

HEADLINES TODAY

Vol No:13 • Issue No: 68 • RNI No: JKENG/2011/39231 • Epaper.dailyheadlinestoday.co. • www.dailyheadlinestoday.co • Pages: 08 • Price: Rs 02/-

News Brief

Teenage girl commits suicide in Ganderbal

Srinagar, 20-Mar.: A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by taking some poisonous substance Ganderbal district. As per reports to, a teenage girl from Kachnambal allegedly committed suicide by taking some poisonous substance at her residence. She was rushed to district hospital for treatment, where from she was shifted to SKIMS Soura where she succumbed. Meanwhile police have taken cognizance of the incident and investigations set into motion.

4 drug peddlers arrested in Kashmir: Police

Srinagar, Mar 20: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have arrested four drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession. "In Budgam, acting on an information that one Abdul Hamid Mir son of Abdul Ahad Mir resident of Badran has concealed narcotic substance at his house. Accordingly, a police team from Police Station Magam raided the specific house and conducted the search," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer. During the search, police party was able to recover 1KG & 800 Grams of Charas like substance in powdered form from the house. The accused person was arrested on the spot and shifted to police station where he remains in custody, police said.

Pulwama op called off as militants escape

Srinagar, Mar 18 (UNI) Security forces have called off an operation in Kashmir's Pulwama district as the militants who engaged forces in a brief firefight managed to escape, officials said on Saturday. The militants and the security forces exchanged fire in the early hours on Saturday at Mitrigam area of Pulwama during an anti militancy operation which was launched by joint forces after an input about presence of militants. "It appears the terrorists fled in the initial stages of the operation," a security official said. "Searches were carried out for several hours later but no fresh contact was established." He said the security forces called off the operation on Saturday. This year, security forces have shot dead five militants in three gunfights this year.

Srinagar Smart City Advisory Forum meeting held

Srinagar, Mar 20: The Srinagar Smart City Advisory Forum (SS-CAF) meeting was held on Monday in the Conference Hall, ICCS Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Member of Parliament (LS), Mayor Srinagar, Advisor to J&K Government on Smart Cities, Commissioner SMC, Additional Commissioner, Kashmir, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, Chief Engineer KPDCCL, Director Floriculture, VC SDA, RTO Kashmir, Controller Examination University of Kashmir, Urban Experts, etc. officers of different departments, traders' fraternity, technical experts, social experts, scientists, etc. In addition to the ongoing

Self Help Groups Playing Pivotal Role in Women Empowerment : LG Manoj Sinha Attends Saras Aajeevika Mela at iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the Saras Aajeevika Mela at iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar, today. The Lt Governor said, the Saras Aajeevika Mela is providing an excellent platform for rural Self-help Groups & artisans to demonstrate their products, develop ties with buyers and learn about design, packaging and social media advertising. "Self-help Groups are playing a vital role in the empowerment of women. We have taken several initiatives to help women entrepreneurs to scale up their business and providing opportunities to link with the global market," said the Lt Governor. Around 6.27 lakh women associated with more than 78,000 SHGs in J&K have transformed the rural economy, creating jobs and some



have also shown the potential to become bigger enterprises, he added. The Lt Governor called upon the women entrepreneurs and members of Self-help Groups to lead the socio-economic change taking place in Jammu Kashmir. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, our efforts in

the last three years have ensured equal opportunities to women in every sector and enabled them to be equal partners in realizing the goal of developed and Atmanirbhar J&K, he added. The Lt Governor congratulated the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Lt Governor chairs 82nd Council Meeting of University of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 82nd Council Meeting of the University of Kashmir, at Raj Bhawan today. The Lt Governor, who is the Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, highlighted the vision of the National Education Policy-2020 in transforming and uplifting the education sector across the country. "NEP 2020 provides a roadmap to establish India as a knowledge economy. It should be implemented in letter and spirit and it is essential that through this transformation,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Sports count has taken over militancy in J&K: DGP Dilbagh Singh

Says Youth, Children participating in sports activities, choosing careers in studies without fear



HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Monday said that the youth in the UT are taking part in sports activities and the sports count has taken over militancy in J&K. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a football tournament here, DGP Singh, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that at present there is a low count of militancy as sports have taken over militancy in the UT. "Youth and Children are taking part in sports in large numbers. They are pursuing careers

in studies and participating in the competent exams," DGP said. He said that police are working hard to provide a more peaceful atmosphere to children and youth so that they can further participate in the sports of their choice and choose their careers in the fields of their choice. The DGP said that the police will help make peace a permanent feature so that youth and

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Unite to form a strong government in J&K: Azad

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20 (UNI) Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday asked the political parties in Jammu and Kashmir to get united so as to ensure a strong government. Addressing a public rally in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Azad stressed upon the political parties not to split into small groups and stressed that the need of the hour was to be united. He said that the difficulties of the people here



were increasing day by day and by remaining dis-united chances of a strong government in Jammu and Kashmir diminishes. "Our efforts should remain to form a strong government," he said, adding "there is a big challenge of unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir".

He urged the government that youth who were not involved in serious militancy cases should be released ahead of the holy month of Ramadan. "I am not talking about the people who are involved in militancy", he said and added "I am too against the militancy but in my regime I had acted against those who were found involved and those who proved innocent were not treated the same way." The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir said there

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Police attaches Properties of 2 militant associates in Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20 (UNI) Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday attached properties of two militant associates who were arrested last year, officials said. They said the action was part of ongoing crackdown on harbouring militants and providing logistic support to them. Police said the double storied residential houses of Abdul Majeed Reshi, father of accused Aijaz Ahmad Reshi alias Doctor at Gundpora Rampura and Mohammad Jamal Malik, father of accused Maqsood Ahmad Malik a resident



of Chittaybandey were attached on Monday in presence of Executive Magistrate. "Accordingly, process for attachment of property belonging to the above accused falling within the ambit proceeds of terrorism was initiated u/s 25 of UAP) Act by the order of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir vide

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

World's first cloned Pashmina goat, Noori, dies in Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20 (UNI) The world's first cloned Pashmina goat - Noori (The Light) passed away last week in Kashmir, scientists said on Monday. The scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir had achieved a rare feat in March 2012 after it successfully cloned the first rare female Pashmina goat. "She passed away on March 15 at the Shuhama farm of University. Noori was 11-year-old," the lead project scientist Riaz Ahmad Shah at SKUAST told UNI. "It was an age-related death. The normal average lifespan of



a Pashmina goat is around 11-12 years and Noori has almost lived that life." Shah said a postmortem was also carried out and they were waiting for the report. It took two years for Shah, the top scientist at Centre of Animal Biotechnology at SKUAST and his six member team of scientists

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Srinagar to host maiden World Apple Conference this June

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20 Jammu and Kashmir's capital city, Srinagar is all set to host the maiden two days 'World Apple Conference' - organized by Sarhad, a Pune based NGO and Sopore Apple Farmer Producer Company (J&K), which aims to further empower and strengthen the apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Fayaz Ahmed Malik, Director of event - who is also a president of Asia's second largest Fruit Mandi, Sopore said, that they are organizing the two-day conference on June 24 & 25 this year scheduled at Sher-i-Kashmir International

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

J&K Police will provide all help to Punjab police to hunt Amritpal Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20 (UNI) Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh on Monday said that Police will provide all help to Punjab police to hunt Amritpal Singh, pro-Khalistan preacher who is on the run. "Jammu and Kashmir police will provide all help when and where the Punjab police need to hunt the fugitive Amritpal Singh", the DGP told media persons on the sidelines of a football tournament in Srinagar on Monday.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Punishing father for son's crime against natural justice: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20, : National Conference leader Omar Abdullah Monday said that his government didn't punish relatives for the crimes of others. He refuted the allegations that previous governments provide government jobs to militants but added that they didn't punish a father for the

misdeeds of his son.

Omar Abdullah was talking to reporters in Srinagar on the sidelines of a public rally in Srinagar. In response to a question, Omar Abdullah said that National Conference will never support a policy that is against natural justice. "We didn't punish people because they were relatives of militants. Is it

fair for me to punish you for the crime committed by your father or a son? Tomorrow, if God forbid a close relative of Manoj Sinha Sahab commits a crime, should he be sent to jail?" Omar Abdullah questioned. He said it is against natural justice to punish a relative for the crimes committed by

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Board exam results likely in last week of May

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Chairman Parikshat Singh Manhas Monday said that the evaluation process of ongoing board exams was already initiated and the results will be declared in the 'last week of May'. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Manhas said, "We have

already started the evaluation process and we will try to finish the process as earliest." "We have all of the employees involved in the evaluation process even we have taken teachers on board. If everything goes as of the timeline fixed by the board, I think by the last week of May we should be able to finish it off," the chairman said. Manhas further said, "Soon after

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

CS e-inaugurates Divisional level Mega Job Fair at Sgr Exhibition Ground 3000 jobs on offer by 110 private companies; 542 placements made onspot

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: Thousands of young jobseekers today flocked to Kashmir Haat to register themselves for different jobs in the Divisional level Mega Job Fair organized by the Department of Labour and Employment here at Exhibition Ground. The Mega Job Fair was e-inaugurated by Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta.



While addressing the event, the Chief Secretary, complimented the Department for organizing the event. He said that the administration is determined to provide job opportunities to youth for gainful employment. He further stated that in order to tide over the problem of unemployment Government is saturating the self employment and wage employment besides attracting the private sector to provide jobs to ed-

ucated youth. He also maintained that during the last few years, the LG administration has made sustained efforts in establishing skill institutes for benefit of youth. It is the endeavor of the Government to provide all the assistance and support so that they are able to earn their livelihood respectably. He highlighted that many initiatives like Mission Youth, NRLM, Back to Village,

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

World oral health day—

Maintain oral hygiene for healthy lifestyle: Docs to public 'Poor oral hygiene leads to Periodontitis, oral hygiene leads to healthy lifestyle'

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Mar 20: On the World Oral Health Day, doctors in Kashmir have asked people to maintain the oral hygiene for a healthy lifestyle. Doctors while talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that oral and dental health is the most ignored aspect of the health in J&K as people visit for check up only when they have complex issues. While the dentists were again and again insisting that the public should undergo their oro-dental check-up every six months but patients only report when they have severe toothache and swelling of the face, they said, adding that an unhealthy mouth not only impacts



general health but it can have a severe impact on people's emotional, social, mental, and overall physical well-being. Dr Shahanwaz working in Anantnag said that the pathogenic and

virulent bacteria which causes dental infections can transport and spread via blood to cause infections in the vital organs of the body and sometimes dental infections can be dangerous and can invoke damage to the other parts of the body. "The harmful bacteria or even their products can travel through bloodstream to different organs causing direct damage or through the process of inflammation," he said, adding that the commonest reason for occurrence of gum disease is infection due to bacteria which, if left untreated, may progress to periodontitis causing destruction of the supporting structures of a tooth. "The human body responds to these bacteria by activating an

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

DC Srinagar reviews Power scenario, Water Supply and stock position for forthcoming Holy month of Ramadan

Also Finalizes arrangements for smooth observance of Navroz and Navratra Festivals'

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR MARCH 20: In connection with forthcoming Holy month of Ramzaan, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Monday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex in order to take review of the preparations/arrangements being made by all line Departments for ensuring all basic amenities and supplies during the blessed month. The Deputy Commissioner also finalized the arrangements for observance of upcoming Festivals of Navroz and Navratra being celebrated on March 21 and March 22 respectively. At the outset, the DC sought a detailed action plan from concerned Departments regarding the arrangements being put in place during Holy month of Ramadan related to electricity, water supply, cleanliness, transport, parking and medical facilities



etc. The DC directed the Department of PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the month, particularly during Sehri and Ifitari times. He asked the PHE Department to make proactive arrangements for adequate supply of drinking water in all areas of the District. Similarly, the department of FCS&CA was asked to ensure adequate supply of essentials including Ration, LPG supply and availability of all essentials at Government approved rates.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department organizes Mega Export Conclave at Jammu

“Revolutionary measures under way to tap J&Ks’ huge potential for exports”: Atal Dulloo

JAMMU, MARCH 20: The Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing, today organized a mega Export Conclave at Jammu, which was participated by exporters from across the country dealing in export of Agricultural and Horticultural produce. The participants shared their rich experience and valuable inputs enabling J&K to further expand its export prospects. Various key agencies involved in Exports Promotion including APEDA, DGFT, Federation of Indian Exporters Organizations (FIEO), Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) and Indian Postal Department shared the mandatory requirements for a successful export trade besides policies and programmes of the government. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, who chaired the conclave, elaborated the current policy and government plans to evolve an export promotion policy for betterment of the farmers and other stakeholders from Jammu & Kashmir.

