

PM Modi Addresses Kashmir Youth 'Leave Behind Past, Benefit From Present'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described Jammu and Kashmir as the pride of every Indian, and said that it is time to leave behind the old challenges and take full benefit of new possibilities.

Addressing the Jammu and Kashmir Rozgar Mela through video conferencing, he also said that there is a need to work with a new approach and new thinking for fast-paced development.

"We are committed to taking benefits of development equally to all sections and citizens," Modi said.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the pride of every Indian. Together we have to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights," he said. "This decade of the 21st century is the most important decade in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Now is the time to leave the old challenges behind, and take full advantage of the new possibilities."

Modi congratulated 3,000 young people who received appointment letters to work in the government in 20 different places in Jammu and Kashmir. These youngsters will get opportunities to serve in various



departments like the PWD, health department, food and civil supplies department, animal husbandry, Jal Shakti, and education-culture, he added.

The prime minister further said that preparations are in full swing to hand out more than 700 appointment letters in other departments in the coming days.

Referring to a record increase in the number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said the tourism sector in the state received a boost due to the infrastructural

developments and increased connectivity.

"It is our endeavour that the benefits of government schemes reach every section of society without any discrimination," the prime minister remarked.

He also informed that efforts are on to strengthen the health and education infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir with the opening of two new AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, two state cancer institutes and 15 nursing colleges.

He said efforts are underway to improve [| More on P6](#)

J&K's Youth Scripting New History In Different Sectors: LG Says 30K Youth Provided Govt Jobs, 5.2 Lakh Others Self Employment Opportunities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Terming youth as the strength of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Sunday that his administration has provided government jobs to 3000 youth, self-employment opportunities to 5.2 lakh people, while 5.5 lakh women are associated with self-help groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory.

Addressing Jammu & Kashmir Rozgar Mela via video message organized at KICC, here on Sunday, Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister for blessing 3000 youths with jobs during the first phase of the Rozgar Mela, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, also stated that under guidance of PM, J&K's youth is scripting new history in different sectors and contributing to the national progress.

The spokesperson said that the LG termed Good Governance as commitment to serve people and work for prosperity and welfare of the poorest of the poor.

"I am confident the new appointees will play the vital role of reinforcing our values in public service and serve the people with honesty, absolute integrity and truthfulness," Sinha said.

"Youth is the strength of J&K. In the past three years, J&K UT has made rapid progress in empowering youth, farmers and women. We have taken many steps to create supportive infrastructure, schemes and policies for entrepreneurship and self-employment," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, observed



that in the last three years, 30,000 youth have been given Government jobs & 5.2 lakh have been provided self-employment opportunities and more than 5.5 lakh women are associated with Self-Help Groups.

"J&K UT is today offering vast scope for self employment, both in manufacturing & service sector and helping the young entrepreneurs with training, credit and market access, technical inputs to create a lot of employment opportunities in a decentralized manner," the LG said.

"Today youth of J&K UT are working in different sectors with single-minded pursuit of excellence through determination and hard work. [| More on P6](#)

'Govt Brought New Revolution In Youth Empowerment'

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Sunday that his government has brought a new revolution in youth empowerment in the last two years, making youth job providers from job seekers.

Addressing an event at Sheikhpora area here, the LG said that Back to Village is the government's endeavour to realize the vision of Gram Swaraj, and facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination between government and the people.

"More than 25,000 officers are making field visits across the UT to receive feedback from the public on various schemes being implemented by the government. The Visiting Officers will ensure 100% saturation of welfare schemes and achieve the targets of self-employment and skill development," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson. [| More on P6](#)

WHENEVER I USED TO MEET the people of Jammu and Kashmir earlier, I always felt their pain. It was the pain of corruption in the system."

Shifting Geo-Political Equations: Army Holds 'Strategic Conclave'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The army on Sunday organised a strategic Conclave at Fire and Fury Corps to analyse shifting geopolitical equations in the world in general and the neighborhood in particular, a defence spokesperson said here.

The Conclave, he said, was presided over by Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command and attended by senior

military officials of Northern Command.

"The conclave was held to analyse shifting geopolitical equations in the world in general and our neighborhood in particular. These call for constant monitoring and reviews as they open up unprecedented challenges and opportunities for India," the spokesperson said.

"From the military perspective, it requires brainstorming to come [| More on P6](#)

All Cancelled SSB Exams Now In November

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Sunday said that exams conducted by the Service Selection Board (SSB) that were cancelled by the government and will be now held afresh in the month of November and selection will purely be based on merit.

Addressing a function at KICC here, Sinha as per a local news agency KNO, said that gone are the days when jobs were sold on roads and streets of Kashmir and Jammu. "We cancelled the exams conducted by the SSB after allegations of irregularities and ordered a CBI inquiry. Some arrests were made and more are likely to be made," he said.

"All the cancelled exams will now be held afresh in November." He said that all three exams cancelled will be held in November.

He said gone are the days, when jobs were sold on roads and streets. "Now only merit will speak," LG said, adding that in the past three years, 30,000 youth got jobs.

He said, there is no denying the fact that every one can't get a government job and that's why the administration started self-employment schemes. "In the past three years, over 5 lakh youth were provided a chance of self-employment," he said.

He said that the government is conducting the B2V programs under mission youth and providing [| More on P6](#)

SHORT TAKES

Police Claims Arrest Of 'Terrorist'



Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested an active terrorist from South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Aadil Ahmad Dar of Trenz Imamsahab, affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was arrested at village Mohandpora of the district, a police spokesperson said Dar, he said, was an active member of the terror outfit. Police also claimed recovery of arms and ammunition from his possession. "Active terrorist Adil Gani Dar S/o Abdul Gani Dar [| More on P6](#)

Two Held After Drone Drops Arms


Police have recovered a consignment of weapons dropped from a drone along the International Border in R S Pura Sector and arrested two people here, an official said on Sunday.

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh said the police noticed the drone's movement in Baspur Bangla area in the early hours of Sunday, following which all police stations in the region were put on alert. He identified the arrested men as Chander Bose and Shamsher Singh. Four pistols, eight magazines and 47 rounds were recovered, he added.



Two New Covid Cases In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir two seven fresh covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the virus during the last 24 hours also, officials said on Sunday. They said that both the cases were reported from Jammu division's Kathua district. 479290 people have been infected so far, they said. Among the cases, they said, 174034 are from Jammu division and 305256 from Kashmir Valley. There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2352 from Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley. Besides, they said, three Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—all from Kashmir. There are now 28 active cases— eight in Jammu and 20 in Kashmir.




75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

National Unity Day

31st October Day

Nation pays tribute to **Iron Man of India** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary



Tribute to Sardar Patel and inauguration of Ekta Diwas Parade by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Place: Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat

Live telecast on DD News from 8:00 am onwards

“Our every effort for the integrity and unity of the country while fulfilling our duties is a true tribute to Sardar Patel ji.”

-Narendra Modi

Today on 31st October, be a part of the 'Run for Unity' to be organized from 7:00 am to 8:00 am at 75,000 locations in all districts of the country

Coronavirus Origins: The Debate Flares Up, But The Evidence Remains Weak

The Conversation

Nearly three years since SARS-CoV-2 first emerged, we're still not certain where the virus behind COVID-19 came from.

The location of the initial outbreak close to the Wuhan Institute of Virology drew suspicion that it may have been a lab leak. But scientists largely came out in favour of a natural spillover from bats to humans, through an intermediate animal host, at the Huanan seafood market located a few kilometres away. To date, though, no immediate ancestor of SARS-CoV-2 has been found in bats nor in any other animal that was on sale at the market.

A recent preprint (a study yet to be peer-reviewed) claims to have identified possibly unusual sequence patterns in the SARS-CoV-2 genome. These patterns may indicate the virus was genetically modified in a lab.

It should be emphasised that any realistic lab origin scenario would point to an accidental escape, and not to any nefarious intent. Viruses have no application as bioweapons in the modern world. They're difficult to produce in large quantities and to deploy. They take days to be effective, and if capable of human-to-human transmission, they're likely to spread to unintended populations, including friendly forces.

The preprint has been poorly received by most experts in the field, with many reacting to it on social media.

This mixed reception is largely unsurprising. Scientists and members of the wider public often hold strong opinions about the origin of SARS-CoV-2, despite all the available evidence remaining weak and circumstantial. In the absence of strong facts, opinions are bound to be largely based on emotions and group affiliation, particularly when the stakes are considered to be so high.

More about the science
The genomes of all or-



ganisms, including SARS-CoV-2, are formed of long stretches of four different nucleotides (A, T, G and C). These are the building blocks of RNA and DNA.

Large viral genomes, such as those of coronaviruses, can be cut into smaller pieces, or fragments, that can be mixed and matched to study the effect of different genes and mutations. Scientists might do this, for example, to understand which genes or mutations could increase the risk of a virus spilling over to humans.

The standard way to cut viral genomes into smaller pieces is with restriction enzymes, sometimes called molecular scissors. Restriction enzymes recognise and cut specific sequences of nucleotides (for example, GAATTC). Out of around 3,000 different restriction enzymes, only a fairly small number are commonly used to manipulate viral genomes. Among these are type IIS enzymes.

The preprint claims that in the SARS-CoV-2 genome, the distribution of some restric-

tion sites (the spots where the genome may have been cut and joined) is anomalous and compatible with the virus having been stitched together from multiple smaller fragments using type IIS enzymes called BsaI and BsmBI.

Notably, the restriction sites displayed an excess of silent mutations. These are nucleotide changes that don't affect the characteristics of the virus and can be hallmarks of genetic engineering.

A twist

When cutting and stitching together genomes using IIS enzymes, scientists can seamlessly erase any footprints of restriction sites through a method called golden gate assembly.

So for the distribution of type IIS enzymes in SARS-CoV-2 to be interpreted as a signature of engineering, the IIS restriction sites would need to have been intentionally left in. Although not completely implausible, this isn't standard practice, and scientists have questioned what the rationale would be for leaving

these sites behind.

