

'Wed in India' to Retain Wealth in Country: PM

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged the issue of couples opting for destination weddings abroad and said people should be encouraged to "Wed in India" so that wealth remains within the country.

Virtually addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the Khodalham Trust Cancer Hospital to come up in Gujarat's Amreli city, the PM also appealed to the people to help promote domestic tourism.

Modi said his government has taken steps to ensure that people do not face difficulties in the treatment of cancer by setting up around 30 new hospitals for providing medical care for the disease and ensuring the availability of medicines at affordable prices.

More than 1.5 lakh 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs' (health centres) have also been built at the village level to help in the early diagnosis of the disease, he said.

Addressing the gathering of members of the Leuva Patidar community which manages the Shri Khodalham Trust-Kagavad, Modi said, "Is it appropriate to hold marriage abroad? Can't the marriage be held in our country? How much of India's wealth goes out."

"You should create an environment that this disease of getting married abroad does not enter your community. Why shouldn't the marriage take place at the feet of Ma Khodal (Goddess) | More on P7

Religious Spectacle to Mark Ram Temple Opening Today

Drones, AI-based CCTV Cameras to Ensure Security in Ayodhya

Agencies

Ayodhya: As grand temple to lord Ram opens on Monday in Ayodhya a multi-layer security cover is in place for the consecration ceremony, with 10,000 CCTV cameras and drones equipped with artificial intelligence keeping an eye on the movement of people and police personnel in plain clothes deployed at the venue.

The construction of the temple is a 35-year-old, central promise of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a contentious political issue that helped catapult the party to prominence and power.

The temple has been built on a 2.67-acre site inside a 70-acre complex and only its first phase is ready. The second and



final phase is expected to be completed in December 2025. "The Lord has made me an instrument to represent all the people of India during the

consecration," Prime Minister Modi said on X as he began 11 days of special rituals ahead of the inauguration. Calling it a [More on P7](#)

RSS Chief: 'Reconstruction of Bharatvarsh' Campaign Begins

New Delhi: The "entry" of Ram Lalla in his birth place in Ayodhya and the temple's 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony will be the beginning of the campaign for "reconstruction of Bharatvarsh" which is for harmony, unity, progress, peace and well-being of everyone, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday.

In an article posted on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) website, Mr Bhagwat referred to the "continuous struggle of the Hindu society" for the construction of the temple in Ayodhya and said the "conflict and bitterness" over the dispute should now come to an end.

After years of legal struggle, the Supreme Court pronounced a "balanced" verdict on November 9, 2019, after examining "the truth and facts" and also hearing the arguments of all the parties in the case, he said. Mr Bhagwat said from a



AYODHYA MEANS A CITY WHERE THERE IS NO WAR, a place free from conflict. On this occasion, in the entire country, reconstruction of Ayodhya is the need of the hour and also the duty of all of us."

"Dharmic" point of view, Lord Ram is the "most worshipped deity" of the majority society | [More on P7](#)

Srinagar Shivers at Minus 4.8°C

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Dry and cold wave conditions prevailed in Kashmir on Sunday as night temperatures dropped at most places in the Valley after a day's respite, officials said here.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, dropping from the previous day's minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund in south Kashmir and the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir both recorded a low of minus 5 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 2.3 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 5.7 degrees Celsius.

A dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual days as Srinagar day temperatures are more than eight degrees above the normal, officials said here.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period when a cold wave sweeps through the region and temperatures drop considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period. This time, however, Kashmir is witnessing a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December while there has been no precipitation in most parts of the Valley in the first 20 days of January.

The upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amount of snow. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' | [More on P7](#)

J&K Declares Half Day Public Holiday

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday declared a half-day holiday and a dry day on January 22 on the occasion of the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. "It is hereby ordered that half-day public | [More on P7](#)

Free Rides For Pilgrims In Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation has announced to offer free tickets to devotees visiting Peerkho, Mahamaya, and Bahu temples in Jammu on Monday to celebrate the consecration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. | [More on P7](#)

KU Postpones All Exams For Monday

University of Kashmir has postponed all the examinations that are scheduled to be held tomorrow on Monday. "All the examinations of University of Kashmir scheduled for 22nd of January, 2024 are hereby postponed. | [More on P7](#)

'Awaam Ki Awaaz'

LG Dedicates 34th Edition To Citizens Of J&K

Participation Of 40 lakh Citizens In VBSY Laid Foundation For Progress In UT

VBSY Will Create A New Future For Developed India: LG

Comments 'No Helmet No Petrol' Campaign Launched In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha dedicated the 34th edition of 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme to the citizens of Jammu Kashmir for their historic participation in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'.

"Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a powerful Jan-Abhiyan initiative to reach out to the vulnerable section of society will create a new future for developed India," Sinha said.

He said the participation of 40 lakh citizens of Jammu Kashmir so far in this journey has laid a strong foundation for progress in both rural and urban areas of the Union Territory. "I am confident that the Janbhagidari and the healthy competition among the districts will continue to take the



extraordinary journey of J&K UT forward on the path of prosperity and inclusive development," he added.

Sharing the inspirational success stories of the citizens, the LG

appreciated the efforts of Bikram Singh of village Jhankar, Kathua for teaching new methods of farming to the people in his village. He is a living encyclopedia on integrated farming and

is always ready to help others who want to secure the benefits of diversification, the LG said.

The LG said that Ghulam Hassan Sheikh of Village Chamboora, Budgam is full of unyielding determination. "The strategic expansion or business diversification in his professional career such as handling the business of 'Carpets to Kashmiri Lal Mirch' is inspiring the other entrepreneurs," Sinha added.

The LG made a special mention of Ghulam Hussain Wani, a skilled carpet artisan from Srinagar, who has become a household name for his expertise in carpet repairs and is playing an important role in preserving the finesse of this rare art form.

He said that Nari Shakti is capable of creating possibilities from nothing. | [More on P7](#)

DSEJ Extends Winter Vacation

Agencies

Srinagar: Education Jammu (DSEJ) Sunday, in view of extreme cold weather conditions, further extended the winter vacations for Jammu summer zone schools up to January 27, 2024.

"In view of prevailing extreme cold conditions and in continuation to previous orders, all the schools upto 12th class functioning in Summer Zones of Jammu Division shall observe vacations w.e.f. 22nd of January 2024 to 27th of January 2024", reads an order.

"However, students practicing for participation in Republic Day celebrations shall continue to come for the rehearsal and the HOIs shall ensure that all the arrangements for the Republic Day Function are in place (including enthusiastic participation of the students)," it reads further.

Increase In Cadre Strength Of Judges

J&K Govt Approves Proposal

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir has raised the cadre strength of district judges by approving a proposal that supported the recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC). The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved increasing the cadre strength of District Judges (Selection Grade) to 35 per cent from existing 25 per cent and District Judges (Super Time Scale) to 15 per cent from existing 10 per cent retrospectively from January 1, 2020,

an official spokesman said.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor and Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

The proposal of law department was approved by government to implement the SNJPC recommendations, which has been accepted by the Supreme Court in case titled All India Judges Association Vs Union Of India and Ors, he said.

The Ministry of Law and Justice has also conveyed the approval of the competent authority regarding implementation of the recommendations of Second National Judicial Pay Commission.

AC Approves Rs 61.78 Cr Project for High Court



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved the revamping of the ICT Setup and Video Conferencing Project of the High Court of JK at an estimated cost of Rs.61.78 Crores.

The project shall be executed after considering the observation of the Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) and in Principle agreed by the High Court. The High Court may consider reimbursement

of the amount under e-Court Mission Mode Project-II as per procedure provided therein.

This project has been necessitated by the fact that recent times have noticed a paradigm shift for legal proceedings. The physical presence has been getting replaced by virtual presence through the use of newer technologies. Digital transformation is helping to improve the justice system and it is expected that virtual collaboration should remain a permanent part of it.

The instant project includes various interventions like Hybrid Courtrooms, | [More on P7](#)

NIA Arrests Juvenile In Rajouri Attack Case

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a juvenile in connection with the 2023 Dhangri terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district that claimed the lives of seven civilians.

He is the third accused to be arrested by the agency in the case.

Thirteen people were also injured when terrorists struck Dangri village on January 1 last year and opened indiscriminate fire. They also left behind an improvised explosive device (IED) which went off the next morning.

The juvenile, who was already lodged at an observation home in Jammu district's RS Pura area in another case, was taken into custody by the NIA and presented before the Juvenile Justice Board in Rajouri for remand, a spokesperson of the agency said.