He emphasized that the government is fully committed to explore all possibilities for more proactively and effectively supporting the farmers, FPOs, Cooperatives, Traders and exporter community of J&K. “Valuing over Rs 5000 crore projects have been conceptualized and meticulously prepared under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme embarked by the J&K UT, he informed. Agriculture Branding Centers, Rural Service and Business Hubs, Augmentation of CA Stores and Markets, Composting Plants, Creation of Market Intelligence Cells are some of the areas to be focused in the stated project, he further informed. He added that a massive capacity development programme is underway to train and sensitize all the stakeholders in respect of provisions of the Projects.” He stated that the government is expeditiously moving to widen its bucket of GI products and has already constituted an Apex committee headed by Dr. Mangla Rai for Export Promotion Roadmap for J&K and active consultations with all stakeholders in this regard are underway. Vikas Sharma, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, in his welcome address, said that the department has taken up many steps to give a fillip to the marketing infrastructure in the region. The department has also organized Buyer-Seller Meets at Kolkata and Jammu in the recent past



which benefitted the growers of the U.T., he informed. The participants from across the UT were very enthusiastic with the Export Conclave and some also matured the contracts with the exporters for supply of their respective produce. They were of the view that the initiative taken by the Government to bring the Buyers / Exporters / Traders from various locations at the farm gate of the growers / farmers of the UT shall definitely showcase our produce to National and international markets resulting in increased demand for our products and eventually boosting our rising economy. Earlier, a detailed presentation was made by Dr. Sudhanshu depicting the exports scenario of agri-horticulture commodities in J&K. It was brought out that the focus of the UT is on export promotion of crops like Fresh Fruits including Apple and Cherry, Walnuts, Almonds, Saf-

ron, Honey, Vegetables, Processed Foods, Wool and Skins, Basmati, Pulses, Silk, Lavender & other Aromatic products. Dr P. K. Joshi, an eminent personality in the field of Agriculture, in his address, congratulated the UT government for bringing out proactive and farmer-centric measures to boost the economy of the UT. He appreciated the steps and initiatives taken in the recent times and shared that J&K is now being looked at by other States for emulation. The Export Conclave was among others attended by the Heads of Department, Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department, Representatives from APEDA, DGFT, FIEO, ECGC, Indian posts, IIT, IIM, Jammu University, NABARD, SKUAST, NHB, Kisan Board Members, DMI, Farmers, FPOs, Cooperatives, Entrepreneurs, Exporters, Market associations.

fron, Honey, Vegetables, Processed Foods, Wool and Skins, Basmati, Pulses, Silk, Lavender & other Aromatic products. Dr P. K. Joshi, an eminent personality in the field of Agriculture, in his address, congratulated the UT government for bringing out proactive and farmer-centric measures to boost the economy of the UT. He appreciated the steps and initiatives taken in the recent times and shared that J&K is now being looked at by other States for emulation. The Export Conclave was among others attended by the Heads of Department, Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department, Representatives from APEDA, DGFT, FIEO, ECGC, Indian posts, IIT, IIM, Jammu University, NABARD, SKUAST, NHB, Kisan Board Members, DMI, Farmers, FPOs, Cooperatives, Entrepreneurs, Exporters, Market associations.

Awareness Programme regarding PM-KUSUM and Rooftop Solar Schemes held at Kupwara

KUPWARA, MARCH 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Department of Science & Technology in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara today conducted an awareness programme at DC Office, Kupwara for sensitization of farmers regarding use of Solar Energy for Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for residential sector and powering of irrigation pumps under PM-KUSUM Scheme.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan. The Programme was attended by Senior Technical Officer, JAKEDA, Kashmir, Mrs. Rabia Noor; Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Kupwara, besides, field staff of JAKEDA, Agriculture, Horticulture and other line departments.

During the programme, the officers, field staff and farmers were apprised about various benefits/incentives extended by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy GoI and UT of J&K under PM - KUSUM and Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant scheme.

The ADDC appreciated the JKEDA for conducting the awareness programme. He also informed about “Component-B” of PM-KUSUM Scheme, under which a collective subsidy of 80% shall be provided to the farmers who intend to install Solar Water Pumps.

The pamphlets containing all the related information of Solar Pumps under PM-KUSUM scheme and Rooftop Solar Scheme, like prices, subsidy amount, beneficiary share, contact numbers of district nodal person etc. were distributed among the farmers and the officers for popularization of the scheme.

Chairman DDC Budgam distributes Appointment orders among AAYAS/Helpers at Beerwah

BUDGAM, MARCH 20: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan today distributed appointment orders among AAYAS and Helpers in a function held at Govt Middle School Beerwah. On the occasion, 11 Appointment orders were distributed among the eligible beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, Nazir Ahmad Khan said that appointment of AAYAS and Helpers in the schools will ensure the saturation of all welfare schemes in the School Education Department including Mid Day Meal Scheme etc.

“Government is ensuring quality education and effective infrastructure in the schools and every effort should be taken to ensure all facilities are provided to the students so that the loss incurred during previous years is compensated at an earliest”, Nazir Ahmad Khan added. Senior officers of the civil administration, ZEO Beerwah, PRI members and senior citizens of the area were also present on the occasion. “Government is ensuring quality education and effective infrastructure in the schools and every effort should be taken to ensure all facilities are provided to the students so that the loss incurred during previous years is compensated at an earliest”, Nazir Ahmad Khan added.

Weeklong workshop on ‘Peace Education Program’ concludes at NIT Srinagar

Main concept of peace education is to make people aware of the importance of peacemaking: Prof. Rakesh Sehgal

Srinagar, Mar 20: The weeklong Short Term Course (STC) workshop on Peace Education Program (PEP) organized in association with The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF) concluded at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The workshop was aimed to explore the possibility of personal peace, and to discover personal resources – tools for living such as inner strength, choice, appreciation, and hope among the participants. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal was the Chief Patron, while Institute’s Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Syed Kaiser Bukhari, and Dean Students Welfare, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Liman were the patrons of the program. Dr. H. S. Pali (I/C Eco-Cult), Dr. Neeraj Gupta (I/C Counselling Cell) and Dr. Kushal M. Jagtap (Asst. Prof. EED) were the coordinators of the week-long event.

The valedictory function was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, while Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari and Dean Students Wel-



fare, Prof. Liman were ‘Guest of Honor’ on the occasion. In his presidential address, Prof. Sehgal said that the main concept of peace education is to make people aware of the importance of peacemaking and to

develop a positive environment. “They provide you a space and help you to understand both sympathy and empathy towards others. Peace education focuses on the global recognition of peace. It en-

courages building a sense of brotherhood and mutual respect among the people,” he said. Prof. Sehgal said the workshop provided participants the opportunity to focus and reflect on their own humanity, and their inner resources such as choice, hope, and dignity. Institute’s Registrar, Prof. Bukhari said peace as an inner experience transcends happiness; in fact, it is a beautiful and more gratifying experience than happiness. “Peace can be found in our hearts and souls, not in any market. When our heart and mind achieve peace, there is nothing more left to attain. The basic nature of peace education is to spread self-belief and peace worldwide,” he said.

Prof. Bukhari said that there is a need for more such workshops in future and NIT Srinagar administration will continue to support such initiatives on the campus. On the occasion, Senior Volunteer Mr. R. K. Malik (TPRF) also shared his life journey with the participants and stated that there is an immense need for peace education in the world.

2-Day Artisan Awareness workshop begins at NIFT Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: A two-day Artisans’ Awareness Workshop kick-started on Monday at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Ompra campus, Budgam.

The awareness workshop is part of the Craft Cluster Initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (GoI) organized with an aim to create awareness among the artisans regarding the latest design developments, market trends, and construction brandings besides the use of social media platforms for the development of their business. During the two-day awareness workshop, a detailed discussion and delibera-



tions will be held wherein the experts and students of design from NIFT Srinagar will share information about different aspects meant for the development of handicrafts.

Director Handicrafts and Handlooms (H&H) Jammu, Dr Vikas Gupta, Managing Director H&H Corporation Atul Sharma and Region-

al Director Handicrafts Development Corporation GoI, A K Pradhan were present at the inaugural session of the two-day awareness programme.

Scores of artisans registered with the H&H department besides the students of the design department of NIFT also participated in the programme. The Di-

rector NIFT Srinagar, Dr Javid Ahmad Wani in his welcome address briefed about the motive of holding the two-day awareness workshop and spoke about the contributions of artisans and weavers in the H&H sector.

“They (artisans) have played a great role in the promotion of Arts and crafts in the Handloom and Handicrafts sector and carried the legacy of the rich heritage to the next generations,” Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani said. “But with the change in time and circumstances, there is a need to make changes in design and techniques of the same craft to meet the market demands. For this,

Mayor of Srinagar extends greetings to people on Navroz eve

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Matoo has extended warm greetings to the people on the eve of Navroz.

Describing Navroz as the festival that marks the beginning of the spring season, Matoo said the day has a symbolic, religious and cultural importance too as the day signifies the new beginning and rejuvenation. In his message to the people on the occasion, he wished the people a very warm, happy, prosperous and peaceful life ahead. “Navroz in Kashmir also symbolizes the age-old brotherhood, communal harmony and coexistence,” said the Mayor on the occasion.

DC Ganderbal launches special sanitation drive at Kheer Bhawani Temple

GANDERBAL, MARCH 20: Continuing with its endeavour to ensure all-round cleanliness in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today launched a day long sanitation drive at Kheer Bhawani Temple Tullamulla and its adjoining areas. Civil departments, PRI members from Tullamulla, NGOs, Civil Society Tullamulla, Students, Municipal Council Ganderbal, Milk cooperative society Tullamulla besides local youth participated in the drive. All the participants collected the waste and cleaned paths, drains, Tullamulla Nallah and other identified locations in and around the Kheer Bhawani Temple during the drive. The waste collected was carried in dumpers for further disposal at identified locations. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that all identified locations where heaps of garbage was dumped have been cleaned during the drive. Besides, the aim of launching this mega sanitation drive is to spread the message of public involvement in sanitation and sensitize them about the importance of cleanliness.

He also urged the locals to carry cleanliness drives in their areas to ensure all-round cleanliness of the district. Among others, Additional District Development Commissioner, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Giri; ACD, ACP, besides district officers of line departments participated in the drive.

Cyclothon against drug abuse held at Safapora

GANDERBAL, MARCH 20: Hundreds of cyclists participated in a Cycle rally organized today by DDC member Safapora and District Administration Ganderbal as a part of an awareness campaign against drug abuse at Safapora, here. The cycle rally was flagged-off from Hakkura by DDC Member Safapora and was received by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir and ASP Ganderbal, Feroz Yehya at Safapora. A felicitation ceremony was held at Govt. Middle School Safapora during which the DC felicitated first 3 position holders in the rally. While interacting with the participants, the DC complimented them for participating in such a rally and said that more such rallies will be conducted in other blocks of the district. He also urged people, particularly the youth, not just to stay away from drugs but also fight drug addiction and substance abuse. He urged them to educate others to stay away from drugs.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for Ramadan-Ul-Mubarak

Directs officers to ensure availability of essential supplies, commodities to people

KUPWARA, MARCH 20: The Deputy Commission-

essential supplies including power, water, sanita-



er (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed the officers to gear up their men and machinery and ensure availability of all

tion and essential commodities to the people so that they do not face any inconvenience during the holy month.

The DC directed ADCs, ACR and Tehsildars to intensify market checking in major towns and markets in the district and put vigil on the priceline of essential commodities

and profiteering by traders and shopkeepers.

Dr Sagar got detailed feedback from all the officers regarding the availability of ration supply, power, water and essential commodities. He directed the XEN PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the people during the month especially at Sehri and Ifta- ar times. The Municipal Committees were directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the towns, besides, make a festive look of towns.

ADC Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir; ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; ACR, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat; AD Food, XENs of PDD, PHE, Officers from line departments, Tehsildars and other concerned attended the meeting.

DC Anantnag reviews status of works under PMDP & JKIDFC

ANANTNAG, MARCH 20: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom today reviewed the status of works being implemented under Prime Minister’s Development Package (PMDP) and JK Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC).

The chair was informed that under PMDP, 10 projects of the Health department, 8 projects of Education, 3 of Tourism along with 12 others are completed and only 9 of the 42 projects are under execution. Among the ones under executions, work is underway and these shall be completed as per stipulated timeline.

Under JKIDFC, 24 projects with Jal Shakti, 7 projects of the Health department, one of Industries and 8 of Sports Council have been completed.

The DC issued directions for completing the pending works within the stipulated timeline. He emphasized upon the executing agencies to highlight any impediments in execution so that they can be resolved in time.

He also pressed for expediting work underway on transit camps and directed SE R&B to ensure their completion by June. The meeting was attended by ADDC, JD Planning, SE R&B, SE Hydraulics, CMO



and Executive Engineers from R&B, Flood Control, KPDC, AD Tourism among others. The DC issued directions for completing the pending works within the stipulated timeline. He emphasized upon the executing agencies to highlight any impediments in execution so that they can be resolved in time. He also pressed for expediting work underway on transit camps and directed SE R&B to ensure their completion by June. The meeting was attended by ADDC, JD Planning, SE R&B, SE Hydraulics, CMO and Executive Engineers from R&B, Flood Control, KPDC, AD Tourism among others.

Justice Javid Iqbal Wani visits Baramulla; inspects Court Complex Sopore/ Dangiwa

Also chairs meeting, reviews progress of infrastructure in Court Complexes

BARAMULLA, MARCH 20: Justice Javid Iqbal Wani, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who is also Administrative Judge for District Baramulla today, paid his maiden visit to Baramulla district where he inspected the functioning of Court Complex Sopore and Dangiwa. He also convened a separate meeting with District Development Commissioner Baramulla and other senior officers.

At the outset, Justice Javid Iqbal during his visit to Sopore held a brief meeting with all concerned officers in respect of the augmentation of the infrastructure for all the courts of Baramulla district.

Principal District & Sessions Judge Baramulla, Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehri Ashgar, Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Shabir Nawab, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Tariq Ahmad Reshi besides various other dignitaries of concerned departments were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Justice Javid held a brief review during

which Principal District & Sessions Judge Baramulla appraised him regarding the progress of Judiciary proceedings. He said various new and innovative methods have been introduced from time to time to make justice delivery easier to the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Javid expressed satisfaction over judicial facilities being provided along with legal services.

With regard to the necessary repairs and renovation of the existing court building at Sopore including washrooms, development of existing small patch of land adjacent to the court building on the side of bar room into a park, interior face lifting of the existing court building and providing of adequate and uninterrupted electricity supply and drinking water, Justice Javid directed the Deputy Commissioner for redoubling the efforts so that all the developmental works being carried out associated with the district Court will be accomplished in a time bound manner.

After taking a review meeting, the administrative Judge also inspected every section of court



complex and interacted with the members of Bar Association Baramulla during which President Bar Association Baramulla appraised the Judge with regard to various issues hampering the functioning of the Court viz. appointment of Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Placement of Permanent Judge for Juvenile Justice Board, Permanent Secretary

of all the district officers and functionaries of Judiciary also kick started a plantation drive in the court premises by planting saplings.

He highlighted the importance of Plantation and Forest Conservation meant for a Sustainable Environment for future and present generations.

Later, The Administrative Judge also visited Court Complex Dangiwa Rafiab and inspected the functioning of the Court besides interacting with the members of Bar Association Dangiwa.

