

Kashmir's Tourism Players Upbeat As Footfall Witnesses Surge

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Srinagar's postcard perfect Dal Lake has been drawing a large number of tourists in the past few weeks for shikara rides while the lights on ornately carved houseboats are shimmering again as the Kashmir Valley has witnessed a huge tourism influx in recent months.

Hotels dotting the historic Boulevard Road skirting the Dal



Lake, and those situated at other prime locations, are seeing nearly full occupancy with travellers coming from Delhi and cities as far as Surat and Kolkata.

Uncertainties emerging post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 that ended the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and two most difficult years of the coronavirus pandemic that followed, had broken the back of tourism in J&K, but amid a

recovery in the sector along with the COVID-19 vaccination exercise, Kashmir is welcoming visitors again with open arms.

Flights landing at the Srinagar international airport have been bringing tourists from all parts of the country, and hoteliers, houseboat owners, taxi and shikara operators, and restaurateurs are pleased to see this increased flow of tourism that has boosted their revenues.

Surat-based businessman

Suresh Hemnani, who recently travelled along with 15 other family members for a leisure trip to Kashmir for the first time, said they had bought flight tickets in advance and booked hotels several months ago.

"People are flocking to Kashmir like never before now, especially after many Covid restrictions have been lifted, and vaccination has boosted the confidence of travellers and others too."

"Glad, we booked **More on P6**

3 Engineers, Driver Killed In Car Crash

LG, His Advisors; Former CM's Express Grief
Observer News Service

Jammu: Four people, three among them engineers, were killed on Monday when their vehicle skidded off a road and plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Monday, police said.

The vehicle was carrying a team of the Roads and Building department when it met with the accident near Assar on the Batote-Kishtwar national highway around 10.45 am, local Station House Officer Bhuvinder Kotwal said.

He said the vehicle rolled down 200 metres into the gorge, resulting in the death of Executive Engineer Rafiq Shah of Poonch, Assistant Executive Engineering Kamal Kishore Sharma of Udhampur and driver Mohd Hafeez of Doda.

Superintending Engineer Suresh Kumar was critically injured in the accident and was shifted to a hospital, the SHO said.

However, late night reports said that Kumar **More on P6**

Fresh Snowfall Dips Mercury, Blocks Major Highways



Traces of snow were seen on Monday around the Zabarwan mountain range in this capital city. KO Photo, Abid Hatt

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Major highways were closed and villages in high-altitude areas cut off due to heavy overnight snowfall and rains in Jammu and Kashmir, with authorities closing schools for Monday in some districts as a precautionary measure.

The weather will be overcast with the possibility of more

rains or snow for most part of the day, according to the meteorological office.

While traffic movement was suspended on the Srinagar-Leh highway due to snowfall in Sonamarg and adjoining areas, the Jammu-Srinagar highway was closed after heavy rains triggered shooting stones and mudslides between Chanderkot and Banihal in Ramban district,

officials said.

The Mughal road, an alternative link between Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region and south Kashmir's Shopian district, was closed following accumulation of snow at Pir Ki Gali and adjoining areas, they said, adding that the Bandipora-Gurez road was also shut due to prevailing weather conditions.

Snowfall has been **More on P6**

Schools To Remain Open Until Major Snowfall: Pole

Agencies

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir PK Pole on Monday said that the schools shall remain open as long as weather permits and class work shall continue as long as there is no major snowfall in plains in the Valley.

"There is no clarity needed. Every year, when there is heavy snowfall in plains including in the city, schools are closed for vacations," Pole said.

"It depends on nature and may be, the schooling shall continue beyond December 15. There is already clarity given by Director School Education Kashmir and every year, not just this season, schools shall remain open until there is major snowfall. It is all weather dependent," he said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Meanwhile, in view of fresh snowfall on higher reaches and inclement **More on P6**

Housing Minister Hails Special Status Revocation

- Says J&K Getting Investments Because Of Centre's Farsighted Decision
- Terms Nehru's Move Of Raising Kashmir Issue In Multilateral Forum A "Monumental Blunder"

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: The Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that after abrogating special status of Jammu and Kashmir, people are investing in the economic development of the Union Territory because of the Central government's farsighted decision to remove that whinstone



around the state's neck.

"Earlier [before abrogation of Article 370 & 35(A)], Srinagar's tourist footfall was 32,000-40,000 **More on P6**

Rijiju Fires Fresh Salvo On Nehru On Kashmir

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju mounted a fresh attack on the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the Kashmir issue on Monday, claiming that he moved **More on P6**

6 PM'S DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN J&K HAVE created an emotional bond between the people and the country. Central schemes directly benefit the people and I am glad that work is going on at the ground level."

City's Non-Metered Areas To Face 8 Hr Power Cut



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Monday issued a power curtailment schedule for Srinagar in winter period with effect from November 15.

The KPDCL in a fresh curtailment schedule stated that the metered areas will face 4 ½ hours curtailment every day.

As per the new schedule, the metered areas will face curtailment of electricity for one and a half hours in morning, afternoon and evening each.

However, the non-metered areas will face curtailment for the period eight hours in a day.

The non-metered areas in Srinagar will face two hour curtailment in morning while there will be three hour curtailment each in day and evening.

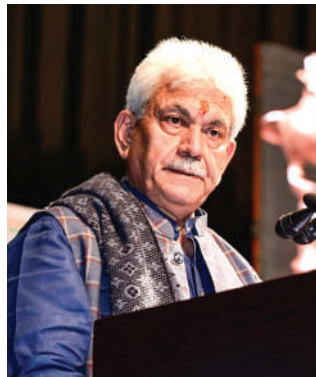
Cooperatives Best Medium To Reach Far Flung Areas: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that co-operatives are perhaps the best medium to reach out to the far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the poor & marginalized sections.

Sinha made these remarks during the inauguration of 69th All India Cooperative Week celebrations at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium of the University of Jammu here on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG commended the significant role being played by all stakeholders associated with the cooperative movement in building a strong eco-system for growth of the cooperative sector in the UT.



He said that the Jan-Andolan for promotion of social-enterprises, its values, and principles to establish equality, equity, and solidarity are pivotal for bringing socio-economic development for inclusive growth in rural J&K.

"Under the guidance of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Home & Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah, the Cooperatives are being transformed as an effective economic instrument for ensuring growth in sectors like agriculture, handicraft, sugar, dairy, textiles, fisheries, storage, food processing and upliftment of small & marginal farmers," the LG said.

"Cooperatives are perhaps the best medium to reach out to the far-flung areas of J&K UT and the poor & marginalized sections," he added.

The LG said that in the era of start-ups and unicorns, we need to meet the aspiration of youth and cooperatives need to constantly reinvent themselves.

"Cooperatives should be established as one of the pillars for economic **More on P6**

JKP Playing Parental Role In Counseling Misguided Youth: DGP

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) Chief Dilbag Singh said on Monday that apart from fight against terrorism, his force was playing a parental role in counseling the misguided youth and channelizing their energy in positive direction.

Singh made these remarks while interacting with a group of IPS officers from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad, at Gazetted Officers' Mess Humama in Budgam district, a police spokesperson



said Monday.

The DGP, he said, gave the visiting probationary officers an overview of working of the force in different wings, units and districts besides working of special operation groups **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

Govt Mulls Sale Of JK Cements Ltd

The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued a global invitation for comments on the draft request for proposal (RFP) for complete sale of Jammu and Kashmir Cements Limited, a fully government owned cement company. According to an advertisement notice, Jammu and Kashmir government intends to sell the complete equity stake of Jammu and Kashmir Cements Limited (JKCL) by way of strategic disinvestment of the equity shareholding along with full management control. Jammu and Kashmir Cements Limited (JKCL) is a fully government **More on P6**

Tehsildar Falls In ACB Net

A revenue officer in Bahu Tehsil of Jammu district was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau while accepting Rs 50,000 from a complainant, officials said here on Monday. An official said that Rohit Sharma, Tehsildar Bahu had demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from a person for issuing fard in his favour. He said that ACB received a complaint that a person living in R S Pura had bought land in City South and applied for fard in respect of the land. Tehsildar demanded a bribe of one lakh while the deal to give Rs 50,000 has been worked **More on P6**

Two Burglars Held In Awantipora: Police

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have solved two burglary cases in Awantipora by arresting two accused persons involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen property worth lakhs from their possession. A police spokesman in a statement issued here said that Police Station Khrew received written complaints from Ishfaq Majeed Dar resident of Ladhoo Khrew and Ghulam Hassan Sheikh resident of Khrew stating therein that some unknown burglars have stolen golden ornaments from their residential houses located at Ladhoo and Khrew. **More on P6**

Bank Official Booked For Chopping Tree

The forest department on Monday booked a bank official for his alleged involvement in cutting down a tree in north Kashmir's Rafiabab forest range. The incident came to the fore after a video went viral on the internet, following which a prompt action was initiated by the forest department by registering an FIR. A local news agency KNS reported that some unknown persons had cut down the forest firewood tree in Rafiabab range in compartment No. 30 in Darbal Langate. Soon after the video went viral, the forest department rushed its officials who seized the stuff. **More on P6**

Azad Grieved Over Doda Accident

Chairman Democratic Azad Party & former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday expressed shock at the untimely, accidental death of senior engineers and a driver in a road mishap in Doda district of the J&K UT. In his condolence message, Mr Azad remarked that it was a matter of great sorrow and disbelief at the unfortunate death of Executive Engineer, Rafiq Shah, Assistant Executive Engineer, Kamal Kishore Sharma and their driver Mohammed Hafeez. The officers who died in this accident were too dedicated and known for their **More on P6**

Veteran Journalist Gopal Sachar Dies

Veteran journalist Gopal Dass Sachar died on Monday evening after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 97. He had been ailing for the past six months and died at his residence in the Gandhinagar locality of Jammu around 5.30 pm, his grandson Saurabh said. He is survived by his son and an extended family of grandsons and granddaughters. His cremation will be conducted at Jogi gate on Tuesday at 1200 hours, Saurabh said. Gopal Sachar worked as the resident editor of Hind Samachar and Punjab Kesari group of newspapers **More on P6**



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2

Climate Change Affects Mosquito Behaviour

The Conversation

Changes in climatic factors such as higher temperatures and increased rainfall affect the developmental, behavioural and distribution patterns of insects like mosquitoes. These changes have serious implications for the effective control of insect-borne diseases such as malaria.

Worryingly, temperatures across southern Africa are predicted to increase by at least 0.8C by 2035.

Malaria is currently present in three provinces in South Africa: Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. Limpopo reports 62% of the local cases, while KwaZulu-Natal reports only 6%.

Over the past 50 years annual temperatures in South Africa have been increasing significantly faster than the global average. The increases have been most extreme in Limpopo, where temperatures have risen by an average of 0.12C every decade. Small annual shifts have big effects.

These higher temperatures increase the malaria risk. This is because the malaria mosquito and parasite are happiest at temperatures between 17C and 35C.

Warmer weather means vector mosquitoes are able to develop faster, invade new locations, and spread vector-borne diseases. In addition, increased rainfall will potentially increase the number of mosquito vector breeding sites. Vector mosquitoes like those that transmit malaria breed in stagnant and temporary bodies of water. Research in Limpopo has shown that heavy

rains in spring are usually associated with higher malaria case numbers during summer.

The impact of climate change on mosquitoes is very clear. But its impact on malaria transmission is still unclear. Some theoretical mathematical modelling studies predict an uptick in malaria case numbers due to climate change. But other models suggest climate change will have no impact on malaria. More data are needed to see which model is correct. This is because the effect is difficult to test in the laboratory.

Whether climate change will present another challenge to achieving malaria elimination is yet to be confirmed. Our research group is currently trying to address this knowledge gap.