Earlier, a case was registered against him at the Gursai police station in Poonch district's | [More on P7](#)



Start at any age between 18 to 70 + Enjoy life-time security



Get More with NPS

Invest for a Secured Future

Who can Join?

- Any citizen of India (including NRIs/OCIs) and Corporate employees between the age of 18 to 70 years

How I can Enroll?

- Online or Physical mode through POPs such as Banks/ NBFCs
- Online platform through NPS Trust (npstrust.org.in)

At the time of Maturity :

- At the age of 60 or retirement age, option to withdraw up to 60% of corpus or through Systematic lump-sum withdrawal in instalments and the balance in annuity for regular pension



#Zaruri Hai

📍 @PFRDAOfficial
📺 NPS-National Pension System
📞 @PFRDAOfficial
🌐 /company/pfrda/



Scan To know more or Enroll



'Words Learnt Early In Life, Words That Are Arousing, Evocative Endure Test Of Time'

Press Trust Of India

Why people remember some words and use them all through their lives while some other words slip out of their vocabulary?

A study has found that words learnt early in life and words that are "arousing" and evocative are among those that endure in a "survival of the fittest" way.

It also found that words associated with what people can see or imagine, which has been described as 'concrete' words, are also more likely to endure the natural selection process.

For example, 'cat' is said to be more concrete than 'animal', which was more concrete than 'organism'. 'Sex' and 'fight' were some of the examples the researchers cited of words that tend to be more arousing and evocative.

The study from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom delved into the aspect of why some words survive in the modern linguistic landscape, while others don't.



"Our study finds that properties like early acquisition, concreteness, and arousal give linguistic information a selective advantage," said Thomas Hills, a professor of Psychology at the University of Warwick and lead researcher of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The researchers said that

the findings help shed light on how the human brain processes and filters information, a process they said is known as 'cognitive selection'.

"Languages change due to social, cultural, and cognitive influences. Information environments evolve due to war, disease, population changes, and technological innovations. However, the mind remains relatively stable, ca-

pable of exerting lasting impacts on language evolution," said Hills.

This becomes crucial in today's world, where various information forms continually compete for our attention, the researchers said.

"This cognitive selection influences what, in an information marketplace, will endure," said Hills.

The first part of the study

involved a story-retelling experiment where more than 12,000 people were asked to retell or reproduce a collection of thousands of short stories, each on average 200 words long, the researchers described.

They thus analysed the survival of words in the context of interpersonal communication.

For the second part of the study, the psychologists quantitatively analysed millions of words of language from fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers, and magazines, over hundreds of years, from 1800 up to 2000.

Early acquisition, concreteness and high arousal predict increasing word frequency over the past 200 years, they found.

However, they said that the two studies diverged with respect to the impact of word valence and word length.

Overall, the results suggest that micro-level patterns of language production may scale up to macro-level patterns of language change over generations of language speakers, the researchers said in their study.

Public Notice

The DOB of my daughter, Anisa Mukhtar, has been wrongly written in her Aadhaar Card as 05-08-2007 while her correct DOB as per school records is 05-03-2011 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he /she may file the same in the office of the Naib Tehsilidar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mukhtar Ahmad Wagay
 F/o: Anisa Mukhtar
 R/o Pahoo Pulwama

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that the power connection is registered in my father's name Gulam Ali Mir S/O Mohd Ibrahim Mir. Now this connection bearing consumer ID No:0201040006330 wants to be registered on my name Sajad Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam Ali Mir. In this regard if anyone has any sort of objections he/she may file the same in the Office of Executive Engineer PDD Department Panta Chowk Srinagar with in seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the lapse considered period no objections shall be entertained.

Sajad Ahmad mir
 S/O: Ghulam Ali Mir
 R/O Balhama Panta Chowk Srinagar.

jm

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.



The Unique Role Of Religion In Managing Diabetes

360info.org

Culture and religion can provide essential support for Javanese people coping with illness.

For people in Java living with diabetes, spirituality and religion play a significant role in managing their condition. The highly spiritual Javanese tend to think everything that happens in the world including illness has a divine purpose. They believe that if they can endure their illness with patience, God will forgive them of their sins.

This attitude is a demonstration that the illness has raised a person's ability to accept their situation as God's will, with the self-awareness to adhere to diabetic management guidelines, bringing enjoyment of their daily activities despite their disease.

Social cohesion and social support are also important aspects of social determinants of health in managing diabetes.

Studies show that social and cultural aspects of people with diabetes have contributed to the development of the illness, as well as associated complications. For example, social ties are important among Javanese people, and respecting invitations to social gatherings can lead to diversion from prescribed dietary management plans.

If left untreated, diabetes can bring numerous complications. It is a leading cause of stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, blindness, and amputation of lower limbs. Diabetes is on the increase globally. It affects 529 million people and is predicted to reach 1.3 billion people in 2050. Indonesia has shown a similar trend, with 19.5 million people with diabetes in 2021, and projected to reach 28.6 million in 2045.

Of the 34 provinces in Indonesia, Yogyakarta has one of the highest rates of people with diabetes.

Riskesdas, a household health survey conducted every five years, showed Yogyakarta had a 3.1 percent prevalence in 2018, higher than the national number of two percent. One reason for this may be that as Yogyakarta has one of the highest life expectancy rates in Indonesia, the proportion of elderly people increases, and with that comes the possibility of chronic illnesses, especially diabetes.

Despite its devastating effects,

diabetes is considered preventable. A healthy diet, regular physical activity, stress management and avoiding smoking are among the preventive measures that reduce the possibility of developing diabetes mellitus.

As culture and religion are intertwined in daily life in Java, the way Javanese patients manage stress, for instance, is influenced by a blend of cultural and religious customs.

The influence of Islam, the main religion in the Javanese society, has a big influence on many aspects of daily life.

Submission is a concept that is shared between Islam (tawakkal) and Javanese culture (pasrah). Submission can take multiple forms, such as submission to authority (husbands and



doctors) or to a higher power (surrender to God, or berserah).

In Indonesia and especially in Javanese culture, women's lives are traditionally devoted to the welfare of the family, so they are not in a position to assert autonomy or independence, because of cultural expectations and social standards. It is often believed that a woman's greatest virtue is her devotion to her husband and God.

The concept of submitting the illness to God (Allah) and trying to be patient has an important role in coping with diabetes, according to an ethnographic study conducted in 2022.

Some people believe that their illness is a test from God, and this may prevent them from worrying too much about it. When they pass the test, they become elevated (naik derajat) like students passing an exam, progressing to a higher grade.

The study validates earlier findings that suggested patients with diabetes may use religion and spirituality as coping strategies. Surrender offers individuals a useful tool to regain control by exhibiting their capacity to remain patient, kind and appreciative in the face of adversity.

FREE
One to one and group mental health counselling services in the clinic as well as in online mode

HEALTHY MINDS

Our team of well qualified and trained professionals comprises both child/adolescent as well as adult psychologists & counsellors that work under the guidance & supervision of senior consultant psychologists.

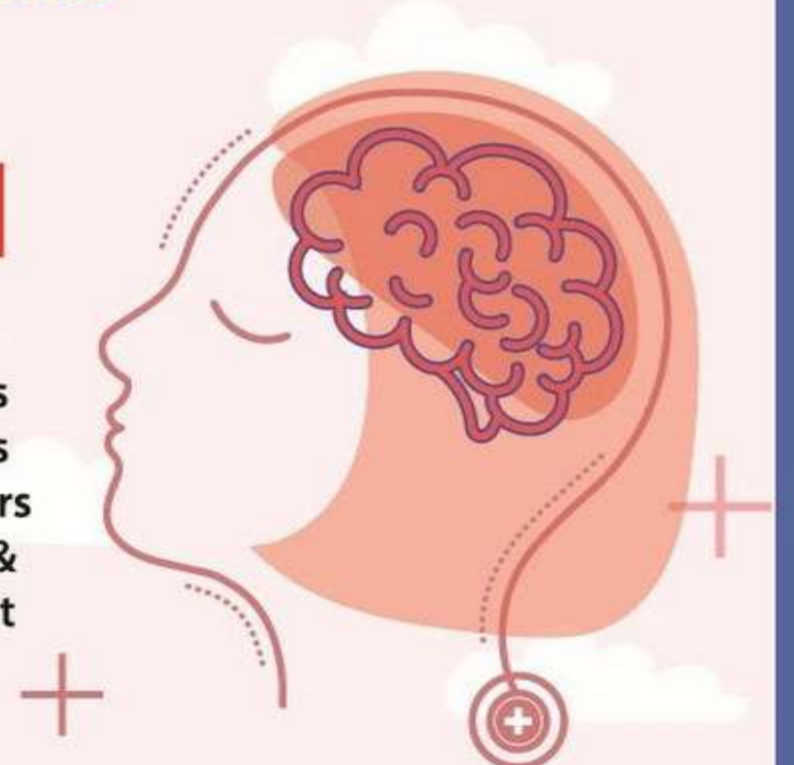
WE PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HELP IN OVERCOMING THE FOLLOWING AND MANY MORE CONDITIONS