Questions have also been raised around some of the mathematical metrics on which the authors' conclusions are based, in particular the presumed maximum length of the individual viral fragments. Meanwhile, the analysis has been criticised because it considered only the two type IIS restriction enzymes commonly used in this context.

All of these extremely technical points of contention illustrate the difficulty of formulating satisfying, testable hypotheses for complex questions.

What are the chances?

The study also explored how easily the distribution pattern of restriction sites observed in SARS-CoV-2 could be generated by chance (as opposed to engineering). The researchers simulated a process of random mutations starting from two close relatives of SARS-CoV-2. The probability of generating the same pattern was low 0.1% and 1.2%.

Again, this analysis has been criticised. Coronaviruses can naturally gain and lose restriction motifs by accumulating mutations, but also through different viral strains exchanging genetic material, a process called genetic recombination.

As coronaviruses undergo frequent genetic recombination, a simulation process using a mix of recombination and mutation events may arguably be better suited to address this question.

This criticism is fair, but partly overlooks the fact that unusual patterns can be informative even if the process that generated them remains unknown. A single black sheep in a flock of 1,000 stands out irrespective of whether its coat colour was caused by an unusual genetic makeup or because it fell in a barrel of tar.

The evidence reported in the preprint is neither conclusive nor final. These findings may turn out to be a fluke, or generated by a flaw in the method. The authors have been largely open about some limitations of their work and have invited comments and criticism.

Even if the findings can be replicated by others, and stand up once additional data has been analysed, this study is unlikely to sway many opinions. At best or at worst, depending on one's prior belief those results will just contribute a speck of additional weak, circumstantial evidence to the debate.

The reception of the work raises difficult questions. Some experts feel it's unwise to discuss any evidence supporting a lab leak, as this may fuel conspiracy theories. Though, a public perception that existing evidence may be subjected to censorship is even more likely to have this effect. Notably, China has been largely uncooperative in investigations into the origin of the virus.

The nightmare scenario to me would not be the eventual confirmation of an accidental lab leak, but confirmation of a lab leak whose evidence has been aggressively suppressed.

Researchers Reveal How Traffic Pollution Is Linked To Risk Of Dementia

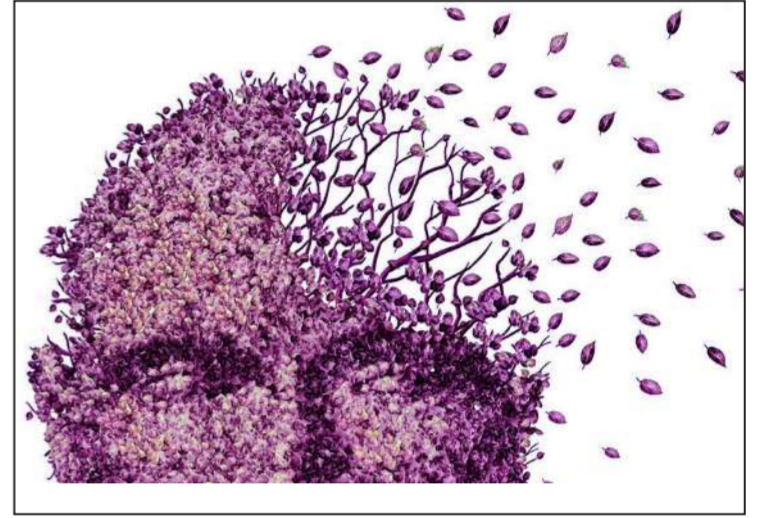
ANI

Researchers suggested that greater exposure to particulate matter, a specific kind of air pollution linked to traffic, may be associated with an increased risk of dementia.

Researchers focused their attention on PM2.5, or fine particulate matter, which is made up of airborne pollutants with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres. The risk of dementia

The studies adjusted for several factors that affect a person's risk of dementia including age, sex, smoking, and education.

Researchers compared rates of air pollution exposure for people both with and without dementia and found that people who did not develop dementia had a lower average daily exposure to fine particulate matter air pollutants than people who did have dementia.



was examined in the meta-analysis using all relevant studies.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Neurology.

"As people continue to live longer, conditions like dementia are becoming more common, so detecting and understanding preventable risk factors is key to reducing the increase of this disease," said study author Ehsan Abolhasani, MD, MSc, of Western University in London, Canada. "Since a report by the World Health Organization showed that more than 90 per cent of the world population is living in areas with higher than recommended levels of air pollution, our results provide more evidence for enforcing regulations for air quality and accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energies." For the meta-analysis, researchers reviewed 17 studies. Participants were over age 40. Across all the studies there were more than 91 million people. Of those, 5.5 million people, or 6 percent, developed dementia.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers average yearly exposures up to 12 ug/m3 to be safe.

Researchers found that the risk of dementia increased by 3 per cent for every one microgram per cubic meter (ug/m3) increase of fine particulate matter exposure.

"While our meta-analysis does not prove that air pollution causes dementia, it only shows an association, our hope is these findings empower people to take an active role in reducing their exposure to pollution," Abolhasani said. "By understanding the risk of dementia through exposure to air pollution, people can take steps to reduce their exposure such as using sustainable energy, choosing to live in areas with lower levels of pollution and advocating for reduced traffic pollution in residential areas." They also looked at nitrogen oxides, which form smog, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone exposure, but did not find significantly increased risk when these other classes of pollutants were considered alone.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

الحاج آغا سید محمد انیس کاظمی
شاہ آ باد چوندہ پورہ بڈگام جموں و کشمیر

پیام تعزیت و تسلیت
انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون
کاظمی سادات قمر واری کو صدمہ

انتہائی غم و الم کے ساتھ یہ خبر سنی گئی کہ ہمارے بنی اعمام خاندان کاظمی قمر واری کو ایک عظیم صدمہ پہنچا ہے انجینئر سید مظفر حسین شاہ کاظمی مقیم ایران اپنے جملہ احباب کو داغ مفارقت دیکر راہی ملک بقا ہو گئے

انا للہ وانا الیہ راجعون موصوف گونا گوں خصوصیات کی حامل ایک منفرد و ہمہ جہت شخصیت تھی حکیمانہ، کریمانہ، عادلانہ، اور حلیمانہ صفات انکے حسان اور اخلاقیات حمیدہ میں سے تھے طرز حیات و تاثرات بالکل جداگانہ تھے مرحوم عرصہ طویل تک ایران میں مقیم و انجینئر کے عہدے پر فائز تھے وہی پر انتقال کر گئے ہم اس مصیبت کی گہری میں اپنے بنی اعمام کے ساتھ برابر کے شریک ہے

سید سجاد، انجینئر سید رسول، سید ثار، سید امتیاز کاظمی برادر نسبتی سید کفایت حیدر مرحوم کے فرزند ان سید توکل رضا سید توکل رضا پری سادات کے ساتھ اس کرناک و روح فرساصدمے میں ہم انکے غم و الم میں شانہ بہ شانہ کھڑے ہو کر شریک غم ہے خداوند متعال مرحوم کو ائمہ اطہار علیہم السلام کے ساتھ محشور کر کے پس ماندگان و جملہ ازماندگان کو یہ صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی ہمت بخشے

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Police Arrests Drug Peddler In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Sunday said that they arrested a drug peddler during a naka checking at Jahangir Chowk. The drug peddler has been identified as Mohd Mohsin S/o Basharat Ahmed Kukloo R/o Rawalpora, Srinagar. He has been arrested with 23 grams of



heroine, digital weighing machine & 04 insulin injections. Police have also registered an FIR 80/2022 u/s 8/21 of NDPS

act in Shergari Police Station. In this regard city police put a tweet on its official account.

"During naka checking at Jahangir Chowk, one drug peddler namely Mohd Mohsin S/o Basharat Ahmed Kukloo R/o Rawalpora, Srinagar arrested with 23 grams of heroine, digital weighing machine & 04 insulin injec-

tions. FIR 80/2022 u/s 8/21 of NDPS act registered in Shergari PS" the verified account of Srinagar Police tweeted.

Apni Party Holds Workers Meeting At Hyderpora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged party leaders and senior workers to enhance public outreach in order to make people aware of the party's agenda and vision for the future of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the masses should be well aware of the fact that Apni Party stands for the prosperous future of the people of this land.

According to a press statement issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari was addressing the party workers' meeting at Sheshgari Mohalla of Hyderpora on Sunday. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed his satisfaction with the people's response to the party's ongoing public outreach campaign.

He said, "It is pleasant to see that people through our rallies in every part of Jammu and Kashmir, and we see new joining almost every day in various areas of the Union Territory (UT). People have faith in Apni Party's unambiguous agenda and policies." However, he urged party leaders and senior workers to

enhance their public outreach activities. He said, "You must understand ours is a party of masses. Thus, we are supposed to be connected with our people in each and every part of J&K. Therefore, you should enhance your political activities and public outreach and keep yourself available to serve the people in your respective areas."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari asked the party cadre to keep identifying and highlighting the public issues in their respective areas so that these public issues could be brought to the notice of the concerned officials for quick redressal.

He said, "People expect us to help resolve public issues and grievances; and we must always be available to fulfill their expectations because our key agenda is to work for the peace, prosperity, and development of J&K."

Meanwhile, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari presided over a meeting of the leaders and senior workers from the Lal Chowk constituency. Certain party issues were discussed in this meeting and a strategy was chalked out to strengthen the party cadre further in the constituency.



Despite erecting new electric poles, the old poles are still standing their ground in Lal Bazar locality. KO Photo

Over 125590 Land Passbooks Issued To Legal Land Owners

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its endeavor to achieve the target of providing Land Passbooks to the legal land owners as a reform to give further boost to transparency in the service delivery mechanism in the Revenue Department, the Srinagar District has achieved over 93.02 coverage under land Passbooks distribution so far and as many as 125590 Passbooks have been generated against the total target of 135011 passbooks to be generated.

Speaking in this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said roll out of Land Passbooks was a historic milestone in the

Revenue Department aimed to promote ease of access to people to the revenue records.

