion

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: The whooping budget of Rs 1,18,500 crore for Jammu & Kashmir for the financial year 2023-24 has special focus on employment generation, women empowerment and social inclusion.

"The total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which, developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore. "The capital component of the budget has increased substantially. The expected revenue receipts are Rs 1,06,061 crore whereas Revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 77,009 crore, thereby making available revenue surplus for capital expenditure to the tune of Rs 29,052 crore,"



reads the budget document. According to a senior official in the J&K administration, the focus

of the budget is good governance, strengthening grassroots democracy, promoting sustainable agriculture, facilitating investment and growth, employment generation, accelerated development and inclusive growth, women empowerment and social inclusion. "Launch of HIMAYAT 2.0 with renewed focus on employment oriented trades for training and convergence of skill related infrastructure across the departments like Skill Development, Mission Youth, Industries & Commerce, School Education, Agriculture etc is also part of the budget. As Jammu and Kashmir has returned to the path of peace and progress, the youth are enthusiastic to excel in different fields like their counterparts in rest of India. A massive skill development

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Former Minister, former MLA, President JKNPF, JKSSB Aspirants call on Lt Governor

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Er. Abdul Ghani Kohli, former minister called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. The former minister apprised the Lt Governor various developmental issues of district Rajouri including road connectivity. He also discussed welfare issues of Gujjar Bakerwal community of district Poonch. Sh Balwant Singh Mankotia, former MLA met Lt Governor and discussed on promoting cooperatives in district Udhampur, among other local developmental issues of district Udhampur. Earlier, a delegation led by Sh. Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF), also called on the Lt Governor and put forth the public issues and demands of district Anantnag. Later, a delegation of JKSSB PSI aspirants met Lt Governor and put forth the demand of expediting the selection process of the



PSI exam conducted recently (December 2022) and timely completion of other exams of JKSSB. Adv. Altaf, Chairman Municipal Council Ganderbal also called on the Lt Governor and projected various developmental issues of Ganderbal area. The Lt Governor while interacting with the visiting individuals and members of the delegation assured them of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues and demands put forth by them.

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J&K Govt announces Rs 129.05 cr initiative to reduce fodder deficit, boost livestock sector under HADP

JAMMU, MARCH 17: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, recognizing the potential of livestock husbandry to improve the socio-economic conditions of farming communities and boost the overall economic growth of the region, has launched several measures under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledged for its tremendous agricultural potential and production, comprises of mostly small and fragmented landholdings owned by the farmers. Over 70 per cent of the population in the region depends on agriculture and related vocations for their livelihood, either directly or indirectly. Over the years, livestock husbandry has emerged as a crucial growth engine for sustainable and equitable development, which is vital for uplifting the socio-economic status of farming communities in J&K. As per Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, an Apex committee has

devised a comprehensive plan under HADP, which amounts to 129.05 crore, to mitigate the fodder shortfall in the UT by 80 per cent. The primary objective of this program is to augment the agricultural and livestock sectors and equip farmers with vital resources such as financial assistance, improved seeds and technical guidance to amplify productivity, profitability, and overall economic progress of the area.

The government is committed to provide all necessary support to farmers to ensure the success of this initiative. It is working closely with various stakeholders, including agricultural universities, research institutes, and industry experts to achieve this goal.

Livestock rearing in Jammu and Kashmir incurs a significant cost, with 75 per cent of the input cost attributed to feed and fodder. The region is home to a diverse range of animals including 31.45 lakh bovines, 45 lakh sheep and goats, 73 lakh backyard poultry birds and 2 lakh other animal species. Ad-

ditionally, around 5 crore com- 58.53 lakh metric tons. Unfortu- division compared to 32.27 per



mercial broiler birds are being reared in the region.

The annual requirement for green fodder in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 139 lakh metric tons, while the dry fodder requirement is around

nately, the availability of green and dry fodder is insufficient to meet the demand. In particular, there is a deficit of 40.93 per cent in fodder availability in the region, with a higher deficit of 48.63 per cent in the Kashmir

cent in the Jammu division. Only 4 per cent of the total cultivable land is under fodder production at present.

Each year, Jammu and Kashmir imports a significant amount of animal feed with

9,000 metric tons of feed, 10,000 metric tons of green fodder and 5,000 metric tons of dry fodder being imported. This results in a substantial loss to the exchequer. However, with the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Program, the region can potentially create better livelihood opportunities for farmers, improving the socio-economic conditions of the people.

The government is encouraging farmers and other stakeholders to collaborate and work towards developing the agricultural and livestock sector, which would lead to a prosperous and thriving economy. With this goal in mind, a concrete framework has been proposed to maximize fodder production in the region. The framework adopts a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated approach, combining research and effective development processes to increase fodder production.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has significant potential for fodder cultivation.

The region has a large range-land area of 1.19 lakh hectares, which can support livestock-based livelihood systems. Additionally, there are 2.15 lakh hectares of orchards that hold potential for intercropping of fodder crops production, known as the Horti-pastoral system. Field crops, such as paddy, maize, and wheat, are grown over 5 lakh hectares, producing large quantities of residues that serve as dry fodder for winter.

The top fodder/tree leaves, including Willow, Populus, Ailanthus, Mulberry, Apple, and Ulmus, are excellent sources of protein and minerals traditionally fed to livestock during scarcity. The foot hills in the region can be used for fodder production, utilizing promising cultivars of grasses and legumes. Furthermore, various technological options such as cultivable fodder, chaffing of fodder/straws, urea treatment, roughage block, and silage making can be promoted to enhance fodder production.

Court quashes dismissal of BSF constable posted in J&K

JAMMU, Mar 17, KNT: A Division Bench of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta, has allowed an appeal filed by Sunil Kumar-a BSF Constable, who had been dismissed from service in 2001 for remaining absent and whose writ petition was also dismissed by a Single Judge of the High Court of J&K in 2019.

While allowing the appeal, the Division Bench quashed the order of dismissal and held that the appellant shall be deemed to have been reinstated in service with effect from the date he was dismissed from service with all consequential benefits.

After hearing Advocate Muzaffar Ali Shah appearing for BSF Constable, whereas Central Government Standing Counsel Sandeep Gupta appearing for BSF, the Division Bench headed by Justice Sanjeev Kumar further held, 'it shall, however, remain open to the BSF Authorities to proceed with and conclude the trial by the Summary Security Force Court de novo within two months. The disbursement of consequential benefits shall be dependent upon the outcome of de novo trial by SSFC.'

During the course of arguments, Advocate Muzaffar Ali Shah submitted that plea of "guilty" has been recorded on a cyclostyle/type sheet with blanks which have been filled up later during recording of the plea. The questions asked to the writ petitioner-Constable are in English language without making it clear whether the questions were also translated in the manner the charge sheet is said to have been translated and read over to the writ petitioner. The Division Bench after perusal of the record of the proceedings further observed, "it is crystal clear that is a pre-typed page where the particulars of the writ petitioner have been filled in with questions as to whether you plead "guilty" or "not guilty" to the charges. Below the questions, there are answer using singular word "guilty" and in the last paragraph, compliance to Rule 142 of the Rules is indicated by borrowing the language used in Rule 142 itself. As already noted, the plea of "guilty" is neither signed by the writ petitioner nor by Dy. Commandant D.S.Samyal, who acted as a friend of the writ petitioner in the trial."

The Division Bench headed by Justice Sanjeev Kumar further observed, "In the instant case, the respondents have put the cart before the horse. The plea of "guilty" is recorded first and then the writ petitioner has been stated to have been informed about what is laid down in Rule 142 of the Rules. Even in the absence of their being specific provision in Rule 142 in the year 2001, it was prudent for the SSFC to obtain signatures of the writ petitioners or his friend appointed to defend him in acknowledgment of such plea of "guilty" made by the writ petitioner to the charges for which he was put on trial by the SSFC." After considering the rival contentions and going through the record of proceedings, the Division Bench came to a conclusion that the appellant had either not pleaded guilty to any of the Charge as is recorded by the Court or same was not voluntarily in nature. The Division Bench of the High Court further observed that the right of the appellant to have a fair trial before the SSFC has been violated and he has been condemned unheard.

With these observations, the Division Bench while setting aside the Judgment of the Single Judge allowed the appeal and quashed the dismissal of the appellant and held him entitled to reinstatement with effect from the date of dismissal. [KNT]

ARTO Pulwama intensifies Vehicle checking drive

Rs. 64k fine imposed on violations through e-Challans, 04 vehicles issued show cause notices

PULWAMA, MARCH 17: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Pulwama, Muazzam Ali today conducted a vehicle checking drive to streamline vehicular movement in the district.

During the drive, more than 50 vehicles were challaned and revenue of Rs. 64000 was realised from offenders under various sections of Motor Vehicles Act, whereas documents of 15 vehicles were impounded and 27 vehicles were black listed.

Besides, 04 vehicles indulged in dangerous driving were issued show cause notices for suspension of route permits.

Meanwhile, illegal parking from the main bazaar to the new District Hospital was also cleared to decongest the area for smooth traffic movement.

While sensitizing the drivers regarding traffic rules, ARTO said that violation of traffic rules leads to road accidents and fatalities. He said adherence to regulations can avert road accidents besides making commutation hassle free.

He added that road safety is not only an individual responsibility but a collective as well. He said that issues like rash-driving, use of mobile phones, considering seat belts as a burden, and un-mindful use of beams during night can only be set right by behavioral changes and positive attitude. He said mindful and responsive driving leads to peace and creates a capital of values and fraternity in society.

Ali said that the MVD department has embarked on a



mission to have a paradigm shift in driving sense among the commuters in the district besides creating good governance practices in J&K, UT.

The ARTO warned the drivers to strictly adhere to the traffic rules to avoid any action from the department. He maintained that checking of vehicles shall continue in coming days also. The ARTO was accompanied by Inspectors and other officials from Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Pulwama. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO)

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3 Days workshop on 'Household Income Expenditure survey' & 'Employment/ Labour Force Survey' held

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K organised a three days workshop on surveys, viz. 'Household Income Expenditure Survey' and 'Employment Labour Force Survey' under 'Support for Statistical Strengthening' from 16th to 18th of March, 2023 at Directorate of Economics Statistics, Bemina Srinagar.

The workshop was inaugurated by Director General, Regional Director (E&S) Kashmir, Athar Hussain Qadri.

Regional Director, E&S Kashmir in his address highlighted the importance of the surveys vis-à-vis

the role of Directorate for collecting the data on the designed surveys. He im-



pressed upon all the field functionaries for collecting reliable and coherent data that will pave the way for making Government policies.

He also briefed them about the survey and encouraged them to take full benefit of training so that quality data could be obtained.

The instant surveys will focus on obtaining the data on unemployment, income expenditure scenarios as the basis for effective so-

cio-economic policy formulation so as to position the developmental efforts in more pragmatic and people oriented directions.

Ashiq Hussain, Joint Director (Surveys DES) also highlighted the importance of the surveys.

The training is being imparted by Mohammad Ismail Bangroo, Assistant Director (Survey) DES; Musadiq Khan, Assistant Director (Statistical Training School Srinagar) and

Tahseen Mustafa, Senior Statistical Officer, NSO, FOD Jammu.