What we do know
The relationship between climate change and malaria is complicated. But four things are clear: as the Earth warms up the malaria vector will develop faster, allowing them to breed faster, bite more frequently and expand into formerly unsuitable habitats.

This means that mosquito larvae will develop into adults faster. The sooner the female bites, the sooner she can transmit the disease. If she bites more frequently, she will spread more disease.

The malaria parasite's development inside the mosquito is highly dependent on temperature. At temperatures below 17C, and above 35C, the parasite's life cycle inside the mosquito cannot be completed. This halts the onward transmission of malaria.

The mosquito's transformation from

larva to free-flying adult generally occurs at temperatures between 22C and 34C. Interestingly, research has shown that mosquitoes can change their behaviour to spend most of their time resting in cooler spaces. This way they can survive when ambient temperatures increase. This behaviour of the mosquito can help the parasite survive temperatures that would otherwise stop its development.

Distinct changes in the seasons, largely due to climate change, have been noted. The southern African region is experiencing more frequent extreme heat days and fewer extreme cool days.

Therefore, winters are becoming much warmer, allowing mosquitoes to breed and transmit malaria in larger numbers during the winter months. Summer months are also getting hotter. In some cases, the summers may get too hot for mosquito and parasite growth, preventing malaria transmission. Climate change could cause a shift in the malaria transmission season from the summer months to the traditionally cooler autumn and winter months.

Rainfall also plays a major role in malaria transmission. In general, malaria incidence decreases during the El Nio (hotter but drier) years and increases in the La Nia (cooler but wetter) years. This is particularly true in countries like South Africa, where the adaptable malaria vector, Anopheles arabiensis, is a dominant transmitting vector. South Africa is currently in a La Nia cycle, so the upcoming malaria season (October to February) could potentially be

significant, given the more favourable conditions for malaria transmission and the relaxation of all COVID-related restrictions on movement.

The South African situation
Our research group based at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the University of Witwatersrand's Research Institute for Malaria was involved in identifying the mosquitoes behind the malaria epidemic of 2000. This outbreak coincided with severe flooding in southern Mozambique. The dramatic increase in available breeding sites allowed an insecticide-resistant mosquito from Mozambique, Anopheles funestus, to invade KwaZulu-Natal, driving malaria case numbers up.

Since this outbreak, our group has been conducting intensive surveillance in South Africa's endemic provinces. We've also been involved in research to understand the impact of climate change on malaria transmission in South Africa.

Research from our vector laboratories has demonstrated that a warmer world would reduce the effectiveness of insecticides used for indoor residual spraying. In addition, insecticide resistant mosquitoes seem better adapted to surviving the warmer conditions than mosquitoes that are sensitive to insecticides.

Modelling experiments suggest that humidity levels will also influence malaria transmission in South Africa. But this needs to be confirmed under laboratory conditions using live mosquitoes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my passport bearing No: R9002578 has been wrongly written as Naseema Begum while her correct name is Naseema Akhter which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Regional Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Murtaza Maqbool Bhat
S/o Mohammad Maqbool Bhat
R/o Chichilora Kwarhama District Baramulla

bmg

ہمارے ماما جان کی پہلی بری پد خراج عقیدت



ہمارے ماما جان مرحوم میر فیاض احمد شاہ قادری کبروی فاروقی ولدمرحوم

میر یحییٰ علیہ اللہ شاہ قادری کبروی فاروقی سائنس محکمہ خان کاٹھی دروازہ

رعناواری سرنگ 15 نومبر 2021 کو ہم سے جدا ہوئے ہمارے ماما جان

نیک سیرت اور مومن مصلوہ آگے پائند اور ایک عظیم انسان تھے۔ اگرچہ آپ دن

ہمارے درمیان نہیں تھے ماما جان کی یاد ہمیشہ ہمارے ساتھ ہیں ان کے وفات

سے لے کر آج تک کوئی دن ایسا نہیں گزرا جس دن سے مرحوم کا احساس نہ ہوا آپ ہر وقت ایک خوشنودی طرح

نہیں یاد رہے گے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اپنی مقام عطا کریں (آمین)۔

اظرفیت: آفتاب احمد زگر، اشتاق احمد زگر، گوہر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر، شکیل احمد زگر،

بال احمد زگر، آفاق احمد زگر، اشتاق احمد زگر، گوہر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر، شکیل احمد زگر،

مدثر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر، منیر احمد زگر،

برز علیہ: برادر مرحوم میر یحییٰ علیہ اللہ شاہ قادری کبروی فاروقی،

ولدمرحوم میر یحییٰ علیہ اللہ شاہ قادری کبروی فاروقی

سائنس محکمہ خان کاٹھی دروازہ رعناواری سرنگ

Scientists Repurpose Cancer Immunotherapy Technique For Variant-Proof Covid Treatment

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have adapted what is typically a cancer therapeutic technique, CAR-T cell therapy, for the purpose of eliminating the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study.

The team of scientists at the non-profit biomedical research institution, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, led by Derya Unutmaz, demonstrated several immuno-based strategies to explore the treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

The first immunotherapy method in the study, published in Clinical and Translational Immunology, focused on the spike protein present in SARS-CoV-2 and the receptor on the host cell, angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2).

The spike protein is the molecule on the surface of the virus that is responsible for infecting healthy host cells. The protein enters the cell via the ACE2 receptor, allowing the viral RNA to begin its takeover.

In the Unutmaz study, T cells were

engineered with anti-spike and anti-ACE2 CAR-T cells to target either the spike protein or the ACE2 receptor, with high specificity and efficiency across various infected cell types.

The second immunotherapy method provides an antibody-based means for preventing COVID-19 infection. T cells were engineered with a bispecific antibody fused with ACE2 to activate the patient's own T cells to destroy infected cells that present the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein on their surface.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited,

1st Floor, Budshah Building, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, J&K

Bid Identification No. 29-RRWD SMC of 2022-2023 Dated:11/11/2022

Subject: Notice inviting tenders for the work of "Improvement and Remodeling of Clock Tower Lal Chowk".

The Employer, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids from bidders who shall be an Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm incorporated in India under the (Indian) Companies Act 2013/ Firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008 for the work as detailed in table below:

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost of the Work (INR lacs)	Cost of Bid Document (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (INR Lac)	Period of Completion
Improvement and Remodeling of Clock Tower Lal Chowk	94.90	5000/-	189800/-	03 Months

The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Scope, Specifications and Drawings, Schedule Quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in from [11/11/2022 06:00 PM]. The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule:

S. No.	Particulars	Schedule
1.	Date of issue of IFB	11/11/2022
2.	Availability of Bid Document on e-procurement portal	11/11/2022 06:00 PM.
3.	Date of receipt of pre-bid queries	16/11/2022
4.	Date of pre-bid meeting	18/11/2022 at 03:00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer SSCL Srinagar.
5.	Date of Replies to pre-bid queries	21/11/2022
6.	Deadline for Submission of bids	01/12/2022 06:00 PM
7.	Last Date for receipt of physical instruments of Cost of Bid Document and Security Deposit.	02/12/2022 04:00 PM
8.	Opening of Technical Bids	05/12/2022 06:00 PM
9.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed separately

- Bids shall be received "on line" on or before [01/12/2022 06:00 PM]. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.
- If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and non-refundable Cost of Bid Document.
- The Cost of Bid Document is to be paid through DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account Number: 0216010200000007
IFSC Code: JAKA0GARDEN
MICR Code: 190051008

- The Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security) may be paid through CDR/FDR/DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Executive Engineer RRWD SMC as stated above or may be submitted through a Bank Guarantee, having a validity of 60 days beyond Bid Validity Period of 120 days. The Bank Guarantee shall be pledged to Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Srinagar and shall be submitted in the format provided in the Bid Document.
- The eligible bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprises shall be provided bid documents free of cost and shall be exempted from depositing Bid Security subject to furnishing of relevant valid certificate/documents for claiming such exemption. However, in lieu of Bid Security, the MSE bidder is required to submit the Bid Security Declaration on a duly notarized non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- in the format as provided in the Bid Document.
- The bidder is required to quote in the prescribed format provided on the e-procurement portal and the selection will be done on a least cost basis.
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefore and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
- Any information regarding the IFB and / or Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Right River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation
(Additional Charge SSCL)

DIPK-NB-4955/22

No. SMC/EE/RRWD/2252-60
Dated: 14.11.2022

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/139/2022-23 Dated: - 12-11-2022

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of New Border Police Post (BPP's) at Banail Boniyar Baramulla	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	83.00 lacs	4000/-	166000/-	120 days	24-11-2022	"A"
2	Construction of New Border Police Post (BPP's) at Neeru Naar (PS Tulail) Bandipora	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	83.00 lacs	4000/-	166000/-	120 days	24-11-2022	"A"
3	Construction of New Border Police Post (BPP's) at Satni Naar (PS Tulail) Bandipora	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	83.00 lacs	4000/-	166000/-	120 days	24-11-2022	"A"
4	Construction of New Border Police Post (BPP's) at Dassi Tarbal Bandipora	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	82.92 lacs	4000/-	165840/-	120 days	24-11-2022	"A"

1. Date of Publishing 14-11-2022 at 1400 hours.

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1430 hours on 14-11-2022

i. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 17-11-2022 to 23-11-2022 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 24-11-2022 on line.

ii. The complete bidding process will be on line.

iii. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 24-11-2022 at 1100 Hrs.

iv. The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.

v. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24/2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).

vi. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.

3. Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.

4. Performance Security :- In case, the successful bidder found unbalanced i.e. 15% or below the advertised cost, shall have to produce performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5-days after opening of price bid and shall be released after successful completion of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

5. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

6. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.

7. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

8. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.

9. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

11. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.

iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).

v. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.

vi. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

vii. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

viii. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

ix. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.

12. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

13. No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However; the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer Incharge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.

14. In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.

15. Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/ depreciation.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu/Sgr.

DIPK-13420/22

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2022-23/9001-08
Dated: 14-11-2022.

LIST OF IMPORTANT DATE
PRESS NOTICE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No:-EE-PCD/PHQ/139/2022-23 DT:- 12-11-2022

Name of work:- I. Mentioned column no. 02 of NIT
2. Completion Period for construction: See column no. 7 of NIT

3. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Bid	Date 14th Month 11 Year 2022
4. Period of downloading Tender Documents :-	From Date 14th Month 10 Year 2022 Time 1430 Hrs Places(s) http://jktenders.gov.in
5. Period of Receiving Bids on line	Date 17th Month 11 Year 2022 Time 0900 Hrs To Date 23rd Month 11 Year 2022 Upto 1600 Hrs
6. Time and date for opening Technical Bid/Bids on line	Date 24th Month 11 Year 2022 Time 1100 Hours
7. Time and Date of opening Financial Bid on line	Shall be communicated
8. Place of opening Bids	Place Office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar.
9. Last Date of bid validity	Date 24th Month 02 Year 2023
10. Officer Inviting Bids	Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu/Srinagar. Designation: Executive Engineer
	Address:- Police Construction Division, J&K Jammu / Srinagar.



Workshop On “Diabetes Education” Held At GMC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the theme “Diabetes-Education to Protect Tomorrow,” the Department of Biochemistry, Govt. Medical College Srinagar & Associated SMHS Hospital in support for this cause organized a workshop in which healthcare professionals, scientists and students shared their ideas and scientific work.

Renowned speakers including leading clinicians Dr Mohammad Hayat Bhat, Dr Arshad Hussain, Dr Asif Amin, Dr Maqsood Ahmad Dar and scientists including Professor Imtiaz Murtaza delivered lectures.

More than 250 participants availed the academic benefits of this CME, which was accredited for 4 CME Credit hours with UT of JK Medical Council. Also, a soft copy of a souvenir magazine cum abstract book was released at this event. Winners of oral presentations and Post-er competition for first year MBBS students held as a pre-event of the CME were also felicitated on this occasion. 25 Diabetes educators from the Department of Life-long learning University of Kashmir participated in this event.