- Anger & Stress management
- Personal Empowerment
- Post Traumatic Stress disorder
- Depression
- Anxiety Disorder
- Suicide Prevention and more

CALL FOR FREE CONSULTATION! 10AM - 4PM, Monday - Saturday

9469 807 321 | 9469 811 096 | 9070 130 280

HOUSE NO. 27, LANE NO 16 A, GOGJI BAGH





श्री रामलला विराजमान

ShriRamotsav

"The construction of Ram Temple is an instrument to unite the country."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



**Pran
Pratishtha**
(Consecration Ceremony)
of
Prabhu Shri Ramlalla idol in
Shri Ayodhya Dham,
First among the Saptapuris



In the august presence of

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Anandiben Patel

Governor
Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mohanrao Bhagwat

Sarsanghchalak, Rashtriya
Swayamsevak Sangh

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Mahant Nriyagopal Das

President, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi
Teerth Kshetra Trust

and other dignitaries

Date : 22 January, 2024 | Time : 12:20 PM | Venue : Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Shri Ayodhya Dham

LIVE TELECAST

DD NEWS & Youtube.com/DDNEWS
Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh

and



UPGovtOfficial



CMOUttarpradesh



CMOfficeUP

Preserving Kashmiri

A Call to Protect Our Linguistic Heritage

Mohd Younus Bhat

The gradual decline of Kashmiri, especially among the youth, demands urgent attention. The shift towards Urdu and English, while reflective of globalization, inadvertently marginalizes Kashmiri, jeopardizing our roots and cultural heritage.

In the media, news channels' preference for Urdu or English further distances Kashmiri from public discourse, limiting information accessibility and subtly implying its inadequacy for serious discussion.

The struggle of the youth to express in Kashmiri contributes to a disconnect from cultural roots, weakening the collective bond of the Kashmiri people. Even government officials, while communicating and fumbling for words in English and Urdu, perpetuate the idea that Kashmiri is unfit for formal communication.

The diminishing number of Kashmiri speakers in urban centres highlights the challenge faced by the youth in conversing in their mother tongue. This linguistic erosion erodes authenticity in family conversations and cultural rituals, giving way to a homogenized discourse.

counter this, a collective effort is needed to recognize the value of Kashmiri. Initiatives in education, media, and fostering pride in linguistic identity can revitalize the language, ensuring its survival.

Language is more than a means of communication; it is a carrier of collective memory. Integration of Kashmiri in education, media, and daily life fosters pride, strengthening the ties between language and cultural identity.

Government officials, as representatives, must lead in championing Kashmiri preservation. Investments in language programs and incentives for businesses can revitalize the language at the grassroots level.

Cultural events and community-driven efforts, along with embracing technology, contribute to a renewed appreciation for Kashmiri. The language should evolve harmoniously, blending tradition and modernity.

Drawing inspiration from successful language preservation efforts worldwide, China's success in preserving Mandarin offers another model, highlighting the importance of education, government policies, cultural reinforcement, and public participation. These elements can be adapted to Kashmir's context for the sustained use and celebration of Kashmiri.

This preservation effort necessitates a transformation in mindset, recognizing that language is not merely a communication tool but a dynamic carrier of cultural identity. By integrating Kashmiri into education, media, and daily interactions, we not only empower the younger generation to express themselves but also ensure the continued transmission of cultural knowledge



“Encouraging the integration of Kashmiri into news channels, publications, and digital platforms is not just a linguistic choice but a societal acknowledgment of the language's intrinsic value. Subtitling and translation initiatives bridge the linguistic gap, making information accessible to all, regardless of their preferred language

and values.

Media outlets play a pivotal role in shaping public discourse. Encouraging them to include Kashmiri in their broadcasts democratizes information, reinforcing that the language is an integral part of shared identity. Initiatives such as subtitling news programs or providing translations bridge the gap between linguistic diversity and the need for widespread information dissemination.

Government officials, as representatives of the people, must take the lead by championing Kashmiri preservation. Investing in language programs, incentivizing businesses to incorporate Kashmiri, and facilitating language immersion initiatives can create an environment where speaking Kashmiri becomes a proud affirmation of one's identity.

Cultural events, workshops, and storytelling sessions initiated by communities contribute to a renewed appreciation for Kashmiri. Creating an environment where speaking Kashmiri is not just a choice but a celebration is essential. This, coupled with technological advancements in language learning and preservation, ensures the

language's adaptability to the evolving needs of the younger generation.

Taking inspiration from the successful preservation of languages elsewhere, it becomes evident that the integration of Kashmiri into various aspects of daily life is key. Education, cultural revival, government policies, and media integration can collectively contribute to Kashmiri's prominence in both public and private spheres.

China's success in preserving Mandarin underscores the importance of education, government support, cultural reinforcement, and public participation. Standardization and effective communication strategies have contributed to Mandarin's widespread use. Adapting these principles to the Kashmiri context can strengthen the language's clarity and accessibility, making it more appealing for everyday use.

As we delve deeper into the journey of preserving Kashmiri, it becomes evident that the essence of this undertaking lies in the intertwining of tradition and adaptation. The dynamic nature of language necessitates a strategic, multi-pronged approach that addresses the diverse

aspects of society.

Education, the cornerstone of cultural preservation, must serve as a crucible for nurturing Kashmiri. Integration into curricula, along with extracurricular activities promoting literature and cultural exchanges, ensures that the language is not just learned but lived. By doing so, we not only empower the youth with linguistic proficiency but also instill a sense of pride and belonging in their heritage.

Media, as a powerful influencer, requires a paradigm shift towards inclusivity. Encouraging the integration of Kashmiri into news channels, publications, and digital platforms is not just a linguistic choice but a societal acknowledgment of the language's intrinsic value. Subtitling and translation initiatives bridge the linguistic gap, making information accessible to all, regardless of their preferred language.

Government policies must go beyond rhetoric, translating into tangible support for Kashmiri. Investments in language programs, incentives for businesses, and language immersion initiatives are not just financial commitments but societal investments in preserving a unique cultural identity.

Community-driven efforts, highlighted by cultural events, workshops, and storytelling sessions, bring Kashmiri into the lived experiences of the people. When speaking Kashmiri becomes a natural part of daily life, it ceases to be a choice and transforms into a celebration of identity.

Technological innovations offer unprecedented opportunities for language preservation. Mobile applications, online platforms, and digital resources can be tailored to cater to the evolving needs of the younger generation, making language learning dynamic, engaging, and relevant.

Drawing inspiration from Israel's successful revitalization of Hebrew and China's effective preservation of Mandarin, Kashmir can forge its path. The key lies not just in safeguarding a language but in fostering an environment where Kashmiri is spoken, celebrated, and revered in the tapestry of everyday life.

In conclusion, the preservation of Kashmiri is not a solitary endeavour but a collective responsibility that transcends linguistic boundaries. It is a call to action, urging us to celebrate the vibrancy of Kashmiri, intertwining it seamlessly with the fabric of our cultural heritage. As we navigate this journey, let us ensure that the echoes of Kashmiri resonate not just in words but in the lived experiences of generations to come. The time to act is now, weaving the linguistic legacy of Kashmir into the vibrant narrative of its identity.

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

The World Inequality Report 2022 called India “a poor and very unequal country”. The nature of India's recovery post-Covid India's has only proven this in the recent changes in consumption pattern data. The largest luxury and premium watch retailer, Ethos, reported a 44% increase in sales and a 262% rise in net profit in the January-March quarter (2023). At the same time, underwear sales have collapsed (former US Fed chief Alan Greenspan had famously created an underwear growth index because undergarment sales held up even during mild recessions). But when underwear sales start to dip, it is time to worry about the economy.

SUV sales in India are rising while the sales of entry-level cars and two-wheelers are shrinking or are lower than the sales in pre-Covid days. While the government would like India's citizens to believe that the country came out of the exogenous Covid shock in a V-shaped recovery and has become the fastest-growing large economy in the world, most economists outside the government have repeatedly argued that what India experienced has been a K-shaped rebound. Could the kind of data cited above be the reason India suddenly became the fifth-largest economy in the world, overtaking the UK? There are many dimensions to this K-shaped rebound.