He also visited the site for construction of a new Court complex in Dangiwa Rafiab which is being constructed at the cost of 17.61 Crores. During his visit, he took stock of the ongoing works and issued directions to executing agencies for expediting completion of the court complex, so that it can be made functional at an earliest. Later, The Administrative Judge also visited Court Complex Dangiwa Rafiab and inspected the functioning of the Court besides interacting with the members of Bar Association Dangiwa.

Earlier, Justice Javid in pres-

Workshop on Digital Agriculture Mission concludes at Lalmandi

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: The two day workshop on Digital Agriculture Mission concluded today at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar. The programme was presided over by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal.

Addressing the participants, the Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of digital agriculture and said the use of advanced technologies can play a big role in achieving the socio-economic transformation of the farming community of the region. He said that the digital agriculture mission aims to introduce new and advanced technologies in the field of agriculture by improving crop yields and reducing environmental impact.

Director Agriculture asked the participants to work in close coordination so that the objectives under the said mission could be achieved. He marked the importance of awareness among the farmers regarding the mission for its successful implementation. Today on the concluding day, various officers/ experts expressed their views on the topic and highlighted different aspects of the digital agriculture mission in the division. The programme was attended by Joint Director Extension Mohammad Syeed Peer and Officers/ officials of the department. The programme was presided over by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal. Addressing the participants, the Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of digital agriculture and said the use of advanced technologies can play a big role in achieving the socio-economic transformation of the farming community of the region. He said that the digital agriculture mission aims to introduce new and advanced technologies in the field of agriculture by improving crop yields and reducing environmental impact.

Director Agriculture asked the participants to work in close coordination so that the objectives under the said mission could be achieved.

DSEK rebuts news published in some local dailies regarding starting of new Academic Session from April 20

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: The Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) today strongly refuted the news item published in some local dailies wherein it has been stated that the New Academic Session in schools shall commence from 20th April 2023.

In an official handout issued here, Dr. Tassaduq Hussain, DSEK said that the news item is baseless and all the stakeholders including Heads of the Institutions have already been placed under strict instructions to complete the process of examination for classes 1st to 7th and 9th up to 20th March 2023 and start new classes immediately after culmination of the examinations vide Letter No: DSEK/NEP/227-231/23 Dated: 23-02-2023.

The statement read that the instructions have been made with an aim so that not a single day of the students is wasted.

It also mentioned that the Department of school Education is committed to provide quality Education in schools and to kick start the Academic session at the earliest all the preparations are already in place.

Director Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates Workshop on Digital Agriculture Mission

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today inaugurated a workshop on Digital Agriculture Mission at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar. Addressing the participants, the Director highlighted the importance of digital agriculture and said the use of advanced technologies could play a big role in achieving the socio-economic transformation of the farming community of the region. He said digital agriculture helps to improve crop yields and reduce environmental impact. He said that the digital agriculture mission aims to introduce new and advanced technologies in the field of agriculture. Director asked the participants to work in close coordination so that the objectives under the said mission could be achieved. He marked the importance of awareness among the farmers regarding the mission for its successful implementation. The programme was attended by Joint Director Agriculture, Mohammad Syeed Peer; Deputy Director Agriculture Planning, Mohammad Younis Chowdhury and Officers/ Officials of the department.

DLSA Srinagar organises Awareness/ CBP for Panel Lawyers & Young Lawyers

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JK-LSA) today organised an Awareness programme cum capacity building programme (CBP) for Panel Lawyers and Young Lawyers of district Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal.

The theme of the programme was "Effective Legal Aid for Marginalized Sections of Society".

The programme was organized under the leadership of the Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, patron in chief of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority and on the directions of Justice Tashi Rabstan (Executive Chairman JK LSA), under the able guidance of Jawad Ahmad (Chairman DLSA Srinagar) and under the supervision of Amit Gupta (Member Secretary JK LSA).

Vijay Hansaria, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest and the resource person on the occasion.

The training programme was organized with intent to enhance and nurture the credibility of the justice delivery system at the grass roots level.

The main motive behind



conducting this event was to discuss how the poor and disadvantaged sections of society can be provided basic legal services, which the more affluent enjoy and the intention behind seeking to involve Panel Lawyers and young lawyers is to strengthen the cooperation between them and the legal services with the grass roots organizations in educating the poor and disadvantaged groups about their rights and how the law can be used to secure these rights.

Vijay Hansaria, speaking on the occasion emphasized on the need to erase the creases of injustice and to make justice accessible

ethos of the legal services authority from base to an advanced level.

The session was an interactive one, wherein the participants with all their zeal and enthusiasm participated by raising various questions in the session.

Further, he also threw light on the procedure and the methods to be inculcated by the lawyers for effective implementation of access to justice for the marginalized sections of society.

The participants besides being given substantial knowledge were also given actual examples and case study by way of which it was easier to understand the complex provisions and therefore, the session was tremendously engaging.

The programme was conducted by Fozia Paul, Secretary DLSA Srinagar (Additional charge of DLSA Budgam), who earlier welcomed the Chief Guest and all the participants and also moderated the whole programme.

Advocate Saad Ganaie (Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel) presented the memento to the Chief Guest, while as in the end Advocate Tasneem (Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel) presented the vote of thanks.

Sr. Advocate, Vijay Hansaria acquainted the participants with the milieu and

A day long awareness camp on Prime Ministers Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PMFME) at Fruit Mandi Zazna



Ganderbal, which was attended by Agriculture Department and farmers from various sectors of Agriculture and allied sectors. Almost 30 participants participated in the awareness program, where the participants were acquainted with the process of approaching DNO of the Program and take advantage of the schemes

under PMFME. While deliberating, District Nodal Officer, PMFME, Dr. Salman Rauof Chalkoo informed participants about the achievements made so far under the scheme in District Ganderbal. Participants were encouraged to take up ventures under various agriculture and allied sectors and become self sufficient.

Aamad-e-Bahar: Musical Afternoon held at in Shahar-e-Khaas

SRINAGAR, MARCH 20: North Zone Police, Srinagar in collaboration with Gandhi Memorial College, Srinagar today organized a musical event titled 'Aamad-e-Bahar: A Musical Afternoon in Shahar-e-Khaas'. The event was attended by Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone, SP North Srinagar, Raja Zuhab, Senior Police officers, faculty members besides a

large number of students. In his remarks, Principal, Prof (Dr) G M Lone applauded the performance of participants and exhorted students to come forward and exhibit their talents. SP North thanked the college for providing logistical support and other assistance. Irfan along with his team mesmerized the audience through his live performance.

JJM: Jal Shakti, Information departments organise 'World Water Day' celebrations at Shopian

SHOPIAN, MARCH 20: Kick-starting the 'World Water Day' celebrations, commemorated every year on 22nd of March, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a World Water Day Celebrations function at Imtiyaz Memorial Government Degree College (IM-GDC) Shopian, here. The function was organized with an aim to disseminate necessary awareness regarding water conservation and preservation. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the need of the hour is to

generate massive awareness among the masses about the importance of freshwater in our daily life to save this precious gift of nature. He informed the gathering that the District Administration Shopian is committed to providing drinking water supply to all the households of the district by effective and time bound implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the district. Earlier, SE Jal Shakti Department Gh Rasool Rehber flagged-off Prachar Rath vehicle which will tour towns/villages for awareness genera-

tion on water conservation and judicious use of water. District Information Officer Shopian, Showkat Husain Ganie also spoke on the occasion and shared vital statistics on the gravity of water and sanitation crisis and the need to change behaviors and saving of water resources for the well-being of the people. DDC member, Muzafar Ahmad, many students, and ISAs also spoke on the occasion. Multifarious activities including Nukkad Natak on water pollution were presented by the artists. The students of Higher

Secondary School Nadapora presented a skit on water conservation.

Demonstration of water testing by trained Pani Samitis members including chemists, AWWs and ASHAs was also held.

Women achievers in JJM were felicitated on the occasion along with position holders in painting and drawing competition.

Principal IM-GDC, Bashir Ahmed Dar, College Staff, officials from Information Department Jal Shakti, Education and students in large numbers participated.

Bandipora Admin holds Mega Youth interaction programme at Sumbal

Dr Owais urges youth to avail benefit of job oriented schemes

BANDIPORA, MARCH 20: The District Administration Bandipora on Monday organised a mega Youth Interaction programme at Dak Bungalow, Sumbal. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion.

Large number of youth including students and members of Youth Club attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed on Parental Care, Motivation, proper exposure to career opportunities for excelling in different fields for students. He said that District Administration is always looking forward for the guidance and successful future of the students.

While interacting with the youngsters, Dr Owais said the career counseling sessions on regular basis act as boon for the youth who are in career deciding years and these programmes will continue to be organised for the betterment of the youth.

He said the District Administration has launched several programmes for the overall development of the next generation including better Education facilities, promotion of sports activities, guidance and career counseling and the hand holding for earning livelihood by facilitating to establish own income generation units. He said such initiatives will continue and urged the youth



to avail benefit of these schemes to stand on their own feet. While educating the youth, DC stated that drug abuse is a serious problem that affects not only individuals but also families and communities. He emphasised the importance of tackling the issue from multiple perspectives including deterrence, treatment and enforcement.

The DC reiterated that District Administration Bandipora is committed to creating a drug-free environment in the district and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

He said drug addiction is treatable and various measures have been taken for treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. He said the

Administration recently started a Drug De-Addiction centre at Old Hospital complex Bandipora and urged the parents to keep watch on their kids so that they are not trapped in the wrong company.

The DC emphasised that the government is committed to their hand-holding under the Mission Youth programme. He said the programme is aimed to educate youth about self-employment opportunities available through different livelihood generating schemes rolled out by the government for aspiring youth.

Project officer District Industries Mehrhaj Wani spoke about government schemes and initiatives to provide job opportunities

while Tehsildar Sumbal Zeeshaan Tahir discussed career opportunities, qualifying prestigious exams, civil service, PSC and UPSC level.

Dr. Nazir Ahmed BDO Hajin and Mir Dawar Habib BDO Sumbal, young JKAS officers also spoke on the various career opportunities.

Dr. Saleem from medical block Sumbal spoke about career opportunities in the medical sector and health care.

Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora Lakshy Sharma, DPO ICDS Bandipora Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Tehsildar Sumbal, ACP Bandipora, SDPO Sumbal and Project Manager DIC Bandipora were present on the occasion.

DDC Kulgam chairs DLRC meeting; reviews performance of Banks

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MARCH 20: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting to review the performance of Banks and line departments for quarter ended December 31, 2022 under Annual credit Plan.

The meeting was attended by JD-Planning, District officers of line departments and District Coordinators of various banks. LDM Kulgam, Parvez Rashid welcomed the members & revealed that the deposits of Banks stand at Rs.2276.37 Crores as on 31.12.2022 witnessing growth of 1.57% over December 2021 and Advances stand at Rs.1877.45cr as on 31.12.2022 witnessing



growth of 9.46% over December 2021. He added that the Credit Deposit Ratio reached 82.48% and stood quite above the National Benchmark of 60%.

It was also shared that under the District Annual Credit Plan (2022-23) of Rs.1623.13 Cr, Banks have disbursed Rs.859.34 Cr to

35300 beneficiaries during the quarter ended December 31, 2022 thus achieving 53% of ACP target.

DDC while reviewing sector wise achievements instructed Banks to improve credit dispensations in Agriculture, MSME, with more focus given to housing and education sectors.

The house was informed by the LDM that the district has achieved the annual targets of PMEGP, JKREGP, Artisans/Weavers Credit Card & PM Weavers Mudra Scheme. The DDC also instructed banks to cover all eligible persons under PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY.

HEADLINES TODAY

NAUROOZ MUBARAK

What is Nowruz? The Persian New Year explained

Nowruz is the national New Year festivity celebrated in Iran, Afghanistan, and the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey and Syria, and throughout Central Asia.

With roots going back to at least 3,000 years, Nowruz is one of the oldest festivals that is still marked by humans.

The event is a springtime celebration whose activities symbolise rebirth and the link between humans and nature. The Iranian poet Saadi (1210-1291) wrote: "Awaken, the morning Nowruz breeze is showering the garden with flowers."

While the two-week celebrations centre on seeing relatives, picnicking, travelling, and eating traditional food, Nowruz itself - which is Farsi for New Day - is steeped in ancient myths and fiction, as well as traditions and symbols.

When is Nowruz? It begins at the spring equinox - the moment when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are of equal length.

Usually, this is between 19-21 March, depending on astronomical calculations. This year, it is due to begin on 20 March a little after 7am Tehran local time.

Nowruz is the national New Year festivity celebrated in Iran, Afghanistan, and the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey and Syria, and throughout Central Asia (AFP) Who celebrates Nowruz?

It is part of Zoroastrianism, a Persian religion that predates Christianity and Islam to the first millennium BC. It is both monotheistic - Ahuramazda, the supreme deity, is the creator of all things good - and dualistic in its teachings. In Zoroastrianism, fire and water are considered symbols of purity.

It was founded by Zoroaster (also known as Zarathustra), whose religious teachings are the foundation for Zoroastrianism.

His collections of writings are known as the Avesta.

When was Nowruz first celebrated? Described by 11th-century Persian astronomer and poet Omar Khayyam as "the renewal of the world", Nowruz dates back thousands of years.

It is not known exactly how far back Nowruz goes, but current estimates are that it is at least 3,000 years old, when the Persian empire extended beyond the borders of modern Iran. It is not mentioned in the Avesta. Nowruz is steeped in ancient myths, tradition and symbols of nature (AFP)

Over the centuries, this age-old rite has developed and expanded. Gradually, the celebrations accumulated more social, religious and cultural influences as they spread along established trade routes and among an estimated 300 million people.

It has survived centuries of conquests, from the seventh- and eighth-century Arab forces which invaded the Persian world to governments in the former Soviet republics in Central Asia; from the Taliban in Afghanistan to secular authorities in Turkey, Syria and Iraq, which have tried to curtail Kurdish cultural identity. How do you prepare for Nowruz?

While specific traditions vary from country to country, as different cultures add their own elements, the central theme is the same: a celebration of spring and a time for rebirth and renewal.