The training is being attended by Priyanka Parihar (DD, Surveys DES; Inman (DD, SIU DES) and all District Statistics & Evaluation Officers (DSEOs) of Kashmir Division along with their concerned survey staff and other officers and officials of Directorate of Economics & Statistics/Regional Directorate E&S Kashmir.

3 Days CBP for elected Women Members of ULBs & SMC concludes at J&K-IMPARD Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: A three days Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Elected Women Members of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Kashmir and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) under the Programme 'She is a Change Maker' of the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi concluded today at J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), here.

The CBP is part of the training series to be conducted for all elected women members of Panchayat Raj Institutions, District Development Council Members, Block Development Council Members and Village Panchayat Members.

The series is being fully sponsored by the National Commission for Women to foster Gender Responsive Governance in the system. On the occasion, the elected members were trained



by learned resource persons on different important areas of intervention for the overall empowerment of women.

The programme specially focused on the role of councilors of Urban Local Bodies and Corporators of Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the quality education and empowerment of women in J&K through well designed policies and programmes.

Different sessions were conducted for the capacity

building of these women representatives including Leadership Qualities, Communication Skills, Sustainable Development, Role of Police and other Institutions in the Protections of the Rights of Women and Various Schemes and Interventions of the State and Central Government for empowerment of Women in J&K.

The programme was conducted by the Centre for Social Justice of the Institute.

Two days state level MDP concludes at GMC Baramulla

BARAMULLA, MARCH 17: A Valedictory function of two days state level Management Development Programme (MDP) for Doctors/ Nursing Professionals, Tutors of Nursing Colleges from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts concluded at GMC Baramulla.

The programme was organized by Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA), India in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla

The function was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar as chief guest.

Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Dr (Prof) Iffat Hussain; Joint Director Planning, Mohammad Yousof Rafter; Chief Medical officer Baramulla, Dr Bashir Ahmad Malik; Medical Superintendent Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu, Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla, Doctors, Nurses besides a large number of participants including students were present in the function. Topics discussed during the two days programme included Medical Negligence, Communication & Soft Skills, Role of Nursing in Prevention of Hospital Infection, Ethical & Legal Issues related to Nursing Management in Hospitals, Challenges in Management



Clinical Services (Accident and Emergency Services Operation Theater), HR & Conflict Management, Disaster Management Role of Nursing Staff, Skilled Based Methods of Teaching and Learning & Bridging the Theory and Clinical Gap, Quality Assurance in nursing. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish advised the doctors and nurses to adopt the humble approach while dealing with the patients. She said that the development of trust enables the patient to comply with the doctor's guidance, which consequently results in improvement of health.

DC Ramban distributes blankets among needy people

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: The District Administration distributed blankets to poor and needy people at the District Administrative Complex Ramban today. Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam handed over 100 blankets to widows and destitutes in the presence of CPO Dr Kasturi Lal, Dy DEO Lal Chand and other officers. The blankets were provided by Delhi-based NGO 'GOONG' through its Jammu & Kashmir team member Khurshheed Ahmed. The DC thanked NGO 'GOONG' for providing blankets to those in need during the winter season.

KVIB Ramban organises awareness camp

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) Ramban organised an awareness camp at Government ITI Kowgh Bagh. The aim was to inform trainees about different self-employment schemes being implemented by KVIB in the district. District Officer KVIB Ramban, Mohd Ishaq Gattu provided detailed information about the schemes. He encouraged unemployed youth and budding entrepreneurs to take advantage of government-sponsored schemes such as PMIEGP & JKREGP. He further stated that these schemes aimed to reduce migration from rural to urban areas in search of opportunities. Both schemes are available online and can be applied for via smartphone on the PMIEGP & JKREGP websites. Pamphlets for both schemes were also distributed among participants.

DC Doda addresses payment issues around NH244

DODA, MARCH 17: Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan held a meeting today to address complaints about payment for land and buildings needed for two projects by NHIDCL- Goha Khellani Package Ist and Goha Khellani Package IInd. During the meeting, the DC interacted virtually with land and structure owners who were to receive compensation and had submitted no objection certificates. Objections were listened to patiently by the DC while some of the landowners presented their objections in person before the competent authority. Objections were recorded and decisions made on their merits.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr RK Bharti; ACR, Sanjeev Kumar; GM NHIDCL, NS Gill; Tehsildar Headquarter, Daljeet Parihar; Tehsildar Doda, Shabir Ahmed Malik; Tehsildar Marmat, Zahir Rana; besides other officers and representatives from companies.

RAC approved 26 rent assessment cases in Rajouri

RAJOURI, MARCH 17: The Rent Assessment Committee (RAC) of Rajouri approved 26 rent assessment cases in a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kunal. 29 cases were discussed pertaining to Social Welfare, FCS&CA, Agriculture, Education, ICDS and other departments functioning from private rented buildings. After detailed deliberation 26 cases were approved. The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to expedite payment of rents as per rates approved in the meeting.

NIT Srinagar bags 3rd position in Prajatantra 2022-23 Director, Registrar NIT Srinagar congratulates students for exemplary results

Srinagar, Mar 17: The Prajatantra team of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has bagged 3rd position as India's Best Youth Team in Prajatantra's All India level Grand Finale that was held in New Delhi this week.

Similarly on the basis of individual performance, two students of NIT Srinagar includes Ms Mehvish Wani student of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Management and Ms Yashaswini Inala of B.Tech Electrical Engineering have also got 2nd positions each for Policy Presentation in Municipal Finance and Op-Ed writing respectively.

Prajatantra is a national level competition on Municipal Governance and Policy Making conducted by Praja Foundation New Delhi in various steps and levels.

The participation of the students was facilitated by the office of Dean Students Welfare, NIT Srinagar, coordinated by Dr. Nasir F. Butt, Coordinator of Art and Culture Club of the Students' Welfare Office.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the Prajatantra team of Institute for their outstanding performance in the mega event.

He appreciated the entire NIT Srinagar team for the achievement. There is a lot more to do



and such results are encouraging, he said.

Prof. Sehgal said NIT Srinagar is committed to reaching new heights for better outcomes in the future. We will leave no stone unturned to achieve a creditable space at national and international levels," he said.

The Director NIT Srinagar also commended the work put in by Dr. Nasir F. Butt, Coordinator of Art and Culture Club. He also congratulated Dean Students Welfare

NIT Srinagar, Prof. Abdul Limam for facilitating such events for overall development of students.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari congratulated the entire NIT Srinagar's Prajatantra 2022-23 team and stated that all participants have performed exceptionally well in all parameters in Prajatantra 2022-23.

He said that it is a proud moment for the entire institute. NIT Srinagar is committed to serve society through technological means

and ease the living of common people.

Prof. Bukhari said Prajatantra is providing a platform for the youths of India to form and function the model city government. The sole intention of doing it for the youths is to make them understand how the city governance functions, he said.

In the grand finale, the winners were felicitated by esteemed dignitaries include Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 India Sherpa, Shri

Shombi Sharp UN Resident Coordinator India, Shri Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Dr Gayatri Doctor, Program Chair CEPT University and Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director National Institute of Urban Affairs in the ceremony.

The young leaders were awarded for their exceptional performance in the mayor's speech, Policy Presentation on Municipal Finance, Policy Presentation on eGovernance, Debate, OpEd, and Quiz Competition.

Prajatantra 2022-23, organised by the Praja Foundation in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and co-funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom South Asia, is an initiative that aims to celebrate city governance with Indian youth. The Grand Finale of the event was held as part of the National Youth Conclave. Prajatantra 2022-23, organised by the Praja Foundation in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and co-funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom South Asia, is an initiative that aims to celebrate city governance with Indian youth. The Grand Finale of the event was held as part of the National Youth Conclave.

DDC Vice chairman Kupwara visits KGBV Potushai Lolab

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: The Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir today visited KGBV Potushai Lolab to inspect the ongoing work of construction of the boundary wall of the institution.

The Vice Chairman DDC was accompanied by ZEO Sogam, Ali Mohammad and ZEPO Sogam, Fayaz Ahmad Wani.

The Vice Chairman DDC interacted with Girl students and staff and listened to their grievances.

KGBV Warden, Mymoona Khanum and students briefed the Vice Chairman about the prevailing scenario of the KGBV Potushai and demanded clean drinking water for the hostel and toilet facility for KGBV where 50 girl students are enrolled for boarding and lodging facilities.

Haji Farooq took the issue of shortage of drinking water with Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti department Kupwara who assured that water supply connection will be provided to KGBV on priority basis.

Regarding lack of toilet and washroom facility, the Vice Chairman asked ACP Kupwara to get washroom/toilet facility constructed under SBM for girl students and staff on priority.

The Vice Chairman DDC also inspected the work of construction of boundary wall for KGBV which is under progress with a cost of Rs 18.00 lakhs under Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

He asked the Executive Engineer concerned to speed up the pace of work so that it is completed within stipulated time and girl students and female staff of KGBV feel safe and secure.

While interacting with girl students of KGBV, Haji Farooq asked the girl students to study with full dedication and commitment and take the advantage of different women oriented programmes and schemes of the Government.

No vaccine available for rate bite victims in Srinagar hospitals

Srinagar, Mar 17, KNT: A man from Srinagar's old city was bitten by a rat on Friday morning. Much agony to the family, no vaccine for rat bites was available neither at SKIMS Soura nor at SMHS Hospital.

The victim identified as Muhammad Maqbool Ganai, a resident of Noorbagh Guzarbal was taken to SKIMS Soura by his family for treatment shortly after his right finger was bitten by a rodent at his home.

Jan Muhammad, the son of the victim told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that doctors at SKIMS asked him to take his father to SMHS Hospital as no vaccine for a rat bite is available in the hospital.

"Though rats don't cause rabies, and my father didn't need it but to my surprise, even anti-rabies vaccines are not available at SKIMS," he said adding that the same scenario prevails at SMHS hospital where no vaccine is available for rate bite victims. He said his father was given anti-biotic tablets and was asked to get a vaccine each day from the open market for a whole month. "Both the hospitals wasted our time and we were forced to look for private treatment," he said. When contacted a medico said that a rat bite victim needs a 'tetanus toxoid' vaccine on an urgent basis but unfortunately that is not available in the government hospitals.

Defunct drainage system troubles Bilal Colony residents

Srinagar, Mar 17, KNT: Residents of Bilal Colony in the Khayam area of Srinagar Friday appealed to repair the defunct drainage system that has inundated the whole locality. The locals said that for a long time, the defective manhole pumps contaminated water upside as a result the lanes have flooded with water, creating problems for pedestrians especially school-going children.

"We repeatedly appealed to the authorities but nobody listened to us. The drainage system is completely defunct as the rusty pipes have never been maintained," a local Nisar Ahmed told the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

Another local Fayaz Ahmed said that they uploaded videos about this faulty drainage system on social media to attract the attention of the concerned authorities but nothing changed on the ground. "We have left with no option but to hit to roads against the concerned department,"

Surinder village of Bandipora witnesses White Revolution DC hands-over 30 cows & Milk Van among progressive farmers

BANDIPORA, MARCH 17: The Department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora today held a Mega Event at Veterinary Complex Bandipora to distribute cows to farmers of Surinder village to earn livelihood.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad officially handed over 30 cows to 15 beneficiaries of Surinder village.

The beneficiaries were identified randomly through draw of lots and were provided units at subsidised rates under TSP.