It is pertinent to mention, Diabetes is a major global health care challenge and in contemporary times, approximately 537 million adults are living with diabetes. One in ten has diabetes. 14th November 2022 is being globally commemorated as World Diabetes Day.

A free diabetes panel diagnostic investigations camp was also held for faculty, staff, students and general public in Govt. Medical College Srinagar & its Associated SMHS Hospital under the worthy patronage of Principal/ Dean GMC Srinagar.

Fasting/ Random Blood Sugar, Glycated Hemoglobin (HbA1C) and Microalbumin in urine was done free of cost for the patients. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by Principal, Dean ,Dr Masood Tanvir ,Govt Medical College Srinagar in presence of Dr Sabhiya Majid Head , Deptt of Biochemistry GMC Sgr.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr Muzaffar Ahmad Zargar, Medical Superintendent SMHS hospital, Dr Waseem Qureshi, Registrar Academic GMC including various heads of departments, faculty members and students .This camp was approved by International Diabetes Federation, Brussels, Belgium.

DPS Srinagar Organises First Of Its Kind Radio Fest

Observer News Service

Srinagar: DPS Srinagar had the proud distinction of hosting the first of its kind Student Radio Fest on 12th November 2022. The fest titled ‘Kath Baath, where creativity comes together’ witnessed the participation of twenty students from eight schools across the valley: Sanctorium Public School, Doon International School, SRM Welkin Higher Secondary School Sopore, Green Valley Education Institute, Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, Kings Kingdom International School Zawoora Shopian, Oasis Higher Secondary School and Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson.

The Radio Fest aimed at introducing students to the medium of Radio through interactions with industry leaders.

The event featured a host of attractions like panel discussions, which included discussions by students with experts about different aspects of radio, Q&A session with the guests, stand-up comedy, mushaira, beat boxing, and music performances. The panellists for the event included RJ Nasir, RJ Sameen, RJ Haya, RJ Vijdan, Sajid Reshi, RJ Amir and Hajini Azhar. They talked about the importance of radio, and the manner in which it has adapted to changing times as internet has made streaming content to engage a wider audience easier.

“Insha-E-Daraab” Exhibition On Kashmir’s Last Persian Poet Kicks Off

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: An event commemorating Life and Times of Kashmir’s last Persian poet Mohammad Amin Darab kicked off at Amar Singh Club on Monday.

The weeklong event organized by INTACH in collaboration with HELP foundation seeks to bring forth the contribution of Mohammad Amin Darab in Persian poetry and literature before the Kashmiri people.

In addition to Darab’s poetic works, rare Persian manuscripts have been put on display for the visitors.

Speakers described Darab as the last Persianate poet and an individual grounded in the spiritualism linked with various Sufi orders of Kashmir

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Saleem Beigh Conventor, INTACH, said that it is for the first time that personal archives have been bought in an exhibition.

“Persian language has been an intangible part of Kashmir history and Mohammad Amin Darab being the last Kashmiri poet enjoys a special place, Persian language has been Kashmir’s court language for 500 years. Trade and other happenings used to take place in this language” Saleem said.

Saleem said the event is the result of a long search with families having personal archives.

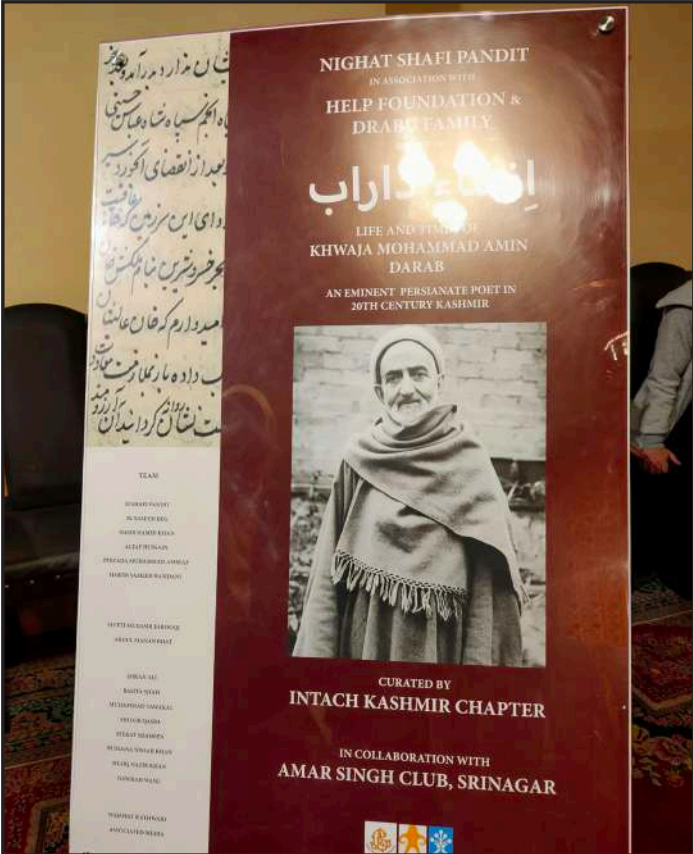
“In Kashmir there are several families who had an association with Persian. We were in search of these families and we reached the Drabu family. We came to know about the manuscripts of the late poet, rest is history” he said.

Saleem further described Amin’s personality as a versatile one.

“Darab Sahab was not only a poet, he was a versatile person, and he has compiled a bayaz (a manuscript containing Persian poetry of different poets)”

“He was a master in writing “Maadaye Taarekh”. An old Kashmiri art wherein a poet would write poetry on a particular event or thing and numerical value of the last verse denoted to the date of the event”

Saleem says he is hopeful to display the personal archives of other families in the future as well. Exhibitions like these



help us to relive those times and the families get the chance to project their ancestors’ works. It is an aspect of cultural preservation.

Nighat Shafi Pandit, Chairman, NGO HELP Foundation, said that the event was being held for the first time and it is being held to familiarize the new Kashmiri generation of our legacy.

“Our ancestors were very competent and their contribution in the field of literature is immense. So, it is very important to familiarize the new generation with our history” Nighat, granddaughter of the late poet, said.

Nighat further said that Khwaja Amin Darab was a very educated and religious person. His works have been recognized in Iran and Afghanistan. During his lifetime, he was invited to these countries, however, he did not go.

“Darab sahib would connect with ordinary people and would write on contemporary issues and religion. We have displayed his works in Persian in order to familiarize people with his works”

Hakim Sameer Hamdani, Design Director at INTACH said that Persian has been Kashmir’s Court language for 500 years but unfortunately we are not familiar with it.

“Persian has been an integral part of culture. Darab Sahab has contributed a lot to Persian language and literature. The event has been held to get connected to our roots and popularize him among the new generation”.

“In this world of steady decline, Khwaja Muhammad Amin with the takhalus (pen-name) Darab emerges as one of the last transmitters of traditional Muslim learning, grounded in Persian adab (literature) Sameer said.

Aside from his poetry, Darab was a great calligrapher and some of his handwritten rukas in the Nastaliq script showcases the calligraphic talent of the late poet.

It is pertinent to mention, Mohammad Amin Drabu, was born in 1890/91. He belonged to a family of merchants and land grantees of the Maharaja. He died in 1979 and is buried in Khewan, Narwara.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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 - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:38
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3:50
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	7:55

HIJRI

CALENDAR

19 Rabi ul Sani

1444

This Day In History

- 655 - Battle of the Winwaed: Penda of Mercia is defeated by Oswiu of Bernicia.
- 1315 - Battle of Morgarten: Swiss beat duke Leopold I of Austria
- 1954 - 1st regularly scheduled commercial flights over North Pole begins
- 1955 - Poland & Yugoslavia sign trade agreement
- 1969 - An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium demonstration across the United States
- 1971 - Intel advertises 4004-processor
- 1972 - Small Astronomy Satellite Explorer 48 launched to study gamma rays
- 1973 - Egypt & Israel exchange prisoners of war
- 1974 - International Energy Agency formed in Paris within OECD framework in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- 1976 - Syrian army conquers Beirut
- 1979 - ABC-TV announces it would broadcast nightly specials on Iran hostage
- 1979 - Iran cancels all contracts with U.S. oil companies
- 1980 - 30th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Dale Earnhardt wins
- 1982 - Funeral service held in Moscow’s Red Square for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev
- 1983 - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus proclaimed
- 1988 - Soviet space shuttle makes unmanned maiden flight (2 orbits)
- 1990 - US President George H. W. Bush signs Clear Air Act of 1990
- 1995 - Space shuttle Atlantis docks with orbiting Russian space station Mir
- 2000 - A chartered Antonov AN-24 crashes after takeoff from Luanda, Angola killing more than 40 people
- 2000 - New state of Jharkhand comes into existence in India
- 2002 - Hu Jintao becomes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 2003 - First day of the Istanbul Bombings takes place, followed by additional bombings on November 20th
- 2005 - Boeing formally launches the stretched Boeing 747-8 variant with orders from Cargolux and Nippon Cargo Airlines
- 2007 - A devastating Cyclone named Sidr hit Bangladesh, killing an estimated 5000 people and destroyed the world’s largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans.
- 2012 - At least 95 people are killed in Syrian conflicts

From KO Archives

‘1500 Militants Active In North Kashmir’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Around 1500 militants, mostly foreign mercenar-ies are operating in North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla, a BSF official said.

There are 1500 active militants, mostly foreigners, in North Kashmir and the largest group belong to Pakistan based Lashker-e-Toiba, the local component is much less. Inspector General of BSF, B N Chatervedi told reporters at Baramulla, here yesterday.

He said though infiltration has declined in Kashmir region in view of stringent security measures adopted on the borders, militant activities have increased in Jammu region.

Chatervedi, who was briefing reporters about the seizure of big cache of arms and ammunition from a militant hideout at Mangdon forest, near line of Control (LoC), said the hideout here served as a transit camp for the militants.

The arms and ammunition which were being smuggled from Pakistan used to be dumped in the hideout and later distributed to other areas of the Kashmir valley, he said.

He said BSF troops raided the militant hideout on October 29 in which two militants including an Afghan mercenary was killed. The search of the hideout led to the recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunition including eight kgs of RDX, three AK assault rifles besides, food materials.

(Kashmir Observer, November 15, 2000)

(GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Srinagar

Short term Tender Notice No. 131 of 2022-23/R&B

Dated: 14.11.2022

For and on behalf of The Lt. Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir sealed tenders affixed with 5/- rupees revenue stamps are invited for the below mentioned works from approved and eligible Electrical contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state / Central Govt. as per specification and detailed mentioned in the BOQ.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of tender document
01	Infrastructure Development and restoration of flood hit building at KG Polytechnic Srinagar Renovation of internal electrification for work shop -3 of Kashmir Govt. Polytechnic College Gogi Bagh Sgr.	55180.00	1700.00	"A" Class Electrical	03 days	200.00
02.	Providing and laying of PVC conduits with allied accessories for ground floor for refurbishment /Remodelling of existing building of district employment and Counselling centre into District Youth Centre Budgam	51700.00	1551.00	"A" Class Electrical	Side by side civil works	200.00

The tender should be addressed to the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Srinagar and should reach in the office by or before 19.11.2022 upto 4.00 PM. The tenders / bids will be opened on the same day or any other day convenient to tender opening authority in presence of the contractors who may like to be present. In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a holiday /Hartal /curfew day the tenders will be received on next working day.

1. The tender document shall be issued by this office from 14.11.2022 upto 19.11.2022 against receipt of treasury challan received from the eligible Electrical contractor and should enclose following documents Viz: valid registration with latest renewal certificate, Pan Card, valid GST registration with latest GST clearance certificate, valid contact No/E-Mail ID in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar. (Tender inviting authority).