In Afghanistan, for example, the main event is Guli Surkh, or the Red Flower Festival in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, where the buzkashi tournaments, a national sport similar to polo, are held during the first 40 days of the year. A goat carcass is used instead of a ball.

Goldfish in a bowl, representing life, as well as green sprouts are traditionally displayed in an Iranian home celebrating Nowruz (AFP)

A commonality across the Central Asian countries is the 24-hour preparation of sumalak, a thick pudding made from wheatgrass, as women sing folk songs while stirring huge pots. Open-air festivals showcase nomadic traditions and sports, such as horse racing, wrestling, and archery.

Preparations for Nowruz celebrations in Iran begin weeks before the start of spring, including house-cleaning (khaneh takani). Families also grow sabzeh (wheat, barley, mung bean or lentils) in a dish. When the greens sprout after a couple of weeks, the dish is placed on the Haft-seen table, which is the focus of Nowruz observance. It is joined by six other symbolic items which start with the Persian letter "seen" or S. That makes seven, a sacred number in Zoroastrianism. They include:

seeb (apples) - symbol of health and beauty
senjed (dried oleaster berries) - wisdom and rebirth
samanu (wheat pudding) - strength/justice
somaq (sumac) - patience
serkeh (vinegar) - age/patience
seer (garlic) - cleansing of body and environment

The Haft-seen spread also includes other items such as a mirror, symbolising reflection; coloured eggs, for fertility; and goldfish in a bowl, which represent life.

There is usually also a book by the Persian poet Hafez (1315-1390), or the Quran. They reflect Nowruz's power to blend its ancient roots with more recent religious and cultural traditions.

How is Nowruz celebrated? The arrival of Nowruz is announced by street singers, known as Haji Firooz, who wear colourful outfits and play the tambourine.

The performers blacken their faces with shoe polish or a mixture of soot and fat. Years ago, charcoal was commonly used. They represent a fictional character in Iranian folklore whose roots are ambiguous.

Nowruz blends its ancient roots with more recent religious and cultural traditions (AFP)

Some versions of the traditional story trace him to a character watching over the eternal flame of the ancient Zoroastrians; another is that Haji Firooz was actually a black slave who entertained during the New Year in the Sassanid period (224 to 651 AD). Yet the more plausible theory is that he was one of the estimated two million black slaves who were brought to Iran from Africa as part of the 19th century Indian Ocean slave trade.

The last Tuesday evening before Nowruz (17 March this year) is the celebration of Chaharshanbeh Soori, the symbolic burning of all that was negative from the previous year while looking forward to a new beginning. Chaharshanbeh Soori symbolises burning away negativity from the previous year (AFP)

Related customs include jumping over bonfires in the streets while chanting: "Give me your red colour, take my yellow colour."

Courtesy - Middle East Eye

MUHAMMAD {SAW}; A BLESSING FOR WOMEN



IQRA JAN

History stands witness to the miserable conditions that womenfolk face since time immemorial. As we go through the scriptures and manuscripts we find that women were downtrodden and considered to be inferior. In the great empires of the ancient times, women were meted out with harsh and inhuman treatment. They enjoyed no position, regard and honour in the society. Women were denied every right. The conditions of women in Asian countries was that they were not allowed by the society to remarry and were forced to burn themselves alive at the pyre of their husbands. The conditions of the women's in European countries was not better than of an animal. The women folk over there were unable to decide whether they possess a soul like men? They were considered as the most inferior creation of God.

The history of pre arab times tells a different tale. Arabs were arrogant and hard in individualistic temper. They were egoists and possessed tribal prejudices. Birth of a girl in their family was considered to be immoral and due to their hard individualistic temper, they were reluctant to get their daughters married in other tribes. This was the reason that they buried their daughters alive at

the time of birth. This was the condition of women when Prophet Muhammad SAW was born. Prophet Muhammad pbuh came as a benefactor of women. He (SAW) saved women from flith and



degradation and carried them to those heights of which one could not even imagine. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) gave proper position, respect, and honour to womenfolk. Before prophet Muhammad (SAW) women were labelled as being inferior creation of God but Rahmat al lil aalameen SAW removed this label from them and gave them an honourable place in the society. Prophet SAW advised people to treat women well and be polite and kind to them.

As soon as prophet Muhammad SAW sought his birth in the pious land of macca, the darkness was

changed into light and ignorance disappeared from the land of Mecca. He SAW is our beloved ideal and our favorite.

Prophet Muhammad SAW is reported to have said, "treat women well for they have been created from the rib, the rib is most curved in its upper part, so if you try to straighten it, it may break, but if you leave it as it is, it will remain intact, therefore follow my advice in giving women fair treatment" (Mishkwat)

Prophet SAW gave women a respectable status and took her out of darkness and miseries.

All the heroes of the world acquire name and fame but soon all of them loose their name and fame. It is only our Prophet Muhammad SAW who stood against all odds of time and bloomed like a fragrant flower, scented the surrounding with his immortal perfume.

Indeed among all the great men of the world, our prophet Muhammad SAW stands unique and unparalleled. He is the epitome of universal brotherhood, love compassion. Our beloved prophet Muhammad SAW is embodied with divine excellence. He is the only leader whose birth itself proved a solution for mankind.

Iqra jan one of the young and dynamic occasional writer from the ganderbal central Kashmir district. She is interesting in writing since childhood

Feedback at masroof950@gmail.com

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

NAVRATRAS, A 9-DAY LONG FESTIVAL, IS CELEBRATED TWICE A YEAR.



By M S Nazki

Remember the date 22/03/2023 and that is the day of the first Navratra!

So folks it is tme to worship and live amidst the nine Goddesses in Hindu religion. Navratras, a 9-day long festival, is celebrated twice a year. The first Navratra of the year, Vasanta(Chaitri) Navratras is celebrated in the months of March-April. It is also called Vasant Navratras as it falls in the spring season.

While the Navratra festival celebrated in the autumn season (at the outset of setting of the winters) is called Sharad Navratras. This year, this 9-day long festival of Chaitra Navratra will begin from March 22!and last till April 22. Navratras literally translates to nine nights for which the festival is observed. During these 9 days/nights, nine forms or incarnations of Goddess Durga are worshipped. Over the course of these nine days, different incarnations of Goddess Durga are worshipped. It is believed that Goddess Durga manifests in three major forms, Mahasarawati, Mahalakshmi, and Mahakali who further manifested in three more forms each.

Significance of the nine days:

-Navratras begins by worshipping

Goddess Shailputri, daughter of the king of mountains, Parvati who is worshiped as the consort of Lord Shiva.

-On the second day, Goddess Brahmcharini, the second avatar of Goddess Durga is worshipped to attain mok-

Ratri, the fiercest form of Goddess Durga.

-The eighth day is dedicated to Goddess Maha Gauri who represents intelligence, peace, prosperity and calm.

-And the ninth and final day, Goddess



sha. -The third day celebrates Goddess Chandraghanta for peace, tranquility and prosperity in life.

-On the fourth day, Goddess Kushmanda, considered the originator of the Universe.

-The fifth day is dedicated to Goddess Skandmata. She represents the vulnerability of a mother who can fight anyone when the need arises.

-On the sixth day, goddess Katyayani is worshipped for she was born to the great sage, Kata and symbolises courage.

-The seventh day is of Goddess Kal

Siddhidatri who is known for having supernatural healing powers is worshipped.

II. How is Chaitra Navratra different from Sharad Navratra:

-Navratra, the nine-day Hindu festival, is a celebration of Shakti (power). The festival which has a deep religious significance is celebrated five times a year, Vasanta or Chaitra Navratras, Ashadha Navratras, Sharad Navratras, Paush Navratras and Magha Navratras. However, it's Vasant Navratras which falls in March-April and Sharad Navratra (during September-October) that

are celebrated with much fanfare throughout the country.

Vasanta or Chaitra Navaratri, which is observed during the Shukla Paksha of Chaitra, is mostly observed in northern India and western India. The celebration marks the start of the Hindu New Year as per the Luni-solar calendar and Maharastrians celebrate it as Gudi Padwa while Kashmiri Hindus observe it as Navreh. Even in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, Hindus celebrate it as Ugadi. The nine-day festival which is also known as Rama Navratra ends on Rama Navami, Lord Ram's birthday. Meanwhile, Sharad Navaratri, also called Maha Navaratra, celebrated during the lunar month of Ashvin is widely celebrated in the eastern part of India as Durga Puja and also, in northern and western regions. This Navratri which is dedicated to nine forms of Maa Shakti namely, Durga, Bhadrakali, Jagadamba, Annapurna, Sarvamangala, Bhairavi, Chandika, Lalita, Bhavani and Mookambika, celebrates the slaying of demon Mahishasura by Goddess Durga, after a long battle of nine days.

The history and the legacy is huge and it cannot be summarized in a few days! The folklore is far too expansive and so are the legends, so are the stories and so are the mythical enunciations! The more you explore, the more gratification you will get!

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

SCALE OF TALENT ..



Vijay Garg

Children's education should be done in an easy way) Children are being forced to carry the dreams of others by putting their own lives at stake. We are intent on making children machines, from whom only success is expected. The big question is why aren't we ready to fail? While it is natural, it builds strength and teaches life skills. If parents are most concerned in childhood, then it is because their children's education should be done in an easy way, their personality should develop accordingly. But in the meantime, the way the competition is increasing, it is now visible that we are killing the very essence of education. Education whose purpose was to make a person wise, to instill courage to face the challenges of life, to encourage self-restraint till the goal is achieved, to develop the knowledge to get oneself out of adverse situations, to differentiate between duty and non-duty. To build up the ability to read others and to understand oneself and to equip an educated person with all those values and abilities. To do what is necessary for social life and development. But this pur-

pose gets shaken when the student or the so-called educated person takes a regressive attitude towards life in the middle. In such a situation, one should stop and think that who is provoking us to catch a floating boat, while education teaches us to make a boat ourselves. What are the flaws in the system, which are provoking children to turn away from life and sometimes from the world? If it is not rectified then these loopholes will be an ax on the feet of the future. From one side the systems have limited the meaning of education. Today education has become synonymous with job only in government and private sector. The acquired knowledge is being evaluated on limited criteria. Students went towards artificial knowledge acquisition and confused their knowledge around limited criteria. It is widening the gap between education and intelligence. For example, the increasing use of computer-based objective 'OMR' ie optical mark reader system to test knowledge has reduced the intellectual effort of the students. The language and writing style of the students is not only getting weaker, along with it the thinking and thinking is also getting weaker. The knowledge which should have come down in life only got entangled in the struggle to land on the OMR page. Our education culture seems to be one-dimensional, in which the only goal is to pass the exam. Whether it is to move to the next class or to get a job. The develop-

ment of children's attitudes and creativity is generally ignored; And even if there is in them, it is suppressed under the system which He could have made better life choices in terms of creativity. 'Since jobs are limited, if not found then!' It may sound excessive to say, but the truth is that a student may be saved physically, but his condition becomes very weak mentally. The system has left no options for him and he is groomed just to pass the exam. Some special talent or interest is hidden in every student. After identifying him, if he is trained in that area, then he will get good performance. There are better possibilities. But we did not develop any mechanism to test interest and creativity. At the same time, parents or society do not fail to impose artificial or their attitudes on him. If the same arrangement had been imposed on Thomas Alva Edison, then the night which has been converted into day, might not have been possible. Today, instead of their own dreams, children are only carrying the dreams of others by putting their lives at stake. In fact, we are intent on making children machines, from whom only success is expected. The big question is whether we are ready for failure. Why are you not ready? While it is natural, it builds strength and teaches life skills. Why do we forget that failure in examination is not failure in life? Why don't we keep the doors of society open to welcome children in every situation?

Why do we forget that failure that closes one door also opens a thousand? The truth is that both the social and educational systems need reform. The new education policy that came in 2020 is undoubtedly progressive, but some points require attention. Like 'OMR' Encouraging evaluation of knowledge may save time in investigation, but will discourage subjectivity of knowledge. In America, admission to university and college is done by checking aptitude and aptitude through an examination. Here the chances of failure in the students are reduced. In order to promote creativity in educational institutions, in addition to the examination, all programs, such as debate, essay, painting, speech etc. competitions should be made compulsory. Parents and society only monitoring children Let them flow in the flow of the stream according to their interest. Create a comfortable environment for failure as well, which will increase the productivity of the students. It is true that by drawing a big line in education, an edge can be taken in the development and global competitiveness of the nation.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

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

DDC Doda holds meeting to discuss Capex Budget Plan for 2023-24

DODA, MARCH 20: District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan held a meeting today with district officers to discuss the formulation of the District Capex Budget plan for 2023-24.

During the meeting, the DDC asked the Superintending Engineers of PWD, JSD and PDD to revisit their submitted plans and provide details on all proposed works within two days. He also emphasised the importance of combining similar works for single tendering to avoid delays and lapses in funding.

The DDC discussed work plans submitted by various departments. It was reported that PWD had proposed 26 works at an estimated cost of Rs 2.8 crore. Plans for other departments such as JSD, JPDC and Irrigation were also discussed.

The departments were directed to focus on projects that would benefit the most people and could be completed within a stipulated time frame. He also advised them to use convergence to execute desired works within limited resources.

The group also discussed crucial works such as repair and augmentation of water filtration plants, drainage and parking in towns and repair of health and educational institutions. Directions were given



to improve these basic amenities for the convenience of the general public under the Capex Budget for 2023-24.

In addition, there was a threadbare discussion on key centrally sponsored schemes that are part of the District Development Plan. These included Area Development Fund, MGNREGA and Jal Jeevan Mission. The group also discussed plans under ADP/PRI grants received.

Ongoing works under ADP and District Capex were also discussed.

Directions were given to complete these works within a given time frame so that assets could be dedicated to the public.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner, Pran Singh; CPO, Suresh Kumar and Executive Engineers of PWD, JSD, REW and JPDC. During the meeting, the DDC asked the Superintending Engineers of PWD, JSD and PDD to revisit their submitted plans and provide details on all proposed works within two days. He

also emphasised the importance of combining similar works for single tendering to avoid delays and lapses in funding.