The DC said Land Passbook carries the same evidentiary value as the certified copies of Record-of-Rights for all intents and purposes before Courts and Financial institutions.

The DC also said Land Passbooks issued to every landholder contains entry from the Jamabandi in Revenue Estate, so as to enable the landholder to make its use for availing bank credit and for other matters where Revenue Records are required.

The DC added that each Land Passbook has a unique ID and QR code as an additional security feature, and with the help of QR code any

institution, individual or an agency can verify the credentials and authenticity of the Land Pass Book. "It is going to be a tool for redressal of various grievances, litigations, disputes at various forums and for reference", he added.

Meanwhile, the landowners who receive land Passbooks have expressed their gratitude to the LG administration for providing land Passbooks. They also appreciated the initiative of providing a facility without moving pillar to post for want of Revenue documents.

A revenue official said that Srinagar district holds the top rank with the highest number of Land passbooks distributed among the landowners.

"Verify Credentials Of Sellers, Buyers During Land Sale-Purchase Dealings"

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police asked people to verify credentials of prospective sellers, buyers, middle-men etc. during land sale-purchase dealings to avoid cheating during other monetary and business transactions as well.

"Many complaints have

been received from citizens of Srinagar related to cheating during monetary and business transactions and during land sale-purchase dealings as well. It is requested to kindly verify credentials of such persons like prospective sellers, buyers, middle-men etc", Srinagar Police in a tweet said.

A Notable number of locals

earlier approached police after being duped by elements during monetary and business transactions. The locals had sought legal action against these elements to stop such irregularities. Sources in Police informed that many land grabbers and such cheaters have been booked in FIRs and PSAs have also been invoked.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar-Leh - (Open)



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:26
ZUHR	12:15
ASR	4:02
Magrib	5:43
ISHA	7:04

HIJRI CALENDAR

04 Rabi ul Sani
1444

This Day In History

- 1876 - Great Backerganj Cyclone of 1876 ravages British India (Modern-day Bangladesh), over 200,000 killed
- 1914 - Great Britain & France declare war on Turkey
- 1917 - World War I: Battle of Beersheba in southern Palestine - "last successful cavalry charge in history" performed by the 4th Australian Light Horse.
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini (Il Duce) becomes premier of Italy
- 1924 - World Savings Day was announced in Milan, Italy, by the Members of the Association at the 1st International Savings Bank Congress (World Society of Savings Banks).
- 1940 - Battle of Britain, fought between the RAF and Luftwaffe over the En
- 1942 - 9th day of the Battle of El Alamein
- 1943 - World War II: F4U Corsair accomplishes the first successful radar-guided interception.
- 1956 - Britain and France join Israeli forces in Egypt and begin to bomb Egypt to reopen Suez Canal
- 1959 - USSR & Egypt sign contracts for building Aswan Dam
- 1960 - Cyclone hits coast of Gulf of Bengal; about 10,000 die
- 1968 - US President Lyndon B. Johnson orders a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam
- 1980 - Senegal routes troops to Gambia due to Libyan threat
- 1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated by her bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh at her home in New Delhi
- 1985 - Last day in Test cricket for Zaheer Abbas
- 1989 - Turgat Ozal elected president of Turkey
- 1989 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1990 - Pakistan make 3-0 drubbing of NZ, Waqar Younis 29 series wkts
- 1991 - Palestinians attend US mideast peace talks in Madrid
- 1992 - Don Keller makes his 18,000th sky dive
- 1993 - 25 people killed during Ghana-Ivory Coast soccer match

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Date: 31.10.2022 GM & Head, RED

CBC- 48129/12/0053/2223




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OR SCAN



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Cause for
Celebration?

IN what has happened for the first time since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jammu and Kashmir has reported no fresh COVID-19 cases and no death due to the virus in the last 24 hours. There are now just 23 active Covid cases in the union territory. So far 4785 people have succumbed to the virus and among them, 2352 are from the Jammu division and 2433 from the Valley. On an all-India level too, just 1,334 fresh coronavirus infections have been recorded, the lowest in 188 days. The number of active cases has declined to 23,193.

However, this is no reason to let our guard down. The virus is now a part of lives and it has already become endemic. Besides, the new variants of the virus keep triggering fresh outbreaks. For example, India has recently witnessed the emergence of a new Omicron sub-variant XBB, which is expected to be the dominant strain of the COVID-19 virus in India within a month. According to data, there were 71 confirmed cases of XBB-driven COVID-19 infection in India in the beginning of this month, and the number jumped to 235 on October 24.

But the overall trend remains one of a steep decline in the cases. Though there is some cause for optimism here, things could still turn messy if the existing pandemic-related precautions are thrown to the winds. The Omicron wave early this year was gigantic in nature but its fallout was cushioned by the relatively moderate nature of the virus. But the continuously mutating sub-variants of the Omicron virus could in time trigger yet another wave. So people have to continue to take care. It is too soon to abandon the masks or give up the use of sanitizers. The Standard Operating Procedures remain as relevant as they did when the pandemic broke out in early 2020. Meanwhile, we can celebrate our triumph on the Covid pandemic with the least number of Covid cases and fatalities to date.

In Kashmir, there is a greater need for precaution in winter, generally the season of flu. Though zero cases and zero fatalities in the last 24 hours is a heartening development, the situation can stay this way if people don't give up SOPs. Meanwhile, the drastic reduction in Covid cases is a cause for celebration. It is also a boon for tourism which has witnessed a bumper year so far with over one crore people visiting the union territory. We can't afford to let this momentum slow down.

OTHER OPINION

China's mandate: Give
good news or else

The fact remains that China's one-child policy — in force from 1980 to 2015 — has had profound social and economic consequences.

It's an observation that's a joke that's a cliché: "Koi... good news?" Newlyweds across languages, cultures and geographies have been subjected to a version of this euphemism even before the honeymoon glow wears off. Now, as if the "nudge-nudge wink-wink" pressure of the overbearing family wasn't bad enough, the paternal party-state in Xi Jinping's China has decided to take on the role. It is making calls to young couples, and strongly suggesting that they urgently reproduce.

Chinese social media has been replete with posts — they are often quickly taken down, though — of local government officials calling up women soon after their nuptials. Unlike the nosy in-law, though, the bureaucrat is direct: "Are you pregnant yet?" was reportedly the most common question. The pressure to reproduce seems to be a top-down phenomenon. At the recently concluded 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, Xi declared that there would be a concerted effort by the state to boost birth rates. That, it is likely, explains the top-down obsession with babies.

The fact remains that China's one-child policy — in force from 1980 to 2015 — has had profound social and economic consequences. The set-up of the family, and the burden of care for the elderly threatens to overwhelm both individuals and the state's coffers. Now, in a bid to boost the young, working population, the state is promoting "masculine values" for men and exhorting the "traditional" responsibilities of women. In all this, no one seems to spare a thought for the ordinary Chinese couple. Their lives and choices seem to be in service to the ephemeral and changing goals of an ideological machine. Most people in India can attest to how intimately oppressive families can be. Imagine if the almighty state, too, tried to enter — and control — the most private of domains

Indian Express

On Back To Village
Potential Of PRIs In J&K

Haris Rashid

AFTER the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a greater focus on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. While the governments in the erstwhile state of J&K had been resisting the devolution of power to PRIs, the current UT administration has implemented and amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 to devolve substantial power and authority to the local village state. This has the potential to radically change the state-society relationship in J&K.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India aim to develop self-government at the local level. The idea is to socially and economically transform villages through these institutions. While this decentralization move was done with greater enthusiasm, there are certain problems that are plaguing the system and not much has been done to improve the system. In his recent book, "Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar's Villages", M.R. Sharan studies the local state in Bihar and argues that despite two decades of their existence in Bihar, PRIs are not living up to the expectations and they are not delivering the services efficiently. Sharan's account of the local state in Bihar applies to most states in India. The nascent Panchayati Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir will have to learn from the experiences of other states and keep a check that it is not plagued by the same problems that the system in other states face.

One of the biggest problems that hinders the PRIs from realizing their full potential is the lack of capacity building among the elected representatives and the lack of awareness among the people of the villages. Since the main aim is the local self-government, the common people of the village are involved in the decision making. Their opinion on the works that need to be carried out and the fund allocation to different projects is taken in Ward Sabhas and Gram Sabhas. Awareness of common people and capacity building of elected representatives at individual and organizational level is a must for PRIs. Unlike political leaders in office or the ministers, the elected representatives at the local government level do not have an advisory staff or the bureaucracy attached to them. They need to implement a plethora of schemes directly and there is much higher expectation attached to them.

People's awareness and local representatives' capacity building is important for the success of local government bodies. Since the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is just beginning its decentralization journey, it must make sure that people are regularly made aware of the rules and regulations of the functioning of the local state and the different schemes implemented and benefits for them under Panchayati Raj System. As

“**One of the biggest problems that hinders the PRIs from realizing their full potential is the lack of capacity building among the elected representatives and the lack of awareness among the people of the villages. Since the main aim is the local self-government, the common people of the village are involved in the decision making**

Sharan shows in his book, elected representatives do not want the citizenry to be aware. Despite MGNREGA wages being published online on the government websites, the elected representatives do not pay the wages to the people involved and sometimes the state governments have to paint that list on the walls of the villages so that everyone is made aware of how much wage they are entitled to. In fact, Sharan's whole book is about a people's movement that wants to reap full benefits of local level democracy versus resisting local elected representatives. Therefore, a people's movement or an aware citizenry is necessary for realizing the full potential of the local state.

Another problem plaguing the local government is the lack of resources. There are a lot of studies on how lack of resources affects the outcomes of rural development. As mentioned above, the local state is involved in implementing a plethora of schemes and there are higher expectations from them but they usually lack resources. In the case of J&K, Panchayati Ghars have been built and the recent budget has allocated funds for construction and renovation of hundreds of Panchayati Ghars. At present, most of the Panchayati Ghars lack adequate basic facilities, including broadband and electricity that are necessary for functioning of the office. The present staff of Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Account Assistants and the Village Level Workers is also insufficient as the local state involves lots of decision-making and plan-

ning and implementation processes. Further, all these employees are inadequately trained and they lack necessary skills to do their tasks. Even though approval has been given to the creation of new posts in PRIs in J&K, there is a lot to be done to back up the local state with necessary human resources.