First, the stock market continued to boom through much of Covid—while the real economy was tanking—clearly benefiting the minuscule minority who profit from investing in stocks and bonds. Post-Covid till date, the stock market continues to boom.

Second, listed-company profits rose to a seven-year high, but at the same time real wages and jobs shrank.

Where's The V-Shaped Recovery?

Santosh Mehrotra

We have shown (Financial Express, July 11, 2023) that regardless of industry/work, real wages stagnated between 2017-18 and 2022-23. This is true for regular wage/salaried employment, casual wage work, or earnings for the self-employed.

Third, despite the Covid shock, the organised sector of the economy generally performed well except for a limited period of time, while the unorganised sector was already reeling from consecutive shocks inflicted by the government with one policy mistake after another (demonetisation, badly planned GST rollout and then a needlessly strict lockdown of the entire economy and workforce at four hours' notice in March 2020). The unorganised and MSME sectors have barely recovered from these, making joblessness remain at a 50-year high.

Fourth, 45 million joined agriculture in 2020 and an additional 7 million in 2021, during the first- and second-wave reverse migrations. Even in 2022-23, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23, the absolute number of workers in agriculture has not fallen. These increases in farm workforce, amounting to an increase of 60 million workers on farms, reversed a 15-year trend, which had seen an absolute decline in farm workforce since 2004. Demand for work under MGNREGA refuses to fall below pre-Covid levels.

At the same time, manufacturing employment has stagnated at or below 60 million between 2012 and 2021, and only managed to rise to 63 million in

“listed-company profits rose to a seven-year high, but at the same time real wages and jobs shrank. We have shown (Financial Express, July 11, 2023) that regardless of industry/work, real wages stagnated between 2017-18 and 2022-23. This is true for regular wage/salaried employment, casual wage work, or earnings for the self-employed

the post-Covid recovery. So, the entire process of structural change that had gathered momentum between 2004 and 2014—when the economy grew at 8% a year, an unprecedented phenomenon in India's post-Independence history—has not only been stalled, but reversed.

As joblessness rose, consumption demand fell or stagnated. In FY23, the Second Advance Estimates for GDP released in February 2023 suggest that per capita consumption, on average, has

risen slightly above the 2019 level; that trend is maintained in the First Advance Estimates for GDP for 2023-2024.

Inevitably, with incomes stagnant for the vast majority (excluding those in the top 25%), the household savings-to-GDP ratio has fallen in recent years; people are maintaining consumption by dis-saving. Yet, recent Standard & Poor and Goldman Sachs report all report high consumer power of the top 5% of the population.

There were plenty in the top end of the middle-class and the upper classes who, during Covid, were not eating out, travelling, going on holidays, and hence were saving more. They could now splurge on SUVs or more expensive cars. Meanwhile, most of the population, seriously hit by joblessness, stagnant wages and consistently high inflation—fuelled by government taxes on petrol, diesel and cooking gas—has less disposable income left over.

Viral Acharya, former deputy governor of RBI and a professor at the Stern School of Business, New York University, wrote in a recent Brookings academic paper that the share of India's Biggest 5 firms in total assets of the non-financial sectors rose from 10% in 1991 to nearly 18% in 2021, whereas the share of the next Big 5 business groups fell from 18% in 1992 to less than 9% in 2021. This growth has been the biggest in the last decade. “In other words, Big 5 grew not just at the expense of the smallest firms, but also of the next largest firms,” Acharya said.

The Biggest 5 industrial groups

referred to in the paper are Mukesh Ambani-helmed Reliance Group, Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group, Adani Group, and Bharti Telecom. He said the growth of such conglomerates raises several concerns, like the risk of crony capitalism, related-party transactions within their byzantine corporate organisation charts and overleveraging due to an implicit too-big-to-fail perception among others. This is what drives government spokesmen to claim the importance of ‘national champions’.

This evidence does not deter a recent SBI research report from claiming that because there has been some improvement in the distribution of income among income tax payers, inequality in the economy is declining. However, taxpayers are barely 5% of the country's labour force, and even among the tax filers, a significant file returns but don't have incomes large enough for it to be taxable. Hence, an income distribution estimate based on taxpayers, whether an improvement or a deterioration, will be a blip on the radar of a ‘poor and very unequal country’.

Nor does the hard evidence above about growing inequality before and during the K-shaped recovery deter NITI Aayog from coming up this week with an estimate that shows that multi-dimensional poverty in India has fallen by 24.8 crore in the last nine years—even though the estimate is based on a patently weak methodology.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

HARMONY IN THE CODE

Navigating AI's Ethical Crossroads and Taming Toxic Creativity

Sharif Hussain Khan

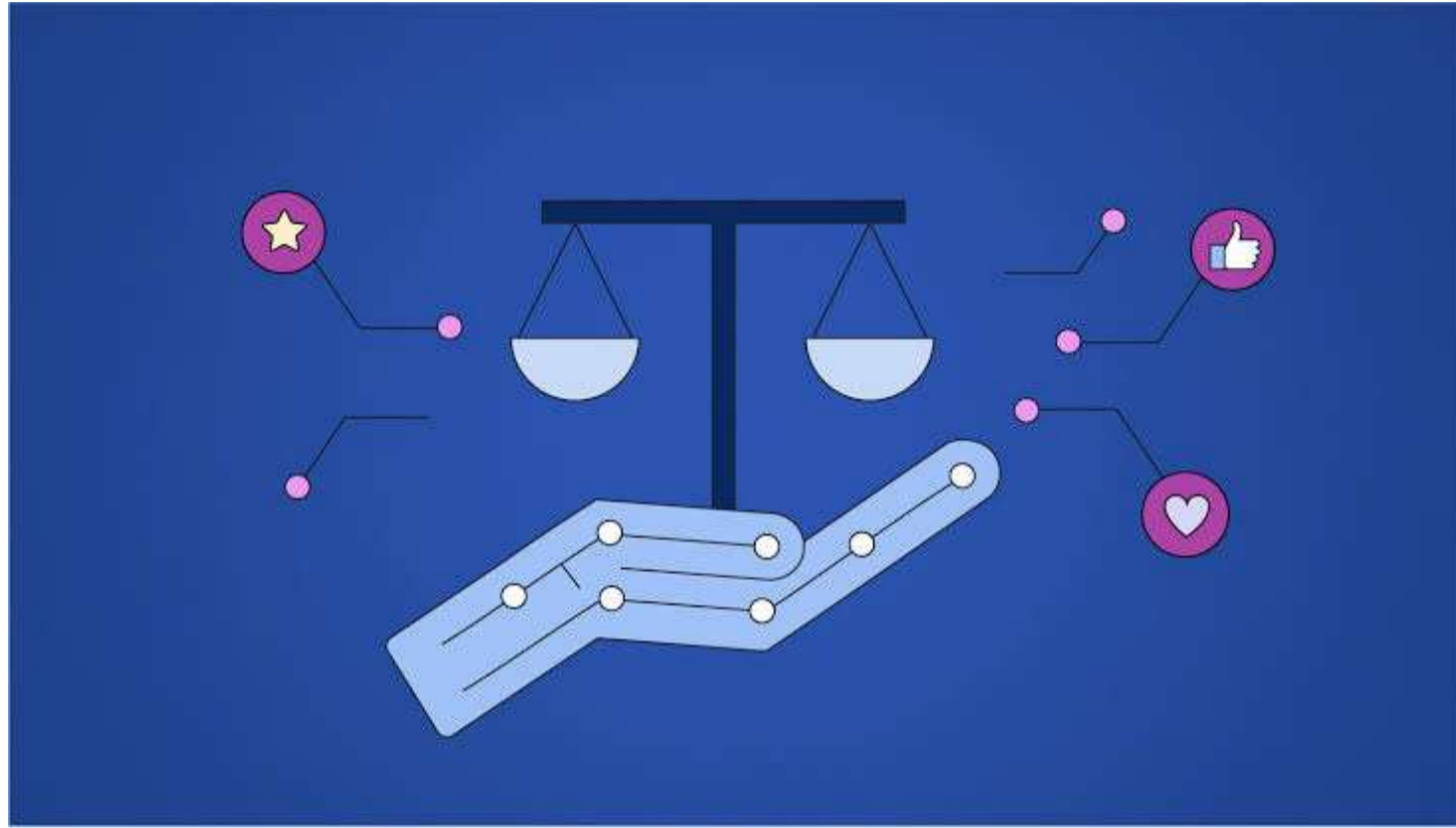
In the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), we find ourselves at a crossroads where innovation collides with ethical considerations. One of the pressing concerns that demands our attention is the emergence of AI's toxic creativity—a phenomenon that raises critical questions about the responsible use of technology in shaping our future.