The DDC discussed work plans submitted by various departments. It was reported that PWD had proposed 26 works at an estimated cost of Rs 2.8 crore. Plans for other departments such as JSD, JPDC and Irrigation were also discussed. The departments were directed to focus on projects that would benefit the most people and could be completed within a stipulated time frame. He also advised them to use convergence to execute desired works within limited resources.

The group also discussed crucial works such as repair and augmentation of water filtration plants, drainage and parking in towns and repair of health and educational institutions. Directions were given to improve these basic amenities for the convenience of the general public under the Capex Budget for 2023-24. In addition, there was a threadbare discussion on key centrally sponsored schemes that are part of the District Development Plan. These included Area Development Fund, MGNREGA and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Principal Secretary inaugurates administrative block of Govt Polytechnic College, Poonch

POONCH, MARCH 20: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon today inaugurated administrative block of Government Polytechnic College, Poonch.

Chairperson District Development Council, Poonch, Tazeem Akhter, Director SDD, Sudershan Kumar, District Development Commissioner, Poonch, Inderjeet and Principal Government Polytechnic College, Poonch, Vivek Sharma were present on the occasion.

The administrative block has been constructed with a cost of Rs. 7 crore.

Samoon, while addressing on the occasion, stated that the Skill Development Department is working under a well knit strategy towards modernizing and upgrading the infrastructure, machinery and workshops of Polytechnic's of J&K. He exhorted upon the employees of the college to work with utmost dedication and devotion to accomplish the training programs effectively. He advised the Polytechnic students to



enhance their skills as per latest industry needs and market demands so that they can avail more job opportunities or become successful entrepreneur. DDC Chairperson expressed gratitude to the Skill Development Department particularly Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon for fulfilling their long pending demands. She projected the demand of construction of a hostel block for girls and boys, ITI for Tehsil Mandi.

District Development Commissioner presented a brief overview regarding the status of technical education imparted to the students in district's polytechnic and ITI institutes.

Director SDD highlighted the achievements of the department in terms of ad-

mission, training of faculty and related issues.

On the occasion, various cultural activities were performed by the students of Government Polytechnic College, Poonch. The administrative block has been constructed with a cost of Rs. 7 crore.

Samoon, while addressing on the occasion, stated that the Skill Development Department is working under a well knit strategy towards modernizing and upgrading the infrastructure, machinery and workshops of Polytechnic's of J&K. He exhorted upon the employees of the college to work with utmost dedication and devotion to accomplish the training programs effectively. He advised the Polytechnic students to enhance their skills.

DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Navratras, Ramzan

RAMBAN, MARCH 20: Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam, chaired a meeting with senior officers from various departments today to review arrangements for the upcoming Navratras and Ramzan festivals.

Religious leaders attended the meeting and apprised the Deputy Commissioner of issues faced by residents in their respective areas. After hearing their concerns, the DC directed departments to ensure the availability of essential commodities at prescribed rates and in a hygienic manner during the festive month.

Executive Engineers of JPDC and Jal Shakti were instructed to provide adequate power and water supply during Iftar and Sehri



as well as at religious sites during Navratras. The DC further directed FCS&CA officials to form checking squads to monitor markets and take action against black marketeers.

The Legal Metrology Department was also instructed to conduct regular market checks during the festive season. In addition, the DC asked Municipal Councils of Ramban, Batote and Bani-

hal to maintain sanitation around places of worship and congregation sites. He assured attendees that all possible assistance would be provided during the festive month.

Among those present were President Municipal Council, Sunita Sumbria, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Sudheer Kumar and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kamal Zadu.

NYK organises district level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament at GDC Doda

DODA, MARCH 20: The Nehru Yuva Kendra Doda, organised a District Level Neighbourhood Youth Parliament in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Doda today. The event was held at GDC Doda and aimed to celebrate India's G20 Presidency as well as the International Year of Millets and Mission LiFE. Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan attended the event as Chief Guest while DIO Doda, Ashraf Wani was the Guest of Honour. Incharge Principal, Dr Ajaz Ahmed Wani was also present as a special guest. In his welcome address, District Youth Officer, NYK Doda, Khushal Gupta, briefed attendees on the objectives of organising the event while

Dr Ajaz Wani gave an awareness lecture on G20 and its importance to India's presidency. In his address to students at GDC Doda, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that youth are the future and soldiers in fighting against societal evils such as drug abuse, social taboos and terrorism. He praised India's leadership in providing an eco-sustainable model of development and highlighted its success in vaccinating over 100 crore people against Covid-19. He urged all to fight against drug abuse, promote cleanliness and contribute their ideas to make Doda truly 'Adbhut'. Head of Department, Environmental Science at GDC Doda, Dr Sumit Kotwal, spoke about the International

Year of Millets and Mission LiFE. He emphasised the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future" and encouraged attendees to keep their environment clean and green. NSS volunteers Jagdeep Singh, Sagar Thakur and Saima Banoo also shared their views on G20 before students performed a cultural show. Other dignitaries in attendance included Dr Akriti Parihar, Prof Purnima Manhas, Prof Upma Katoch, Dr Anita Kotwal and Dr Akhter Hussain. The event was coordinated by Teacher and NCC Officer, Arif Rana and attended by volunteers Tilak Raj, Jugnu Bhagat, Ahamer Ahmed, Rajesh Kumar and Jasveer Singh among others.

Two-day cultural festival in Bani enthalls audience

KATHUA, MARCH 20: A two-day cultural festival organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Sub Office Kathua at Mela Ground in Bani.

The festival was conducted under the direction of Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Bharat Singh. Tehsildar Bani Sudesh Kumar Sharma was the chief guest while Suresh Kumar, Sarpanch of Gatti village was the guest of honour on the occasion.

The chief guest said that more events like this should be organised to revive age-old traditions



and promote communal harmony and community participation. He

hoped that JKAACL would continue to organise such events in Bani. Sanjeev Gupta from SOCA at JKAACL Sub-Office Kathua said that such events aim to revive priceless performing heritage and enrich the minds of people through traditional wisdom.

On the inaugural day, cultural performances were presented by various groups including Darmej Sandhu, Varinder Jyotiam, Rahul Kumar, Neelam Devi of Bani, Babli Devi, Dhani Ram, Narinder Singh and Raj Kumar. Different folk music and dance forms like Hern, Suaagh Gorian, Jattar and Kud were performed.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress of development projects, bunker construction

RAJOURI, MARCH 20: District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal reviewed the progress of various development projects under the District Capex initiative and payments made for the construction of bunkers in the rural development sector in a meeting held today. Speaking to officers, the DC emphasised the need for

completing projects within their stipulated timeframes to ensure that development benefits reach the people of the district. During his review, Kundal also assessed payments made for bunker construction under the rural development sector. The government has undertaken this initiative to provide safety and security to people liv-

ing in border areas, he underlined. The DC directed officials to ensure timely payments for bunker construction and emphasised completing construction before monsoon season onset. He also urged the public to cooperate fully with district administration in implementing these important development initiatives.

GCW Gandhi Nagar students take part in SEED-The Start-up Festival

JAMMU, MARCH 20: 30 students from Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhinagar participated in SEED-The Start-up Festival at Royal Retreat, Hari Niwas Palace.

During the event, students attended talks, workshops, discussions and movies by successful people and new business owners including Ritu Singh, Jyotika Jalani, Varuna Anand, Adishree Singh, Aditi Chopra, Delight William and Suvidha Jain.

The event was conducted under the patronage of Principal of the college, Prof Minu Mahajan with active involvement from Convener Career Counselling Cell, Prof Rajni Kumari; Convener Institutional Innovation Cell, Prof Anupama Sharma; Warden, Anita Sharma; Prof Suman Bala besides members of Career Counselling Cell and Institutional Innovation Cell.



The event was organised by Adishree Singh and Team AGENC in collaboration with FLO JKL, MIET and Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation to promote start-up culture in Jammu. The event was conducted under the patronage of Principal of the college, Prof Minu Mahajan with active involvement from Convener Career Counselling Cell, Prof Rajni Kumari.

Samba: JKAACL organises music, dance programme at Ramgarh

SAMBA, MARCH 20: The Sub Office Kathua of Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and the District Information Centre Samba organised a music and dance programme at Ramgarh today.

Over 100 artists performed at the event which was attended by a large audience. Naib Sarpanch, Keso Manhasan, Manjeet Kaur was the chief guest while Ramesh Singh Namardar Cheak Babral was the guest of honour at the occasion. Manjeet Kaur praised the performers for their pre-

sentations and their effort for promoting and preserving the art and culture of Jammu region. The highlight of the programme was a performance of 'Hern' by CD Magotra & Party. Hern is a traditional theatre form. The programme was conducted under the direction of Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Bharat Singh. It started with a performance by Ravi Sharma & Party followed by performances of Dogri songs by RL Shugal & Party and Dogri folk by Subash Chander & Party. There were also

performances by Amit Kumar & Party and a Nukkad Show by Hardeep Dance Group. The event concluded with a performance by Mohammad Rafiq and Party.

The performance featured a group of folk dancers in traditional attire, local drum players and characters such as 'Raja', 'Wazir', 'Sadhu' and a caretaker of Hern. The group moved from house to house in a carnival-like fashion, reflecting on the socio-economic and political state of the area through satirical acts.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary conduct day long tour of Rajouri

RAJOURI, MARCH 20: Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Judges of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, visited Rajouri to inspect proposed site for construction of District Court Complex Rajouri and Munsiff courts.

The Judges were accompanied by the District and Sessions Judge, Kalpana Revu, Additional District and Session Judge Rajouri, Mehmoood Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, SSP, Mohammad Aslam, CE PWD, PC Tanouj, Chief Architecture Officer Jammu and other judicial officers.

The visit was aimed at assessing the feasibility of the proposed site for construction of District Court Complex in Rajouri. During the visit, the Judges inspected the site and held discussion with the concerned authorities to gather information about the technical and legal aspects of



the project. The Judges emphasized the importance of having a modern and well-equipped court complex in Rajouri and other Munsiff courts that caters to the needs of the litigants,

advocates and judicial officers. "The construction of a District Court Complex in Rajouri will provide better access to justice for the people of the region and will be a major step towards ensuring the rule of law," said Justice Sanjay Dhar while interacting with the Media. Earlier, during their visit to Rajouri, Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Akram Chowdhary, also inspected the selected site for construction of a Munsiff Court in Sunderbani. They held discussion with the concerned authorities to assess the feasibility of the proposed site and obtain information about the technical and legal aspects of the project. In addition to inspection of the proposed sites for the District Court Complex in Rajouri and Munsiff Court in Sunderbani, the Judges also inspected Munsiff Court Thannamandi and held interaction with the Judicial Officers and civil officers to plan.

PIB Srinagar organizes Media Workshop 'Vartalap' at Budgam

Budgam, March 20, 2023

To build a direct interface between the government and the journalists working at district and sub-district levels across Kashmir division, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India today organised Media Workshop "Vartalap" at district Budgam. The workshop, organised at the Conference Hall of Deputy Commissioner's (DC) Office, was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam Dr Akramullah Tak. In his address, Dr Tak appreciated the efforts of PIB Srinagar for organizing the media workshop and said that it is the best platform for a dialogue between media and government as it is the need of the hour. He also presented the development scenario of district Budgam and informed the gathering about the progress made under various Central Government schemes and initiatives in the district.

He expressed hope that more such programmes are organized in future as they prove to be very productive for all stakeholders. He said that media is the watchdog of society and positive criticism from the press will help improve working of government. He impressed upon journalists to keep upliftment of masses in mind and adhere to all professional standards.



Assistant Commissioner Development Budgam, Ms Nuzhat Qureshi congratulated PIB for organizing the workshop and gave an overview of the working of the Rural Development Department. She said that the Panchayati Raj System is the true corner stone of development and a three tier system has been put in place in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. She informed the gathering that elected representatives of local bodies have been sent to various institutions across country and that these exposure visits help them to perform their duties better. Ms Qureshi said that the administration is working in full swing

to realize the implementation of sustainable development goals at the local level. She said that development now happens from bottom to top and that institutions like Panchayati Raj play a pivotal role in this. Commenting further on the efforts of the government, Ms Qureshi owing to the success of programmes like Back To Village, the administration has been able to come up to the expectations of the people and fulfill the demands raised by them. She said that Amrit Sarovars have been established in district Budgam as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the tasks of water conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies is being tak-

en on in full swing. Chief Education Officer Budgam Sh Mushtaq Ahmad Qadri presented an overview of the working and achievements in the education sector in the district. He said that Budgam district has one teacher for every 14 students and one school for every 66 students which is better than the national average. He also highlighted key aspects of National Education Policy 2020 and threw light on the measures being taken for its successful and effective implementation. District Nodal Officer (PMJAY) Dr Lahoot Hasan presented an overview of the health scenario of district Budgam. She said that a total of 216 health institutions are operational in Budgam district and all are working to full capacity. She said that under the PMJAY-Sehat scheme, free health cover to all residents of the district is being provided and all family members can avail benefits of upto Rs 5 lakh under the scheme. She added that around 5.5 lakh Golden Cards have been generated in Budgam district and that Budgam is the first district in India that is entirely TB free. District Information Officer Budgam, Ms Erim Aziz while addressing the participants said that media acts as the fourth pillar of democracy and it is the responsibility of media to bring issues of people to the notice of the government.

Spring festival held at picturesque Karewas at Nagam, Budgam

BUDGAM, MARCH 20: Celebrating the arrival of spring, the Tourism Department of Kashmir in collaboration with District Administration Budgam today organised a day-long Spring Festival programme at picturesque Karewas at Nagam in Budgam.

The open air function was held amidst Almond blossoms in full bloom orchards, attracting a large gathering to the venue. On the occasion, SDM Chadoora, Prince Noorul Hamid said that Budgam has huge potential for tourism and all efforts are being made for promoting and publicity of these destinations. He said the District Administration Budgam has been providing all support for tourism promotion of all destinations in the district. On the occasion, Deputy Director Tourism, Kashmir Waseem Malik said that the aim of organising these festivals is to enrich and promote tourism related products and offbeat destinations in the valley.