The eligible beneficiaries were also provided with Chaff Cutters, Deworming Kits and Mineral Supplements.

Meanwhile Progressive Dairy Farmers and entrepreneurs were also given training and awareness regarding management of animals on scientific practices.

The event was also attended by CEO LDBK, Dr Mohd Yunus; Joint Director Planning, Imtiaz Ahmad; CAHO Bandipora and other District and Block Officials and all three tier representatives of Panchayati Raj viz DDC, BDC and other panchayat representatives.

The DC started the event by handing over two cows units to the fifteen selected beneficiaries of Surinder area.

He then handed over the keys of the Milk Van to the IDDS beneficiary. He also inaugurated the Animal Shelter Shed for treatment and shelter of Stray Animals.

Dr Owais later attended the Mega training cum awareness programme organised for the progressive dairy farmers and entrepreneurs.

CAHO Bandipora briefed the gathering about the Mandate and overall achievements of the department. BVO Bandipora gave a detailed lecture on management practices to be followed for profitable Dairying from these units.

Sarpanch of the Village Surinder thanked the Department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora and the District Administration for selecting his Village for providing such units under TSP.

Later, DC while addressing the gathering appreciated the efforts of the department in uplifting the weaker sections of the society through the implementation of different schemes.

Secretary Organisation Mansoor Hussain Soharwardy and attended by Vice President and Media Head Syed Basharat Bukhari, Vice President Raja Aijaz Ali, General Secretary (Head Office) Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Provincial President Mohammad Khurshid Alam, State Secretary Mohammad Abbas Wani, Chief Organiser Rashed Mehmood, Spokesperson Adnan Ashraf Mir and Political Secretary to PC President Tasaduq Yaseen. Besides the state functionaries, Chairman Parliamentary Committee Nizamuddin Bhat.

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Parliamentary Standing Committee recommendations must be implemented to check exorbitant airfares: KCC&I

Srinagar, Mar 17, KNT: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry has expressed concern over the uncertain exorbitant airfares which have been adversely affecting the tourist business of Jammu and Kashmir and the travel movement of sick, aged, students and businessmen.

Faiz Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary General, KCC&I in statement to the news agency Kashmir News Trust said that it welcomes the recommendations made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture and hopes these recommendations pertaining to airfare will be implemented in letter and spirit.

"The Committee has taken the stock of situation emerging out of irrational mechanism adopted by some operators in league with some airlines manipulating the air fare. KCC&I hails the said Department-related Committee for making the appropriate recommendations and wants these recommendations should be implemented on the ground."

KCC&I urged the Minister of Home Affairs, the Union Minister for Civil Aviation Government of India and also the Director General, Civil Aviation to ensure implementation of these recommendations without fail and any further delay.

KCC&I said that till the recommendations are implemented, the Airlines should operate additional flights to meet the tourist rush for visiting the short-lived Tulip garden. Furthermore, this is also the time for the return of local citizens, students, and non-resident Kashmiris.

Recently, the Committee has recommended that there should be a mechanism with the Ministry such as capping of upper and lower prices to stop the practice of 'predatory pricing' or the sudden surge in prices even though price buckets are being created as per international aviation norms, a close watch has to be maintained by the DGCA & the Ministry and a mechanism should be devised to monitor the websites of various airlines to prevent them from misguiding passengers. [KNT]

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Arrangements for ensuing Ramadan-ul-Mubarak reviewed at Kulgam

Farooq RATHER

KULGAM, MARCH 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Uddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers of various departments to take stock of arrangements put in place to provide hassle-free services to people during the holy month of Ramadan.

On the occasion, a threadbare discussion with regard to various necessities was held, wherein the DC emphasized upon the concerned officers to ensure that every arrangement is made well in advance so that people may not face any inconvenience during the month of Ramadan.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of all requisite and essential commodities to the people



at prescribed rates.

He also instructed to intensify market checking and conduct of special drives to ensure availability of quality products.

Dr Bilal instructed officers of KPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Iftar and Sehri time

besides the concerned from Jal Shakti were instructed to provide smooth supply of drinking water to people especially at the given times. He also asked to press the tanker service in areas where ever required. The DC also instructed EOs of all Municipal Com-

mittees to carry out intensive sanitation drives. Besides, PDD and Municipal authorities were instructed to make all the street lights functional and repair high mast lights which are defunct.

ARTO was instructed to start special transport services during the month of Ramadan.

All the officers were stressed to work in a co-ordinated and synergized manner to provide better services to people throughout this month.

ADDC Showkat Ahmad Rathi, ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri, SDM-Noorabad Bashir Ul Hassan ACR Mir Imtiaz-ul-Aziz, Tehsildars, CAO, DSHO, Dy.SP, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, EOs and other officers, besides, Civil society members, Traders, Auqaf members also attended the meeting.

DC Baramulla chairs SFCAC Committee meeting

BARAMULLA, MARCH 17: A meeting of the Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) was held today at Baramulla under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar. 172 application forms were screened by the committee, among which 59 files were rejected. 113 eligible cases were further screened for approving the cases under the allotted quota of 58.

The DC directed the SFCAC Committee members to ensure that the files are approved as per the prioritization set by the guidelines issued by the Government. She directed that Field Reports shall be prepared by the agencies of the Mission Vatsalya



regarding the cases. Meanwhile, the DC directed the Committee members that the Case files in favour of the students should be completed at an earliest, so that the Sponsorship amount is released to the students at an earliest. The Member Secretary SFCAC Com-

mittee, DSWO Baramulla briefed the meeting that the case files need scrutiny and prioritization of the SFCAC committee. It was informed that the cases are sponsored for a period of 3 years. Members of the SFCAC viz., Additional District Development

Commissioner Baramulla, DSWO Baramulla, PO NIC, PO IC and TSWO Kupwara attended the meeting. The DC directed the SFCAC Committee members to ensure that the files are approved as per the prioritization set by the guidelines issued by the Government. She directed that Field Reports shall be prepared by the agencies of the Mission Vatsalya regarding the cases. Meanwhile, the DC directed the Committee members that the Case files in favour of the students should be completed at an earliest, so that the Sponsorship amount is released to the students at an earliest. The Member Secretary SFCAC Committee, DSWO Baramulla briefed the meeting that the case.

IUST holds Plantation Drive and Seminar on Climate Change

Awantipora, March 17: Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in collaboration with the Department of Social Forestry, Government of J&K today held Plantation Drive under the theme 'Donate a Plant & Own a Tree (DPOT)' and conducted One Day Seminar on the theme 'Role of Forests in Mitigating Climate Change'.

Chief Guest on the occasion, Mr. Roshan Jaggi, IFS PCCF/ Director Department of Social Forestry J&K highlighted the importance of forests in Climate Change mitigation strategy and said that halting deforestation and increasing the



green cover helps in reduction of greenhouse gases, he also talked about initiatives afoot towards making Green India a reality.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Roms-hoo Vice Chancellor IUST and Patron of the event, said that climate change

impacts all aspects of human activity, therefore collective efforts at global level are needed to mitigate the impact of climate change. He highlighted the global mechanisms and protocols adopted by nation states with special

reference to COP 27 and said that the survival of the human race depends on timely action and awakening about the importance of climate change issues and said that developed countries will have to fulfill their commitments. He also highlighted the green initiatives taken by the university, particularly the setting up of solar energy park, biodiversity park etc. Registrar IUST Prof Naseer Iqbal and Dean Outreach Prof Lily Want also spoke about the threats posed by climate change and lauded the efforts of the social forestry department in increasing the green cover.

NMBA: Kupwara Administration organises Awareness programme at Tangdar

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: A meeting under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was held today at Dak Bunglow Tangdar, with the objective to eradicate drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders including Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, SHO Tangdar, Assistant Professor GDC Tangdar, sarpanchs, teachers, Officials of DHEW and parents who are all committed to building a

drug-free India. During the meeting, participants discussed various strategies to combat drug abuse in their respective communities. Speaking on the occasion Tehsil Social Welfare Officer made the gathering aware about the negative effects of substance abuse, including its impact on physical and mental health and also discussed the government's initiatives to address the problem. SHO Tangdar emphasized

the importance of law enforcement in preventing the Drug abuse and discussed the role of police in intercepting drug trafficking. He also emphasized the need for community involvement in tackling drug abuse. The sarpanchs shared their experiences of dealing with drug-related issues and discussed the challenges they face in implementing drug prevention programs in their villages. The parents shared

their concerns about their children's exposure to drugs and discussed the role of parents in preventing drug abuse.

The meeting ended with a consensus that a multi-faceted approach is needed to achieve the goal of a drug-free India. Participants pledged to work together to create awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to implement preventive measures in their communities.

HEADLINES TODAY

HT EDITORIAL

Domestic Violence in Kashmir

Domestic violence is a serious issue that has been prevalent in society for decades. It is a violation of basic human rights and can have severe physical, psychological, and emotional consequences for the victims. Unfortunately, domestic violence continues to be a widespread problem in Kashmir. It is important to acknowledge this issue and work towards eradicating it from our society. Domestic violence is a result of the imbalance of power dynamics in relationships. The patriarchal culture in Kashmir is a significant contributing factor to domestic violence. Women are often considered subordinate to men and are expected to be obedient and submissive. This mentality has led to a rise in cases of domestic violence in the region. Women who challenge traditional gender roles or voice their opinions are often subjected to physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. The situation in Kashmir is further complicated by the ongoing conflict in the region. The conflict has created a culture of violence, and this mentality has permeated into households. The stress of living in a conflict zone has also resulted in a rise in mental health issues, which can lead to an increase in domestic violence. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation worse for domestic violence victims in Kashmir. Lockdowns and restrictions on movement have made it difficult for victims to escape abusive situations or seek help. The pandemic has also resulted in an economic downturn, leading to a rise in poverty and unemployment, which can further exacerbate the problem. It is essential to address this issue at various levels. Prevention efforts are crucial to ensure that domestic violence is not normalized. Education campaigns must be launched to promote gender equality, and community leaders must be involved in promoting respect for women's rights. Law enforcement agencies must also be vigilant in enforcing laws against domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence need support and resources to escape abusive situations. Shelters and safe spaces must be established to provide a safe haven for victims. Counseling services and legal assistance must be provided to help them heal and seek justice. There should be a concerted effort to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. Community involvement is also crucial in addressing domestic violence in Kashmir. Community leaders, including religious leaders, can play a vital role in promoting respect for women's rights and condemning violence against women. It is essential to change the societal attitudes that perpetuate domestic violence. In conclusion, domestic violence is a severe problem in Kashmir that needs to be addressed urgently. The patriarchal culture, ongoing conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation worse for domestic violence victims. It is essential to address the root causes of the problem and provide support to the victims. By working together, we can create a future where domestic violence is not accepted in any form.

WOMAN. THE BEST CREATURE



Penned by Yasmee Ahad

The woman is the most beautiful creature. With her, are your present, past, and future. As mother, she brought you into this world. Nurture you and make you happy and bold. She holds your hand for a short time. But in her heart, you remain all the time. Her love is pure and pious. For you alone, she is so courageous. She must not be so smart and pretty. Her care and concern are natural and heavenly. As sister, she is your best friend. every trouble and sorrow she mends. Your childhood becomes interesting and best, She protects and remains closest. As wife, she becomes part of you. Consider you her king that's true. she loves helps and Comforts you, sacrifices everything she has, just for you. You became an important person in her life. She shares your sorrows and happiness in her life. As a daughter, she completes your life. You became Superman throughout her life. Her love and hugs remove your trouble, You became so adorable and respectable.