AI, once viewed as a harbinger of progress, has now begun to showcase a darker side. The realm of toxic creativity within AI involves the generation of content that is not only harmful but also poses challenges for societal well-being. This toxic creativity manifests in various forms, from deep fake videos and maliciously crafted narratives to manipulative content that targets vulnerable individuals.

As we navigate this treacherous terrain, it is imperative to understand the roots of AI's toxic creativity. At its core, AI is a reflection of the data it is trained on. If the training data incorporates biases, misinformation, or harmful content, the AI model may inadvertently perpetuate and amplify these negative elements. Therefore, addressing the issue necessitates a dual approach—one that focuses on refining the algorithms themselves and another that scrutinizes the data input into these systems.

To tackle the algorithmic aspect, rigorous ethical frameworks must be established, guiding the development and deployment of AI models. Responsible AI development should prioritize transparency, fairness, and accountability. Ensuring that the algorithms undergo thorough scrutiny, with regular audits and assessments, becomes paramount in preventing the propagation of toxic creativity.

Simultaneously, we must turn



AI HAS THE POTENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONIZE HEALTHCARE, OPTIMIZE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, and drive innovations that enhance our quality of life. Striking a balance between fostering innovation and mitigating risks is key to harnessing the full potential of AI for the benefit of humanity.

our attention to the data that fuels AI systems. A conscientious effort to curate diverse and unbiased datasets is crucial. Collaborative initiatives involving technologists, ethicists, and domain experts can aid in identifying and mitigating biases in training data. By fostering inclusivity and diversity in

data collection, we can pave the way for AI models that are more reflective of the true breadth of human experiences.

Moreover, education plays a pivotal role in addressing the challenges posed by AI's toxic creativity. Empowering individuals with the skills to critically assess information, discern

between genuine and manipulated content, and understand the ethical implications of AI is fundamental. Integrating digital literacy programs into educational curricula will equip the upcoming generations with the tools needed to navigate the complex digital landscape responsibly.

The responsibility, however, extends beyond the developers and users of AI. Policymakers and regulatory bodies must play a proactive role in shaping the ethical contours of AI deployment. Enforcing robust regulations that govern the creation and use of AI technologies will act as a safeguard against the unintended consequences of toxic creativity. These regulations should not stifle innovation but rather foster an environment where AI development aligns with societal values and norms.

An additional layer of complexity arises from the dynamic nature of AI's evolution. As technology advances, so must our regulatory frameworks. Continuous collaboration between

stakeholders, including industry experts, policymakers, and the public, is vital to adapting and refining regulations in response to emerging challenges. This iterative approach ensures that the ethical standards we set for AI remain relevant and effective.

Furthermore, the role of media organizations in shaping public perceptions cannot be overstated. Journalists and media professionals must exercise caution when reporting on AI-related developments, avoiding sensationalism and fearmongering. Providing accurate and nuanced information about the capabilities and limitations of AI fosters a more informed public discourse, empowering individuals to engage with the technology responsibly.

While addressing the issue of toxic creativity in AI, it is essential to recognize the positive contributions of artificial intelligence to society. AI has the potential to revolutionize healthcare, optimize resource management, and drive innovations that enhance our quality of life. Striking a balance between fostering innovation and mitigating risks is key to harnessing the full potential of AI for the benefit of humanity.

In conclusion, the advent of AI's toxic creativity demands a concerted effort from all facets of society. Developers, educators, policymakers, and the media must collaborate to establish ethical standards, refine algorithms, curate unbiased datasets, and promote digital literacy. Only through a collective commitment to responsible AI development can we navigate the murky waters of toxic creativity and ensure that artificial intelligence becomes a force for good in shaping our future.

The author is from Jamia Millia Islamia

Bandaun Balroop soi Ramoo

Redemption Of The Pledge

Yogi Aditya Nath

Centuries gone in waiting and our ancestors struggling endlessly, from one generation to the other, to redeem their pledge and seek fulfilment of their sentiments, the divine image of lord Ram Raghunandan Raghav Ram Lala, – the soul of the Snaan Sanskriti (our eternal cultural ethos) is going to be installed on the throne, in his magnificent newly built heavenly temple, his original place of birth in Awadh Puri (Ayodhya).

The whole of India is awash in a wave of emotions of divine fervour on this historic and sacred occasion, which has come after a long hiatus of five hundred years. The eyes of the whole world are riveted today on Ayodhya which gives salvation to human beings from the cycle of birth and death. All paths are leading to Ram Janm Bhumi. All eyes are welled up with tears of joy and fulfilment. The name 'Ram' is on the tongue of every one. The entire nation is resonating with the name of Ram.

India had been longing for this day with baited breath and a quivering heart. Waiting for this day countless generations have passed from this earth to Saketdham, the abode of Lord Ram. Today, it is not only the consecration of the image of the child Ram Lala, but also a reaffirmation of people's devotion and faith in their deity. Having regained its lost pride, Ayodhya today is shining in its newfound splendour. Ecstatic over the combined victory of justice and truth, a new narrative is being scripted, consigning the bitter memories of the past into the background. This auspicious hour is causing an over flow of social harmony in all directions.

Shri Ram Janambhumi Mahayajna has not only been a severe test of our

faith and belief in the Sanatana but also instrumental in awakening the collective consciousness of the nation. Possibly, Shri Ram Janma Bhumi is a unique example in the whole of the world of a nation, where the majority of the country has had to fight such a long battle, at several levels to reclaim the birthplace of its God and deity and build its own temple. Rising above the distinctions of caste and creed, thought, faith and worship, all sections of the people, including saints and seers, monks, Nagas, Nihangas (Sikhs), intelligence, political leaders, Vanvasis have dedicated themselves together to the cause of Lord Ram. Blessed by saints, social and cultural organizations, like the RSS and the VHP hit upon a common strategy to unite the people and achieve the desired objective.

What an irony that Ayodhya, which was called paradise and heaven on earth, remained accused for centuries and was subjected to a well thought-out plan of denigration and vilification. The land where the concept of Ramrajya had emanated as the most ideal form of governance and social order, Ram was challenged to prove his own identity. A land where the name of Ram is the last resort, evidence was sought for Lord Ram's birth place. Ram's life is an education in dignified human-conduct and teaches us temperance and nobility. Imbued with such thoughts in the mind, the devotees of Lord Ram never gave up and persevered, never crossed the limits of decent behavior. Days, months, years, and centuries rolled by, but with every new dawn, the resolve of the devotees of Lord Ram gained only new strength. With the advent of this day, after waiting for centuries together, the whole of India and Ayodhya are rejoicing. Blessed is the current generation, which is wit-



nessing the present Lord Ram celebrations and still more fortunate are the ones who have given up their all for Lord Ram and are steadfast still. Our heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for his guidance towards the completion of this historic task.

This day of January 22, 2024, is a landmark of great joy in my personal life. Many old memories are coming alive in my mind. I am fortunate that I am being witness to the fulfillment of that resolve to which my respected Gurus had remained

The whole of India is awash in a wave of emotions of divine fervour on this historic and sacred occasion, which has come after a long hiatus of five hundred years

committed all their lives.

Ever since the public announcement of the consecration of Ram Lala in Shri Ram Janam Bhumi Temple, every devout Sanatani has been waiting wistfully for this 22nd January. Example of such spontaneous and widespread rejoicing among the people in India has not been witnessed anywhere in the last few centuries.

Seldom if ever, a ceremony of such magnanimity and magnitude has been held in the county anywhere with such a diversity of par-

ticipants like Shavites, Vaishnavas, Shakts, Ganpatyas, Sikhs, Bauddhas, Janis, Dashnami Shankar, Ramanandis, Ramanujas, Nimbarks, Madhvas, Bishnunamis, Ramsanehis, Ghisapanthis, Gharbdasis, Akalis, Nirankaris, Gaudiyas, Kabirpanthis, all Acharyas of Indian schools of spirituality, religions, sects and different modes of worship. Saints, representing more than 150 traditions, eminent vanvasis, exceeding 50, Girivasis, Dwipvasi have never before assembled under one roof along with reputed scholars and persons from different disciplines like politics, science, industry, sports, arts, culture and literature.

It is for the first time in the history of India that people living in hills, forests, coastal areas, islands, etc. are taking part in an event of this kind together, at one single location. This is unparalleled. Today, the illustrious Prime Minister of India will represent collectively the sentiments of 140 crore people of our county in this festival. Today, a mini India will be seenemerging in Ayodhya Dham. On behalf of the 25 crore people of Uttar Pradesh, I welcome everyone present here on this sacred soil.