2. The successful /1st Lowest bidder has to submit earnest money @ 3% of adv. cost.

3. The bidders shall be a liberty to send their bids either in person or through registered post but shall super scribe the following in front of the envelopes.

4. i.) Name of work ii) cost of work iii) Full name of contractor with contact No .iv. Date of receipt of tenders v) Ref. to NIT No.

5. The bidder Should enclose CDR/FDR

6. The bidder should sign each page of tender document enclosed with their bid.

7. All other Terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form 25.

Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Srinagar

NO:- ERB/3302-09

Dated:- 14.11.2022

DIPK-13473/22

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HELP FOUNDATION

Kashmir

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KASHMIR OBSERVER
Tuesday | 15-11-2022

Bukhari’s Rally

Apni Party’s massive rally in Srinagar on Saturday has heralded the return of some political activity to the Valley amid the anticipation of Assembly elections being likely held early next year. Speaking at the rally, the party’s president Altaf Bukhari, industrialist turned politician, urged the centre to restore statehood and hold elections without any further delay. He once again warned people against “misleading” demand made by the parties like National Conference and the PDP for the return of J&K’s autonomy, saying revocation of Article 370 was a fait accompli. Bukhari spoke out against the bloodshed in Kashmir, where thousands have died during the turmoil of the past thirty years, urging the people they should accept that their destiny lies with India.

Apni Party was founded early in March 2020 to fill in the vacuum created by the then absence of established political parties like the NC and the PDP, most of whose leaders were in detention at the time. Ever since, the Party has struggled to find spontaneous support among people, a perception, it has tried to dispel with the Srinagar rally. However, a political rally and the number of people attending it is not necessarily reflective of the public support for any party, more so, in Kashmir.

The Apni Party has since been overtaken by the People’s Conference (PC) which has cornered most of the defecting leaders from the PDP and also some from the NC. This has helped expand the PC’s base across Kashmir, making it a formidable Kashmir based party - albeit only theoretically so far.

But the PC’s party seems to have, in turn, been spoilt by Democratic Azad Party (DAP) launched by the former veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad. The advent of the DAP has further complicated the political scene in the Valley. Azad can be a viable challenger to both the BJP and the Kashmir-based parties. Some even see him as a future chief minister, a turn of events probably enabled by the BJP. Should he get more seats, the former Congress leader is also seen as a favourite to form the government with the support of Kashmir-based parties. But for now, both analyses are in the realm of speculation.

With the rally in Srinagar, Bukhari, however, has shown that he can pull the crowds. But does his message resonate with people? It can be anybody’s guess. Whether he can convert the crowds at the rally into votes in a free and fair election? This can only be known when elections are held. For now, however, Apni Party’s Srinagar rally only signals the return of normal electoral politics to the Valley.

OTHER OPINION

A Sense of an Ending

The release of the six remaining convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case marks the end of a tragic episode that began with India’s disastrous involvement in Sri Lanka’s internal strife in the 1980s. The assassination in May 1991, ordered by the LTTE leadership and carried out by a suicide bomber, caused revulsion. However, over time, the prolonged incarceration of the seven persons ultimately found guilty evoked some public sympathy. Political parties in Tamil Nadu campaigned for the release of the four convicts on death row and three serving life terms. The Supreme Court commuted the death sentences to life in 2014. A resolution adopted by the Tamil Nadu Cabinet in 2018 for releasing them under Article 161 of the Constitution was not acted upon by the then Governor for a long time. Ultimately, he forwarded it to the Centre for its opinion. The Court, earlier this year, found no constitutional basis for the Governor’s action and invoked its extraordinary powers to order the release of A.G. Perarivalan. The same benefit has now been extended to others. While their release is no occasion to celebrate, contrary to what sections of the media and the political class seem to believe, it is not one for lamentation either. The plot’s masterminds are dead and only mid-level operatives and some local collaborators were apprehended. A sense that 31 years of imprisonment is punishment enough does indeed prevail.

Their release is the culmination of due process in a vibrant legal system that is not without its flaws. A chilling trial court verdict that sentenced all 26 available accused to death in 1998 did not impress the Supreme Court. Based on a calmer appraisal of evidence, its 1999 judgment acquitted 19 of them of conspiracy charges, resulting in their release. Of the remaining seven, four were sentenced to death, and three to life. Nalini, recruited into the plot as a local chaperone to the potential suicide bombers, got the benefit of commutation in 2000 itself. So too did Ravichandran, who had hoped to lead an armed separatist movement in Tamil Nadu with the LTTE’s help. The prison system, too, proved its benign side. Most of them acquired new educational qualifications, while one could even indulge in literary pursuits. Their freedom has come about through legal processes and legitimate advocacy. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the victims’ families have suffered a lot, with few offering them succour or sympathy over the years. The tragic episode should occasion a fresh evaluation of the remission system and norms for premature release of life convicts. Going by the glaring omission in this particular case, some indication of remorse on the part of the convicts should be a prior requirement.

The Hindu

Making J&K Centre for
Agri-Entrepreneurship

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while inaugurating a 3 day expo, Kashmir Expo Start-ups for Livelihood, in Srinagar said that Jammu and Kashmir has a huge potential of becoming the hub of agri-tech start-ups and technology can add value to the products from the region with its immense biodiversity.

The expo was organized under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in association with National Innovation Foundation-India.

In the three-day exhibition, youth from J&K who have set up various ventures with innovation in various fields had come to display their products, technology, and services. The Union Minister in his address highlighted major sectors like agriculture, biomedical engineering, telemedicine and so on that can be the prime focus areas for start-ups in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and said that the area is fast evolving.

He also added that by making innovations and technological interventions, the Bamboo grown in Jammu can be converted to several useful products including incense sticks (Agarbattis) while the shelf life of fruits like apples, strawberries can be increased through different cold-chain technological interventions.

Why focus on Agri Entrepreneurship?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set up by the United Nations in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030 are said to address several challenges. These include poverty, inequality, climate change, peace, justice and environmental degradation, economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion. Climate change, environmental degradation and sustainable agriculture are some important aspects of these goals. Sustainable environment can only be achieved when there are increased investments in renewable energy and sustainable agricultural practices.

According to the national review report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) in India, the opening statement of which begins with Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase whose literal meaning is “the world is one family”. PM Modi in his statement at UN during SDG summit in 2015 had said:

“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are thus part and parcel of the country’s longstanding tradition and heritage. Indeed, the goals substantially reflect the development agenda of India. Much of India’s development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet.”

No to Mining Activities

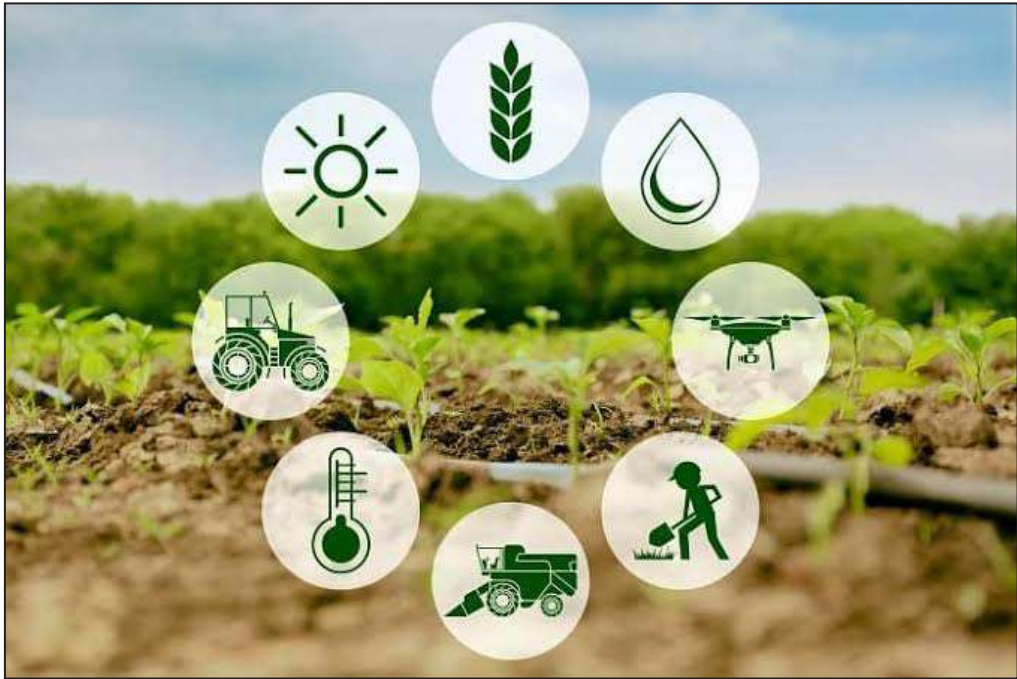
Recently, the Secretary Mining Department, Amit Sharma, invited Global Mineral Developers to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. While speaking during the two day International Conference and Exhibition on Mineral Business Development, 2022 organised at Nagpur, Secretary Mining asked mining companies to invest in J&K.

This would be disastrous in view of our fragile mountain ecosystem. By asking prospective Global players to invest in exploring the excavation of Lithium, Bauxite, Limestone, Gypsum, Marble, Lignite, Graphite etc, the Govt will be committing a blunder.

It seems that the Mining Secretary forgot the commitments made by PM Modi at COP 26 conference last year. At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last year, Prime Minister Modi had said that India would achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. This was one of the five major commitments or paanchamrithe made on behalf of India, to mitigate climate change. The rest commitments are as under:

India will bring its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030

India will bring its economy’s carbon inten-



Using agricultural land for non-farm activities will be disastrous for us in the future. Jammu & Kashmir cannot afford to set up cement industries or undertake mining in riverbeds or mountains

sity down to 45 % by 2030

India will fulfil 50 per cent of its energy requirement through renewable energy by 2030

India will reduce 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions from the total projected emissions by 2030

Using agricultural land for non-farm activities will be disastrous for us in the future. Jammu & Kashmir cannot afford to set up cement industries or undertake mining in riverbeds or mountains.

Strengthening Institutional Capability

Government organisations working in different development sectors like Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture etc need constant hand holding. Sher-e-Kashmir Agriculture University (SKUAST) Kashmir/ Jammu, Sheep Husbandry and Animal Husbandry departments need to have a collaborative programme with Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) which funds and supports agri based start-ups in J&K. This has to be done keeping in consideration local demands in the Agriculture and horticulture sector and to train the youth who want to make a career in these sectors.

To handhold these Govt organisations, it is very important to involve prominent NGOs, research institutes working in agri and allied sectors. For proper market linkages, the authorities need to bring in a policy guaranteeing Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the local agri/ horticulture produce like apple, Rajma, walnuts etc. Furthermore, the farmers need to be institutionalised into Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and cooperatives. NGOs need to sensitize the farmers to get crop insurance done which is much needed in J&K as inclement weather conditions destroy our apple crops every year and then apple farmers are urging Govt to give them financial assistance which is impossible for the Govt.

In many regions of J&K especially the Chenab valley or Pir Panjal region, there is very bad road connectivity.

Doda, Kishtwar, Baderwah are only connected to the rest of India through NH44 which, due to frequent landslides and shooting stones, remains blocked thus losing contact with other states. The condition of the highway needs to be strengthened along with Doda - Kishtwar - Simthan road. In Spite of having huge water resources, most of the villages in Chenab belt or Pir Panjal are rainfed and lack irrigation facilities. Several lift irrigation projects have to be taken up on priority. Directorate of Command Area De-

velopment Jammu has to play a key role in this direction.