Private teachers: A hapless lot



Zahoor Farooq

Teachers, working in different private schools have been relegated to obscurity in Kashmir. As government is not able to accommodate all qualified candidates, they leap into the breach and embark on an unmapped journey that they fail to navigate later on in their lives. Once they take the plunge in private schools, they apply themselves to providing the best to their students. They work by leaps and bounds to mould the behaviour of students, so the future of the nation will be shaped for better. They are always willing to extend their support to their students so as to contribute to students' success and to meet the expectations that are laid on the shoulders of teachers, they put their nose to the grindstone and work like a trojan. They are saddled from all quarters to handle constant pressure exerted by administration, management and upper echelons of academics in private institutions. However, salary they are paid against their pains and efforts they put in day in and day out is exceptionally disproportionate. Quite recently, I have stumbled upon an advertisement surfaced on various social media sites with reference to the recruitment of private teachers having been paid the salary of 6000 to 7000 for post graduates with bachelor of education. One way or the other way it dissuades people from achieving education when results are disconcerting enough to drive them to take another route in order to survive in society. Above all, post-covid world was the worst phase for teachers working in private institutions, as their already miserable lives were further aggravated owing to their pay being withheld in view of pandemic that brought the bustling world to a grinding halt. When schools

reopened after pandemic, either teachers were paid half salary or nothing at all, the school management came up with different excuses dodging the issue of complete disbursement of salary even when the school management recovered all the fees from parents. There were teachers who awfully suffered at the hands of their concerned private school management. Even some teachers reported to have been terminated from the school in the wake of

dents so as to chip in for the growth and success of the school.

It is worth mentioning that government implemented National Educational Policy to bring reforms in education and redress the challenges that education in India faces. Special emphasis was laid on education being strengthened and multidisciplinary. On the one hand government, through National Educational Policy seeks to be concerned about the students

National Educational Policy with reference to the monthly pay of private school teachers being fixed, so that the exploitative practices that are rampant in private schools, will come to halt. The grade concerning salary for private teachers should be uniformly set so as to minimize their sufferings caused by the school management. It is equally the duty of teachers to raise their voice against any kind of exploitation on the part of management, they should not turn a blind eye to oppression even if it is minorly inflicted upon them. If they as private school teachers, are being collective victims to this vicious cycle of exploitation, they all must stand together to topple such authoritative and oppressive management so that a positive change is brought about to this fraternity. If teachers are expected to provide quality education, it is incumbent upon government to put forward certain measures and provisions, so that private teaching fraternity will take pride in being a part of a particular institution. Education is universally the noblest profession of all and at the same time, educators are exploited to a greater extent. If teachers feel at ease with teaching, they will certainly multiply their efforts and ensure their full compliance with the rules and regulations of the institute and subsequently the department will get to see the great output. A teacher cannot be anticipated to give hundred percent or to work with a level of satisfaction as long as he is not satisfied with his job and it will also leave adverse impact on his performance. Besides a regulatory body needs to be constituted to fix the monthly pay of teachers in accordance with their qualification because eventually the students have to bear the burnt following continual exploitation of teachers at the hands of school management. Youth that can contribute to building nation stems from preserving the dignity of its teachers and protecting them from any kind of exploitation.

The Opinion / Views expressed by the Author are his own and daily Headlines Today doesn't Own, Acknowledge or Support the same.



post-covid crisis. Some complaints about salary cuts and increased working hours were doing rounds on social networking sites after covid. Most of the private schools recruit female teachers over male teachers because they are willing to work at a minimum pay. It also turns out to be problematic for private teachers when it comes the recruitment of teachers. Unlike private school teacher, the other unemployed sections in society receive limelight and are brought forth from time to time. Although, this hapless lot has been transferred into exile beyond recall. To restore this forgotten lot, government should roll out some policies and strategies to take them into consideration and save them from falling prey to the exploitation perpetuated by private school management. Their monthly pay against their efforts is peerless, they take pains with a view to bring the best out of stu-

of the nation and on the other hand, it does not bother to bring financial grievances to the fore and oppression inflicted upon such teachers who are given back seat in education.

Sadly no provisions have been made with regard to private school teachers who work tirelessly for seven to eight hours for which they are paid seven to eight thousand monthly, despite being well qualified and hardworking. They provide results hundred times better and more efficient to their school contrary to their monthly pay. Keeping into view the exploitations and miseries that teachers are afflicted with by the management of the school with respect to their monthly pay, the onus falls on the government to resuscitate this lot that has been migrated into oblivion by unrolling policies that can help them survive in the society. The government should incorporate policies in its

Civil Service Exam (UPSC) is about staying consistent



Vijay GarG

The mantra for cracking the UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE), one of India's most competitive and prestigious examinations, is synonymous with consistent efforts, dedication and utmost focus. Many UPSC toppers have reiterated that the success behind cracking the exam is not just intelligence and hard work. It is essential for the candidates to also maintain focus and consistency for long periods, often years. It may be easy for candidates to stay consistent for a week, a month, or even three months. If your target is the UPSC 2024 examination, you need to maintain that level of consistency for one and a half years. And to help you with tips, we have compiled 7 points to keep in mind while charting your preparation strategy.

- 1. Setting goals with timelines**
The first step in this process is to set your goal and establish the timelines. For example, a 6-month-period is probably too short for a beginner to successfully crack the UPSC. Instead, the candidate should focus on pushing his or her timeline to the next year. Juggling additional tasks together can be overburdening and act

counterproductive to staying consistent. Instead, candidates should prioritize tasks and focus on finishing one before moving to another.

2. Benefits of a broad strategy

Note that making a timetable and strategy

and learn how to utilize whatever you are reading, something which is similar to answer writing. Remember that you can improve only what you can measure. So, monitoring your progress and evaluating whatever you have covered through tests



is something that requires expertise and skill. Know that your specific strategy or timetable will work for you as some past ranker's strategies worked for them. Your strategy must incorporate all the factors and variables that have an impact on your preparation. This includes the time needed on a daily/weekly basis for preparation, learning style, and financial factors like coaching fees, rent, etc. One also must break down the more than year-long study preparation into small, measurable, and manageable chunks. Do not feel shy to ask for help when it is needed. In case, if you don't have anyone to help you with it, get a UPSC mentor's guidance and expertise.

3. Evaluate your learning

Preparing for the UPSC CSE exams needs long dedicated hours of studying and reading. UPSC preparation is not just about reading alone. You must analyse, retain,

becomes essential. Prelims mock, Mains answer writing and discussion with mentors and peers must be incorporated from the first week of your preparation.

4. Create a feedback-improvement loop

You need to be accountable not only to yourself but to that person or system for the completion of a specific task. UPSC mentors, in many institutes, establish such a system through which your planning, target setting, monitoring, evaluation, and feedback-improvement loop is systematized into one. They will use their priceless experience to help you not divert from your goals. Thus, you should outsource accountability to other people and ace your preparation.

5. Focus on daily improvement

UPSC success is all about small measurable gains over a period of time. Remember, consistency always beats intensity.

Setting new goals is easy. However, displaying consistent improvement is a daily grind. So, plan and select your suitable life-saving hacks to stay consistent with your daily routines and targets.

6. Avoid prolonged Isolation

You will get exhausted, and feel burnt out in just a matter of a few weeks. Do not wait to recharge your battery when you are fully drained out. Incorporate breaks in your UPSC timetable with exercise, extra-curricular activities, or any physical activity. Preparing with a group of highly motivated individuals while having a common goal will only take you forward and make you more focused on your goal. At the same time, you won't even feel exhausted.

7. Maintaining emotional stability

Another perspective towards UPSC success is staying emotionally fit during this 1.5 year long journey. The biggest hurdle in achieving your highest level of consistency is the emotional bit of it. Every now and then, there is a tendency to surround yourself with negative thoughts like fear or depression. Instead of resolving negative thoughts and emotional issues like fear or depression, many avoid these. However, you have to understand that ignoring emotional troubles will only worsen the problems. It is time to rely on your UPSC mentors, teachers, friends, and family. Talk to them and spend some quality time with them.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

The Opinion / Views expressed by the Author are his own and daily Headlines Today doesn't Own, Acknowledge or Support the same.

DRUG ADDICTION IN KASHMIR: FACTORS AND SOLUTIONS



By Daawar Bashir Ganaie

United Nations Drug Control Program has presented that nearly 70000 people in Kashmir are addicted to drugs of which 4000 are females. In the last three years, there has been an upsurge of 1500% in the usage of drugs. Drug addiction is a significant problem in many parts of the world, and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir is no exception. It has emerged as a major problem in Kashmir, with thousands of people falling victim to this scourge. Kashmir, which has seen years of political unrest and conflict, has a high prevalence of substance abuse. While the reasons for the rise in drug abuse in the region are complex and multifaceted, the consequences of this trend are devastating, and urgent action is needed to address the problem. One of the most concerning aspects of the growing drug addiction problem in Kashmir is the impact it is having on the younger generation. Studies have shown that drug use is becoming more common among teenagers and young adults, and this is having a significant impact on their physical and mental health, as well as their education and future prospects. There are several factors that have contributed

to the rise in drug addiction in Kashmir. One of the most important is the ongoing conflict in the region, which has resulted in social, economic, and psychological stress for many people. Substance abuse can be a way of coping with this stress, providing a temporary escape from the daily realities of life in Kashmir. The lack of opportunities, unemployment, and poverty are some of the outcomes of this conflict, which have left many young people with little hope for the future. Another factor is the easy availability of drugs, particularly heroin, opium, and cannabis. The region is located at a key transit point between South Asia and Central Asia. The porous borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan have made it easier for drug smugglers to bring their illegal products into the region. The lack of effective law enforcement in the region also contributes to the easy availability of drugs. Many young people have become involved in drug use as a way to cope with the stresses of daily life or as a means of escaping their problems. Cultural factors also play a role in the high rates of drug addiction in Kashmir. Alcohol and drug use are often seen as a way of demonstrating masculinity and toughness, particularly among young men. This can lead to social pressure to engage in substance abuse, particularly in certain social circles. In many cases, substance abuse in Kashmir is driven by peer pressure. Young people often feel pressure to conform to social norms and engage in risky behaviour, including drug and alcohol use. Kashmir has experienced decades of political turmoil, conflict, and violence which have taken a severe toll on the mental health of its residents.

Many people in the region suffer from depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other mental health issues as a result of their experiences. Substance abuse is often used as a coping mechanism for dealing with these conditions, resulting in ad-



diction. The consequences of drug addiction in Kashmir are profound and far-reaching. Families are torn apart as loved ones become addicted and struggle to overcome their addiction. Health problems such as HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases are also common among drug users who share needles or engage in other risky behaviours. Drug addiction also contributes to the overall burden of disease and mortality in the region. In addition, drug addiction has a significant impact on the social fabric of the region. The use of drugs often leads to criminal activity, including theft, robbery, and violence. This in turn creates a climate of fear and instability in communities.