He said that besides promoting Tourism at National and International markets, the Tourism department has decided to celebrate every season to woo more and more tour-



ists to the Valley. He said that in Budgam both Youismarg and Doodhpathri remained open across the winter season, receiving both local as well domestic tourists in good numbers. He appreciated both Doodhpathri and Youismarg Development Authorities for working tirelessly in promoting these destinations. On the occasion, various stalls showcasing local ethnic street food, local teas, bread varieties, dry fruits particularly almond and walnut varieties and dried vegetables were set up. Enthralling the audience with their scintillating performances, various musicians and local singers performed and presented folk music on the occasion. Among others, SDM Chadoora, Prince Noorul Hamid, Deputy Director

Tourism Wasim Malik, SDPO, Tehsildar, Assistant Director Tourism, and prominent citizens from various adjoining villages, and students from various schools were present on the occasion. He appreciated both Doodhpathri and Youismarg Development Authorities for working tirelessly in promoting these destinations. On the occasion, various stalls showcasing local ethnic street food, local teas, bread varieties, dry fruits particularly almond and walnut varieties and dried vegetables were set up. Enthralling the audience with their scintillating performances, various musicians and local singers performed and presented folk music on the occasion. Among others, SDM Chadoora, Prince Noorul Hamid, Deputy Director

JKAACL remembers Nisar Rahi with day-long literary programme

RAJOURI, MARCH 20: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) conducted a day-long literary event in memory of JKAACL and JK UT awardee the late Nisar Rahi at Thandi Kassi Rajouri. The event was held under the guidance of Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh, and with the active support of Himalayan Education Mission Rajouri. During the inaugural session, a documentary on Nisar Rahi was presented followed by a multi-lingual Mushaira. Prominent poets paid tribute to the late poet through poetry recitals. Former Head of Urdu Department, University of Kashmir, Prof Qudoos Javid was the chief guest on the occasion. Krishan Kumar Toor and Ahmad Shanwas were also honoured guests at the occasion. Dr Alamdar Adam welcomed attendees and spoke about Nisar Rahi's life and contributions. He emphasised that such personalities should be remembered and introduced to younger generations for their future prospects.



Poets who presented poetry included Khurshid Bismil, Rashid Qamar, Ab Qayoom Naik, Dr Liaqat Nayyar, Khurshid Mir Janam, Mumtaz Choudhary, Mehmood Tahir, Bashir Lohar among others. The proceedings were conducted by prominent poet Akbar Ali Bandy.

CUK holds workshop on 'Science Pedagogy in Local Languages'

Srinagar, Mar 20: School of Education (SoE) and SoPE Secretariat, Central University of Kashmir (CUK), in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, Vigyan Prasara, and J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE), organized a one-day workshop on "Science Pedagogy in Local Languages (Urdu/Kashmiri/Hindi) at Primary and Elementary Level of School Education," for school teachers at BOSE, here Monday. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Prof. Zaman Azurdah, Prof. Shafi Shauq, Dean, School of Media Studies & Director, SoPE, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Joint Secretary, Secrecy, BOSE, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, Dean SoE, Prof. Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Deputy



Director Academics, BOSE, Dr. Arif Jan, faculty members SoE, teachers from schools and university staff were also present during the event held under the auspices

of G20 presidency of India. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah, said, "pedagogy is subservient to language and its importance

as a medium of instruction can hardly be overestimated." Prof. Shah said the students are more active, reactive, interactive and receptive when taught in their mother tongue and they also enjoy the act of learning concepts in their home language". Addressing the gathering, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, said, "Teaching and learning of science through mother tongue at grass root level is a very important recommendation of NEP 2020." "The essential part of this requirement is the training of teachers who work at school level and the event like this has to be an initial step for achieving this objective of NEP 2020." Joint Secretary, BOSE, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, highlighted the importance of 'teaching science.

NYK Pulwama organizes district level Youth Parliament at IM-GDC Shopian

SHOPIAN, MARCH 20: Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Pulwama in collaboration with District Administration Shopian today organized the District Level Neighborhood Youth Parliament programme under National Young Leadership (NYLP) scheme for celebration of India's G20 presidency with the theme of 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam and one Earth, One Family, One Future' at Government Degree College Shopian, here. The organizers of the programme said that the objective of the programme is to develop leadership qualities among youth so as to enable them to realize their full potential and contribute to the National building process. It also aims to motivate youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and bring them to the forefront of the developmental process and seeks to harness the immense youth energy. Speaking on the occasion, DDC member, Raja Wahid highlighted the importance and celebration of the G20 presidency. He appreciated NYK Pulwama for organizing the programmes for youth engagement in the district.

DC Shopian flags-off progressive farmers Exposure Tour

SHOPIAN, MARCH 20: The Deputy Commissioner, (DC), Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today flagged-off a team of 20 farmers for a horticulture tour to the SKUAST-K Shalimar under (ATMA) Scheme. The one-day training programme organized by the Horticulture Department for the farmers is aimed at educating progressive farmers with the new and modern methodologies in the farming sector. Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized upon the farmers to avail benefits of the programme and aware other farmers also so that the overall production and productivity is enhanced. He stressed for conducting more exposure tours besides educating other farmers on best practices. The Joint Director, Planning, Khurshid Ahmed Khattana; Chief Horticulture Officer Shopian, Mohammad Ramzan War; Chief Agriculture Officer, Farooq Ahmed and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Orchardists group flagged-off from Ganderbal for Training/Exposure tour to SKUAST-K

GANDERBAL, MARCH 20: The Horticulture department Ganderbal today organized a daylong Training/Exposure visit in which 20 orchardists visited SKUAST-K Shalimar. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah flagged-off the orchardists of the district from Mini-Secretariat Complex, Ganderbal in presence of Chief Horticulture officer Ganderbal, Horticulture Development officer Ganderbal and other officials of the Department. The major thrust of the training/exposure visit remained on dissemination of technology to know about modern, scientific know-how and applied technology in the Horticulture sector. Speaking on the occasion, the ADC appreciated the role and efforts of the Horticulture Department. Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal, Abdul Hameed Bhat briefed the ADC about the purpose of the programme and the arrangements made for the farmers going for one day training/exposure visit within UT under NMAET (ATMA). Speaking on the occasion, the ADC appreciated the role and efforts of the Horticulture Department. Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal, Abdul Hameed Bhat briefed the ADC about the purpose of the programme and the arrangements made for the farmers.

DC kick-starts Sanitation drive under Swachh Otsav campaign at Baramulla

BARAMULLA, MARCH 20: A special sanitation-cum-awareness drive was today kick-started by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar in presence of President, Municipal Council Baramulla Touseef Raina and other concerned officers. The Women led Sanitation drive was organized by Municipal Council Baramulla and was carried out with a message to keep the environment neat and clean. Speaking on the occasion, the DC focused on maintaining hygiene and sanitation. She said the drive has been launched to reinforce the message of cleanliness amongst the public and also to avoid usage of polythene. With regard to the women-led san-

itation drive, Dr Sehrish Asgar said that this step will help in encouraging everyone to keep their surroundings clean and well maintained in line with the spirit of 'Swachh Otsav'. Meanwhile, Executive Officers of Municipalities were directed to conduct sanitation drives in double shifts to ensure proper cleanliness in all areas.

President, Municipal Council Baramulla while speaking on the occasion said that the objective of the drive is to promote cleanliness across all vulnerable locations in the district. He further asserted that the motive of the drive apart from cleanliness is also to encourage people to avoid use of non-bio degradable plastic material.

Aapda Mitra Volunteers Trained in Disaster Management in Jammu

JAMMU, MARCH 20: A group of 182 volunteers in Jammu have completed practical training as part of the 12th batch of "Aapda Mitra" volunteers under the Government of India sponsored scheme "Upscaling of Aapda Mitra". The training was conducted at SDRF 2nd Battalion Headquarters in Gandhi Nagar and included demonstrations on fire-fighting, flood rope crossing, rappelling, climbing and rescue from higher buildings.

Deputy Director, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R), Lalit Bhat was the chief guest at the event. He praised the trainees for their active participation and involvement in the training and announced that the target set by the Government of India for imparting training to Aapda Mitra volunteers had been successfully achieved by J&K (UT). He also appreciated the role of SDRF J&K in making the

training successful. SSP Commandant, SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu, Atul Sharma, elaborated that during these trainings, volunteers were sensitised about different aspects of disaster management including water rescue and mountaineering rescue. Resource persons from SDRF, experts from Fire & Emergency Services Department and Police MRT team provided instruction. Deputy SP Principal CTI HG/CD Jammu, Dev Raj

and Deputy SP (Training) SDRF 2nd Battalion, Mohinder Pal highlighted activities undertaken by Aapda Mitra volunteers during the training programme and distributed certificates to participants. Deputy SP, Arvinder Kotwal and Daljit Singh; Inspectors Sanjeev Kalsi, Vishal Dubey and Sunil Sharma along with Instructors Kuldeep Singh and Aman Singh were also present at the event.

Public Notice

I Waseem Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/O Kalantra Payeen, wants to change my daughter's Name as AREBA WASEEM (New Name) instead of ARBIA WASEEM (present name) if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of Registrar Births And Deaths Rural Development Department Block Wagoora within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Waseem Ahmad Bhat
S/O : Mohammad Shafi Bhat
R/O: Kalantra Payeen

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contract card from R&B Office. if anybody having any objection in this regard he she may file his/her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla /Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: MOHD ASHRAF RATHER
S/o: ABDUL KHALIQ RATHER
R/o- TILGAM
TehsilPATTAN
Distt ...BARAMULLA

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 any body 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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SERICULTURE OFFICER, SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

PH.NO. 01942311867: -- E. MAIL. DDSRINAGAR@GMAIL.COM

AUCTION NOTICE

Sericulture Development Department has to put on auction one number of Mulberry Tree weighing approximately 50 qtls. at Doodarshan Campus Srinagar. The auction will be conducted on 23-03-2023 at 12.00 noon. The initial bid will start from Rs.20,000/-. The participants in the bid shall have to deposit Rs.2000/- as security deposit. The successful bidder has to pay the whole amount immediately after the conclusion of bid and has to fell the tree and lift the mulberry wood within seven days from the date of auction. The successful bidder has to obtain permission from the Forest Department on prescribed format before lifting the wood.
No.DSOS/Tech/Auction/2022-23/196 Dated:- 17/03/2023

DIPK-18605/22

SD
District Sericulture
Officer District Srinagar,

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG

The Lt Governor congratulated the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission for their endeavours in securing the livelihood of the rural women and giving them proper training and other assistance for their entrepreneurial journey. The Lt Governor highlighted the flagship programmes & schemes of the government making a greater impact on the lives of women in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor highlighted the flagship programmes & schemes of the government making a greater impact on the lives of women in Jammu Kashmir. Our aim is women-led development. It is being ensured that the women entrepreneurs in urban, rural and remote areas get all the financial assistance and necessary handholding in packaging, branding, licensing, skilling and marketing, the Lt Governor noted. On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a publication of Rural Livelihoods Mission. Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected various stalls displaying unique products, traditional cuisines from J&K and across the country and also interacted with the Artisans, women entrepreneurs and members of Self-help Groups. Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj briefed on the objectives of the initiative and the positive response received from the concerned quarters.(KNB)

KU

our higher education institutions contribute to create prosperous society,” the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor impressed on time-bound completion of various academic and research programmes and award of degrees to the students.

The Lt Governor called for enhanced research activities on local problems and issues by the University. Enhanced research activities will provide solutions to local problems and it will create comprehensive knowledge wealth that will be the key factor in all-round development. He said many industries are coming up in J&K and there is a need to put special focus on skill development and capacity building. “The University should build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and start-ups and the government will provide all the required assistance,” the Lt Governor said. The University Council approved the proposal related to introduction of several new courses at the main and satellite campuses of the University to cater to the growing needs of the students.

These new courses include PG in Artificial Intelligence; Bachelor’s course in Economics, BBA-LLB and Medical Lab Technology programmes at South Campus, Anantnag; Integrated BSc-MSc Botany at North Campus, Baramulla and Integrated UG-PG programme in Arabic at Kupwara Campus.

The Council resolved to run all courses strictly as per the guidelines and rules of the relevant statutory/regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI etc.

“The University should build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and start-ups and the government will provide all the required assistance,” the Lt Governor said. The University Council approved the proposal related to introduction of several new courses at the main and satellite campuses of the University to cater to the growing needs of the students.

These new courses include PG in Artificial Intelligence; Bachelor’s course in Economics, BBA-LLB and Medical Lab Technology programmes at South Campus, Anantnag; Integrated BSc-MSc Botany at North Campus, Baramulla and Integrated UG-PG programme in Arabic at Kupwara Campus.

The Council resolved to run all courses strictly as per the guidelines and rules of the relevant statutory/regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI etc.

DGP

children can excel in the fields of their choice.

To a query whether police will assist Punjab police in Amritpal Singh case, the DGP said J&K police will provide all possible help to Punjab police wherever they would need. “Some cases are being jointly probed by Punjab and J&K police,” he said.

LG Manoj Sinha said that the J & K administration has spent huge amounts to upgrade the sports infrastructure across the UT. On Sunday, he said that the government land retrieved will be used to build sports infrastructure including play fields so that youth can play sports in their native areas—(KNO)

AZAD

should be a separate strong law for the militants and those who are found innocent should not be booked under Public Safety Act (PSA).

He said the religious leaders who have nothing to do with the militancy and are lodged in jails not for solid reasons such cases create doubts in the minds of the common man. “To book a person and send him to jail on any doubt would never be a good sign for the state, neither that it would pave way for better days, nor in the interest of democracy and peace,” Azad said

The central government has taken up some good initiatives and has been able to contain the militancy to a large extent, he said.

“Strikes are not being observed and stone pelting has come down. But in the meantime a religious person who has nothing to do with militancy is being sent to jail, which raises doubts among the people,” he said. He said that the authorities are sometimes taking such initiatives which are diluting their good work also.