NTFP and Apiculture

Non timber forest produce (NTFP) like Guchis, Mushrooms and other medicinal plants are found in great abundance in J&K. Chenab valley or Pir Panjal region (Rajouri, Poonch) have good quality of honey and NTFPs but this is not properly marketed. Its production, sale and marketing needs to be taken up by a collaborative method involving state Forest Department and J&K Medicinal Plants Board. The Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India had agreed to provide some two hundred crores for setting up a research center in Baderwah. However, the work on the same is not going at a good pace.

Jammu & Kashmir region has the best quality of wild honey, but on a commercial side, apiculture is yet to be developed. The olive (zaitoon) farming which was taken up more than 30 years back in Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar has not been expanded even to three or four dozen villages in spite of the fact that wild olive trees called Kuh are found in abundance in Chenab valley. The olive grafts can be inserted in these wild trees and that has worked with 80 to 90% success rate in the past.

Conclusion

In view of the geographical location of Jammu & Kashmir, with fast urbanisation, the thrust of the Government should be on sustainable development now. We cannot afford to set up industries that will threaten our environment and cause ecological disasters in the coming decades. Sustainable agricultural practices can only be achieved when the Govt explores more and more investments in sustainable agricultural practices. The use of pesticides and fungicides has to be brought down and a lot of research and development needs to be done to set up model organic apple farms or vegetable farms across J&K. J&K has a great potential to be made a centre for Agri- Entrepreneurship and that can be a reality provided our policy makers are serious enough.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat Climate Action Fellow, Anant National University Ahmedabad



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Nehru’s India

Yesterday the nation remembered India’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 133rd birth anniversary. A people’s prime minister, statesman, intellectual and scholar, Nehru was one of the highly recognized world leaders of his time. His policies on economy, science and technology, international relations and education had all designed the future course of the country. Nehru strongly believed in scientific knowl-

edge and propagated reasoning and rationality as the basis of all learning. He also believed that the role of education in an individual’s life was not restricted to academia alone but extended to one’s economic ambitions and social contributions as well. Perhaps, the most authentic way to learn and understand Nehru’s role in nation-building is to analyse the legacy of intellect left behind by him through his writings which can be interpreted as prescriptive texts.

He left his writings that were to be preserved for posterity. And through his cerebral writings, Nehru continues to speak with every Indian even today.

Nehru’s contributions have been foundational and colossal in building India as a secular and democratic republic which would have a socialistic commonsense. It is not only difficult, but even impossible for the nation to forget the Nehruvian legacy. Nehru laid the foundation for transforma-

tional changes, paving the way for India’s eventual emergence as a major economic hub on the global center-stage. In fact, Nehru prided in calling himself as the ‘prime servant’ of the nation, and that was the humility of this great man. Not for nothing, India’s first Prime Minister was hailed as the ‘Architect of Modern India.’

Ranganathan Sivakumar

SEVEN SPORTS WONDERS OF KASHMIR

Given the valley's vim for sports, here're the seven natives who took their game to the global playing arena.

Swati Joshi

As crown of Himalayas, Kashmir is not only famous for its perennial rivers and snowcapped mountains but also for its sportspersons shining at the global stage.

From basketball to rugby, the valley is filled with talented sportspersons whose athletic achievements are inspiring a generation. Some of them are already making waves on the global platform.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo



Wadoo started playing at a tender age of eight under supervision of his father Mohammad Sultan Wadoo who had played Santosh trophy.

Since then he has been associated with various clubs like Mohun Bagan, East Bengal,

Salgaocar, Pune City, Chennaiyin and Mumbai City. He has also represented the Indian National Team from 2005 to 2011.

The footballer won the Federation Cup & IFA Shield four times. He was the best right-back in the Hero ISL during Season 2 as he helped Chennaiyin FC to the coveted Hero ISL trophy, appearing 14 times for the team.

Bilal Ahmad Dar



Not having a morsel of food for eight days compelled Dar's mother to sell off a piece of land and some poplar trees to buy a cycle for him.

A resident of Kawoosa village in Budgam district, the teenager is the first cyclist from Kashmir to represent India internationally. He was the first cyclist to be selected through trials in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dar has won silver and bronze medal in 3 km individual pursuit and 4 km team pursuit respectively at Asian Junior Championships held in Jakarta in 2019.

Being a hilly area, cycling is not popular in the valley, but Dar was motivated by his father and villagers to take up the sport.

He became the first cyclist in India to win four gold medals at the National School Games. The cyclist was applauded for his achievement by the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and cricketer V. V. S. Laxman on social media.

After participating in the Asian Cup and Asian Championship, the cyclist is training in Delhi for Olympics.

Aabid Hamid



A gold medalist at the World Kick Boxing Championship in Argentina 2018, Aabid Hamid was the lone gold winner representing India.

Hamid hails from Budgma district and belongs to a humble background. The gold medalist got recognition when he won a gold medal at the state level (2017) and national level (2018).

Owing to his achievement in the nationals, he made his entry to the World Championships.

Gul Mustafa Dev



Gul Mustafa Dev is accredited to be Kashmir's first winter Olympian in 1988 Winter Olympics held at Calgary Canada.

Initially, Dev went to Gulmarg through the department of Youth Services and Sports J&K for a basic course on skiing. Afterward he pursued an intermediate and advanced level of skiing course.

The skier won a gold medal in the National skiing competition held in 1986. After his successful performance in the event, the Winter Games Federation of India (WGFI) selected him as a member of the Indian squad to play at the first Asian Winter

Games in Sapporo, Japan.

Dev is passing the skills to her daughter Ma-laikah Gul Dev who has won a gold medal in annual women's Alpine Skiing 2018, advanced level dream programmed in Seoul, South Korea.

Iqra Rasool



Popularly known as 'Baramulla's supergirl', Iqra Rasool is an inspiration to many Kashmiri girls who want to pursue sports as a career.

Hailing from Dangiwa, Rafiabab located in North Kashmir, the bowler has represented Jammu & Kashmir in the U-19 and U-23 category.

Iqra was honored with the 'H.E.R' (Hope. Empower. Rise) award in 2017 at a session in Mumbai by Mithali Raj, former captain of the Indian Women's cricket team.

H.E.R awards are conferred to a sportsperson who has "shown remarkable excellence in their areas and have often taken risks, battled odds or rewrite the rules in pursuit of success."

An ardent fan of Indian Men's cricket team captain Virat Kohli, Iqra wants to represent India in the International arena.

Ishrat Rashid



The never-say-die attitude of Ishrat Rashid has made her the first Kashmiri specially-abled basketball player who got selected in International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Rashid injured her spinal cord in an accident in 2016 due to which she was bedridden for eight months. The basketball player was introduced to wheelchair basketball while she was in the Voluntary Medicare Society in Srinagar.

She participated in a national event in Tamil Nadu followed by another event at Mohali in Chandigarh. Impressed by her performance she was selected to represent India in the Asia-Oceania Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Thailand.

She was awarded for her achievements by Srinagar District Administration during the Republic Day Celebration.

Irtiq Ayoub



Irtiq Ayoub started playing rugby when she was 16-years-old and since then the bond is unbreakable.

A resident of Safakadal in Srinagar, Ayoub had won seven gold medals at the state level, and seven at the district level. She won a silver medal for Rugby 7's in 2016 and 2017, and a gold medal for snow Rugby in 2017.

Claimed to be the youngest Rugby Development Officer, the rugby player has coached hundreds of schools and college kids and aspire to play for India one day.

Speakers Highlight Challenges, Future Of Urdu Journalism At Int’l Conf

Need To Approach PM By Forming National Level Association: Raja Mohiuddin

Agenceis

Srinagar: Challenges facing the Urdu journalisms and efforts needed to face them collectively remained the focal point of the discussion at the International Conference organized by Maulana Azad National University Hyderabad here on the occasion of 200 years of Urdu journalism. On the second day of the conference, the speakers expressed their views on the challenges and the future of Urdu journalism.

Representing Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Mohiuddin, editor of daily Tameel-i-Irshad, shed light on the current scenario of Urdu journalism, and the future challenges facing it.

In his speech, Raja Mohiuddin said that Urdu journalism is growing day by day in Jammu and Kashmir. For its promotion and reaching new heights, he said, the Urdu newspapers have



a pivotal role to play. He said while other forms of media made inroads in most of the globe, Jammu and Kashmir has largely unaffected. “The reason for this is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir still have a lot of passion and love for Urdu and they still consider newspapers as a reliable source of information.”

He said that although the volume of print media decreased due to various reasons, the newspapers made their

presence felt in the digital world as per the requirements of the current situation.

“Today the daily Tameel-i-Irshad which is a multi-circulation newspaper in Urdu language in Jammu and Kashmir, has significant presence on digital platform,” he said, adding, “Now the demand for delivery of news and other relevant content has increased and this has led to the more demand of the newspapers here than in the past.”

Expressing his opinion regarding the future of Urdu journalism, Raja Mohiuddin said that the future of Urdu journalism in Jammu and Kashmir is bright. At the same time, he stressed on the need for more “pro-active steps”. “All-round efforts are needed in this regard. Myriad challenges are being faced by the print media in general across the country including Jammu and Kashmir. One of them is financial challenge.”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir’s Tourism

everything in advance as getting a hotel room in Srinagar is so hard now. We will see Srinagar, Pahalgam, Sonmarg and we are also excited about seeing snow and taking gondola ride at Gulmarg,” he told PTI here.

Hordes of tourists from Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal, and other states, are also travelling to the Valley as the ‘Heaven on Earth’ – a sobriquet given to Kashmir for its ethereal beauty and vibrant cultural heritage -- is seeing tangible signs of return to normalcy.

Top Army officials in Kashmir have said that among other factors, also after the ceasefire understanding reached between India and Pakistan in February 2021, “a lot of parameters are showing signs of normalcy” and the “huge influx” of tourists this year is a “great positive” among these parameters.

A record over 1.62 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, which is the highest since independence, a J&K official had said last month, adding that it testified the overall development and change the Union Territory has witnessed.

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh after the revocation of its special status, and both officially came into being on October 31, 2019.

After three decades, Kashmir is attracting lakhs of tourists which tourism players say is the return of golden era of Kashmir tourism, the official has said.

Sameer Ahmad, manager of the nearly 50-year-old Hotel Paradise on Boulevard Road, said, “All our rooms are booked till next week right now.”

“The rush in Srinagar will continue till the onset of harsh winters. However, many people come just to see snowfall, and Gulmarg resorts get totally sold out once snowfall begins. So if prior booking is not done, one won’t be able to get a room there,” he told PTI.

Gulmarg in Baramulla district is located about 50 km from Srinagar, and is known for its picturesque snow-clad landscape, skiing resorts and gondola ride.

Ahmad says owners of hotels in Kashmir are really happy to see this revival of tourism.

At Dal Lake, tourists take shikara rides all day long, but the rush increases at evening time when they come to see sunset from the middle of the lake.

Saqib Shah, 23, a shikara operator, proudly showcases his neatly dressed yellow shikara ‘World Queen’ at the banks of the lake, and beckons customers to take a ride.

“We have seen a very bad phase after the lockdown in Valley in 2019 post abrogation of Article 370, when all the hotels had become empty suddenly and Dal Lake stood deserted. Then tourism was heavily impacted due to Covid for two years. But, in 2022, especially in the last few months, there has been a surge in tourism. We are happy to see tourists again,” he said.

In a major intervention for the upliftment of the tourism sector in J-K, the Union government had made a record allocation of Rs 786 crore in the budget for the tourism sector there, which was Rs 509 crore higher than the last budgetary allocation, officials in Srinagar had said in February 2022.

3 Engineers, Driver

succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

He said a preliminary investigation suggested that the accident occurred due to low visibility because of foggy conditions and heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

“Pained by the loss of lives due to an accident in Doda. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Directed the district administration to provide all possible assistance,” Sinha said in a Tweet.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has condoled the sad demise of officials of R&B department.