The use of drugs has a long-lasting impact on the developing brains of young people, which affects their ability to learn and make good decisions. This, in turn, leads to a cycle of underachievement and poverty that can be difficult to break. Moreover, drug addiction is not only a problem for the individual but also for their families, friends, and the wider community. The stigma associated with drug use can lead to social isolation and further exacerbate the psychological and emotional toll of addiction. Families are often left struggling to cope with the financial and emotional costs of drug addiction, which can have a devastating impact on their lives. There is a lack of addiction treatment facilities and mental health resources in the region, which makes it difficult for people to get help for substance abuse or mental health issues. The stigma surrounding mental health also prevents many people from seeking help.

Addressing the problem of drug addiction in Kashmir will require a multifaceted approach. One of the key components of any solution is education and awareness-raising about the dangers of drug use. This should include programs that target young people and focus on prevention, as well as efforts to reach out to those who are already struggling with addiction. There is a general lack of awareness about the dangers of substance abuse in Kashmir.

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Secretary Revenue visits Samba; reviews implementation of e-services, PSGA, CLU

SAMBA, MARCH 17: Secretary, Revenue, Dr Piyush Singla, today reviewed implementation of several online revenue services and PSGA during his exhaustive visit to Samba district.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, Registrar Samba, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Dubey, ACR, Samba Dr Kusam, SDM Ghagwal and SDM Vijaypur and Tehsildars attended the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner gave a brief overview about the revenue services being provided besides functioning of revenue department in the district.

Secretary took extensive review of revenue department including online revenue services, land acquisition cases NH project, PSGA services, CLU cases, land transfer cases, setting up of industrial estate, appointment of Lambardar and Chowkidars, court cases, e-office, HRM issues, disposal of revenue court cases, DILRMP, SVAMITVA, registration, disposal of grievances and land pass book generation.

Dr Singla issued directions to revenue officers to clear all the penden-



cies within the given timelines. Also, directions were issued for organising special revenue camps in the area near industrial zones for updation of revenue record.

He also directed the concerned officers to facilitate citizen users for availing all revenue services in their respective areas. He emphasised upon facilitating prospective private industrial estates in change of Land Use.

Secretary exhorted upon the officers and field functionaries of revenue department to work in close

coordination for prompt public service delivery. He instructed all the Revenue officers to follow the timelines of disposals for services under PSGA in letter and spirit.

He asked the Tehsildars to create awareness among the general public regarding online revenue services.

Secretary directed the officers to update their revenue records in mission mode to ensure that the digitization of cadastral maps and

other relevant documents is completed in a time bound manner and people can avail the benefits of the programme.

He appreciated the efforts of the district administration especially the Revenue team for showing effective management of revenue activities in the district. He exhorted upon them to ensure that citizens are given hassle free online services. Secretary took extensive review of revenue department including online revenue services, land acquisition cases NH project, PSGA services, CLU cases, land transfer cases, setting up of industrial estate, appointment of Lambardar and Chowkidars, court cases, e-office, HRM issues, disposal of revenue court cases, DILRMP, SVAMITVA, registration, disposal of grievances and land pass book generation.

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Mission Youth: 3-day training programme on drug abuse begins at Ramban

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam inaugurated a three-day training programme on early detection of drug abuse and post-detection management at Conference Hall Maitra, Ramban. The programme was part of the ongoing Revitalisation of Youth Clubs under Mission Youth.

The Capacity Building Programme trained Youth Club Volunteers, ASHA and Anganwadi Workers on tackling drug abuse, early detection of addiction, counselling youth and de-addiction. Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kamal Zadu, BMO Ukhral, Dr Mohd Iqbal, counsellors and psychologists delivered lectures with Power Point Presentations and interacted with trainees on the occasion.

The Social Welfare Department Ramban organised the programme under District Social Welfare Officer Rahul Gupta's supervision by involving Education, Health and other departments. DSWO presented a welcome address highlighting issues associated



with drug abuse in Assistant Director Employment & Counselling Centre, Dr Sushant Mahajan's presence.

Experts spoke on physical or psychological signs of early detection; steps to prevent drug misuse in children and teenagers; types of drug abuse rehabilitations. Deputy Commissioner stated that drug abuse affects individuals, families and communities. He emphasised tackling it from multiple perspectives including deterrence, treatment and enforcement. The District Administration Ramban

is committed to creating a drug-free environment in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of creating awareness and spreading knowledge to prevent drug abuse and promote sustainable livelihood. He added that the government is committed to supporting them under Mission Youth Programme. He appreciated collaborating departments' efforts and said training sessions' experience will help work more effectively in curbing this menace.

Navratra, Ramzan arrangements discussed at District Reasi

REASI, MARCH 17: Deputy Commissioner, Babila

The DC stressed upon the Police Department to make

cleanliness in the town.

A committee comprising Tehsildar, Assistant Director FCS & CA, CEO Municipality and Food Safety Officer was constituted to conduct market inspection to keep check on overcharging by shopkeepers. Shopkeepers were also asked to display the rate list of essential commodities for public information.

The Traffic department was directed to deploy an adequate number of personnel at traffic jam-prone areas to avoid congestion during the festival. The general public was advised not to park their vehicles on the road side.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Amit Gupta, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ravinder Manhas, Tehsildar Reasi (HQR), Suresh Singh and ARTO Rajesh Gupta besides other district officers.



Rakwal convened a meeting with officers and prominent citizens to discuss arrangements for Navratras and holy Ramzan.

Discussions were held on various arrangements related to security, safe drinking water, power supply, first-aid, sanitation and checking of rates. Necessary directions were issued to district heads to ensure fool-proof arrangements during the festival.

sufficient security arrangements.

The CMO was asked to deploy a health team along with an ambulance for providing necessary health facilities. Xen PHE was asked to ensure regular supply of drinking water and Xen PDD was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the festival. The DC directed the CEO MC to take necessary steps in maintaining

Nowshera Forest Division creates NavGrah Vatika and Nakshatra Van at Meenka Mahadev Temple

RAJOURI, MARCH 17: A large function was organised by Nowshera Forest Division to inaugurate newly created Nav Grah Vatika and Nakshatra Van in the premises of Meenka Mahadev temple in Changi Kangrial Panchayat of Sunderbani Subdivision. DDC Sunderbani Rajinder Sharma was the Chief guest on the occasion.

Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri was a special guest and Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera Neelima Shah was the guest of honour.

The function was also attended by PRI members along with a large number of devotees and general public to see the first-of-its-kind creation conceptualised by Forest Department. Vivek Verma spoke at the event and said that

in Hindu stories, all Gods and Goddesses are connected to plants. The nine planets that are thought to affect a person's life are also linked to plants. Navgrah Vatika is a garden of nine trees, bushes and grasses representing nine planets. These trees are planted in a particular direction to get the benefit of nine planets or grah so named Nav Grah Vatika. Similarly, Nakshatra Van has 27 divisions in which plants and trees linked to Nakshatras are planted in a circular manner.

The DDC Sunderbani appreciated the unique concept of Nowshera Forest Division to conserve nature and ecology on religious lines by involving religious sentiments of local people. He emphasised the importance of clean and green environment for overall well-being of

mankind.

Neelima Shah explained in detail about historical as well as religious importance of plants in Nakshatra Van as well as NavGrah Vatika. She said such activities develop cordial relations between general public and Forest Department which will help in better conservation and protection of natural forest.

Range Forest Officer Sunderbani, Rakesh Verma expressed his gratitude to those whose attendance made the event a grand success. He added that these types of entry point activities will help develop coordination between the Forest Department and local people, which will in turn help in better conservation and protection of forests.

DDC Rajouri inaugurates 16 Anganwadi Centres

RAJOURI, MARCH 17: District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal today inaugurated 16 Anganwadi Centres completed under the convergence mode of ICDS and RDD.

The newly inaugurated Anganwadi Centres are part of a larger initiative to construct 110 such centres in the district under the convergence mode of ICDS and RDD. The cost of each Anganwadi Centre is Rs 7 lakh. These centres will be equipped with modern facilities such as drinking water facilities, toilets and poshan vaticas to provide a healthy and hygienic environment for children.

Speaking at the inauguration, Vikas Kundal emphasised the importance of these centres in providing



early childhood care and education. He said "Anganwadi Centres play a crucial role in the overall development of children and it is our responsibility to provide them

with the best possible facilities. With the construction of these 110 centres under the convergence mode of ICDS and RDD we are taking a significant step towards im-

proving early childhood care and education infrastructure in the district."

The District Development Commissioner also appreciated efforts of teams involved in construction and equipping these centres. He urged them to continue their efforts ensuring children attending these centres receive best possible care and education. He assured that construction and equipping these centres will be completed within stipulated timeline.

Among the others present on the occasion were BDC Rajouri, Darbar Chowdhary; BDC Dhangri, Tazheem Akhter; PO ICDS, Shoket Mehmood Malik; BDO Rajouri, Chander Kant Bhagat and other officers.

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar College organises Poster making competition and rally on HIV-AIDS

JAMMU, MARCH 17: The Red Ribbon Club of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar conducted a poster-making competition and rally on AIDS awareness in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society today. The event was held under the guidance of Prof BD Sehgal and convenorship of Dr Shalini Sharma.

66 students participated in an AIDS awareness event where 32 created message-oriented posters in a competition. Dr Irvinder Kour, Head of Home Science Department, Dr Anuradha Gandotra, Head of Food Science and Technology Department and Prof Neelam Bhagat from Home Science Department were the jury members.

Muskan Bali of Semester 5 bagged first position while Ashpreet Kour of Semester



3 secured second position and third position was bagged by Anushka Sharma of Semester 3. All participants were later given certificates also.

On the occasion, the students took out a rally to raise awareness about AIDS. The rally passed through the by-lanes of Green Belt area and culminated back in the college premises where students shouted slogans and participated enthusiastically.

Present on the occasion were Dr Revika Arora, Dr Neelima Gupta, Prof Abhinav Sharma, Prof Harmeet and Prof Sunita members of Red Ribbon Club.

Principal Prof Minu Mahajan congratulated the winners and appreciated the efforts of Red Ribbon Club committee members. She said that such awareness programmes are necessary to prevent diseases before they occur as prevention is always better than cure.

ALC Ramban releases pending PMGSY wages

RAMBAN, MARCH 17: The Labour Department in Ramban paid over fourteen lakh rupees to construction workers whose wages were pending from the PMGSY Department. While handing over cheques worth Rs 14,03,379 to the construction workers, Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban, Dr Sushant Mahajan emphasised the importance of providing adequate support and guidance to construction workers working on various projects. Dr Mahajan also highlighted various government initiatives to ensure worker welfare in the construction sector. These include health and safety measures at work sites and a database of registered workers to ensure timely and adequate support. The ALC stated that several schemes are being run by the government for building and other construction workers' welfare. These aim to regulate employment and service conditions while providing safety measures for registered workers. ALC appealed to any remaining construction workers to apply for registration under J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare



Board (JKBOCWWB) immediately. This would allow them to benefit from various government welfare schemes. Dr Mahajan also highlighted various government initiatives to ensure worker welfare in the construction sector. These include health and safety measures at work sites and a database of registered workers to ensure timely and adequate support. The ALC stated that several schemes are being run by the government for building and other construction workers' welfare. These aim to regulate employment and service.