Further, the local state in most of the states in India are either not empowered to extract revenue or have shied away from generating their own revenue and continue to be dependent on the state and central government funds. One of the basic functions of a state is to extract revenue and for the PRIs to qualify as a local state or a local self-government, they must generate their own revenues through taxes and non-tax resources. The UT government in J&K should make sure that Gram Panchayats are from the beginning put in the habit of generating revenue through taxes and non-taxes. The Own Source Revenue (OSR) of Gram Panchayats at present is very low and the government needs to make sure that guidelines and instructions are given to Gram Panchayats on tax collection and other revenue sources.

Another problem that has been highlighted by Sharan in his book and can be seen in case of PRIs in J&K also is the case of elected women representatives being proxy of their male relatives. One-third seats for all the three tiers of the PRIs are reserved for women but the lack of awareness among women representatives makes them dependent on their male relatives. The women are thus reduced to proxy for their male relatives and the very motive behind the reservation is subverted by the men. There have been a number of studies on how male and female representatives work differently in the local state as they have different policy preferences. Therefore, the government must make sure that proxy representation of women is discouraged from the beginning and that women as well as villages are empowered through the reservation system.

Apart from this, the circumstances in J&K are very different from other parts of India. The recent spate of killings of local elected representatives show that the risk associated with this is very high in Kashmir. The more the risk, the more the representatives will be looking for incentives. This should be kept in mind by the government. The incentives proportionate to the risk should be institutionalized rather than replicating the patronage model that had been in place before the revocation of Article 370.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
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Winds of Change

WINTERS have arrived early in Kashmir. The temperatures have dropped all of sudden. Temperatures had been considerably up throughout mid-year and even September which is considerably moderate was quite hot.

This was until October decided to drop the frost on us. Upper reaches in Kashmir have already received untimely snow which has stalled the smooth harvest of apples as well. Additionally, it has set the state in a state of hurry to wrap up with layers of sweaters when least expected.

These sudden changes in climate are an outcome of climate variations which have happened world over because of climate crisis. Our glaciers are receding. Our summers are hotter. The amount of snowfall over the years has also been erratic. Experts in Kashmir should get

proactive in researching the causes and suggesting ways to mitigate this crisis. They must also organise and ask the government to localise these concerns and raise these at larger platforms.

Musab Gul

MUSK IS WRONG

Rules Do Help Free Speech on Twitter

Filippo Menczer

Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter on Oct. 27, 2022 has triggered renewed debate about what it means for the future of the social media platform, which plays an important role in determining the news and information many people – especially Americans – are exposed to.

In addition to expanding Twitter's features, Musk has said he wants to make it an arena for free speech. What that means has fueled much speculation and raised concerns about the effect the acquisition will have on the 2022 midterm elections – and use of the platform by politicians more generally going forward. Musk sought to allay fears the day the acquisition closed in a message to advertisers saying he recognized that the platform cannot become "a free-for-all hellscape."

As a corporation, Twitter can regulate speech on its platform as it chooses. There are bills being considered in the U.S. Congress and by the European Union that address social media regulation, but these are about transparency, accountability, illegal harmful content and protecting users' rights, rather than regulating speech.

Musk's calls for free speech on Twitter focus on two allegations: political bias and excessive moderation. As researchers of online misinformation and manipulation, my colleagues and I at the Indiana University Observatory on Social Media study the dynamics and impact of Twitter and its abuse. To make sense of Musk's statements and the possible outcomes of his acquisition, let's look at what the research shows.

POLITICAL BIAS

Many conservative politicians and pundits have alleged for years that major social media platforms, including Twitter, have a liberal political bias amounting to censorship of conservative opinions. These claims are based on anecdotal evidence. For example, many partisans whose tweets were labeled as misleading and downranked, or whose accounts were suspended for violat-



AS A RESULT, SOCIAL MEDIA USERS HAVE in past years become victims of manipulation by "astroturf" causes, trolling and misinformation. Abuse is facilitated by social bots and coordinated networks that create the appearance of human crowds

ing the platform's terms of service, claim that Twitter targeted them because of their political views.

Unfortunately, Twitter and other platforms often inconsistently enforce their policies, so it is easy to find examples supporting one conspiracy theory or another. A review by the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University has found no reliable evidence in support of the claim of anti-conservative bias by social media companies, even labeling the claim itself a form of disinformation.

A more direct evaluation of political bias by Twitter is difficult because of the complex interactions between people and algorithms. People, of course, have political biases. For example, our experiments with political social bots revealed that Republican users are more likely to mistake conservative bots for humans, whereas Democratic users are more likely to mistake conservative human users for bots.

To remove human bias from the equation in our experiments, we deployed a bunch of benign social bots

on Twitter. Each of these bots started by following one news source, with some bots following a liberal source and others a conservative one. After that initial friend, all bots were left alone to "drift" in the information ecosystem for a few months. They could gain followers. They acted according to an identical algorithmic behavior. This included following or following back random accounts, tweeting meaningless content and retweeting or copying random posts in their feed.

But this behavior was politically neutral, with no understanding of content seen or posted. We tracked the bots to probe political biases emerging from how Twitter works or how users interact.

Surprisingly, our research provided evidence that Twitter has a conservative, rather than a liberal bias. On average, accounts are drawn toward the conservative side. Liberal accounts were exposed to moderate content, which shifted their experience toward the political center, while the interactions of right-leaning accounts were skewed toward

posting conservative content. Accounts that followed conservative news sources also received more politically aligned followers, becoming embedded in denser echo chambers and gaining influence within those partisan communities.

These differences in experiences and actions can be attributed to interactions with users and information mediated by the social media platform. But we could not directly examine the possible bias in Twitter's news feed algorithm, because the actual ranking of posts in the "home timeline" is not available to outside researchers.

Researchers from Twitter, however, were able to audit the effects of their ranking algorithm on political content, unveiling that the political right enjoys higher amplification compared to the political left. Their experiment showed that in six out of seven countries studied, conservative politicians enjoy higher algorithmic amplification than liberal ones. They also found that algorithmic amplification favors right-leaning news sources in the U.S.

Our research and the research from Twitter show that Musk's apparent concern about bias on Twitter against conservatives is unfounded.

REFEREES OR CENSORS?

The other allegation that Musk seems to be making is that excessive moderation stifles free speech on Twitter. The concept of a free marketplace of ideas is rooted in John Milton's centuries-old reasoning that truth prevails in a free and open exchange of ideas. This view is often cited as the basis for arguments against moderation: accurate, relevant, timely information should emerge spontaneously from the interactions among users.

Unfortunately, several aspects of modern social media hinder the free marketplace of ideas. Limited attention and confirmation bias increase vulnerability to misinformation. Engagement-based ranking can amplify noise and manipulation, and the structure of information networks can distort perceptions and be "gerrymandered" to favor one group.

As a result, social media users have in past years become victims of manipulation by "astroturf" causes, trolling and misinformation. Abuse is facilitated by social bots and coordinated networks that create the appearance of human crowds.

We and other researchers have observed these inauthentic accounts amplifying disinformation, influencing elections, committing financial fraud, infiltrating vulnerable communities and disrupting communication. Musk has tweeted that he wants to defeat spam bots and authenticate humans, but these are neither easy nor necessarily effective solutions.

Inauthentic accounts are used for malicious purposes beyond spam and are hard to detect, especially when they are operated by people in conjunction with software algorithms. And removing anonymity may harm vulnerable groups. In recent years, Twitter has enacted policies and systems to moderate abuses by aggressively suspending accounts and networks displaying inauthentic coordinated behaviors. A weakening

of these moderation policies may make abuse rampant again.

MANIPULATING TWITTER

Despite Twitter's recent progress, integrity is still a challenge on the platform. Our lab has found new types of sophisticated manipulation, which we presented at the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media in June 2022. Malicious users exploit so-called "follow trains" – groups of people who follow each other on Twitter – to rapidly boost their followers and create large, dense hyperpartisan echo chambers that amplify toxic content from low-credibility and conspiratorial sources.

Another effective malicious technique is to post and then strategically delete content that violates platform terms after it has served its purpose. Even Twitter's high limit of 2,400 tweets per day can be circumvented through deletions: We identified many accounts that flood the network with tens of thousands of tweets per day.

We also found coordinated networks that engage in repetitive likes and unlikes of content that is eventually deleted, which can manipulate ranking algorithms. These techniques enable malicious users to inflate content popularity while evading detection.

Musk's plans for Twitter are unlikely to do anything about these manipulative behaviors.

CONTENT MODERATION AND FREE SPEECH

Musk's likely acquisition of Twitter raises concerns that the social media platform could decrease its content moderation. This body of research shows that stronger, not weaker, moderation of the information ecosystem is called for to combat harmful misinformation.

It also shows that weaker moderation policies would ironically hurt free speech: The voices of real users would be drowned out by malicious users who manipulate Twitter through inauthentic accounts, bots and echo chambers.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Supporting Graduate Students With Imposter Syndrome

Steven R. Shaw Ph.D.