While expressing his condolence,

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar said that the officials were dedicated to towards their works and performed their duties diligently and honestly.

He expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta in his condolence message remarked that it was a matter of great sorrow and disbelief and all the officers have felt shocked at the unfortunate deaths. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and said that every possible assistance shall be provided to the bereaved family.

He prayed to the Almighty for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah expressed grief and anguish over the deaths

In their message, the duo expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for eternal repose to the departed souls. (With agency inputs)

Will Contest

before leaving for his home state Punjab, Mann said he is an elected member of parliament and was planning to visit Kashmir to know the welfare of its people post abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories in August 2019.

“They (BJP leaders) are saying that J-K has become an integral part of India post abrogation of Article 370 but here a parliament member is not allowed to visit this part of the country and restrictions are placed on me,” he said.

Mann said he will raise the issue in parliament during its next session.

The MP said he has every right to visit any part of the country and is going to contest the next parliament elections from Srinagar in 2024.

“I will not give up my fight. If I am denied justice (by the court of CJM), then I will move the High Court and also the Supreme Court, if needed,” he said.

Earlier in October, Mann spent several nights at Lakhnapur - the gateway to J-K bordering Punjab - in protest against restrictions imposed by authorities on his entry into the Union Territory.

In his order issued under section 144 Cr P C, the deputy commission Kathua Rahul Pandey had said that it has been brought to his notice by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua that Mann is scheduled to enter the Union Territory from Lakhnapur and his visit is likely to cause “disturbance in public tranquility”.

“...In exercise of the powers vested in me under section 144 Cr P C do hereby prohibit Mann from entering the jurisdiction of Kathua,” Pandey said in his order on October 17.

Mann accused the BJP-led government of harassment of the people and said he will continue his struggle for justice.

Fresh Snowfall

reported at many places, including Handwara, Kralpora, Pazipora and Tangdhar areas of Kupwara district in north Kashmir, Tangmarg in Baramulla district, and the Khansahib area of central Kashmir’s Budgam, for the first time this season, the officials said.

Most high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir received heavy snowfall. Around six inches of snow was recorded in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir’s Baramulla while Gurez and Machil have received over 12 inches of snow, they said.

The heavy snowfall has resulted in many far-flung areas in the higher reaches being cut off from district headquarters, the officials said

From Tuesday till Friday, the weather will be partly cloudy, after which there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow on Saturday. However, there is no forecast of any major snow spell till November 20, the meteorological office said.

Reports of snowfall were also received from the high-altitude areas of Ramban, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda and Kathua districts and hill resorts of Patnitop,

Sinthan and Banihal, while the plains, including Jammu, were lashed by rains early Monday.

“Weather is overcast in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir with snowfall over higher reaches and rains in plains. Same weather is likely to prevail most of the day,” an official of the meteorological department said.

Srinagar and other areas in the plains of the Kashmir Valley were also lashed by the rains

The officials said all schools up to middle standard were closed for the day in Kishtwar and Doda district as a precautionary measure due to the prevailing weather conditions.

“Due to inclement weather classes upto Middle (8th) level shall remain suspended today in both Government as well as Private Schools in Doda. 9th class onwards shall work as normal,” reads a tweet on the official twitter handle of Deputy Commissioner Doda.

Meanwhile, the authorities also suspended class work for students in schools in zone Mandi and Bafliaz of district Poonch due to inclement weather conditions.

On the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, a transport department official said no traffic was allowed on it either from Jammu or Srinagar due to inclement weather in the morning.

The official said shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at Panthiyal, Nashri and Cafeteria Morh are hampering road clearance operations for early restoration of traffic on the strategic road.

Schools To Remain

weather conditions, the District Administration Kupwara decided to suspend class work in all schools upto class 10th on Monday.

Housing Minister

in a day. But, in May, we witnessed an upsurge in tourists’ inflow taking the footfall to 120000. This shows what the major demand is now,” Puri said while addressing a news conference here on Monday.

The Union Minister said that special features of Article 370 were meant to help the state but instead, it became a whinstone around it. “Nobody could make an investment here. But, see the difference today,” he added.

Acknowledging the central government’s initiatives to improve J&K, the Minister said that after abrogation of Art-370, 25 new National Highway projects worth 11,721 crores were sanctioned for J&K.

“1168 MoUs have been signed amounting to 13,600 crores in two years after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35(A). 7 new medical colleges have been sanctioned and medical seats have been increased from 500 to 955. World’s highest railway bridge over Chenab river was completed in April 2021. Vande Bharat Express from Jammu to Delhi is operational,” he added.

Expressing satisfaction over the security situation, the Union Minister said that there has been a 60 percent decline in militancy related activities in J&K.

“Terror from outside and situation & stability inside have an umbilical relationship. State suffers because of people who try to destabilize it,” Puri said, adding that BJP is a professional democracy pursuing clinically through development.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), 49,086 houses have been sanctioned for construction in which credit linked subsidy schemes are 3377, 1008 are under affordable housing and partnership and 44,701 beneficiary-led construction, he added further.

“Under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, 12 lakh LPG connections have been provided under the PM Ujjwala scheme,” Puri said, adding that there are many schemes and projects under Housing and Urban Affairs that people need to take advantage of.

He further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s commitment towards development of J&K is turning into a

reality and work regarding the same is in full swing.

“PM’s development initiatives in J&K have created an emotional bond between the people and the country. Central schemes directly benefit the people and I am glad that work is going on at the ground level,” the minister said.

While targeting Jawaharlal Nehru over Kashmir, the Union Minister said that the decision of the country’s first prime minister to take the issue to a multilateral forum was a “monumental blunder”.

“My information has been that Maharaja Hari Singh was happy to sign the instrument of accession. But, the political leadership in Delhi was saying that they wanted it (accession) to be more broad based and therefore they wanted a plebiscite. So they wanted to take it to a multilateral forum. You cannot have a higher degree of folly than that. I am using word folly very mildly,” Puri said.

He was responding to a question about the views expressed by his cabinet colleague Kiren Rijiju in an article about on Nehru’s handling of Kashmir issue.

“Was it an error of judgment? You can say the man made a mistake but you cannot justify it. The historical facts are staring you in the face that making the reference (to multinational fora) and calling for a plebiscite is not a folly, I think it is a monumental blunder. So I agree with my dear friend and colleague Kiren Rijiju entirely,” Puri said.

The minister said it was because of the mistake made by Nehru that Pakistan was able to foment trouble in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Because you made that mistake, other people took advantage of it. One country has been using terror as an instrument of state policy. I have said it 20 years ago. On BBC Hard Talk, I said this is a problem created from across the border but they could create this problem because someone on our side allowed them to do it,” he said

The minister said he was pleased that today when he is in Kashmir, “we are talking about development. Some years ago, what we were dealing with was an entire cadre of professional stone pelters”.

The Union Minister is on a two-day visit to J&K to review the working of various development projects with district officials.

Rijiju Fires Fresh

he United Nations under the wrong Article after Pakistan’s invasion, thereby making it a party to the dispute instead of an aggressor.

Rijiju also said Nehru let the “myth” of a UN-mandated plebiscite perpetuate and created the ‘divisive’ Article 370 of the Constitution.

“Nehru rejected Maharaja Hari Singh’s plea to accede to India not just once but thrice,” he wrote on Twitter.

The Lok Sabha member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Arunachal Pradesh also hit out at Hari Singh’s son Karan Singh, saying he presented a “sanitised history, resorted to poor wordplay, and, that too, in a roundabout way to somehow extricate Nehru” on the then prime minister delaying the accession of Kashmir.

The law minister made these remarks in an opinion piece for the News 18 portal, which he shared on his Twitter handle.

The fresh attack on the Congress slawart came on his birth anniversary.

“Nehru was aware even in June 1947 that all that Hari Singh wanted was to join the Indian dominion. Nehru stated as much in his note to Mountbatten (the last viceroy of India),” Rijiju wrote.

He said it was time for the citizens of the country to rebuff attempts to falsify history and stand true to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

“The people of this region, along with the rest of India, deserve to know the truth of what actually happened during those tumultuous months and years,” the minister wrote.

Cooperatives Best

and social development,” he added. Highlighting the achievements made under the Cooperative sector in the UT, the LG shared the government’s vision to strengthen the cooperative movement in Jammu Kashmir.

“This year’s theme ‘India@75: Growth of Cooperatives & Future Ahead’ is our resolve to build a resilient and viable business ecosystem of Cooperatives with special participation of youth & women and enable Cooperative-based economic model to realize the Mantra of ‘Sahkar Se Samridhhi’,” Sinha said.

“Cooperatives need to address the challenges our rural economy and people are facing today and must offer financial and non-financial benefits. Since it is driven by the local members who understand the needs, it can have a greater impact on health, education, agriculture, credit, tourism, green energy and hospitality sectors,” he added.

The LG also maintained that his administration is laying special thrust on registration of Cooperatives, training and capacity building of the stakeholders, modernizing cooperative markets, bringing transparency in the system and creating new markets & enabling government departments to purchase directly from these markets.

“We have registered 1006 Cooperatives in the last one year and

31,578 members were trained during Jan-Abhiyan. It shows that the determined efforts are being made to widen the network and ensure capacity building for professional functioning of the cooperatives,” the LG said.

“We are also determined to revive and revitalize the defunct Cooperatives. Recapitalization amount of Rs. 255.71 Crores in favour of three District Central Cooperative Banks were released to improve their fiscal health,” he added.

Maintaining that Cooperatives also need to improve business viability and capacity to create employment and income to empower people, the LG said that the creation of new cooperatives should be people-driven and the demand for new cooperatives must come from society so that their success as a commercial entity will encourage others.

Sinha further underscored the need to promote close coordination among Primary, District, and State-level Cooperatives.

“Cross marketing efforts among Self-Help Groups and Handicraft Cooperatives can contribute to women empowerment and various income generating activities. Such efforts can transform Cooperatives in rural areas as vibrant entities,” he added.

The LG said that the government’s focus is on promotional drive for formation of new multi-purpose Cooperatives, reducing regional imbalance by increasing more Cooperatives per person and exploring new and commercially viable sectors.

He also called for replicating successful models of other states and preparing a comprehensive framework, keeping in mind the viability and the vulnerable sections of the society.

“There should be proper representation of members of deprived/marginalized sections in the Cooperative sector,” he added.

The LG further called for providing Capital infusion and market access to FPOs through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, and encouraging them to undertake construction of go-downs, as being done in other States/UTs.

Sinha also spoke on the efforts being made for establishing multipurpose and multidimensional PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) in every village.

JKP Playing

against the anti national elements. Crediting the prevailing peace in Jammu and Kashmir to the strenuous efforts of police and other security forces, the DGP, he said, maintained that the forces and administration are working day & night for the long lasting peace in the Union Territory.

“J&K Police is doing multifarious duties which include counter terrorism, police bandobasts, investigations besides providing various services to general people,” the DGP said, adding “Despite various odds, J&K Police has been on fore front of tackling the Pak sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law & order situations along with all other security forces working in the UT”.

As per the spokesperson, Singh said that in addition to the fight against terrorism, J&K Police has been playing a parental role in counseling the misguided youth and channelizing their energy in positive direction.

“J&K Police is conducting a lot of activities under the Civic Action Programme besides running drug de-addiction centers to increase its social quotient,” the Police Chief said.

Singh said that over the past three decades, police have lost 1604 brave hearts, while various terrorists have also been eliminated in the fight against terrorism.

“We are proud of our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for bringing peace in Jammu & Kashmir,” he said.

About the welfare of Police personnel and their families, the DGP said that police have launched a number of schemes for the NoKs of martyrs, our serving and retired personnel and their families.