BANDIPORA

order No. DIVCOM- ‘K’/Rtn/05/2023 dated 10-02-2023,” police said

According to the notice, the owner of these houses have been restrained to “transfer, lease out, dispose-off, change its nature or deal with the said property in any manner without the permission of designated authority. “Any violation will attract penal provision of law,” the notice said .

Last year in May, Jammu and Kashmir police said that they have busted a module of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit by arresting three militants and four associates including Aijaz and Maqsood in Bandipora district.

NOORI

to produce “Noori” which was India’s second cloned animal. Shah was also the key researcher in the team of scientists at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana in 2009 that gave India the first cloned buffalo calf ‘Garima’.

The rare Himalayan goat “Noori” was cloned using the advanced reproductive techniques.

“Noori gave birth to seven kids and out of them four are alive,” Shah said. “ The cloned goat was as good as a normal one and she gave birth to so many kids.”

Shah said he was feeling sad on the death of Noori.

Pashmina goats are exclusive to Ladakh region and the successful cloning technology had given hope that it will help the pashmina’s productivity. UNI MJR GN

SMART CITY

projects presentation by CEO of Srinagar Smart City, Athar Aamir Khan, a presentation was also given by Professor Prasanna Desai, Architect, and Urban Designer from Pune.

Professor Prasanna Desai shared his valuable insights and suggestions regarding urban design and planning aspects of the ongoing projects.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the ongoing projects, and valuable suggestions, views, and unending support were expressed by all the participants which were duly noted by the Srinagar Smart City team.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and an acknowledgment for the active support and hard work from all the departments, various organizations, traders’ fraternity, and especially the Srinagar Smart City Limited team.

The Srinagar Smart City team appreciated the valuable inputs received from all the participants and ensured incorporating the suggestions and feedback received to enhance the ongoing projects—(KNO)

OMAR

others. Omar said that nobody is supporting or advocating that militants should be given government jobs but at the same time relatives of militants should not be targeted.

He also castigated the government for bringing a blacklisted recruiting job agency to Jammu and Kashmir. “The present government is playing with the future of youth. We want an inquiry on how APTECH, which is blacklisted across the country, was given a contract and where the scams had taken place.”

He alleged that the present dispensation likes to misuse the police and use of police force against the civilian population is really bad. [KNT]

EXAM

the culmination of examinations, the academics for next grade will begin immediately. “We are working very hard so that no time will be wasted on students. Let’s see the feasibility because the school education department is also involved.”

He added, “This year, we have big challenges like implementation of a uniform academic calendar, New Education Policy and a lot more.”

Manhas, who also heads the Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Education Research and Training (JKSCERT) on asking about the main focus of the council said, “SCERT will focus on getting up to the national and international level in terms of curriculum, teaching and training.” “We will try to adopt best practices to provide the quality of education to our students,” he said—(KNO)

ORAL

immune response leading to inflammation which is a protective response against the harmful stimulus. But when this inflammation is excessive then it may cause damage to the normal body tissues,” he said.

Periodontitis which is a disease of supporting tissues of teeth may lead to chronic inflammation and return be a risk factor in heart problems, complications during pregnancy, dysregulated control of diabetes, Covid-19 complications, lung and kidney problems, he said.

Another doctor from Dental College Srinagar said that bleeding during toothbrushing or after biting on hard surfaces like an apple, recession of gingiva, swollen gums and loosening or mobility of teeth may be the features of periodontitis.

He said that people should stop self-medicating for tooth infections.” Around 90 percent of the people in Kashmir believe that consuming painkillers will solve their problems. But this is not true. So, it is better to opt for proper oral hygiene and early treatment,” he said.

Tobacco chewing, smoking affects the oral health while oral diseases like gum diseases affect people, he said, adding that prioritizing oral health is important and the need of the hour as oral hygiene leads to a healthy lifestyle—(KNO)

JUNE

Conference Center (SKICC), Srinagar.

Malik said that eminent personalities will grace the event with their presence along with experts from various fields especially from agriculture and horticulture sectors. “The event aims to empower and strengthen the apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir who have been facing huge losses due to unprecedented and untimely fall in prices of their produce over the past several years”, he said.

Malik also said, that the apple season this year fetched prices below expectations leading to losses for farmers across the Jammu and Kashmir, in a bid to provide a platform to farmers to mitigate the issues faced by them, moreover the conference would help to provide sustainable solutions to issues those faced by the people affiliated with the industry.

POLICE

He said some cases have come into the notice of police in J&K where people from here have provided weapons to the group. “ We have taken the cognizance and cases have also been registered at a few places,” he said

The top police cop said that today the militancy count was low in Jammu and Kashmir because youth were taking part in sports activities in higher numbers.

“Youth are participating in sports activities and there is a peaceful atmosphere everywhere in Jammu and Kashmir”, the DGP said.

He said today in colleges, schools and other places a peaceful atmosphere prevails and children are taking part in games and also concentrating on their studies.

“We want a long lasting peace to prevail so that the children can continue their studies without any interruption to build up their career and life and take care of their parents and society in whole”, he added.

DC SRINAGAR

He also stressed on deploying special teams under the supervision of SDM, East and SDM West from tomorrow to carry out market checking in order to curb profiteering, hoarding of essentials in the market, in addition to maintain quality and standard of the food items.The DC also directed AD fisheries/AD FCS&CA/Food Analyst/Tehsildars to check quality of fishes/Chicken/Meat and other daily consumable food items so that no adulteration exists in the markets of Srinagar.The SMC authorities were directed to conduct sanitation and cleanliness drives in all areas to ensure proper cleanliness, besides instructions were given that all defunct street lights be restored on war footing in all areas.With regard to repairs of roads and filling of pot holes, the DC asked the concerned Departments to identify the spots which required immediate repairing and immediately take up works so that roads/ways leading towards main venues of religious congregations.

CS

My Town My Pride, Tourism Policy, Film Policy coupled with many other initiatives taken by individual departments are aimed at creating thousands of employment opportunities for our youth.

Dr Mehta also interacted with the job providers and seekers who were offered placement letters on spot. He encouraged the participants to make best out of these opportunities as it benefits both in terms of attracting best talent and multiple opportunities to each of the applicant. Moreover the need for organizing job fairs on regular intervals was also emphasized upon by the Chief Secretary.Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri also graced the event and inspected stalls set up by different job providers, from Health, Education, Insurance, Banking, Automobile, IT, skilling, and other sectors. Different Departments of Govt. had also installed stalls showcasing self employment schemes for potential entrepreneurs in the event.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad; Labour Commissioner, Mr G.N War; Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Mehmood Ahmad Shah; and reputed industrialists and businessmen were present in this fair.

RTI Act is redundant in District Poonch: BADC

Jammu, 20/March/2023: All Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JKBADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border areas of J & K has alleged that Right to Information Act has been made redundant in Poonch as officers there in the border district do not bother to follow the provisions and time line as mandated under the law and remain non serious towards the RTI applications of the innocent citizens.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of the JKBADC and former Vice Chancellor has requested the Deputy Commissioner Poonch to look into this matter and hold sensitization and awareness programs about Right to Information Act for the Public Information Officers(PIOs) and the citizens.

The BADC Chairman stated that several complaints have been made by the villagers that the officers of different departments especially the Block Development Officers in district Poonch pay least importance to this important legislation (RTI Act) and remain inattentive towards the RTI applications by the citizens. He also said if implemented properly, the RTI Act can be useful in curtailment of Corruption in the government departments and keep a check on the quality of works carried out of public funds. The former VC informed that under the RTI Act, a Public Information Officer is under legal obligation to provide information to the applicant as expeditiously as possible but not later than 30 days but in district Poonch this important section of the RTI law is flouted with impunity. He said soon BADC would also hold awareness and sensation programs on RTI Act and other allied laws to educate people of these border areas.

Chattisinghpura Massacre – Sikh Body Dismayed Over Delay in Justice

Srinagar,20-Mar,CNS; All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) has expressed dismay over the delay in justice to the families of 35 Sikh families who were killed at Chattisinghpura in South Kashmir’s Anantnag district on March 20, 2000. In a statement issued to CNS, APSCC Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said that although 23 years have passed no headway whatsoever has been made in the case. He said the delay in justice has led to disillusionment among the members of Sikh community.

“Total 50 people were killed in Chattisinghpura episode. It is important that justice is not delivered to the victim families. At the same time investigations need to be carried out in the sequence of events that unfolded later on as 15 more persons belonging to majority community were also killed in the aftermath of the Chattisinghpura massacre,” APSCC Chairman. Raina said that since the locals countered the claims of government that it has killed five militants involved in the killing of 35 Sikhs it is imperative that the whole incident is probed in a professional manner so that culprits are brought to book and justice is delivered to the affected families.

He also expressed his sympathies to the families of persons who were killed in firing at Brakpora who were protesting against the fake encounter. He said that government should take up the probe in a forceful manner so that the real picture comes to the fore and people heave a sigh of relief.

Notably in 2000, unidentified gunmen entered Chattisinghpura village and massacred 35 men belonging to the minority Sikh community. The murder of Sikhs shocked the entire Kashmir region.

“The police have so far failed to produce any hard evidence that the persons killed in the fake encounter were involved in the killing of Sikhs at Chattisinghpura. The committee formed by the government to find out the culprits, has failed to solve the mystery. We urge both the state and central government to go for fresh probe in the killings of Sikhs and make the things clear. Pandian Commission should be allowed to further investigate the incident as Brakpora and Chattisinghpura cases are inter-linked,” said Raina.

The APSCC Chairman said that the massacre was condemned by then President of USA, Bill Clinton. He urged the Government of India to nab the culprits, which he later on also mentioned in his book and termed the incident as most unfortunate incident of his life.(CNS)

Word Oral Health Day (WOHD) launched & celebrated successfully across Sub District Tangmarg

Aaqib Khan



Baramulla 20:As per the directions from higher authorities World Oral Health Day was celebrated across District Baramulla wherein CMO Baramulla Dr Bashir Ahmed Malik personally inaugurated the event at Subdistrict hospital of Block Tangmarg. CMO Baramulla while speaking on the occasion laid stress on the significance and aims and objectives of World Oral Health Day and the need to augment awareness among the masses to keep their oral cavities clean & healthy. Block Medical Officers,District Nodal Officer NOHP Baramulla..

Block Nodal Officers NOHP,Dental Surgeons,Dental Paramedical Staff,RBSK Teams,CHOs,DPMU,BPMU, DAC etc and all other officials associated who made the event a grand success and reiterated that all the concerned staff should conduct month long oral health promotional activities as per the micro action plan to generate mass oral health awareness among the public. On this occasion Block Medical Officer Tangmarg spoke about the need to sensitise patients about their oral health and assured of all possible support to further improve upon the Oral Health Care Services at SDH Tangmarg. All the Block Medical Officers and their Block Nodal Officer NOHP along with their teams conducted separate WOHD inaugural programmes wherein students,A-SHAs patients & general public took part.On this occasion various lectures were deliberated regarding the ways to keep oral health care as per the clinical norms .

Oral Health Screening was also conducted and dental medications and refreshment were also distributed District Nodal Officer NOHP Baramulla while appreciating the efforts of all the health administrators,Block Nodal Officers NOHP and all the staff associated with the successful completion of WOHD thanked CMO Baramulla for his commendable support & encouragement to make this event a grand success across district by which a huge impetus in terms of oral health care awareness has been kick started in District Baramulla .Block Nodal Officers NOHP,Dental Surgeons,Dental Paramedical Staff,RBSK Teams,CHOs,DPMU,BPMU, DAC etc and all other officials associated who made the event a grand success and reiterated that all the concerned staff should conduct month long oral health promotional activities as per the micro action plan to generate mass oral health awareness among the public.

One day district level exhibition cum awareness camp on craft development organised at Handwara



KUPWARA, MARCH 20: One-day District level exhibition cum awareness camp was held at Craft Community Centre Handwara. The district camp was organized by Department of Handloom and Handicrafts Kupwara.

The awareness camp focused on craft development and empowerment with the aim of educating and empowering and providing awareness among the local artisans and weavers.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Nazir Ahmad Mir inaugurated the camp in presence of Assistant Director Handloom and Handicrafts Kupwara.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Director H&H Kupwara said that the Awareness camp will give artisans a suitable knowledge of traditional handicrafts of Kashmir and avenues of their marketing.

The event was attended by over 400 participants including artisans and trainees of handicrafts.

During the awareness program, information was imparted to participants on various departmental schemes like Registration, Credit card, Self help group and single window system.

The informative and fruitful sessions were led by experts in their respective fields, who shared their knowledge and experiences with the participants.

Participants expressed their satisfaction and thanked to department for organising awareness camp for increasing their knowledge, expertise and skills.

It was informed on the occasion that the department will organize more such awareness programmes in the future to train the artisans. On the occasion, participants visited several stalls depicting embroidery, Gabba sazi, Numda sazi and other traditional handicrafts.

DC Kupwara chairs DLSCC; 21 cases settled

KUPWARA, MARCH 20: The District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) which met here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today settled 21 cases. SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas and ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat were also present in the meeting.

A total of 26 cases of different categories were put forth for discussion before the Committee. out of which 21 cases have been cleared subject to the fulfillment of all codal formalities. These include 4 death cases approved for an exgratia relief of Rs.1 lakh; 7 cases relating to injury have been cleared for Rs.5000 each and 10 property cases were cleared at Rs.5200 each.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the concerned officers to speed up the disposal of pending cases in their offices so that timely settlement could be done in the next meeting of DLSCC.

ACR Kupwara, Senior Civil, Police, CID and Army officers attended the meeting.

PARAS HEALTHCARE IS NOW PARAS HEALTH WITH A NEW LOGO AND BRAND IDENTITY



March 18, 2023, Gurugram: Paras Healthcare today unveiled its new brand identity campaign along with the launch of its new logo which reflects the commitment to building a healthy Bharat. Paras Healthcare is now re-named ‘Paras Health’. The new name represents the commitment to being a true partner in health to their patients and communities. Paras Health’s new visual identity emphasizes its 4 brand values - Compassion, Accessibility, Affordability and Quality that converge to make its vision a reality for all Bhortiyas. Paras Health will continue to focus on its mission of making affordable and quality tertiary health accessible to communities that lack such services. As part of the new initiative, Paras Health has also announced its entry into a new vertical of laboratories, Paras Labs for patients’ clinical testing needs.