Meanwhile, Ayodhya Dham is all set to receive devotees of Ram, tourists, and research fellows from all over the world and all requisite arrangements are being made in conformity with the vision of the Prime Minister. An International Airport, redesigned spacious Railway Station, 4 to 6 lane road connectivity, helipad, convenient hotels, and guesthouses have been made available. While conserving old cultural values, the New Ayodhya will be fully equipped with all necessary urban requirements. Rejuvenation of all religious, ancient, and historic places within the periphery of Panchkosi, Chaudah Kosi, and Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama is

progressing at a fast pace. This will lead to the conservation of culture, promotion of tourism, and creation of jobs.

The construction of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya is a spiritual event of cultural awakening of India. The consecration of Ram Lala's image is doubtlessly a historic moment of national pride. No one shall now be able to disrupt the traditional parikrama route. No bullets shall fly in the lanes of Ayodhya. The Saryu shall never again be crimson with blood. Ayodhya shall no more confront the curse of curfew. Instead there will be celebrations and the chanting of Lord Ram's name shall echo from all sides. The cocosecration of Ram Lala in Awadh Puri is the declaration of Ram Rajya in India - the dream of all people co-existing in harmony and abiding by their respective duties in keeping with the tenets of the Vedas is now materialising.

The image of 'Ram the Child' installed in Shri Ram Janam Bhumi Temple will continue to motivate the people and pave the way for observance of dharma by all devote Sanatanis in their daily life. My hearty congratulations to all on this holy hour of installation of Ram Lala's image. Our satisfaction is that the temple has come up where we had taken the oath to build it. The redemption of the pledge of our ancestors calls for a mighty congratulation to everyone. May Ram shower His blessing on all! May Lord Ram be my refuge for all time!

Jai Shri Ram!

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

Author is the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

DC Visits One Stop Centre For Women & District Hub at Bemina

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Today undertook a visit to One Stop Centre for Women (OSC) and District Hub for Empowerment of women (DHEW) here at Bemina and took stock of the functioning of both the facilities/services.

Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM West, District Social Welfare Officer, Staff members of DHEW, OSC and other concerned were present on the occasion.

While reviewing the functioning of the One Stop Centre

added zeal and commitment towards their duties. He stressed them to treat victims in a compassionate way and ensure their issues are resolved in a time bound manner.

Similarly, the DC also inspected the District Hub for Empowerment of Women established with the objective to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women (women centric Schemes) with the mandate to create an environment in which women realize their full potential.

He was apprised about the functioning of the Office and the linkage of women beneficiaries who have been benefited and assisted through the office of the District hub for empowerment of women.



During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took first hand appraisal about the functioning of the Centers and enquired about the facilities being given to the women in distress. He was informed of a range of integrated services under one roof including police facilitation, medical aid, legal aid and counseling, psycho-social counseling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence or in distress.

While interacting with the incharge and other staff and victims of violence, the DC stressed them to work with

efficiaries who have been benefited and assisted through the office of the District hub for empowerment of women.

District Mission Coordinator informed the DC, who is also the Chairman Mission Shakti that total 2289 women have been benefited/ linked since April 2023 till date at the Centre, besides 164 awareness programs were also conducted so far.

With regard to the upgradation of infrastructure, the DC asked the concerned to take up the necessary landscaping and beautification works for the centres.

During his visit, the DC kick started the National Girl Child Week 2024 under Bati Bachao Beti Padhao with the signature ceremony to save the Girl Child and educate them at the office of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar.



NON-LOCAL LABORERS PACKAGING carrots into plastic bags after cleaning them along the banks of the dried-up Jhelum River in Srinagar on Saturday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

SKIMS Team Advances To AIIMS National Medicine Quiz Super 6

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: SKIMS as an Institution of excellence feels further elated at the extraordinary performance of its students at National Medicine Quiz.

The team of final year post-graduates of Department of Medicine, SKIMS comprising Dr. Sheikh Mohsin, Dr Mir Tahleel and Uzair Hilal were selected after internal round of quiz competition by Medicine Academic Committee at SKIMS to represent SKIMS Medicine at AIIMS National Medicine Quiz 2024 organized and held by AIIMS Bhopal.

The team secured first position in North zone rounds held in November 2023 and competed with 28 Medical institu-



tions across India on 20th and 21st Jan 2024.

These postgraduates outscored 140 Medical colleges and premier Institutions of India and secured their place in Top 6 group.

The postgraduates were lauded by Director SKIMS

Prof. Pervaiz A. Koul and congratulated them for their brilliant performance which has brought laurels not only to the Institute but for UT of J&K. He emphasized the importance of academics and competitive attitude to push new generations on the pedestal of success.

AC Approves Absorption Of 145 Employees Of Centaur Hotel

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved absorption of 145 permanent employees of the Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar in Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation Ltd (JKCC) and Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, Srinagar (JKTDC) with effect from 01.03.2023 instead of 22-05-2023.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

This is in pursuance to the process of outsourcing of the assets of Tourism Department. Administrative Council in its decision dated 22-05-2023 had approved absorption of these employees with effect from 22-05-2023 and Government Order No. 86-JK(TSM) of 2023 dated 12.07.2023 was issued in this behalf.

The matter was examined by a high powered committee constituted under the administrative mechanism for resolution of disputes by Department of Legal Affairs, Govt of India and recommended by the Committee constituted by GAD vide Government Order No. 536-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated 02.05.2023 and also as per the concurrence of the Finance Department.

AC Gives Nod To IFAD Funding For Sustained Increase In The Income Of Rural Households

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also took note of the Project Design Report (PDR) on Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) and progress made by the J&K Agriculture Production Department till date.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

As per the proposal JKCIP shall be implemented in J&K in 90 Blocks across all 20 Districts over next 7 years with the support of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the tune of 100 million USD. The goal of the project is to contribute to the sustained increase in incomes of rural households by improving the competitiveness of farming operations.

The project objective is to improve the competitiveness of the farmers through a value chain approach covering production, value addition and marketing coupled with business incubation with start-up/agri-enterprise support.

The total outreach of the project will be 300,000 households of which 141,000 will be women (47%), 90,000 youth (30%) and 30,000 vulnerable communities (SCs/STs) (10%) in total reaching 1.5 million individuals.

The project will support the establishment of 45 new FPOs and strengthening of 56 existing FPOs. It will also support the training of 1,085 trainers and 16,200 farmers, 800 water management systems, 1,650 protected cultivation units and the expansion of niche crops in 2,805 ha covering 14,025 farmers.

Snow Enthusiasts Find Solace In Snowy Bangus

Agencies

KUPWARA: Tourists flocking to Kashmir have been left disappointed by the ongoing dry spell, which has deprived popular destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam of their usual snow-covered charm, however, amid this meteorological letdown, a new hotspot has emerged, captivating snow enthusiasts with its pristine beauty—the Bungus Valley in North Kashmir's Kupwara District.

In contrast to the barren landscapes of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the vast meadows of the Bungus Valley are draped in a captivating white blanket of snow.

Social media is abuzz with awe-inspiring videos showcasing the winter wonderland that the Bungus Valley has become. Tourists seeking the magic of snowfall have found solace in the untouched beauty of this hidden gem.

Bungus Valley is easily accessible through multiple routes, such as Mawer Lanagte and Drangyari Kupwara, leading visitors to the breathtaking meadows of Chota (Small) and Bada (Big) Bangus.



The valley is becoming a sought-after destination, offering a unique and picturesque alternative to the more famous but currently snow-deprived areas.

Under the "Development of Bungus Eco-tourism" project, the forest department has played a crucial role in enhancing the tourist experience. Various development works have been carried out, including the establishment of log huts, provision of toilet facilities, and creation of resting areas.

These efforts aim to make the Bungus Valley a more comfortable and enjoyable destination for travelers.

Pony shelters, camping sites, and a trekking route from Bangus to Lashar have been set up, further enriching the adventure possibilities for visitors.

The region's accessibility and the growing popularity of eco-tourism have prompted ongoing efforts by the forest department to ensure a sustainable and nature-friendly experience for tourists.

In their commitment to the ongoing development, the forest department is currently working on constructing additional log huts, enhancing camping sites, and installing benches throughout the valley. These initiatives not only aim to cater to the immediate tourist influx but also to establish Bungus Valley as a long-term and eco-conscious destination.