DC Doda reviews delivery of the health services

DODA, MARCH 17: In order to review the healthcare scenario of the district, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan chaired a meeting of senior health functionaries at DC Office Complex today. The DC took a detailed review of achievements under various health schemes and the functioning of health institutions. CMO Doda Dr A H Zargar briefed the chair about the functioning of the health department.

The DC laid stress on rationalisation of staff working under NHM and maintaining monthly work done by health staff. Regarding an increase in institutional deliveries at block level, he directed BMOs to utilise ASHA's services to motivate pregnant ladies for institutional and safe delivery.

Regarding attachment of health staff, he strictly directed all concerned not to attach any staff without prior approval from competent authority. The DC urged upon health functionaries to focus on quality healthcare in the district and said that punctuality and hygienic conditions in health facilities are indispensable.

Besides CMO Doda, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr Ravi Kumar Bharti, all Block Medical Officers and other concerned from the department. In order to review the healthcare scenario of the district, Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan chaired a meeting of senior health functionaries at DC Office Complex today. The DC took a detailed review of achievements



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Two day regional workshop on PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan begins in Srinagar

Several initiatives underway using PM GatiShakti in Jammu and Kashmir

Srinagar, PIB March 17, 2023 A two day regional workshop on PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP), being organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) commenced today at SKICC in Srinagar. The objective of the workshop is to improve logistics efficiency by enhancing connectivity to economic zones and industrial clusters, as well as to enhance public welfare through improved access to social infrastructure. The workshop was chaired by Special Secretary, DPIIT Smt Sumita Dawra and participants from eight states and Union Territories of the Northern Region are taking part in it. PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach which was launched on October 13th, 2021 for building Next Generation Infrastructure which improves Ease of Living as well as Ease of Doing Business. The inaugural day of the workshop featured discussions with infrastructure, economic, and social sector ministries and departments at the center and state levels. A demonstration of the adoption of PM Gati Shakti with a holistic approach and a demonstration of best practices by states and UTs also featured in the workshop. Deliberations about the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) to showcase the different



components of logistics and a presentation by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Incomes (CBIC) on possibilities to develop Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFS) in Jammu and Kashmir to boost exports across the country were the main highlights of the first day of the programme. Addressing media at the end of the day long proceedings, Smt Dawra said that today we are at the crossroads of unprecedented growth in India, advancing with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to make India a developed Nation by 2047. She added that we are witnessing a strong growth of

India across the social as well as the economic pillars of our nation that is surpassing its own record every year. To achieve our aim to become a USD 32.8 trillion economy by 2047, development of world class modern infrastructure is paramount, she further said. Smt Dawra said that through today's workshops, Northern States/UTs showcased the good work already done such as all-weather road connectivity in J&K, planning of ICD at Samba, planning for MMLPs, Cold Storage facilities, 64 Pharma units in Kathua, using PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. She added that through this workshop, it is expected that all have

got an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and in the spirit of cooperative federalism we will improve outreach and facilitate project planning and monitoring on the NMP/SMP platform. There is great scope to augment the pace of adoption at State, district and gram panchayat levels. Additionally, 14 social sectors Ministries/Depts. have already been onboarded onto the NMP platform and are in advanced stages of integration, she further said. Smt Dawra said that after the launch of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, concerned Ministries and all States/UTs have been onboarded on mission-mode. Institutional frameworks have been set up, GIS-based individual portals and customised decision making tools have been developed, in-house capacities to adopt PM GatiShakti principles in project planning and implementation exist, and data based National Master Plan is being extensively used for project planning and implementation, she added. With a view to promote comprehensive, holistic, and integrated infrastructure development across the country, along with bridging critical infrastructure gaps, and addressing relative infrastructure deficit, across various economic zones/ industrial parks, etc.

Divisional Commissioner reviews progress of Jammu e-buses project

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to review progress of electric buses project of Jammu Smart City Mission in which CEO Rahul Yadav gave a detailed overview on progress made on the project so far. Divisional Commissioner asked Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi to clear bottlenecks and hand over land to Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) for establishment of charging stations for electric buses. He directed other departments to expedite completion of necessary work related to the project and asked officials of JSCL and TATA motors to start construction work of bus depot at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu. Instructing JSCL to depute team for inspection of prototype model of electric-buses, Divisional Commissioner directed officials of TATA motors to ensure delivery in stipulated time frame. "Buses should be delivered by mid-April and operationalised at earliest," he directed officials. In the meeting, threadbare discussions were also held on the routes and fair of electric buses. Pertinently, the Jammu and Kashmir



government is procuring a fleet of 200 electric buses, 100 each for capital cities of the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by CEO Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) Rahul Yadav; Vice Chairperson of JDA Pankaj Magotra; Additional CEO JSCL Rakesh Gupta; ACG from Deputy Commissioner Office Manisha; Director Technical JSCL S L Kapoor; General Manager (Finance) JSCL & nodal officer for e-buses project J&K Ashish Anand; Dy GM Gurmeet Singh; AEE JSCL Ravi Salgotra and representatives of TATA motors led by K Vijay Menon. The Deputy Commissioners from Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi participated in the meeting through video conference. Divisional Commissioner asked Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi to clear bottlenecks and hand over land to Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) for establishment of charging stations for electric buses. He directed other departments to expedite completion of necessary work related to the project and asked officials of JSCL and TATA motors to start construction work of bus depot at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu. Instructing JSCL to depute team for inspection of prototype model of electric-buses, Divisional Commissioner directed officials of TATA motors to ensure delivery in stipulated time frame. "Buses should be delivered by mid-April and operationalised at earliest," he directed officials. In the meeting, threadbare discussions were also held on the routes and fair.

Orientation/Training Program on 'Farm Mechanization & Automation' under HADP held

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: The Joint Director Apiculture and Mushroom Kashmir, Tabasum Naaz today inaugurated an orientation cum training programme on Farm Mechanization and Automation under holistic development of agriculture programme (HADP) at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here. Addressing the participants, JD highlighted the importance of agriculture mechanization. She said for the development of the agriculture sector the UT government has approved a multi-crore project to boost farm mechanization and automation. She said the project is aimed to increase production, productivity and to attract more and more educated youth towards the agriculture sector. The JD asked the officers of the allied departments to work in coordination so that the desired results under different projects could be achieved in a comprehensive and time bound manner. She asked the officers to ensure that the farmers are made aware of the schemes and programmes of



the government for the promotion of farm mechanization and automation in the UT of J&K. Senior Scientist KVK, District Agriculture Officer, officers of Agriculture and allied departments were present in the programme.

Arrangements for ensuing holy month of Ramadan, Navroz & Navratri festivals reviewed at Budgam

BUDGAM, MARCH 17: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Dr. Akramullah Tak today convened a meeting of officers to review and finalize the arrangements for ensuing holy month of Ramadan, Navroz and Navratri festivals in the district. In order to provide basic necessities to the general public during the holy month, the ADDC directed the department of PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the month, particularly during Sehri and iftari times. The ADDC said that the PHE department should make proactive arrangements for hassle free supply of drinking water in all areas of the district. Similarly, he directed the department of FCS&CA to ensure adequate supply of essentials. The ADDC said that in order to



stop illegal profiteering, hoarding of essentials in the market by miscreants, special squads would be constituted. He said that joint market teams shall ensure sale of standard food items and implementa-

tion of official rates in letter and spirit across all markets of the district. EOs of Municipalities were directed to conduct sanitation drives in double shifts to ensure proper cleanliness in all areas, be-

sides instructions were given that all defunct street lights be restored on war footing in all areas. During the meeting, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer was directed to keep poultry birds available for consumers and the stocks available at identified locations. Fisheries department was instructed to ensure availability of trout and carp fish for sale at the designated locations, on the eve of Navroz and Navratri at Sheikhpura Pandit Colony and at various Shia dominated locations. The Health department was directed to ensure availability of medicine, staff and ambulances at all health centres. The meeting, among others, was attended by ADC, Dr Nasir Ahmad, SDMs, concerned Ks, Executive officers of municipal committees and other concerned.

Doda: IGR Reviews functioning of Assar Sub-Registrar's Office

DODA, MARCH 17: Inspector General of Registration (IGR), Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Arshad Ayub, reviewed the functioning of the Sub-Registrar's office at Assar Subdivision in the district today. SDM Assar, Lekh Raj, who also holds charge of Sub Registrar Assar briefed him on the office's functioning. IGR expressed satisfaction with the working and services offered by Sub Registrar Office in Assar. In Doda, comprehensive discussions were held with all SRs covering document registration and implementation of new initiatives. The issues discussed included booking slots, uploading documents, checking documents, stamp duty and registration fees, acceptance of documents and registration of various instruments. IGR also exhorted SRs to install CCTV cameras in their offices for better security and transparency. In Doda, comprehensive discussions were held with all SRs covering document registration and implementation of new initiatives. The issues discussed included booking slots, uploading documents, checking documents, stamp duty and registration fees, acceptance of documents and registration of various instruments.

World Glaucoma Week 2023: Health Department in Doda educates and screens for Glaucoma

DODA, MARCH 17: The Health Department, under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda, is observing World Glaucoma Week at every health facility in the district. The goal is to educate people about Glaucoma, its symptoms and treatment. CMO Doda, Dr Ab Hamid Zargar stated that the week-long activities were organized to encourage screening and educate patients about the preventable and treatable aspects of Glaucoma. In celebration of World Glaucoma Week 2023, a series of awareness programs and screening camps have been organized in the district under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment. The week-long campaign has screened around 350-400 patients to rule out Glaucoma and other causes of blindness in all medical blocks of the district. The World Glaucoma Association's global initiative aims to raise awareness about Glaucoma as a leading cause of preventable irreversible blindness worldwide. Regular eye checkups are crucial in detecting Glaucoma as early as possible.

Jammu silkworm rearers embark on training tour to Himachal Pradesh

JAMMU, MARCH 17: Additional Director Sericulture Development Department Jammu, Ashwini Kumar Sharma, flagged off a group of 48 progressive silkworm rearers from different districts of Jammu division on a two-day interstate training and exposure visit to Palampur, Himachal Pradesh. The visit is part of the Capacity Building and Skill Up-gradation program under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - ATMA 2022-23. On the occasion, the Additional Director said that the department is endeavouring to supplement the resources and capabilities of silkworm rearers to boost their economic profile. Such training visits are part of these programs. During their tour, sericulture farmers will visit CSK Agriculture University Palampur along with sericulture farms and seed production centers run by Sericulture Department of Himachal Pradesh. They will get acquainted with the latest sericulture technologies.

Public Notice

I Have lost My Driving Licence bearing Driving Licence No JK07 20090066995 somewhere at home. Now I have Applied for its Duplicate. If anybody have any objection he may contact ARTO Office Kargil within the period of 07 days. After That No objection will be entertained.

Name Juma Malik
S/O: Ab Qadir
R/O: Chochout
AT Present: Baroo Kargil

Food Safety Department intensifies Market Checking across Budgam

Rs.30k fine imposed on food outlets for FSSAI violation

BUDGAM, MARCH 17: A market checking squad led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Yameen Ul Nabi who is also Designated Officer, FSSAI Budgam has been from last one week on daily basis conducting rigorous market checking of various restaurants, fast food outlets, tea stalls and ethnic street food makers in the district. During inspection, Food Safety Department imposed Rs 30000 as fine on 27 erring food business operators under various provisions of Food Safety Reg-



ulations 2011 for running businesses in insanitary conditions.