The company is a network of 6 hospitals in Northern India that operates 1500 beds as of date. The chain, which started with its first hospital in Gurugram in 2006, has expanded to Patna, Darbhanga, Udaipur, Panchkula, Ranchi and now extending itself to Srinagar & Kanpur. These additions will provide and streamline services providing support to patients. Additionally, Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Digital Care Touchpoints will be implemented which will allow patients to access key services from the comfort of their own homes. Digital patient records will be maintained by Paras Health allowing tailored treatments and care for its patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director, Paras Health, Dr. Dharminder Nagar said, “For the last 17 years, Paras Health has been providing affordable, accessible, and high-quality healthcare services to our patients. The goal has always been to be present in any part of the country where there is a need for high-quality healthcare, and the organization has built a reputation for itself as a trusted healthcare provider that puts the needs of our patients first. Our transformation is not just limited to the change in our name and logo but also keeping in mind the future roadmap of Paras Health, which will encompass curative, preventive, and care from not only the hospital but also in patients’ homes.”

Interacting with the gathering, Group COO, Paras Health, Dr. Santy Sajan, said “Paras Health’s mission has always been to provide compassionate and quality healthcare services to everyone. We have an exceptional team of people who are passionate about providing the best care for our patients and their families. Our extraordinary team of Doctors, Nurses, and operations team members are our compasses. We strive to improve healthcare services and enhance patient outcomes through Clinical Excellence, empathy, and compassionate care. Our 5 healthcare pillars of Patient-Physician-Process-People-Place will surely continue enhancing trust in our care and commitment to all healthcare needs of our communities.”

Paras Health aspires to be the largest private healthcare provider in North India by 2031 with 9000+ beds under its network. Of this, around 5000 beds will be added by FY 2028 through organic and inorganic expansion.

Starc-inspired Australia crush India to level ODI series

VISAKHAPATNAM: Mitchell Starc returned figures of 5-53 with his excellent swing and seam to power Australia to a series-leveling 10-wicket win over India in the second One-day International here on Sunday.

Starc, a left-arm quick, rattled the Indian batting with his pace and swing to bundle out the opposition for just 117 in only 26 overs.

Openers Travis Head, who hit 51, and Mitchell Marsh, who smashed 66 off 36 balls, then took apart the Indian bowling to romp home in 11 overs.

Australia finished the chase with 39 overs to spare and bounce back from their opening defeat to hand India their biggest ODI loss in terms of balls remaining.

Starc led the team's lethal attack with the wicket of Shubman Gill for a duck after the tourists decided to bowl first after overnight rain.



"It was a great day for us," said Starc. "I think the bowling unit was pretty spot on. I guess the conditions helped the ball swing a bit but I think we bowled really good areas. We were probably on the more aggressive side when we started to get a few wickets in the powerplay."

Marsh, who stood out with his blazing knock that included six fours and six sixes, praised Starc.

"It was a pleasure to watch. You know what he can do with the white ball, especially when he is swinging it. He is the best in the world," said Marsh.

Two successive strikes from Starc to get returning skip-

per Rohit Sharma for 13 and then Suryakumar Yadav, out for a second straight first-ball duck, pushed India onto the back foot.

KL Rahul played out the hat-trick ball but lasted for just 11 more deliveries before falling leg-before wicket to Starc, who returned figures of 4-31 in his first spell of six overs.

Skipper Steve Smith took a stunning one-handed catch at first slip to dismiss Hardik Pandya for one off the bowling of Sean Abbott, who took three wickets.

Smith went full stretch to his right and was airborne when he took the catch off an edge from Pandya, setting social media abuzz with praise for his "superman" effort. Virat Kohli attempted to hit back for India with a score of 31 that included four boundaries before he was trapped in front by Nathan Ellis.

Dominant New Zealand on brink of series sweep against Sri Lanka

WELLINGTON: New Zealand maintained their dominance over Sri Lanka in the second Test here at the Basin Reserve on Sunday, enforcing a follow-on and setting up the likelihood of a series clean sweep with two days to play.

The tourists reached 113-2 in their second innings at stumps on day three but still trailed by 303 runs.

They need a massive turnaround to avoid defeat after being skittled out for 164 in their first innings in response to the Black Caps' 580-4 declared.

Starting off with a deficit of 416 runs, they showed more fight in their second turn at bat.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne posted his second half-century of the day before being dismissed by counterpart Tim Southee for 51, caught in the deep after fellow-opener Oshada Fernando had been removed cheaply.

Kusal Mendis was at the crease on 50 and Angelo Mathews unbeaten on one-off 40 balls, with the pair seeing off the last 11.5 overs in stoic fashion. Sri Lanka's best hopes of saving the Test could rest with the weather. Rain is forecast for the final day, meaning they could force a stalemate if they can successfully bat through Monday, when cold, blustery conditions are expected and may make life uncomfortable for New Zealand in the field.



derailed their first innings. The tail succumbed rapidly during a chaotic second session, with the last six wickets tumbling for 50 runs in the space of 15.1 overs despite the wicket playing relatively true.

Only three batters reached double figures in the first innings, including Karunaratne, who was the ninth man out for 89. The gritty opener had looked to be digging the visitors out of a deep hole when he and Dinesh Chandimal put on 80 for the fifth wicket after the loss of two wickets in the day's opening half-hour reduced them to 34-4.

However, Chandimal was stumped for 34 off Michael Bracewell after charging down the track soon after tea, sparking the slump.

Off-spinner Bracewell then removed Dhananjaya de Silva in his next over and later dismissed Karunaratne when he hit out, to finish with 3-50.

Shaheen's cameo proved turning point of the final, says Rizwan

LAHORE: Both Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Rizwan heaped praise on each other following the nerve-racking final of the HBL Pakistan Super League here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday night. "Rizwan is a good human being, having a different personality and the way he is improving is remarkable. Scoring 500-plus runs in back-to-back PSL editions plus amassing 1,000 runs in international contests in a calendar year is not easy for a cricketer but he is doing it," Lahore Qalandars' captain Shaheen, who led from the front with a title-winning all-round performance in the decider, said in the post-final press conference.



On the other hand, Multan Sultans' skipper Rizwan whose team could not grab the PSL-8 title after losing the final by just one run, reckoned Shaheen's batting was the key moment in the thrill-filled decider. "For me, the turning point of the final was Shaheen's aggressive batting, and not my catch [held by David Wiese]. We had taken control over the final but Shaheen took the momentum away from us," the 30-year-old Rizwan said referring to the left-hander's rapid-fire 15-ball 44 that helped Qalandars reach the 200 mark in the end. Commenting on his cameo featuring five sixes and two fours in the final, Shaheen said his decision to come in to bat was a quick call made with a plan. "I was sitting wearing only one pad. Suddenly [after the fall of the fifth wicket

at 112], I decided to go myself as Khushdil Shah was bowling [at that time]. I had a plan to lift the run rate for my team to post a respectable total; and in case if fail, David Wiese and Rashid Khan have the ability to hit hard in the final few overs," the 22-year-old captain said.

According to Shaheen, Qalandars' head coach Aaqib Javed had endorsed his choice of batting up the order, saying the coach always trusted his decision. On his bowling in the final, the winning skipper said though he took four wickets (for 51 runs), the last over of the innings bowled by pacer Zaman Khan was crucial as Sultans required 13 runs for victory. Shaheen said he accepted the mistakes he had made in his first two costly overs and advised the bowlers to cover the loss while "I will try my best to do well in my remaining two overs".

Saints fightback stuns Spurs, Leeds win

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's challenge for a top-four finish in the Premier League was hit by a late Southampton fightback in a 3-3 draw on Saturday, as Leeds boosted their survival hopes with a 4-2 win at Wolves.

Spurs looked set to leapfrog Manchester United into third as they led bottom-of-the-table Saints 3-1 with just 13 minutes remaining at St. Mary's.

But Theo Walcott's first goal in nearly two years and James Ward-Prowse's stoppage-time penalty salvaged a vital point for Southampton.

Pedro Porro's thumping finish had opened the scoring and his account for Tottenham in first-half stoppage time. Southampton responded within a minute of the restart as Che Adams turned in Walcott's cross.

Harry Kane rose highest to head in his 21st Premier League goal of the season from Dejan Kulusevski's cross.

Ivan Perisic's strike from the edge of the box then gave Spurs a two-goal cushion. Yet, even that was not enough for Antonio Conte's men.

Walcott side-footed home to set up a grandstand finish and Pape Sarr was then penalised for bringing down Ainsley Maitland-Niles.

Tottenham keeper Fraser Forster could not deny his former team-mate Ward-Prowse to leave Spurs just two points ahead of fifth-placed Newcastle having played two games more.

Meanwhile, Leeds moved out of the relegation zone after beating fellow strugglers Wolverhampton Wanderers in a six-goal thriller at Molineux.



The visitors had won just once in their last 13 league games but stormed into a 3-0 lead.

Jack Harrison fired Javi Gracia's men in front before rare goals for right-backs Luke Ayling and Rasmus Kristensen had appeared to put Leeds out of sight.

Wolves had scored just 10 goals in 13 previous league games at home this season. But two in eight minutes gave them hope as Jonny and Matheus Cunha cut the arrears.

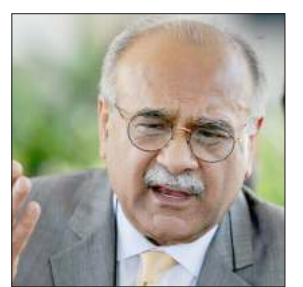
However, Wolves ended the game with 10 men as Jonny was sent off for a dangerous studs-up tackle on Ayling.

Rodrigo wrapped up the three points which lift Leeds into 14th.

Matheus Nunes, an unused Wolves substitute, was also shown a red card as the hosts were angered by the referee's decision to award the goal despite being sent to the pitchside monitor to check a shirt pull on Adama Traore in the build-up.

PSL has surpassed IPL in terms of digital rating, claims Sethi

LAHORE: The chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board's interim management committee Najam Sethi on Saturday claimed that the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season, which came to a close with — claiming the title, had surpassed the Indian Premier League (IPL) on digital rating.



Speaking at a news conference ahead of the final, Sethi stated that this season's PSL got a digital rating of 150 as compared to IPL's 130 in its last edition while sending out his gratitude to the fans as well as the federal and provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh in making the event successful.

A new option was also tabled. "We have proposals to hold some matches of the league in the United States and if we get a chance, we will explore that option," said the 74-year-old, adding that the PCB is in talks with the relevant authorities in Karachi and Lahore

to build five-star hotels for the players near the stadiums for the public's convenience.

He also highlighted how the PSL has impacted and helped improve the country's economic situation.

"PSL has contributed in keeping the country's economic wheel moving as it created job opportunities and helped tourism, hotel industry, airlines, and road travelling business grow," Sethi said before disclosing the taxes paid to the government. "We have paid Rs70crores in taxes to the federal government, Rs50crores in sales taxes.

PRINTERS to observe 22nd March as BLACK DAY

To protest against the unprecedented price hike of Paper & Raw-material

AIFMP has expressed firm belief that government under the able leadership of prime minister Narindra Modi will definitely save the interests of printers fraternity.

All India Federation of Master Printers has appealed the printers fraternity to observe March 22nd as the black day to press their demands in wake of unprecedented hike in paper and other raw material prices. AIFMP, the countries most prestigious printers body has appealed the government of India to intervene into this matter of Urgent attention as the unprecedented hike of printing material has almost broked the backbone of printing industry across the nation. After facing the crucial phase of covid lock down and coming out of that terrible phase the price hike has left no store returned to collapse the printing industry

J&K witnessing remarkable transformation in Sports ecosystem since past three years: Advisor Bhatnagar

JAMMU, MARCH 20: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today declared open 84th Senior National and Inter State Table Tennis Championship at University of Jammu here.

Addressing a large gathering of table tennis players including a galaxy of top stars from across the country at this grand event, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a remarkable transformation in sports ecosystem since the past three years. This, he said, reflects story of growth and development here with sea of opportunities. He added that the UT government is giving prime focus to up gradation of sports infrastructure here and in last three years world class sports infrastructure has been established so that the youth of J&K excel in sports.



at National and International events", Advisor maintained. Advisor further remarked that Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as the powerhouse of sports and players of national and international repute are being produced here. He highlighted that J&K is

emerging as preferred location for organizing National and International sports events and the successful culmination of Gulmarg Winter Games is witness to it.

Divulging on different initiatives of J&K administration in Sports sector, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that J&K government launched unique initiative of 'My Youth My Pride' through which activities in games like Gymnastics, Football, Hockey, Judo, yoga, Boxing, Cricket and others were held all across Jammu and Kashmir. He added that more than 50 lakh players participated in different sports disciplines held under this initiative. Advisor further said that the present LG led administration is committed towards development of sports.

AL-NASR HOSPITALITY PVT. LTD
"RAMADAN UMRAH PACKAGE"

21 DAYS PACKAGE

- Visa with Insurance
- Flight Indigo SXR-SXR
- Accommodation
- Meals

Umrah-2023 with Bulbul-e-Raza

TANCH BAGH PAMPORE-192121
Contact Us: 7006-305904, 9596523997
email: bhataadi0016@gmail.com

AL-NASR HOSPITALITY PVT. LTD
"RAMADAN UMRAH PACKAGE"

27 DAYS PACKAGE

- Visa with Insurance
- Flight Air India SXR-SXR
- Accommodation
- Meals

Umrah-2023 with Bulbul-e-Raza

TANCH BAGH PAMPORE-192121
Contact Us: 7006-305904, 9596523997
email: bhataadi0016@gmail.com

GN SONS HOME FURNISHING

Your relax our pride

NHAI A1 SANGRAMA NEAR PETROL PUMP

7006248719