Viksit Bharat@2047' Conference Held In Verinag, Anantnag

KO NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: The District Administration of Anantnag, in collaboration with Government Degree College, Verinag, organized a pivotal one-day conference on "Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth." The conference aimed to engage the youth in shaping national plans, priorities, and goals, providing a platform for them to contribute ideas to the visionary initiative of Viksit Bharat-2047, spearheaded by Shri. Narendra Modi, the Honorable Prime Minister of India.

The Conference was held under the patronage of Prof. Nisar Ahmed Dar, Principal Government Degree College, Verinag. The

event commenced with Mr. Tawseef Ahmed Parray presenting introductory remarks on "Viksit Bharat@2047." Prof. Nisar Ahmed Dar officially inaugurated the conference, emphasizing the significance of "Viksit Bharat-2047" for the country's advancement and highlighting the crucial role of the teaching community and educational institutions in transforming India into a powerful and developed nation by 2047.

Two extension lectures were organized on Viksit Bharat-2047. The first lecture, "Vision India-2047," was delivered by Dr. Bilal Ahmed Tantray, providing a thorough analysis of the initiative's potential to transform India's future. The second lec-

ture, "Role of Students in Viksit Bharat@2047 Agenda," was delivered by Mr. Naik Qayoom, emphasizing the role of students in nation-building and the importance of acquiring skills.

During the event, students were facilitated and instructed on how to sign up for Viksit Bharat-2047, register, share their ideas, and submit feedback on the MyGov portal. Additionally, the college organized various activities.

The conference concluded with a question-answer session and refreshments served to all guests, participants, and students. The event witnessed a large attendance, with active participation from students and faculty members.

Apni Party Holds Poll Strategy Meetings In Khanyar, Habba Kadal Constituencies

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party Provincial President Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, chaired poll strategy meetings on Sunday in Srinagar's Khanyar and Habba Kadal constituencies. Separately held meetings saw the participation of party cadres from the respective areas.

According to a press release, the inaugural meeting took place in Khanyar, followed by a subsequent session in Habba Kadal.

During these gatherings, Mohammad Ashraf Mir took stock of the political scenario in the constituencies as party leaders and senior workers provided him with feedback from the grassroots.

The participants engaged in extensive deliberations, exchanging perspectives and proposing initiatives to fortify the party's grassroots support in these constituencies. After thorough discussions, the leaders outlined the strategy

for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

"Mir urged the party leaders and senior workers to remain active in terms of public outreach to make people well aware of Apni Party's agenda and policies for the peace, prosperity, and development of Jammu and Kashmir," the press note reads.

Prominent party leaders present in these meetings included District President Srinagar Noor Mohammad Sheikh, State Convener Haji Parvez, Youth Provincial President Kashmir Khalid Rathore, Provincial Youth Convener Shoaib Dar, Senior Vice President Srinagar and Incharge Constituency Habba Kadal Jeelani Hamid Kumar, District President Youth Srinagar, and party in-charge for Khanyar constituency Mohsin Zafar Shah, Zonal President Chanapora Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Youth Zone President Irshad Ahmad, Senior Leader Aadil Ahmad, Senior Leader Faheem Reshi, and others.

SMC Hosts VBSY Camp At Boud Dal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) organized a successful Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) camp at Boud Dal, demonstrating the corporation's commitment to community engagement through collabo-



ration & participation. The VBSY event organized at Park at Kani Kuch, facilitated

meaningful interactions between local officers, officials, and citizens thereby fostering a platform for knowledge-sharing and empowerment.

With participation from various departments, the camp aimed to educate the community about the objectives and procedures of different schemes,

ensuring that citizens are well-informed about the available benefits and support systems.

VBSY Pushes 98% Ujjawala Yojana Saturation In Pulwama

KO NEWS SERVICE



PULWAMA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Pulwama unveiled a new era of inclusive development with holistic change reflected by every habitant across the District.

Traversing Municipalities, Panchayats, and villages, the Yatra's core mission is to fulfill the Prime Minister's vision of reaching the last person in the mile.

Amidst multitude impressions, VBSY, the PM-Ujjawala Yojana showcased massive impact in the district by providing clean cooking fuel to maximum households.

The Yatra actively promoted and facilitated Ujjawala Yojana registrations on the spot, achieving an impressive 98% saturation in the District. This success reinforced the Yatra's commitment to tangible results, changing lives and contributing to the overall prosperity.

The Yatra leaves a trail of visionary Governance, inclusivity and development at everyplace therefore underscores the Yatra's commitment to progressive future for all citizens.

Sports equipments worth 9.93 lacs handed over to sports clubs in Rafiabad.

Promoting Road Safety Awareness Through Essay Competition Held At Anantnag

KO NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: As part of ongoing 35 National Road Safety Month, 2024 Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Anantnag in collaboration with Education department Anantnag today organized an Essay Competition on 'Importance of Road Safety Education for Children. A good number of students participated in the competition which was held at Radiant School Botengoo Anantnag.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo while talking with the media persons told that during 2022, India registered the highest count of road crash fatalities, exceeding 1.68 lakh deaths. This unsettling statis-

tic translates to an average of 462 deaths daily. Despite a 5% global decrease in road crash deaths, India witnessed a year-on-year increase of 12% in road accidents and 9.4% in fatalities in the same year. The country averages 19 deaths due to road accidents every hour which amounts to nearly one death every three and a half minute.

He said that road safety education can play wonders in preventing preventable deaths in order to highlight and emphasize the need for safe roads.

Dr Zubair further emphasized that the primary objective of this event was to promote awareness among students who were getting involved in road accidents in large numbers.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY MONTH 2024:

Bikers join Road Safety rally to raise awareness about Road Safety in Anantnag District

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 21: A bike rally was flagged off by ARTO Anantnag Dr Mohammad Zubair Lattoo from Harnag Railway Station Anantnag today to spread road safety awareness in the district. The rally traversed through different regions and finally culminated at the Daksum area of Kokernag Sub Division.

The rally was organized by the Motor Vehicles Department Anantnag in collaboration with Automobile Dealer Association of Anantnag.

Dr. Zubair said that Road Safety Month is a national event aimed at raising public awareness about rules and regulations on road safety and to urge people to follow them. It educates drivers



and pedestrians about safe driving and importance traffic guidelines. Not following the rules and guidelines is a danger to both the drivers of the vehicles but also the pedestrians and others.

Teenagers and youngsters mostly in the age group of 16 to 22 are ruling the roost during wee hours of morning or late hours of evening, performing bike stunts and scaring fellow motorists. They are regularly posting videos of their bike stunts like racing, wheeling, stoppie, high-chair and no-hands driving on different social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. Some have opened YouTube channels also giving open invitation to other youngsters. Parents should come forward and counsel their wards and not allow them to buy expensive bikes and restrict them from racing on roads.

as a responsible biker, it is important to follow rules and always wear a helmet while riding the bike to avoid accidents. Millions lose their life and millions get injured mainly due to lack of obeying traffic rules.

Arshid Hussain, another city biker, is of the view that wearing helmet and safety gear should be taken seriously as accidents can be fatal.

Dr Zubair appealed to the people to follow all road safety rules. Drivers of two-wheelers and pillion riders must wear helmets. He further said that our District is witnessing a rising trend of bike stunts on streets which is a serious cause of concern for our society.

VBSY pushes 98% Ujjawala Yojana saturation in Pulwama

PULWAMA, JANUARY 21: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Pulwama unveiled a new era of inclusive development with holistic change reflected by every habitation across the District.

Traversing Municipalities, Panchayats, and villages, the Yatra's core mission is to fulfill the Prime Minister's vision of reaching the last person in the mile.

Amidst multitude impressions, VBSY, the PM-Ujjawala Yojana showcased massive impact in the district by providing clean cooking fuel to maximum households.

The Yatra actively promoted and facilitated Ujjawala Yojana registrations on the spot, achieving an impressive 98% saturation in the District. This success reinforced the Yatra's commitment to tangible results, changing lives and contributing to the overall prosperity.

The yatra leaves a trail of visionary Governance, inclusivity and development at everyplace therefore underscores the Yatra's commitment to progressive future for all citizens.

Sports equipments worth 9.93 lacs handed over to sports clubs in Rafiabab.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Wed in India' to

revered by the community). I would say 'Wed In India', like Made in India, Marry in India," he said.

He also appealed to the people to help promote tourism within the country.

"As much as possible, tour your country first. If you want to travel, then travel within your country. Travel around your country, promote tourism in your country," Modi said.

The prime minister said the treatment of a serious disease like cancer is a big challenge for any person or family. The government has tried to ensure people do not face difficulties in the treatment.