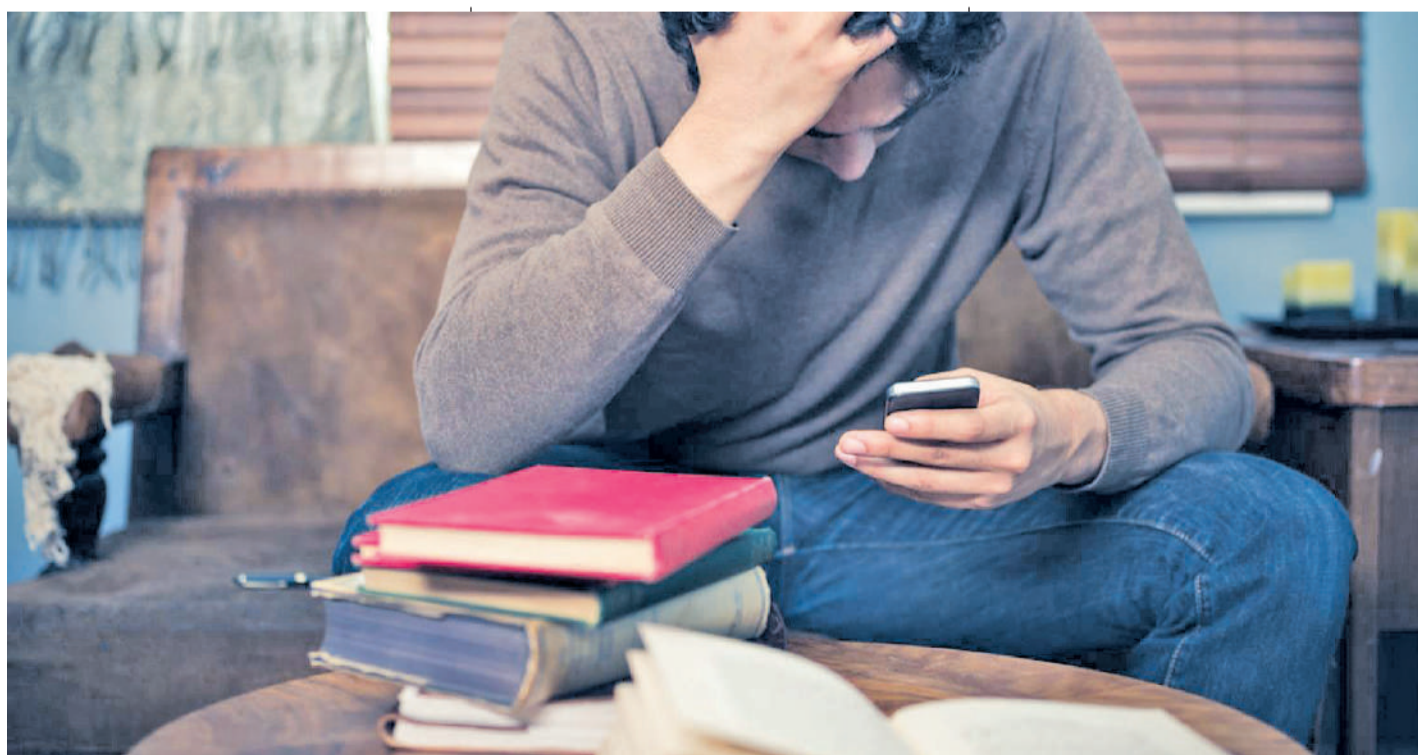
Most typically, graduate students are conscientious. This is a productive trait. Yet, conscientiousness can be close to anxiety and perfectionism. Those are unproductive traits. Being humble and driven to improve are productive traits. Yet, holding constant feelings of self-doubt and fear of being exposed as a fraud are unproductive traits. Imposter syndrome is a stubborn and common issue that impedes progress, removes joy, isolates, and often leads to habits that are counter-productive to effective learning.

What can a supervisor do to support a graduate student or trainee who is in the grip of imposter syndrome? Many professionals feel like imposters well into the late stages of successful careers as psychologists or professors. Elimination of imposter syndrome may not be possible for many people, but there are approaches to supporting students and trainees so that they can manage this potentially debilitating issue.

THE PROBLEM

Imposter syndrome is more than survivor's guilt or minor emotional discomfort. Depression and anxiety disorders commonly occur or exacerbate imposter syndrome. Even at low levels, graduate students who continuously believe they are not good enough and fraudulent can result in avoiding opportunities and challenges, fear submitting work for review, participate in team projects, and fail to initiate for fear of being judged or found out.

Academia and graduate school are breeding grounds for imposter syndrome because there are so many myths, unwritten rules, and general opacity of academic culture. The perceived expectation is that graduate students are super geniuses, everyone comes to academia knowing everything, and the most successful researchers are lone brilliant scientists; but some people in graduate school are not "Ph.D. material." There is also a lack of transparency in research methods, publishing processes, deciding authorship of projects, building a reputation, and making connections that make academia appear mystical. The gates to success appear to be guarded and only a chosen few are admitted. There are also the uphill prejudices and aggressions faced by those who are different from the keepers of the gates in gender, ethnicity, background, socioeconomic status, nation of birth, first language, and other factors not related to science.



Imposter syndrome is nearly inevitable in this environment.

INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Research supervisors and mentors want to help. Yet, there are many well-meaning, but ineffective, statements when working with someone with imposter syndrome:

Everyone feels that way. This is likely true, but imposter syndrome does not care.

It will go away soon. Maybe, but that does not help now.

You are good enough. No matter how many times this is said or how heartfelt, the person with imposter syndrome believes that the speaker is being fooled, being superficially nice, or being manipulative.

You got this or You can do it. Maybe, but some students believe that even if they succeed it will be entirely due to luck.

You could seek therapy or try a support group. These are ways of saying, «Not my problem. Go handle the problem on your own.» They also assume that imposter syndrome is a

pathology rather than an adaptive response to a challenging environment. Therapy might help, but is often not a helpful suggestion to convey.

MORE EFFECTIVE REMEDIES

There are no easy answers or solutions. Yet, creating a culture of learning, growth, and encouragement minimizes the effects of imposter syndrome. The key is to show, not tell.

Scientific Transparency. One of the little-talk-

6 Academia and graduate school are breeding grounds for imposter syndrome because there are so many myths, unwritten rules, and general opacity of academic culture. The perceived expectation is that graduate students are super geniuses, everyone comes to academia knowing everything, and the most successful researchers are lone brilliant scientists; but some people in graduate school are not "Ph.D. material."

ed-about results of the open science movement is to reduce the mystical aspects of research. Formerly, a study is developed, the experiment is conducted, and data are magically analyzed and reported. Only a high-level science mage can conjure such an outcome and everyone else must be mediocre or an imposter. Being completely open about procedures, protocols, methods, and analyses allows participation and understanding of how every decision is made.

Researcher Transparency. Allow students to see your first drafts. Even the messy ones. Own and take responsibility for errors. Share rejections. Help students understand the effort, difficulty, and energy that every publication requires. When students only see publications and successful outcomes, they start to believe that anything less than apparently easy and effortless success is a sign that they are not worthy.

Create a Cooperative Team. There is always going to be a little competition among graduate students. But providing incentives for teamwork and a culture of cooperation allows for a strong learning environment.

Responsibilities and Trust. Giving research responsibilities to graduate students is an explicit vote of trust. For example, «That's a great idea. Let's dedicate resources to investigate this issue. Tell me what you need to make it work. You lead the project.»

Teams. Teach and model how to run project teams. This is a form of responsibility and trust. Also, the best way to learn is to teach.

Mentorship and the Unwritten Rules. There are unwritten rules in academia. There are also a lot of imagined unwritten rules that do not really exist. Imposter syndrome makes students susceptible to rumors, myths, and gossip. A key to mentorship is to have clear discussions of expectations, make unwritten rules explicit, and provide the skills required to navigate the maze of academia. Knowing that there is a mentor who will listen, teach the unwritten rules, and dispel myths and rumors is a major form of support for students with imposter syndrome.

The Little Phrases. Students are sensitive and pay attention to the phrases that comprise a culture. «These are not my students, they are my colleagues.» «Not mentees, but research partners.» «You are not researching under me, you are researching with me.» «I could explain this concept, but my research partner is in charge and can explain it better.» «That didn't go well, I wasn't clear, so let's try again.»

Conclusions

Imposter syndrome is real and limits the performance and well-being of many graduate students. Words of encouragement are not enough. Creating a culture that supports students and trainees does not cure imposter syndrome, but provides opportunities for well-being and success.

– Psychology Today

Rozgar Mela: Deputy Commissioners Distribute Appointment Letters Among Appointees

SRINAGAR: As part of UT wide distribution of appointment letters among candidates selected by JKSSB under the aegis of Rozgar Mela announced by Prime Minister of India, ceremonial functions were organised in the districts.

At Anantnag, Deputy Commissioner, Dr Basharat Qayoom distributed appointment letters among 120 appointees at Dak Bungalow Anantnag.

Speaking on the occasion and addressing the recent appointees, Deputy Commissioner said that the candidates have been selected based on their merit which is a manifestation of their dedication and hard work. He said that the selection process has been in conformity with the slogan of Yogyata se Rozgar and merit has been the sole criterion for selection.

SSP Anantnag and DDC Chairman Anantnag also appreciated the hard work put in by the candidates and wished them the best in disposal of their duties.

Several candidates expressed their views on the selection process and said that the process was fair and transparent and their scores were in line with their expectations. They said that they have put in a lot of hard work and are thankful to the UT administration for ensuring a smooth and fair selection process.

Chairman DDC Council, MY Gors, SSP Anantnag, Ashish Mishra, President MC Anantnag, Er Hilal Shah, other members of the DDC council, District Officers including Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Asst. Commissioner Development, Asstt. Labour Commissioner were present on the occasion of distribution of certificates among the selected candidates.

At Kulgam, A function was organised at Mini-Secretariat in which appointment orders were

distributed among the candidates selected through JKSSRB for posts of Multi Tasking Staff.

District Development Council, Chairperson Mohammad Afzal Parrey, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din-Bhat, Managing Director JKTDCC Minja Sherpa, DDC VC, Shazia Jan, President Municipal Council, Muneeb Ahmad zargar, ADDC, ADC, ACR and other officers were present during the ceremony and handed over appointment letters to these selected candidates.

DDC Chairperson & President Municipal Council congratulated these candidates and urged them to work sincerely and dedication.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC congratulated these candidates for their selection and said that the selection is outcome of transparent accountable and merit based system.

The DC also urged the unemployed youth to avail the benefits of employment generation schemes and also highlighted the initiatives which have been taken through various schemes to provide employment to the youth of the district who are now earning their livelihood decently.