Terming Pakistan supported narcoterrorism as the latest challenge in front of the force, Singh said that police was taking every possible measure to demolish the ecosystem of this narco-terrorism.

“Within some years tremendous advancement has taken place in the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the shape of weaponry, training skills and technology,” the DGP said, adding that the department is proactive in introducing the latest technology in confronting different challenges.

The DGP told the visiting officers, who are on Bharat Darshan tour, to take full advantage of their stay and advised them to meet officers of J&K Police in order to gain firsthand experience of work culture of the force.

The 26 probationary IPS officers of 74 RR are on study cum cultural tour to Kashmir (JKUT) for 04 days.

ADGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar, DIG CKR Sujit Kumar, SSP Srinagar Rakesh Balwal, SSP Budgam Tahir Saleem SSP Crime Srinagar Amritpal Singh and SP West Srinagar Al-Tahir Gillani were also present on the occasion.

Govt Mulls Sale

owned company under the Administrative Control of Department of Industries and Commerce,

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

“It is engaged primarily in the manufacture and sale of cement and has a 1200 Ton per Day (TPD) of installed integrated cement manufacturing facility in Khrew, Pulwama and a 300 Ton Per Day (TPD) grinding unit in Samba. The company also has access to a Limestone Mine in Khrew,” read the notice.

It stated that this disinvestment process is being implemented through competitive bidding route.

“A Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) along with draft RFP can be downloaded by interested bidders from the websites of Department of Industries and Commerce, Jammu and Kashmir,” it added.

As per the notice interested Bidders who meet eligibility criteria mentioned in the PIM may provide their comments on the draft RFP. “Post the receipt of comments from interested bidders, the Government of J&K would issue a final RFP to invite bids from the interested bidders,” it reads.

It also said that interested bidders need to submit their comments in electronic form via email on and in order to get access to final RFP and Virtual Data Room, interested bidders would be required to submit a tender fee of Rs 10,00,000 including GST and sign a confidentiality agreement.

As per the notice starting date and submission of comments for RFP and PIM was fixed November 12, while last date for submission of comments has been fixed as November 28, 2022 till 5 pm.

“The issuing authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of comments without assigning any reasons,” it added—(KNO)

Tehsildar Falls

out between the officer and the complainant. The complainant meanwhile approached the ACB and lodged a complaint against the officer for demanding a bribe, he said.

The ACB laid a trap and in the evening, signalled the complainant to visit his office.

“The complainant handed over Rs 50,000 to the officer. Soon as the bribe amount was given to Tehsildar, ACB team that was already present there in civvies entered the office and caught him red handed,” he said.

After apprehending Tehsildar, ACB raided his office and residence to collect evidence. (KDC)

Two Burglars Held

Accordingly, police said that cases under FIR numbers 67/2022 and 68/2022 under relevant sections of law were registered in Police Station Khrew and investigation was initiated.

“During the course of investigation, strenuous efforts were put forth by the investigating officers by using modern techniques including the collection & examination of CCTV footage, collection of evidences resulted in the identification of 02 accused persons involved in the commission of crime. They have been identified as Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat son of Wali Mohd Bhat resident of Mughal Bagh Wanpoh Anantnag and Tariq Ahmad Dar son of Bashir Ahmad Dar resident of Bangdhar Anantnag and were subsequently arrested.”

On their disclosure, the investigating team recovered stolen gold ornaments worth rupees 08 lakhs from their possession, police said.

Bank Official

A senior officer from forest department said that one tree was cut down which was seized later “The seized material has been dispatched to Forest Division Langate.

“Subsequently the accused was identified as Nazir Ahmad Dar s/o Ab. Aziz Dar R/o Budbugh a bank official following which an FIR has been registered in police station Kralgund and further investigations taken up”, the official said.

Azad Grieved

honest credentials. May God give them highest place in heaven. I pay my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Azad has urged Governor J&K to take effective steps to check road accidents and pass the directions to the traffic department to take adequate and stringent measures to check the recurrence of road accidents.

Veteran Journalist

in Jammu and Kashmir for past several decades.

He was jailed several times during the Praja Parishad movement in Jammu during 1949-53.

Union minister Jitendra Singh condoled his demise and said it is an irreparable loss to journalism. “Saddened by demise of Sh Gopal Sachar, veteran Journalist & a founding Bureau chief of Hind Samachar at Jammu”, Singh said in a tweet.

He said “I shared a life long personal & professional relationship with him. My sincere condolences to family as well as journalistic fraternity for whom he was a great asset”.

Former IAS officer K B Jandial, who served as director of information, condoled the demise of the veteran journalist. “My dearest friend, Shri Gopal Sachar, journalist Resident Editor Hind Samachar J&K edition passed away at his residence this evening. Over a month, he got a stroke”.

Only 8.75 % Of Required DISHA Meetings Held In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Only 8.75 percent of the required number of district development coordination and monitoring committee (DISHA) have taken place in Jammu & Kashmir during the last financial year, raising questions on performance of members of parliament.

An official report of the Union Ministry of Rural Development reveals that only 8.75 percent of the required number of DISHA meetings were held in J&K UT in 2021-22.

The report lays bare that only seven meetings of DISHA committees have taken place in J&K against the required number of 80 meetings.

According to the guidelines governing DISHA committees constituted by the Union Rural Development Ministry, these panels, headed by MPs, shall meet on quarterly basis

to monitor the efficient and time-bound development of the districts through proper implementation of 43 central schemes and programmes.

Jammu & Kashmir has 20 districts. So 80 DISHA meetings should take place in each year in the Union Territory as per the guidelines of the Union Rural Development Ministry.

According to the official document, the States/UTs have been directed to conduct DISHA meetings on quarterly basis.

They shall constitute DISHA monitoring cell to coordinate in organizing regular meetings, and follow up on decisions taken during these meeting.

The states/UTs have also been asked to conduct state-level meetings on half-yearly basis.

Jammu & Kashmir has five Lok Sabha MPs-three from National Conference and two from Bharatiya Janta Party—(KNO)

Bhatnagar Inaugurates 'Photo Exhibition' Of CBC J&K At Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar Monday inaugurated a 'Photo Exhibition' organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' alongside 48th Junior Volleyball Championship for Boys and Girls at MA Stadium, Jammu.

The advisor was accompanied by Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and President Volleyball Association, J&K, Raj Dhaluja.

The exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of 'Photo Exhibits' as well as audio visual medium.

Apart from this, special section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 Years of Seva Sushasan- Garib Kalyan, wherein the achievements of the government across various sectors in the last 8 years including in Jammu and Kashmir have been highlighted. Separate corner for Azadi Quest- recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj- 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the Exhibition display.

Overcoming Challenges Woman Entrepreneur Emerges As Role Model In Doda

Press Trust Of India

BHADERWAH: Even after finding no takers for her handicraft art, Aneesa Mush-taq kept her spirits high and pursued her childhood dream of making a living from the paper mache art by using eco-friendly innovations.

Mushtaq (35), a resident of Bhaderwah town in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district is fast emerging as a successful female entrepreneur who registered her innovative startup in March and in a short span of time has become instrumental in providing livelihood to 200 village women, majority of them homemakers and some students.

"I got fascinated by the paper mache art of Kashmir in my school days and always wanted to adopt it...I want to make it completely eco-friendly by not using any plastic material or synthetic colour," Mushtaq told PTI.

Mushtaq, who started pursuing her dream in 2007, uses egg shells, walnut shells and empty glass bottles to make paper mache products. She said people used to discourage her by saying that no innovation is acceptable in this art.

"Even authorities of the Jammu Kashmir handicrafts department initially refused to register my works. But I kept my resolve until the director of startups at SKUAST (Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology) Jammu saw my products in an exhibition at their campus in Chatha and got my startup registered but with a twist as I was asked to make it as 'Jammu Paper-Mache,'" she said.

In the last seven months, Mushtaq, a mother of a seven-year-old son, got a lot of recognition and participated in more than 25 exhibitions in different parts of the country including Chandigarh, Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Suraj-Kund, besides Army's Sangam festival.

Now, she is not only making a good fortune for herself but also providing training to these women by ensuring that they are financially empowered.

Trainees, both homemakers and students, are beaming with joy at their newfound success and express their gratitude to their role model for training and encouraging them to believe in themselves.

"Due to some domestic issues, we were facing serious financial problems and I was finding it very difficult to make both ends meet for my family but now I have confidence that soon I will become financially independent as my products are being liked and people have started buying them too," Shalu Devi (29), a resident of village Manthla, said.

"I am a mother of two school-going kids and had lost all hopes to do something in my life for my own identity, but this art has given me confidence and I have started believing in myself. This is surely the beginning of a new life for me," Rizwana Begum (37) of Mohalla Qilla said.

"We are not going to raise this issue again and again, its (Article 370) restoration is a reality and

"Government has come up with the 'Kar-khan-dar' scheme to promote handicrafts in Jammu and Kashmir. Our venture (Jammu Paper-Mache) has been approved by the authorities, once registered all the trainees will be eligible for Rs 2,000 monthly stipend," Mushtaq said.

However, she said there was an inordinate delay in the registration of the trainees due to the transfer of the Assistant Director Handicrafts, Doda over four months ago.

"The post of the Assistant Director Handicrafts (Doda) has been vacant for the last four months and I am going to help the trainees to get registered immediately once the new officer is deputed," she said.

Haj 2023 To Be Cheaper, More Pilgrim Friendly: HCol Member

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a major decision taken by the Haj Committee of India after hectic deliberations in Haj Conference held in Delhi on November 12, the Haj Committee of India (HCol) is gearing up to make Haj 2023 cheaper and pilgrim friendly with special focus on women pilgrims.

HCol member Er Aijaz Hus-sain said that the meeting held in New Delhi was attended by Minority Affairs Minister Simriti Irani, Chairman HCol A P J Abdul Kuttay, chairmen of all States/UTs including Chief Executive Officer Haj Committee of J&K Safeena Baig.

"A brainstorming session was held and after thorough deliberations, it was decided that Haj 2023 will be made cheaper so that poor can also undertake the sacred journey. It was also decided that more embankment points will be added and the pilgrim will be given a choice to choose the embankment point of his/her choice. Besides, a special focus will be given to women pilgrims so that they too can fulfill the dream of performing Hajji," Er Aijaz said, who was present in the meeting.

To a query how cheaper the Haj was going to be, Er Aijaz



said that there was a possibility that pilgrims will have to pay Rs one lakh less compared to the previous year's Haj rate. "Apart from this, all facilities will be provided to Hajis including currency exchange, free hatch bags, umbrellas and guide books etc.," he said, adding that every Hajji will have a facility to get adequate Zam water at the airport. He said that Haj forms will also be made available on the official websites months ahead of pilgrimage.

Er Aijaz said that the meeting

also discussed reaching out to aspiring women pilgrims and it was decided to give maximum opportunity to women who want to undertake the sacred journey next year.

Er Aijaz said that the HCol officials were in touch with the officials in Saudi Arabia and all means are being explored to fill the gaps and loopholes noticed and observed in last year's pilgrimage. "All steps are afoot to ensure quality Haj to people who would leave for the holy cities of Makkah and Madina in year 2023," he said—(KNO)

Statehood Restoration Will Help Bring Peace, Progress: Tara Chand

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will go a long way in bringing peace, tranquillity and progress in the region, senior Democratic Azad Party leader Tara Chand said on Monday.

He also urged the central government to address various issues confronting the people here.

"Leaders in the current central government need to ponder over this issue afresh and restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. This will go a long way in bringing peace and tranquillity in this region," Tara

Chand, also the former deputy chief minister, said at a function in Bomal hamlet of Akhnoor constituency here.