On the occasion, the team cautioned erring food business operators not to in-

dulge in violations of food safety regulations and insanitary conditions which are against public health failing which a hefty compound will be imposed upon them in future. The Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Budgam stressed on sale of safe and quality food items. He said that the drive is being carried out to ensure all Food Safety Standards are practiced in letter and spirit, and such drives will continue across Budgam in future as well.

Dr VK Saraswat tours Pahalgam, Chandwari

Reviews measures being taken for increasing tourist footfall

ANANTNAG, MARCH 17: Member NITI Aayog, Dr V K Saraswat today conducted a comprehensive tour of Pahalgam and adjacent areas to review the measures being taken to increase tourist footfall to the world famous tourist resort. The visiting dignitary held a threadbare discussion with senior officials including Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Syed Sajad Qadri; SDM Pahalgam, Syed Naseer Ahmad; SE R&B, SE Jal Shakti, DD Fisheries and AD Tourism regarding the tourist footfall in the area, amenities available to the tourists, lodging capacity, attractions, developments being undertaken for tourism and with regard to SANJY 2023. The renowned scientist said that Pahalgam is famous for its meadows and as a grazing ground for sheep. He said that while wool production is on the rise in the UT, focus must



also be laid on setting up wool processing facilities which will help the herders fetch better prices and also add jobs to the economy. CEO PDA gave a brief overview of the area, the role of Pahalgam Development Authority, initiatives taken by the Tourism department for increasing footfall and the return of film crews

to the resort. He said that adventure tourism is the focus area to attract high value tourism to the area which will boost development. He also informed the dignitary that while skiing attracted a good number of tourists to the area, the department will also be starting paragliding. He said a lot of tourists visit Pahalgam

The visiting dignitary later also visited Betaab Valley and Chandanwari areas and took stock of the facilities developed for tourists and in connection with SANJY 2023. The dignitary was accompanied by CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgam, Tehsildar Pahalgam, SDPO Pahalgam, AD Tourism among others.

Public Notice

In my Adhaar Card under no.6524 2235 5857 my name and D.O.B is wrongly entered as Ishrat Fatima D/O Zaheer Hussain Shah and D.O.B 01/01/1991 instead of Saika Fatima, D/O Zaheer Hussain Shah 01/02/2005 while in actual Name and D.O.B is Saika Fatima, D/O Zaheer Hussain Shah 01/02/2005 d. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard he may contact Concerned Department within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zaheer Hussain Shah
F/o: Saika Fatima
Mothers Name: Shahzadi Fatima
R/o Gundi Seydan Karna Kupwara

Public Notice

The Electricity connection with Consumer ID No 0206050000358 is Registered as Mohd Qasim Dar R/o: Gund HassiBhat Srinagar is to be transferred in the favour of Ghulam Mohammad Dar S/o Mohd Qasim Dar R/o: R/o: Gund HassiBhat Srinagar. Anybody having any objection in this Regard, May Contact Assistant Executive Engineer Electric Sub Division Narbal within a period of 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained in any case.

Ghulam Mohammad Dar
S/o Mohd Qasim Dar
R/o: R/o: Gund HassiBhat Srinagar.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

AMRITKAAL

programme which included introduction of latest streams and technologies at the college level, big industrial setups, start-ups and the exponential growth of small and medium entrepreneurs as well as self-help groups have been made in the budget today cater to all these aspects to take care of youth aspirations.

The emphasis of the budget is also on strengthening grass-roots democracy with massive flow of funds for all three tiers of Panchayati Raj, with efforts on holistic improvement in infrastructure, roads and water and setting up agro-based small-scale industries to double the income of farmers and other villagers.

The strengthening of rural health care has received a major impetus in this budget to put in requisite equipments, facilities and laboratories in the hospitals. Moreover, Power sector reforms and augmentation of the distribution network will continue in the budget and the projection of doubling the electricity generation capacity in the coming years is there. Budgetary allocations are there to develop a road network with scores of bridges and tunnels to make the remotest areas accessible. Major HEPs will generate new employment opportunities for locals and change the outlook of rural Jammu and Kashmir. For Agriculture and horticulture, the focus of this budget is on changing the scenario with the help of agricultural and horticultural experts. Scientific farming with multiple crops, reducing pre and post-harvest losses, financing major and minor farming equipment, and using solar pumps to reduce electricity expenses are the few targeted areas. The projected plan is to develop agro- and horticulture-based associated industries by providing easy finance and technical expertise to double the farmers' income and generate new employment avenues for the rural youth. Doubling milk production, well-coordinated milk collection through cooperatives, and poultry and sheep farming are a few other important sectors getting due attention in the budget.

Rs 900 crore have been provisioned under Holistic Agriculture Development Scheme. And, Rs 120 crore have been provisioned for Crop Insurance Scheme besides Rs 50 crore have been provisioned for establishment of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage.

The focus of the budget is also to develop alternative tourist destinations and religious circuits to ease this stress. Dome trains, infrastructural development at new tourist places, conservation and beautification of lakes, and new ropeways are a few highlights. Involving women in all these activities and empowering them and local artisans is on the way. Systematically, products and projects are planned to give a major boost to the overall economy of the UT through tourism and related activities. Making pilgrimages safer, improving infrastructure, and developing proper tourism in the vicinity are also projected in this budget.

WEATHER

picnic spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.5 degree Celsius against 1.5 degree Celsius the previous night and it was 2.8 degree Celsius above normal for the famous ski resort.

Kupwara recorded a low of 4.6 degree Celsius against 3.2 degree Celsius the previous night. It was 1.2 degree Celsius above normal for the frontier Kashmir district, MeT office said.

HAJJ

have performed one Haj preferably during the years 2018 or 2019 or 2022. And have gotten vaccination of two (2) doses of approved vaccine for Covid-19.

Apart from this, the applicants must be fully conversant and fluent in English/ Urdu/ Hindi/ local language/dialects and computer literate besides being efficient enough to receive/transmit latest information/messages through email/WhatsApp and other available sources of e-Media.

They must possess thorough knowledge of the logistics and rituals of Haj & Umrah.

The applicants must be mentally and physically fit, capable of addressing/ giving lectures to relatively large gatherings and in a position to spare time for imparting training.

Any applicant having Criminal prosecution pending against him/her shall not apply.

The desiring applicants can apply Online through Haj Committee of India website <https://hajcommittee.gov.in>. The applicants are advised to upload the requisite documents at the time of filling up of Online Application Forms.

Opening date & time for filling Online Applications is 17-03-2023 at 11:00 hours while the last date & time is 27-03-2023 at 23:59 hours.

Aspirants are requested to go through the Circular No. 5 dated: 17-03-2022 (available at <https://hajcommittee.gov.in>) issued by Haj Committee of India, Mumbai.

All desiring candidates fulfilling the stipulated eligibility criteria are required to submit hard copy of the online filled-in application form duly complete in all respects, along with copy of Aadhaar, proof of having performed Hajj and Covid Vaccination Certificate through the concerned Controlling Officer to the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee, Srinagar up to 30-03-2023.

DIV COM

(Light Goods Vehicles) (One-Way), and no passenger/tourist vehicle shall be allowed.

The road opening date was decided to be 18th March, 2023 from Sonamarg to Kargil and cut off timing for vehicles to cross Sonamarg will be 6.00 am in the morning and from Meenamarg, Kargil the cut-off timing shall be 8.30 am. Besides, it was decided that traffic will be allowed only on alternate days.

It was also decided in the meeting that on Fridays no traffic will be allowed, and road will be closed for maintenance purposes.

The Div Com Kashmir directed the concerned to follow the already framed SOPs in likewise manner. He also directed the officials from MeT for the advance forecast of the weather, and asked the Traffic dept for issuing the same weather advisories on time. The BRO authorities were also directed to give road clearance on time so that traffic will cross the road before the avalanche prone timing.

Regarding the availability of machinery on Zojila road stretch, Mechanical engineering department was directed to provide one recovery van, and CEO SDA was directed to provide accommodation centre in case of any emergency enroute the Srinagar Sonamarg Gumri Road.

Regarding the deployment of SDRF Personnel, the SSP Ganderbal informed the Div Com Kashmir that the SDRF Platoon already stationed at Gund will be shifted to Sonamarg.

The Div Com also directed the concerned for operationalization of the weighing bridge at Sonmarg and ensuring that the weight of the vehicles bound to Ladakh has been done positively well before one day.

He also directed for establishing the Joint Control Room of Traffic/ Civil/ Police/ MED.

Div Com Kargil impressed upon the concerned that people should be made aware about the fact that the road will only be thrown open for the LGV (light goods vehicle) and no passenger/tourist vehicle shall be allowed. He also asked the concerned to issue a circular for carrying chains on vehicles mandatory.

Earlier, Div com Kashmir visited Transit Accommodation Wandhama and reviewed the readiness of the

apartments being constructed for the Kashmiri Migrant employees.

On the occasion he was informed that 4 out of 12 apartments are ready having 16 flats each, and, 4 out of the remaining 8 will be completed by June, 2023.

Div Com Kashmir enquired about the progress on other works including water facilities, electricity, waste disposal, landscaping, inner roads, fencing, transport, and other allied facilities.

Regarding waste disposal Div com was informed by DC Ganderbal that the waste disposal will be handled by the Municipal Council Ganderbal, besides, a proper plan has been framed for the transport facility near the transit accommodation.

The Div Com was accompanied by DC Ganderbal, SSP Ganderbal, Ex. En R&B, ACD Ganderbal, ACP Ganderbal and others.

MAN

Police Station Nishat wherein he admitted his crime. Ten fake visiting cards and two mobiles were seized from him," police spokesman said.

Based upon this a case under sections 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using a genuine forged document) of Indian Penal Code was registered in Police Station Nishat and investigation was taken up.

Police said a team of SP East Srinagar, SDPO Nehru Park, SHO Nishat are leading the investigation.

The accused Kiran Bhai Patel is in police remand up to Friday. Police said many relevant persons have been examined in this case. "Case is at the initial stage of investigation," police said. Police said there are three cases registered against Patil in different Police stations in Gujarat. Patel is also verified on Twitter and also shared several videos and pictures of his 'official visits' in Kashmir surrounded by security men.

It is learnt that a high level probe has been ordered as Patil has taken the security structure of J&K for a ride. He is even believed to have had a series of meetings with officials during his two earlier visits to Srinagar earlier. He even visited the volatile Line of Control in the Uri sector. Meanwhile, Patel's counsel in Srinagar on Friday refuted the allegations against his client.

He attributed Patel's arrest to "political rivalry" in Gujarat and asked how his purported accomplices were set free by the Police.

BIHAR

Locals informed police after they spotted him roaming.

Katihar SP Jitendra Kumar said, "A youth has been arrested under suspicious circumstances. In the interrogation, it has been found that he is from Kashmir. Something can be clearly said in this matter only after interrogation."

Reports said that Nasir is married to a girl in Finland where he has been staying. Reports added that he couldn't go back to Finland due to Visa problem. [KNT]

ADVISOR

facilitate the people of marginalized communities especially the youth so that the desired objectives of corporation are achieved.