At Shopian, similar function was organised by District Administration at Mini Secretariat which was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

On this occasion, DC distributed appointment letters to 67 Candidates selected for jobs in various Government Departments and organizations.

DC congratulated all selected candidates and said that the district Shopian is on the path to become a developed district. He said the administration is working with a long term vision to ensure that the district becomes developed and impressing upon all to contribute in the process.

Many job holders while speaking to

media expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the Organisation of the Mela by the UT, district administration.

Bisma Gulzar, selected candidate was happy and thanked Govt for organizing the Mela wherein they had been provided appointment letters.

Asmat Jan said that she was waiting for the last more than two years and was happy for her selection, which was done on a fast track basis by the recruiting agency with fair and transparent manner. She thanked District Administration for facilitating their verification process.

The District Officers, officials and candidates from various areas of the district were present.

At Bandipora, during 'Yogyata se Rozgar' function, appointment letters were distributed among recently selected youth of Bandipora by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad at Mini Secretariat.

DDC Chairman Ab Gani Bhat and Vice Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq were also present on the occasion.

DC along with DDC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson handed over 55 appointment letters to the recruited candidates.

A total of 93 candidates from across the districts were selected in various departments as Multi Tasking Staff.

Dr Owais on the occasion congratulated the candidates on their appointment in the government sector. He praised the candidates for their hard work and getting jobs during the present scenario of competition.

He said that the UT government is committed to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed youth and underlined hard work as a method to get a job.

Dr Owais said, youth of Bandipora have the potential to excel in every field and parents along with the teachers should guide them properly to shape

their future. To him only judicious use of time and proper guidance can help youth to come out of the job dilemma.

DDC Chairperson also congratulated the candidates and asked them to be dedicated and work for the welfare of the society.

The candidates thanked and expressed their gratitude towards UT government and district administration for the timely and transparent recruitment process.

Among others ADC Bandipora Waseem Raja, ACD Bandipora, Chief Education Officer, district officers, besides other officials were present on the occasion.

Officers also shared their experiences with the appointed candidates.

At Kupwara, Deputy Commissioner, Doifode Sagar Dattatray handed over appointment orders to 110 educated youth of the district who were recruited as Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) by J&K Service Selection Board, in an impressive function held, here.

Vice Chairperson, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat; ACD Kupwara, Hilal Ahmad Mir and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Addressing the newly appointees, Deputy Commissioner welcomed and congratulated them for being selected in various Government departments. He said the District Administration made efforts on war footing basis to complete the verification and other formalities of the appointees within less than 6 days which is a history, as otherwise it used to take months together to complete the process by the candidates.

He said that the youth is the valuable treasure of the nation and the present Government is committed to channelize its potential and talent with all facilitation.

The Vice Chairperson in his address

also congratulated the new appointees and said it was the effort of the Deputy Commissioner who is working tirelessly for the empowerment of youth of the district, besides, overall development. He said it is a dream of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to make the J&K a model UT.

ADC Kupwara also spoke on the occasion and advised the new appointees to work with utmost honesty and dedication for the welfare of the society.

At Budgam, hundreds of youth and parents witnessed Rozgar Mela launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, at Sports Ground Sheikhpura, Budgam.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, S F Hamid distributed appointment letters among the selected candidates of the District. Speaking on the occasion, DC Budgam congratulated all the selected appointees and handed over appointment letters to them.

He said administration is committed to ensure transparent and pro people governance. He further stated not only government jobs but the administration will also ensure self employment assistance to all the aspiring and eligible youth and cover them under different schemes for their successful ventures.

On the occasion one of the Appointee Mubashir praising the UT administration said that, "I am very happy that for the first time all the selected candidates were provided verification within two days." Another appointee namely Fareeda Bano said "we are very much thankful to Hon'ble PM and Hon'ble LG for braining transparency in the recruitment process".

Tabassum kamili Deputy Commissioner Sales Tax Srinagar, who was visiting officer for Ongoing Back to Village Programme- 4 was also present on the occasion.

Among other officers, ADDC Budgam

Dr. Akhramullah Tak, ADC Budgam Dr. Nasir Ahmad, GM DIC, ACP, and other district and sectorial heads were also present on the occasion.

At Ganderbal, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir today distributed appointment letters among the selected MTS candidates of the district here at Conference Hall Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

In this connection a grand function was organised at Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal which was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Assistant Commissioner Development and other officers of the district.

On the occasion the DC congratulated the selected candidates and urged them to work sincerely and dedication. He added that selection of these candidates is the result of transparent, accountable and merit based recruitment system.

At Baramulla, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sherrish Asgar today distributed appointment letters to various candidates selected for jobs in various government departments and organizations at Dak Bungalow Baramulla here.

Pertinently, Rozgar Mela is an important milestone in the government's efforts for employment, and self-employment avenues for the youth.

Speaking on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner said that the purpose of organizing such Job melas is to register and sanction cases to the beneficiaries without any delay under various self employment generation schemes.

He further urged the PRIs to sensitize the youth of there area to come forward and get benefitted through various government welfare schemes.

Additional SP Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad and various other concerned officer present during the event.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Modi

connectivity to Kashmir by trains. The prime minister further said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir were coming forward in large numbers for the development of their state and their people.

"It is our youth who will write a new story of development in Jammu and Kashmir," Modi said.

He said 30,000 people have been recruited for various government jobs since 2019 and nearly 20,000 of these posts have been filled in the last one-and-a-half years only.

The prime minister said the entire team of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, especially Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and his team, must be credited for this commendable work.

"The mantra of 'Yogyata Se Rozgar' (employment with competence), which the team has followed, is instilling new confidence in the youth of the state," Modi said.

Referring to several steps taken by the central government to promote employment and self-employment, he said employment fairs being organised in different parts of the country from October 22 will see more than 10 lakh appointment letters being awarded by the central government in the next few months.

As various states like Jammu and Kashmir are also associated with this campaign, this number is going to increase even more, he added.

"To increase employment in Jammu and Kashmir, we have also expanded the business environment here. Our new industrial policy and business reforms action plan has paved the way for ease of doing business. This has

given a tremendous impetus to investment here," the prime minister said.

With the increase in investment in Jammu and Kashmir, new employment opportunities are being created for the youth and the pace at which work is being done on development-related projects will change the entire economy here, Modi said.

He further said work was underway at a fast pace for train connectivity to Kashmir, while international flights from Srinagar to Sharjah have already started.

"Flights have started from Jammu and Kashmir even at night. Farmers here have also benefited a great deal from the increasing connectivity. It is now easier for apple farmers of Jammu and Kashmir to send their produce outside," Modi said.

"The way the government is working on promoting transport through drones, fruit-producing farmers here are also going to get special help," he said.

Modi said the way new employment and self-employment opportunities have opened up in the Union territory, no one could have imagined it a few years ago.

"It is our endeavour that the benefits of government schemes reach every section of the society without any discrimination. We are committed to take equal benefits of development to all sections, to all people.

"With this model of holistic development, along with government jobs, other employment options are also being prepared," the prime minister said.

Speaking on how the people of Jammu and Kashmir have always emphasised and appreciated

transparency, he urged the youth who are coming into government services to make it a priority.

The prime minister recalled, "Whenever I used to meet the people of Jammu and Kashmir earlier, I always felt their pain. It was the pain of corruption in the system."

"People of Jammu and Kashmir hate corruption and are fed up of it," he said, and praised LG Manoj Sinha and his team for working hard to end the menace of corruption.

"It is the responsibility of the youth who are now becoming a part of the state government to give new energy to the efforts of transparency and honest governance by becoming true companions of Manoj Sinha," the prime minister said.

J&K's Youth

Such commitment is the foundation of a vibrant society, which keeps the wheel of peace, progress and prosperity moving," he added.

As per the spokesperson, the LG said that in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal Khand', our youth power will work with full dedication for the bright future of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Govt Brought

Sinha, he said, also asserted that progress and prosperity of common man, doorstep delivery of government services and establishing peace are the priorities of the government.

"For decades, corruption flourished in service delivery had widened the gap between people's expectation and implementation. It is our utmost duty, our ultimate responsibility to bridge the gaps between public expectations and government delivery mechanism.

We are determined to bring transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the governance system to meet the people's aspirations," the LG said.

"With deliverables reaching the doorsteps of the people, every officer, common citizen and public representatives who are the driving forces of good governance must turn this Back to Village initiative into an opportunity for economic development and social change of rural J&K," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that the spirit of Back to Village should be nurtured and further strengthened in our culture to make Jammu Kashmir a living example of equal rights, equal opportunities.

Sinha, he said, also stated that the action-oriented deliverables of Back to Village-IV with the realistic assessment of the ground realities are aimed at connecting youth with self-employment & skill development programs, strengthening the foundation of Panchayati Raj institutions, making every panchayat drug-free and ensuring that the last man in the queue reaps the benefit of government schemes.

"The UT government has brought a new revolution in youth empowerment in the last two years. From job seekers, today our youth have become job providers," the LG said.

Sinha, the spokesperson said, assured support and financial assistance for every youth who aspires to be an entrepreneur and wants to start his or her own business enterprise.

"Under the ongoing Back to Village programme, we have set a target to identify 15 youth from every panchayat for self employment assistance

and 20 youth from every panchayat for skill training," the LG said.

The spokesperson said that the LG urged the public representatives to play their important role in making the youth a partner in the development process, besides building a harmonized society.

"Peace is the only way to usher into a bright and prosperous future. Society must identify and isolate the divisive forces and their sympathizers who, on behalf of neighboring country are trying to create a sense of fear by targeting innocent civilians," the LG added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, asked the visiting officers to take feedback from the people regarding the functioning of Village Level Workers and Patwari offices.

Sinha, he said, also underlined the need to make collective efforts towards achieving Nasha Mukta and Swachh Panchayats.

"The Lt Governor appealed to the youth to not get addicted to online gaming and further called for spreading awareness against online gambling," the spokesperson added.