"It would be in the fitness of things if the statehood is restored before the assembly elections," he added. Tara Chand, also a former speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative Assembly, said people in the region were feeling dismayed ever since Jammu and Kashmir's status was reduced from a full-fledged state to a Union territory.

"Everyone wants peace

and development here, and those at the helm of affairs must devise systems to ensure these objectives on a fast-track basis," he said.

The senior leader said unemployment and price rise were at their peak and people felt dejected with the administrative machinery for ignoring those aspects.

He cautioned that the resentment could turn into violence in one way or the other, and urged the government to address the grievances on priority.

J&K Part Of India Because Of Nehru: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said if the people of Jammu and Kashmir unite like India did against the British then getting back its special status will not be a huge task.

In 2019, the BJP-led Centre had abrogated Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The former chief minister also said the focus of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is on the resolution of the Kashmir issue. "Our identity and our existence is at stake. It is not about Article 370 and 35A, it is about the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Our goal posts are changing. They think the people will forget the basic issue and talk about Article 370," she said.

"We are not going to raise this issue again and again, its (Article 370) restoration is a reality and

it will happen today, tomorrow or day after, but, along with that, the PDP will continue its struggle for the resolution of the Kashmir issue for which so many people have sacrificed their lives," Mehbooba said.

She was speaking at a function at the PDP headquarter's here in which Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement vice president Syed Iqbal Tahir joined the party.

The PDP chief said if the people of Jammu and Kashmir unite, "we can achieve more than" the erstwhile state's special status.

"When people get united, like the whole of India had got against British Similarly, if people of Jammu and Kashmir get united, then getting back Article 370 will not be a huge task. In fact, we can achieve more than that and God willing, we will," she said.

Mehbooba said Jammu and Kashmir would not have become a part of India if the country's first prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru would not have been there.

"If this situation would have been in 1947, then Jammu and Kashmir will never have joined this India which they want to create where they want to end secularism, democracy perhaps we would not have become a part of this if Jawahar Lal Nehru was not there. Had there been no Nehru, J-K would not have become a part of this country," she said.

On the recent order by the Ganderbal deputy commissioner banning the use of electric heaters, which was later revoked, Mufti said it was shameful.

"The biggest share of the electricity from our state goes to the NHPC pool on which the country and its industries run. It is because of that electricity that the BJP or other parties announce free electricity to people in other states," she said.

Welcoming Tahir into the PDP, Mehbooba said her party needs educated youth, especially at a time when Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a difficult phase.

Bandipora Achieves 91.58% Saturation Under Ayushman Bharat

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of Ayushman Bharat in the district.

The meeting was informed that as on date, District Bandipora has saturated 91.58% of families with at least one family member covered under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The progress is significant for majority of the population as

they can avail free treatment up to 05 Lakh rupees in any empanelled Govt./Private hospital within the country when required.

Furthermore, it was intimated that 2,45,423 Golden cards have been delivered to the beneficiaries till date in the district and the department in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora has started door to door registration of left out beneficiaries in order to achieve the 100% saturation of scheme in the district.

The DC directed the concerned stakeholders to achieve

the targets at the earliest so that all the families are registered under the scheme and reap benefits of the health scheme.

He also emphasized on the settling of claims uploaded under SEHAT and issued directions to Health authorities to provide early treatment to the public. He stressed upon the completion of exercise within the shortest possible time in the interest of patient care. The meeting was attended by CMO Bandipora Dr. Bashir Ahmad Khan, DNO Ayushman Bharat Mehraj Wani and other concerned health officers.

World Diabetes Day 2022

Over 42000 People Screened In J&K Health Institutions

Observer News Service

JAMMU: World diabetes day was observed with great zest across Jammu and Kashmir, with the aim to increase awareness and screen people for diabetes in line with this year's theme "access to diabetes education".

All levels of health facilities from medical colleges to health and wellness centres organized education camps in which people were invited and provided information on preventing diabetes and ensuring early diagnosis. It was supplemented by providing free diagnostic services in which blood sugar was estimated in addition to hypertension screening.

In today's world diabetes day, more than 52000 were educated on diabetes prevention, risk factors and benefits of controlling blood sugar. In addition, 42000 were screened for diabetes from which 1900 new diabetics were identified who were counseled regarding further steps to be undertaken. The screening and awareness campaign will help in early detection of diabetic patients and in generating mass awareness about the disease.

Pertinently, World diabetes day is marked every year on 14th November, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. This year diabetes day is special as it marks a century of insulin discovery which revolutionized diabetes care.

World Diabetes Day provides an opportunity to raise aware-



ness of diabetes as a global public health issue and what needs to be done, collectively and individually, for better prevention, diagnosis and management of the condition.

The theme for World diabetes day 2022 is "Access to Diabetes Education" which aims to focus on the importance of improving knowledge about diabetes among general population, healthcare workers and policy makers.

Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission is implementing multiple health programs which aim to improve lifestyle behaviours, early diagnosis, free treatment, early identification/management of diabetic complications and provision of specialized health services. The comprehensive primary health care programme has already done risk assessment for 24 Lakh individuals and screened more than 7 lakh individuals aged 30 years and above this year.

J&K has recently framed an action plan to achieve universal screening for common Non Communicable Diseases which includes diabetes and aims to complete universal screening by January 2023 under which all individuals aged 30 years and above will be screened for hypertension, diabetes, oral cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

'New Kashmir New Hope – Jashn-e-Kashmir'

Grand Cultural Festival Held At Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A grand Cultural festival was Monday organised at Town Hall, here with a huge number of audience witnessing the proceedings amid presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Basharat Qayoom as chief guest.

A grand show of Folk Theatre (Band e Paether), Roff Dance, Bache Naghma, Kashmiri Chhakri, Nukkad Naatak, Folk Music and Folk Dance was presented during the programme which enthralled the audience including the dignitaries.

Awards were given to 10 Senior Artists and 11talented students of the district besides to participants and media fraternity and felicitations were also given away by the DC.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC reiterated the importance of art and culture of Kashmir. He said this is the best Cultural festival in the district and added that the Government is working for the betterment of all Artists. He assured for continuation of such

cultural programs in future, so that all artists renowned and new talent get a chance to perform.

Hilal Shah President Municipal Committee Anantnag, District Information Officer, Chief Agricultural officer, C.M.O., School Teachers and other Local Artists were also present.

Presenting the welcome address, Festival Director, Gulzar Bhat said that he was overwhelmed with the excitement to have the DC Anantnag as the Chief Guest in the show to do the inauguration of this festival. He further said that he is happy that the current government is keen to support the artists of J&K. He also demanded for a cultural policy so that the artists get benefitted.

The Festival is being organized by Shah Qalander Folk Theatre in collaboration with District Administration (Anantnag), North Zone Culture Centre (Patiala), J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, office of the Divisional Commissioner (Kashmir) and All J&K Folk Artists Association.

Two-Day Mental Health Counselling Program Begins At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: A two-day Counselling program organized by the Dean Outreach Office, IUST commenced Monday.

The resource person of the session was Dr. Harshdeep Joshi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Maharishi Markendeshwar Medical College and Hospital.

The program aimed to offer a platform for the students to discuss their social, or psychological problems and educate them about mental well-being. The program will run from Nov. 14 – 15, 2022. Students from different departments will join the program. The program will primarily focus on the identification of mental stress and initiatives to mitigate impact of the stress on the physical as well as psychological health of the students.

Talking about the relevance of counselling for students, Dr. Joshi said, "Mental health counselling isn't for people who face psychological disorders, but for anyone who has concerns about mental health at any given time. The counseling process provides an opportunity for self-exploration, where we understand our stress levels and learn more about self-acceptance and self-esteem".

Encouraging the students to discuss their psychological problems, Prof. Lily Want, Dean Outreach, IUST said, "Studies have proved that one reason why students are not able to reach their full potential is because of their mental health problems. Students need not feel ashamed if they are experiencing anxiety and depression. In fact, seeking help to come out of their mental health issues is a sign of strength rather than weakness".

J&K Para Athletes Receive Rousing Reception

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Insha Bashir, one of the two wheelchair basketball players from Kashmir who was part of the Indian women's wheelchair basketball team that won silver medal in an international tournament, arrived in Srinagar to a rousing reception.

Terming this as a proud moment, Insha said, "I am elated at the very thought of being part of the team that reached the final of the international event." She added, "The real success for me is to always do my best, learn from experience, try to improve develop and get better at every opportunity coming my way."

Insha also extended her thanks to the Sports Council and other organizations involved in the endeavour.

Pertinently, Insha was part of the selection cum training camp organized by the J&K Sports Council in Multipurpose Indoor Hall Shadipora, Sumbal Bandipora for the Indian Wheelchair Basketball team and had it teamed up with the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of India (WBFI) and Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS) last month.

Around 16 female wheelchair players from different states of India shortlisted by WBFI were part of the camp and after a battery of selection trials, Insha and Ishrat made it to the national team for the first Invitational In-

ternational Wheelchair Basketball tournament held in Jaypee Sports Complex, Greater Noida from 5th-11th of this month.

Earlier, a meeting under the chairmanship of Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Joint Secretary was convened in the Administrative Complex of J&K Sports Council to finalise the arrangements.



Meanwhile, para-swimmer Chandep Singh, while participating in the Senior men's S-6 cat-

egory won 2 silver and one bronze medal in XXII National Para Swimming Championship-2022 held in Guwahati recently.

Terming the success of specially-abled athletes like Insha, Chandep, and Ishrat as an inspiration for all, Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull said that these athletes are the real torch bearers and



their footprints are the beacon lights for others to take a cue and excel in their respective fields.



Bandipora Judo Championship On November 15

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Judo Association is scheduled to hold its 1st District Bandipora Judo Championship on November 15, 2022.

The championship will be held under the auspices of J&K Sports Council and J&K Olympic Association at Indoor Sports Hall Shadipora, Bandipora.

"All those players desirous to take part in the championship have been asked to report to the venue in the morning on 15th Nov. along with passport size photograph, Date of

Birth certificate/ Adhaar proof," a statement issued by Vice-President, J&K Judo Association said.

"The 1st District Bandipora Judo Championship is open for Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior judokas both boys and girls. One Gold, One Silver, two Bronze medals in each category along with merit certificates will be awarded to winners, participation certificates will be awarded to rest of the participants. For more information players can contact on 9419094155, 7006933154," the statement added.

LG Sinha Presents Saffron Bouquet To PM Modi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir presented a special gift of Saffron bouquet from the people of the Union Territory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark the festivities of good saffron harvest this year.

Advanced Research Station for Saffron & Seed Spices (ARSSS) of SKUAST-

has a potential to withstand the growing pressures on dwindling land resources due to extended urbanization, industrial development amid growing population.

Recently "Saffron Day" was commemorated at ARSSS, SKUAST-Kashmir on October 29, wherein Scientists of the University / Research Station have put on live display of developed indoor saffron technology. Vice Chancellor of the varsity Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie



Kashmir has played a pivotal role in bringing this revolutionary Indoor Saffron Cultivation Technology. On a recent visit of Financial Commissioner (Agriculture) Atul Dullo to the Station on October 27, appreciated the efforts of the University and directed the concerned department for its large scale promotion in the UT. The Indoor Saffron Technology is a climate resilient, highly remunerative which will usher an economic growth of saffron farmers and in providing a multifold increase in adopting Saffron cultivation as a novel entrepreneurship opportunity. The technology is a robust production system which

stressed upon the Scientists to scale up the innovation with possibility of doing indoor saffron cultivation technology across the Indian sub-continent. He advised the farmers to network with the Scientists / experts of the University to adopt this effective technology of the University. The University which in a series of events have extended this technology to the number of farmer's of FPO who are now acting as ambassadors for this technology for its adoption and promotion in the UT. The beneficiaries are now successfully cultivating saffron as Indoor crop from past two years with huge and assured economic returns.

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