Advisor, during the meeting, also identified several areas for improvement, including the need for better outreach and awareness programs to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are aware of the schemes and their eligibility criteria. He also stressed on effective management of corporation, streamlining its loan approval process and addressing the issues of delayed disbursement and procedural complexities.

Highlighting the role of Corporation, Advisor Bhatnagar said that though the corporation is working tirelessly, there is a need for continuous improvement to ensure that its benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries.

SC

Panchayat will achieve top ranking in the index will be felicitated. He delved on the DCs to work with full spirit and will so that their respective districts can score good on the index.

While reviewing the progress on Jal Jeevan Mission, Dr. Mehta observed that there has been substantial improvement on the progress of this prestigious project. He delved upon the DCs to complete the project in all aspects by 15th August in their respective districts.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare the list of deliverables to be achieved in the next financial year. He highlighted that the introduction of deliverables has significantly improved the growth trajectory of each district and therefore it should be made a regular affair in planning from now onwards.

Dr. Mehta also enjoined upon the DCs to prepare district plans as per the deliverables framed so that the developmental work is carried out without any wastage of resources and effective utilisation of funds is being made. While reviewing progress on other social sector schemes, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the DCs to saturate the different employment schemes in their districts effectively so that the youth can take due advantages of them. He also asked them to establish required infrastructure at the Industrial Estates so that the industrialists who are willing to set up their ventures here are properly facilitated.

Secretary Tourism holds introductory meeting with tourism stakeholders of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today chaired a marathon introductory meeting with representatives of various segments of the tourism sector of Kashmir valley at TRC, here today.

This was the first such interaction of Dr. Abid Rasheed after assuming charge of the Tourism Department recently. During the interaction, representatives of all segments of tourism trade including Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association, Hoteliers Club, KHARA, KHAROF, NTTA, PILTOF, TAFI, DTOK, ADTOL, TAAI, shikara unions, representatives of tourism stakeholders from Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg, travel bodies including TAAK, TASK and other such organization working in the tourism trade were present. Interacting with the stakeholders, the Secretary Tourism underscored the need for upscaling the standards of the tourism industry of Kashmir, given its reach and scope. He said J&K is world famous for its hospitality and the tourism products offered need to be global in standard and scale. Appreciating the role of the local stakeholders in promoting Kashmir tourism worldwide and the synergy attained between the Department and the tourism players, the Secretary Tourism assured all support to them in addressing their genuine issues and grievances. He said he believes that constant and structured consultations on issues are the way to work out solutions and enhance the standards of the tourism sector. He also laid stress on taking tourist feedback and idea exchange between the stakeholders and the Department which he termed was critical to the further growth of the sector in an environment of global competition.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Kupwara Administration organises awareness programme at Tangdhar

KUPWARA, MARCH 17: A meeting under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was held today at Dak Bungalow Tangdhar , with the objective to eradicate drug abuse. The meeting was attended by various stake holders , including Tehsil social welfare officer ,SHO Tangdar, Assistant Professor Gdc Tangdar, sarpanchs, teachers, Officials of DHEW and parents who are all committed to building a drug-free India.

During the meeting, participants discussed various strategies to combat drug abuse in their respective communities. SHO Tangdar emphasized the importance of law enforcement in preventing the Drug abuse and discussed the role of police in intercepting drug trafficking. He also emphasized the need of community involvement in tackling the drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion Tehsil Social welfare officer made gathering aware about the negative effects of substance abuse, including its impact on physical and mental health and also discussed the government's initiatives to address the problem. The sarpanchs shared their experiences of dealing with drug-related issues and discussed the challenges they face in implementing drug prevention programs in their villages. The parents shared their concerns about their children's exposure to drugs and discussed the role of parents in preventing drug abuse.

Speaking on the occasion Nazir Ahmad Qureshi emphasized the importance of educating students about the dangers of drug abuse.

The meeting ended with a consensus that a multi-faceted approach is needed to achieve the goal of a drug-free India. Participants pledged to work together to create awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to implement preventive measures in their communities

2 day International Conference on "Advances in Computer Sciences" begins at Srinagar



SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: A two day International Conference on 'Advances in Computer Sciences & Technology' began here today at Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, with academicians and subject experts deliberating on recent trends in the field.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Professor Qayyum Husain was the chief guest for the inaugural ceremony while Nodal Principal Kashmir, Professor Khurshid Ahmad Khan was the guest of honour.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor said that computers and the allied technologies have revolutionized every sphere of today's life. "The discipline of computer science itself has undergone a lot of changes over the years, which makes this conference all the more important. Artificial Intelligence (AI), for instance, has emerged as a very exciting and important field, opening up plethora of possibilities for the future." "Keeping the developments in the field of Computer Sciences and other disciplines, Cluster University Srinagar proposed to introduce several new courses in the varsity's second Academic Council meeting including Masters/ Honors programmes in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science; Honors programme in Graphic Designing & Visualization; Diploma programmes in Digital Marketing, Block Chain Management, Cloud Computing and Cyber Security," Professor Qayyum added.

"These courses not only meet the industry requirements and technological advances made in the respective fields, but are also in line with the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020). At the same time, we have to be aware of apprehensions and ethical dilemmas related to AI," he added. The lead talk of the conference was delivered by Marc Canter, CEO Instigate.ai and Co-Founder Macro-Media, USA. He shared an interesting case study on decentralized computing with professionals from different backgrounds coming together to offer international services with the concept of viral marketing. He cited the examples of 'SauceNet' and 'Instigate.ai'. In her welcome address, Principal of the host college, Professor Ruhi Jan Kanth said, "With technology touching every aspect of our lives, unprecedented opportunities for human progress and development are unfolding. Computer Science and allied fields are key enablers of the growth and prosperity around the world. With this conference, we aim to develop a better understanding of the changes happening in the world of information technology with innovation and creativity spearheading this evolution."

The Plenary Talk was delivered by Professor and former Head, Department of Computer Sciences, BHU, Promod Kumar Mishra. He spoke extensively about the underlying concepts of Metaverse and Machine Learning. He also cited an example of India's first metaverse wedding reception. In his keynote address, Professor Akshay Agarwal of IISER Bhopal highlighted the new possibilities offered by Artificial Intelligence. He gave an interesting presentation on the power of AI and the future implications of the same. Organizing Secretary of the conference, Dr. Sameer Kaul, spoke about the relevance of the conference and introduced the theme and sub-themes spread across the technical sessions of the two-day event.

On the occasion, newsletter of the host institution 'College Times' was also released. Three books authored by the faculty members of the host college. Prof. Sheba Drabu, Professor Samia Shakeel and Dr. Riffat Aman- were also released on the occasion.

The inaugural session was also attended by Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone and Registrar, Prof. Khurshid Mir.

The first technical session was based on the theme of 'Machine Learning & Neural Networks' with Dr. A.H. Moon, Dean Research, IUST, as Chairperson. He also delivered the Lead Talk for the session. The second technical session of the day was based on 'AI & machine Learning' with Dr. Majid Zaman, Contoller Examinations, University of Kashmir, as the Chairperson and Lead Speaker.

Power shutdown

SRINAGAR, MARCH 17: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Mitrigrum and Gulshanabad receiving stations shall remain affected on March 18, 21 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Rohama, Chakloo, Ganapora Hadipora, Watergam and Food Park receiving stations shall remain affected on March 18 and 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Changung, Ashmuji, Devsar and Kalam receiving stations shall remain affected on March 20 and 23 from 10 am to 4 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Balhama, Wuyan, TCI Old, Chinar Flour Mills receiving stations shall remain affected on March 18 and 20 from 11 am to 5 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Habak- Zuku- 33 Kv Line shall remain affected due to reconducting works on March 19 from 10 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Pattan, Palhalan and Hamray receiving stations shall remain affected on March 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

AJKPC Demands Compensation for Houses Damaged in Landslide in Ganderbal



Ganderbal, 17/March/2023: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference(AJKPC) a registered organization working for welfare of rural areas today made a fervent appeal to the government to provide relief to the owners of houses that were damaged in block Gund on 19th February-2023 in a massive landslide.

While interacting with a deputation of local Panchayat members Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC who was on a visit to the district Ganderbal has requested the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to depute a team of revenue officers in Panchayat Halqa sonamarg 'C' of block Gund to access the losses caused by the landslide and award suitable compensation to the victims without any further delay.

While briefing the, Sharma informed that AJKPC had received an information from the local Panchayat members regarding the loss of property of people in this landslide, he further stated that Gund Area is a tribal dominated underdeveloped area and the government must consider the demand of compensation as a gesture.

Later, while addressing a gathering of Panchayat members and senior office bearers of the AJKPC in another Block wise program in the district Ganderbal, the AJKPC president said the officers must understand that Panchayats are not born in air but are result of Lawful provision as enshrined under the Constitution of India thus both executives and Panchayats must accept co-existence and learn to respect each other. The participants also raised the issue of establishment of Panchayat secretariat as was earlier promised by the J & K Government and reminded the administration to take necessary steps in this regard and issue funds in phased manner so that within next 3-4 years all the Panchayats have their own Secretariats. Earlier the J & K government had called for establishing Panchayat secretariats wherein the junior officers of the all line departments would be sitting on fixed days of the week to listen the grievances of the villagers of the respective panchayats. The panchayat members also reiterated their demand of increase in MGNREGA Labour wages and release of pending dues under material component.

The prominent people who attended the program and addressed the gathering include Ishfaq Raina, Mush-taq Ahmed, Ammen bhat, Ramzaan Chodhary, Naseema Bhagum, Mushtaq Malik.

National Vaccination Day celebrated at Aryans



Srinagar March 17th To promote the importance of vaccines and the role they play in improving public health, National Vaccination day was celebrated by Aryans College of Pharmacy & Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh. Dr. Suresh Kumar, Faculty, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala addressed students including B.Pharm, D. Pharma, B.Sc. Nursing, GNM, ANM etc on this year's theme "Vaccine work for everyone. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group presided over the event.

Kumar while addressing said that the main aim of this day is to create awareness among the masses about their effectiveness against deadly diseases. The first dose of oral Polio vaccine was administered in 1995 in India. It was the same year that March 16 was designated as National Vaccine Day or Immunization Day, he highlighted. Kumar further added that India has made impressive strides towards increasing routine vaccination through more aggressive vaccination campaigns. This Day also acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of frontline health care workers to ensure the vaccination of every child, said Kumar.

DC Kupwara hoisted National Flag at newly constructed Flag Post at DC Office lawns Kupwara



KUPWARA, MARCH 17: District Administration Kupwara today organised an impressive function at DC Office Lawns in connection with National Flag raising ceremony on newly constructed Flag Post at DC Office lawns.

The National Flag was hoisted by Deputy Commissioner(DC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray in presence of SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas.

The Deputy Commissioner took salute on the parade presented by contingents of CRPF, J&K Police and Police Band.

The ADC Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC Kupwara, Gulam Nadi Bhat; ACR Kupwara Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, all district and sectoral officers were present at the occasion.

On the occasion , the Deputy Commissioner, while talking to media, said that the National Flag 12x18 feet size, was hoisted at the height of 55 feet in the Lawns of Administrative Complex (DC Office) Kupwara. He said this is the part of celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebration of 75 years of Independence.

Deputy Commissioner said that National Flag energizes people to achieve their goals. He said National Flag is also hoisted at various big establishments in the district including at Public Park Langate which is hoisted at 108 feet height.