Shifting Geo-Political

up with various options at strategic, operational and tactical levels," he added.

The spokesperson said that the conclave deliberated on a multitude of issues, at all levels, to develop a comprehensive understanding and arrive at logical courses of action.

While addressing the conclave, he said, Dwivedi highlighted the need for all to remain abreast of the developments in our neighbourhood and directed that such educative conclaves

should form part of continuous learning at all levels.

All Cancelled

a chance to 20 youth in every program to learn the skill development. The LG said that J&K is witnessing a change and every individual has to play a part. He said that some people who ruined the lives of thousands of people in J&K in the past 30 years never saw their own children suffer in any way.

"Peace is a must for development. People have to support the government in establishing peace. Security Forces can't do it alone," he said. He said some people try to disrupt the peace by killing innocent people to give the impression that whatever was happening in the past 30 years was the way forward. "Let me put it on record violence leads to nowhere. Kashmir is changing and tourists are coming in large numbers while a record number of flights are flying from both Kashmir and Jammu airports," he said.

He said anti-peace elements always try to destabilise peace by killing innocents and some try to do it by "making unjustified statements" which leads to disruption of the peaceful atmosphere. "Law will take strict action against those making statements that vitiate peaceful atmosphere," he said.

Police Claims

R/o Trenz affiliated with Proscribed Terrorist Organisation LeT arrested at village Mohandpora Shopian. Arms and ammunition recovered," police posted on its Twitter handle.

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

Era Of Backdoor Appointments Into Govt Jobs Has Ended: CS



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A ceremonial function on account of Rozgar Mela was held on Sunday at Convention Centre Jammu where the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta handed over appointment letters to the candidates selected by the J&K Services Selection Board.

On the occasion a video message of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was also played. In the message the Prime Minister said that youth have pivotal role in the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He mentioned that the employment opportunities are going to increase due to increase in investments coming to UT. There has been more than 30000 recruitments made in government sector after 2019 in J&K. He also appreciated the UT administration for creating ample employment opportunities for its youth.

The Chief Secretary along with Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti; Principal Secretary Information & HED; Comm Secretary Labour & Employment; Commissioner Secretary Forests; Commissioner Secretary Revenue; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Secretary, GAD distributed appointment letters to the candidates selected in various government departments by the recruitment board.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary congratulated the appointees who have been selected as per their merit in various government departments. He appreciated the appointees whose fathers were farmers and labourers and encouraged all to work hard as merit will be the sole criteria to get selected.

He said the priority of the J&K government is to ensure transparent recruitment process and these appointments were done with full transparency in a fast track manner. "Our priority is to ensure that not a single person is favoured in terms of securing government jobs" he said. The

era of backdoor appointments into government jobs has ended, he maintained.

He also said that the process of verifications which earlier took months is now completed online within days. He said that in J&K's history maximum recruitments had been done in last two years in which recruitment for over 30000 posts has been made since 2019. He said that creation of new vacancies in the government departments is also in progress.

Speaking about the 'Be Rozgar Se Swarozgar Scheme' the Chief Secretary said that the scheme has been launched to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth. He pointed out that for Back to Village Phase-4 (B2V4) the officers have been directed to aware the people about the scheme so that they can apply for starting their own enterprises. He said our target is to provide employment to 10 lakh youth under SwarozgarYojna. He urged people to come forward and avail the benefits of the scheme and become job givers instead job seekers.

On the occasion, the candidates also shared their experiences/ struggle for getting government jobs and also extended their gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for creating the feasible environment where they were able to dream big and achieve higher. They thanked his administration for providing them the employment opportunities based on merit and performance only.

These candidates have been appointed on different posts in GAD, Skill Development Department, Labour Department, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Finance, and School Education Departments.

Those who were also present includes senior functionaries from Civil and Police administration including Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, SPs, HoDs of different departments from Jammu Division and other officers and officials of concerned departments.

Dogra Organisation Demands Bharat Ratna For Prem Nath Dogra

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha on Sunday demanded that Prem Nath Dogra, who fought for total integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the country, be conferred the Bharat Ratna and his birth anniversary be declared a holiday.

The Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) paid rich tributes to the leader at an event here to mark his birth anniversary, which falls on October 23.

"Prem Nath Dogra was a great leader of Jammu and Kashmir. He fought for integration of J&K with India... He united politics here and fought his whole life against Article 370," DBPS member and advocate P C Sharma told reporters here.

"We demand a holiday on his birth anniversary and Bharat Ratna to him for the missionary

work he has done in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma, Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, Jammu and Kashmir BJP vice president Yudhvir Sethi and others attended the event.

The leaders said it would be a befitting step to confer the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, on Dogra.

It was Dogra who united the people of Jammu and launched a strong agitation against the Sheikh Abdullah government by raising the slogan of "Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan" (One Constitution, One President, One Flag) and spearheaded the agitation under the banner of Praja Parishad and called for extension of all provisions of the Constitution of India to the state, they said.

BJP leader Anil Gupta had last year made the demand for conferring Bharat Ratna on Dogra.

Minibus Catches Fire In Rajouri, Passengers Safely Evacuated

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Passengers of a minibus had a narrow escape after it caught fire in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

The minibus, which was on its way from Jammu to Rajouri, suddenly caught fire on the Jammu-Poonch highway near

the Kappa Galla area, they said. The officials said the driver of the minibus, Chamam Lal, swiftly stopped the vehicle and facilitated evacuation of all passengers.

The fire engulfed the bus, causing extensive damage. Due to the incident, traffic on the highway was disrupted for an hour, they said.

Terror Outfits Facing Leadership Crisis: DGP

Says Police Focussed On Foreign Terrorists This Year, 40 Killed So far

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said on Sunday that the special focus of police this year remained on foreign terrorists, as around forty of them were killed in different encounters across the Union Territory.

Talking to journalists on the sidelines of Kashmir Marathathon-2022 organised by the police here on Sunday, the DGP also said that the cross-border infiltration is by and large under control.

"Some attempts are time and again made to push the terrorists here and in recent past infiltration attempts were foiled in Rajouri-Poonch, Kupwara-Baramulla areas," Singh said, adding "Today, all outfits are facing a leadership crisis as their infrastructure stands dismantled to a great extent."

He said some terrorists managed to sneak in, most of them have been neutralized and man hunt is on to track down the others.

The DGP also said that at present Pakistan is trying to push in as many terrorists here



as in winter it is always difficult to cross the border. He said that the border grid is very strong to foil their evil attempts.

"Pakistan agencies are trying to have the command of terror group particularly Jeish and LeT in the hands of Pakistani terrorists so that they could fulfill their evil designs on their own directions," he said.

"This year our special focus remained on foreign terrorists who are misleading and misguiding our youth to join terror ranks and during the process we have been able to eliminate around 40 foreign terrorists," he added.

Singh also said that Pak agencies are trying to create some new groups here and are send-

ing readymade IEDs to create disturbance and added that their each and every anti peace attempt would be foiled with fortitude.

Earlier, the DGP said that Jammu and Kashmir during the past three decades has witnessed destruction and disturbance and has now entered in such a stage where we have a clear choice to strengthen the future and work for a better future by rejecting the path of destruction.

He said that huge participation in these activities puts across the message of peace and progress.

"We have to work collectively for a better future so that our youth would come out of fear and live a peaceful and dignified life," Singh said.

"The way people, particularly youth, are cooperating and supporting the peace activities, I am sure we would be able to put an end to the dark period of JK history," he added.

The DGP said that the Police would continue its tireless efforts to provide a better environment to our people and safeguard the interests of the nation.

JKP To Hire Choppers For 3 Years, Tender Floated

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has invited bids from registered aviation companies for renting helicopters to ensure faster mobility of its force, officials said on Sunday.

Flight operations are required for carrying police officers and central armed paramilitary force (CAPF) officials in all sectors of J-K, as well as for other emergent purpose, they said.

The police floated the tender on Saturday and sought bids from registered aviation companies having a fleet of minimum three airworthy light helicopters for its operations in

Jammu and Kashmir on 'leave and licence' basis for a period of three years -- January 16, 2023 to January 16, 2026, officials said.



The operations will be car-

ried out daily with least inconvenience to the police subject to fair weather conditions and clear visibility of the range, it said, adding that the company will offer at least two air-worthy double engine light helicopters.

The company shall be required to park one operating helicopter at Srinagar helipad as per the requirement. The operator should be in a position to put immediately in place an additional stand by helicopter in the event of an emergency, it added.

Search Operation launched along IB Over Suspected Drone Movement

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police and security forces launched a search operation in areas along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after some villagers informed them about a suspected drone movement, officials said on Sunday.

The search operation by the Central Reserve Police Force and Special Operations

Group along with the police was launched in Pullian, Nursery and Checkdayala belt on Saturday night, they said.

A fresh search was held on Sunday, a police officer said.

He said terrorists have been using drones to ferry weapons, explosive material and narcotics into the Indian side from across the border, but forces are alert to foil such designs

Dulloo Holds Gram Sabha In Fakir Gujri Pachayat; Interacts With PRIs, Locals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo on Sunday visited Fakir Gujri Panchayat in Harwan Block of Srinagar District as Visiting Officer under ongoing 4th phase of "Back to Village" programme to assess the developmental issues and needs in the Panchayat halqa.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aijaz Asad accompanied the Additional Chief Secretary during his visit.

After his arrival to Fakir Gujri, a remote and hilly area of Srinagar District, the Additional Chief Secretary was accorded a warm welcome.

On the occasion, Atal Dulloo held a detailed interaction with local PRI members and general public and took a first hand appraisal about their grievances and problems. He also sought the spot response from each Department with regard to developmental activities in the Panchayat Halqa Fakir gujri.



While interacting with the people, the ACS highlighted the importance of 'Back to Village' Programme and said that the purpose behind launching this people friendly initiative is to ensure that no one is deprived of the benefit of development schemes. He emphasized upon the people to ensure their proactive engagement with the District Administration in taking the developmental profile of the District to new heights.

He said that the Government's Ambitious Outreach Programme intends to bring Administration at the door steps of the people living in any part of the District to ensure time bound redressal and fulfillment of their demands on priority basis.

He also sought feedback from the general public on the implementation of different welfare schemes as well development-

tal activities being executed in their respective areas. He lauded the District Administration for achieving tangible results on the development front.

Earlier, the ACS inspected the stalls set up by various departments and agencies including Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, J&K Bank, Sheep Husbandry, RDD, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, ICDS, NULM, Social Welfare and Floriculture showcasing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other Government programmes.

During the programme, the ACS distributed an Amount of 1,27,99,500/= as Lower Education Assistance among 1699 Beneficiaries under Under JK Buildings & Other Construction Workers(JKBOCW) Welfare Scheme.

4 Dead, 6 Injured In Landslides In Kishtwar, Rescue Ops Over



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four people, including a policeman, were killed and six injured after landslides struck near the under-construction Ratle power project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Saturday, officials said.

An operation to find and rescue survivors trapped under the debris has concluded, they said.

Labourers were working on the construction of a link road near the Ratle power project site and a JCB machine was digging when a big boulder rolled down, trapping the workers, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Devansh Yadav told PTI.

As an operation team comprising six people rushed to the spot to rescue those trapped under the debris, another landslide hit the area, burying more people, the officials said.

Yadav said a rescue operation was launched immediately and six people, including an assistant sub-inspector of police, were pulled out from the debris and taken to the hospital.

Four people, including a policeman and the JCB operator,

were killed in the incident. The JCB operator was identified as Manoj Kumar, he said.

Earlier, Yadav had said five people were trapped under the debris.

Of the six injured, the officials said, three were rushed to the Government Medical College in Doda, two to the Thathri hospital and one was sent to Jammu.

Jitendra Singh, Union minister and MP from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, said he spoke to Yadav after receiving a report on the landslide at the Ratle power project site.

"The JCB driver unfortunately died on the spot," he said.

"Further assistance, as required, (is) being provided. I am in constant touch with the district administration," he said.

Taking to Twitter, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the loss of lives in the incident.

"Deeply anguished by mishap at Drabshalla-Ratle hydroelectric project. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. Prayers for early recovery of injured," he said.

The district administration has been directed to provide all necessary assistance, he said.

DC Baramulla Inspects Works On Construction Of Flyover At Sangrama



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Zahoor Ahmad Raina and other concerned officers undertook a late night extensive tour of Sangrama area to inspect the progress of works being carried out on Sangrama Flyover Project constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.58 Crores.

While inspecting the pace and progress of ongoing work on construction of flyover, the DC directed the concerned ex-

cuting agency to accelerate the pace of work by employing additional men and machinery to complete the prestigious project in set timelines.

She also stressed upon the executing agencies to carry on the work with a proper mechanism where the movement of the vehicles and the people does not face any hardship. She also passed on spot directions to resolve the issues hindering the project.

Dr Syed Sehrish also directed the concerned executing agencies to work in coordination for achieving desired results in a set time frame.

Control Measures For LSD Reviewed At Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A meeting regarding Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) was chaired by DDC Chairman, Abdul Gani Bhat at mini Secretariat Bandipora on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairperson, DDC Bandipora, Kousar Shafeeq, ADC, Bandipora, Raja Waseem, CAHO Bandipora, Dr G A Lone, DSHO Bandipora, ACD Bandipora Ab Rashid besides others

During the meeting, CAHO, briefed regarding the current status of the disease, progress of vaccination, case fatality rate and treatment strategy for the affected animals.

Dr Lone further detailed the chair that the vaccination is only way out to safe guard the livestock from this dreadful disease and is being conducted throughout the district including remotest valley of Gurez. So far 65% of the animals eligi-

ble for Carpet Vaccination stand vaccinated and rest 35% will be vaccinated within 5 days.

He requested the chair for two incinerators one each for block Bandipora and sumbal so as to carry scientific and hygienic disposal of carcasses.

The chair expressed satisfaction over the controlled status of the disease in the District by way of treatment of affected animals, proper disposal of the carcasses, disinfection of the affected premises, spraying of the insecticides and prompt vaccination strategies followed by the officials of AHD Bandipora.

J&K Police Organises 'Kashmir Marathon'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday organised a "Kashmir Marathon" run in which people of all walks particularly the students and youth participated.

The Director General of Police J&K Shri Dilbag Singh who was the Chief Guest at the impressive prize distribution ceremony held at Police Golf Course distributed cash prizes and trophies among the winners of different events.

He said that around three thousand athletes participated in Sunday's event, with around 90 para athletes from different parts participating. DIG Armed Kashmir Shahid Mehraj flanked

by other senior officers flagged off the run from Police Golf Course for various categories.

In 21 Kms Half Marathon Men, Goru, Virendra Kumar Verma, Ritik Sharma won first three positions. In 10 Kms road race for professional athletes, Hans Raj, Ravi Das, Balwinder Singh won first three positions.

In 10 Kms road race U-18 boys, Arun Chandel, Karan Chandel, Mohammad Hussain won first three positions. In 05 Kms sub junior boy U-14 Faisal Ahmad, Zaid Bin Mushtaq, Abrar Ashraf took the first three positions.

Siblings Win Medals In Srinagar Skating C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The recently concluded District Srinagar Roller Skating Championship saw the participation of over 50 skaters under various categories.

The tournament, held from October 26 to 27, was organised by Roller Skating Association Jammu



and Kashmir under the aegis of JKSC and took place at Radapora Stadium, Khanyar.

Hooriya Showkat won 1st position in the 7 to 9 age group. She also secured 1st in the India Skates event. Meanwhile, Barira Showkat took the first place in 9 to 11 age group while coming 2nd in the India Skates event.

T20 WORLD CUP

SA Beat India By 5 Wickets

Press Trust of India

PERTH: South Africa defeated India by five wickets in their T20 World Cup match here on Sunday.

Suryakumar Yadav lifted India to 133 for nine with a 40-ball 68 after a batting collapse.

In reply, South Africa completed the chase in 19.4 overs. Aiden Markram and David Miller made 52 and 56 runs respectively, the latter remaining not out.

Opting to bat, skipper Rohit Sharma was the first batter to get dismissed, following which India kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Returning to the team at the expense of Tabraiz Shamsi, pacer



Lungi Ngidi was the wrecking-ball as he ran through the famed Indian top-order with four wickets during an incisive spell of fast bowling on a pacy track.

Brief scores:
India: 133/9 in 20 overs

(Suryakumar Yadav 68; Lungi Ngidi 4/29, Wayne Parnell 3/15).

South Africa: 134/5 in 19.4 overs (Aiden Markram 52, David Miller 56 not out; Arshdeep Singh 2/25).

Pakistan Keep Semi-Final Hopes Alive With Win Over Netherlands

Press Trust of India

PERTH: Pakistan were again scrappy with the bat but managed to eke out a six-wicket victory over the Netherlands in the T20 World Cup here on Sunday to keep their slim semifinal hopes alive.

The Dutchmen found Pakistan's world class pace attack too hot to handle on a bowlers' friendly Optus Stadium track, managing only 91 for 9 in their 20 overs.

One of the batters, Bas de Leede (6) retired hurt after being hit below the eye by a snorter from Haris Rauf.

The target of 92 was never going to be an issue for Pakistan but even then it took them



13.5 overs to complete the chase with ICC's No. 1 ranked T20 batter Mohammed Rizwan managing 49 off 39 balls at an unimpressive strike-rate of 125.64.

With Bangladesh also getting the better of Zimbabwe in a thriller, Pakistan's chances of remaining alive in the tournament increased.

The full credit for this win will go to the bowlers, who hardly put a foot wrong on the day as Shaheen Shah Afridi (1/19 in 4 overs) and Naseem Shah (1/11 in 4 overs) choked the run flow in the Powerplay and the Dutch could never break the shackles.

Mohammed Wasim (2/15 in 3 overs) was very brisk during the back end while Shadab Khan reaped the fruits of this relentless pressure by the speed merchants with best figures of 3/10.

Why Bangladesh Had To Replay Final Delivery Against Zimbabwe



Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: In an unprecedented incident during the T20 World Cup match between players of both the teams were called back from the dugout after the game's last delivery was deemed a no-ball by the umpires in Brisbane on Sunday.

Requiring five off the last ball, Blessing Muzarabani was stumped by wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan off Mosaddek Hossain's bowling as the Bangladeshi players and fans broke into a celebration.

Stumps were uprooted and the players were back in the dugout after shaking hands but just then the TV umpires declared the final ball as a no-ball after finding Nurul to be guilty of collecting the ball fractionally in front of the stumps, making the stumping invalid.

Zimbabwe were thus awarded a free-hit and they needed four runs to win the match but it was not to be as Mosaddek showed great nerves to calmly send down the final delivery which Muzarabani failed to connect yet again, much to the relief of Bangladeshi fans.

"We all were nervous. It was a very good match, it wasn't very easy for us. It was the first time I

saw something like that (no ball)," Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who was adjudged the Player of the match for taking three wickets, said after the match.

The drama unfolded in the final over with Zimbabwe needing 16 to win after Sean Williams had revived the run chase with a 42-ball 64-run knock after they had slipped to 35-4 in the powerplay.

While the first ball went for a leg bye, Hossain picked up Brad Evans (2) in the second ball after he failed to clear the deep mid-wicket boundary.

The third ball went for a leg bye four as Richard Ngarava kept Zimbabwe's hopes alive by clobbering a four and a six in the next two balls.

Hossain, however, swung it back in Bangladesh's favour when he had Ngarava stumped in the next ball, leaving Zimbabwe five to get off the final delivery.

Muzarabani then swung his bat but missed it completely as Nurul disturbed the stumps.

But onfield umpires then referred the last ball to the TV umpire, who deemed it to be a no-ball, giving a new lease of life to the Zimbabwean team.

However, Zimbabweans sunk in despair after Muzarabani failed to connect for the second time.

Meals on the Go...

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