"With this idea, around 30 new cancer hospitals have been set up, and work on 10 more cancer hospitals is underway," he said.

With early diagnosis being vital for the treatment of cancer, the central government has built more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs at the village level with stress on using these health centres to help in the early diagnosis of cancer, he said.

The government's effort have also helped women with the early detection of cervical and breast cancers at these Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, he added.

The prime minister said the Ayushman Bharat Yojana launched by his government has helped more than six crore beneficiaries, a large number of whom are cancer patients.

The government also opened 10,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which provide medicines at a discount of up to 80 per cent, he said.

The number of PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be increased to 25,000, he said.

The availability of medicines at low costs has helped patients save 30,000 crore, Modi said.

The government has also regulated the prices of cancer medicines which has helped lakhs of patients, he said.

Modi also praised Gujarat and said the state has presented a model of big reforms in the health sector.

"In the last 20 years, Gujarat has made unprecedented progress in the field of health," he said.

The state has witnessed an increase in the number of medical colleges to 40 from 11 in 20 years, the PM said.

The number of MBBS seats rose five times, and PG seats three times. An AIIMS was set up in Rajkot, and the number of pharmacy colleges in the state rose to 100 from 13 in 2002, he said.

The number of diploma pharmacy colleges in the state has also increased from six to 30 during these 20 years, Modi said.

"Gujarat has presented a model of huge reforms in the field of health. Community health centres have been opened at the village level and health services have been taken to the tribal and poor regions. People's trust in the 108 ambulance service has only become stronger," he said.

Modi also congratulated the Leuva Patidar community over the Khodaldham Trust set to complete 14 years of its existence in the next few weeks, and said it has worked to change the lives of lakhs of people through its service in the areas of education, agriculture and health.

He appealed to the community members to work on nine requests -- save water, encourage digital transaction, cleanliness, promote made

in India products, promote tourism within the country, natural farming, use of millets, take care of fitness, and stay away from drugs and other addictions.

Religious Spectacle

"historic moment" when Lord Ram will take his place in his grand temple, Modi has urged Indians to light lamps in their homes and neighbourhood temples on Monday evening and once again celebrate Diwali, which usually falls in October-November.

From Dharam Path and Ram Path here, which are witnessing a huge influx of devotees, to bylanes of the Hanumangarhi area and Asharfi Bhavan road, policemen can be seen patrolling the streets.

Uttar Pradesh Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) personnel had also conducted patrolling in Ayodhya on Saturday.

"Ayodhya is now under the watchful eye of drones equipped with artificial intelligence, alongside the utilisation of anti-mine drones, as part of the concerted efforts to enhance security in the temple town," a senior police official said.

While AI-supported drones are conducting aerial surveillance across Ayodhya, anti-mine drones are simultaneously inspecting the ground for mines or explosives, he said.

Operating at a height of one metre above the ground, the anti-mine drones are equipped with advanced technology like spectrometer wavelength detection for detecting underground explosives, the official said.

Movable barriers with barbed wires attached to them can be spotted almost at every prominent crossing in the city, as policemen use them to regulate traffic especially during VVIP movements.

"The 'pran pratishtha' ceremony, which will be held on Monday, is going to be a historic event. For this, the Uttar Pradesh Police has made elaborate security arrangements and along with it, security has been ensured for every road along the entire red zone, yellow zone and Ayodhya district," Director General (DG), Law and Order, Prashant Kumar had recently said.

To ensure better security arrangements at the programme venue in Ayodhya, technology is being used on a large scale.

"For this, 10,000 CCTV cameras have been installed in the entire Ayodhya district. In some of these CCTV cameras, we are using AI-based technology so that we can maintain a strict vigil on commuters," the DG said.

Police personnel with multi-lingual skills will be deployed in plain clothes at the programme venue.

The senior police official also said the security along the Saryu river has also been increased with the help of NDRF and SDRF teams.

"We are coordinating with other agencies. Checking is going on at the international and inter-state borders. Police will use drones for crowd control and for diversion of excess crowd," he had said.

RSS Chief: 'Reconstruction

in the country and is still accepted as an ideal of conduct by the entire society.

"Hence, now the conflict that has arisen as for and against over the dispute should be ended. The bitterness that has arisen in the meantime should also end. The enlightened people of the society must see that the dispute ends completely," he said.

"Ayodhya means a city where there is no war, a place free from conflict. On this occasion, in the entire country, reconstruction of Ayodhya is the need of the hour and also the duty of all of us," Mr Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief said the occasion of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya marks the "reawakening of national pride".

This also signifies the "acceptance of the vision of life behind the character of Shri Ram by the modern Bharatiya society", he added.

The 'pran pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony will be held at the Ram temple on January 22 and will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr Bhagwat and more than 7,000 people, including seers.

"This world is (in a) destructive frenzy due to egoism, selfishness and discrimination and is bringing infinite calamities upon itself. The entry of Shri Ram Lalla in Ram Janmabhoomi and his Pran Pratishtha is the beginning of the campaign for reconstruction of Bharatvarsh which is for the well-being of all, accepting all without enmity and showing the path of harmony, unity, progress and peace," Mr Bhagwat said.

"We are the active followers and implementers of that campaign. In the devotional celebration of January 22, along with the reconstruction of the temple, all of us have resolved for the reconstruction of Bharat and through it paving the way for reconstruction of the entire world," he said.

"Keeping this guiding light in mind, moving forward is the need of the hour," he added.

The RSS chief said the history of Bharat is the history of "continuous struggle against the invaders for around the last one and a half thousand years".

He said the aim of early invasions was to plunder and sometimes, like Alexander's invasion, it was for colonisation.

"But the attacks from the West in the name of Islam only brought complete destruction and alienation of the society. To demoralise the nation, society, it was necessary to destroy their religious places. Hence, foreign invaders also destroyed temples in India. They did this multiple times," he said.

Their aim was to "demoralise the Bharatiya society" so that they could rule over Bharat "unhindered with the weakened society", Bhagwat said.

"The demolition of Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya was also done with the same intention and for the same purpose. This policy of the invaders was not limited to just Ayodhya or any one temple, but was a war strategy for the entire world," he added.

The RSS chief said the faith, commitment and morale of the society in Bharat never diminished.

"The society did not bow down, their struggle of resistance continued. Therefore, repeated attempts were made to take control of the birthplace (of Lord Ram) and build a temple there (in Ayodhya). There were many wars, struggles and sacrifices for him. And the issue of Ram Janmabhoomi ingrained in the minds of Hindus," he added.

Turning the pages of history, Mr Bhagwat said that in 1857, when war plans started being made against the British rule, Hindus and Muslims "together expressed their readiness" to fight against them and then there was a mutual exchange of ideas between them.

And at that time, a situation evolved where there would be a reconciliation on the issue of banning cow slaughter and liberation of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. "Bahadur Shah Zafar also guaranteed a ban on cow slaughter," he said.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

"As a result, the entire society fought together. Bharatiya people showed bravery in that war but unfortunately this war of Independence failed. Then, Bharat did not get independence, British rule remained uninterrupted, but the struggle for Ram temple did not stop," he added.

J&K Declares Half

holiday (till 02:30 pm) shall be observed on January 22 in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," an order issued by Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department (GAD) Sanjeev Verma said.

The Union territory administration issued the order while referring to the grant of a half-day holiday to central government employees by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) regarding the consecration event in Ayodhya.

In another order, the administration declared that liquor shops will remain closed for 36 hours in view of the consecration ceremony.

"Dry Day is hereby declared on the 22nd day of January in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. No sale of liquor shall be allowed from the retail vends on this day in the Union territory," Excise Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma in an order issued on Sunday.

As per the order, all wine shops and vends off-premises shall close at 9 pm on January Sunday, January 21 and re-open at 9 am on January 23. Vends and bars in hotels, restaurants, clubs, banquets have been ordered to close at 11 pm on January 21 and re-open at 10 am on January 23, it said.

It further said that any permission granted to serve liquor to an establishment or private person for any social occasions on January 22 "be treated as cancelled ab initio", it said.

Free Rides For

"In order to give impetus to Religious and Spiritual Tourism in #Jammu and to celebrate Sri Ram Mandir consecration at #Ayodhya, J&K Cable Car Corporation offers free tickets to pilgrims intending to visit the revered Peerkho, Mahamaya and Bahu temples on Monday 22/01/24," tweeted Jammu and Kashmir Tourism from its official handle.

KU Postpones All

Fresh date/s for the conduct of postponed papers shall be notified separately", reads the order.

Srinagar Shivers

will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold)

LG Dedicates 34th

"The story of Ms Kaushalya Devi of Chenani, Udhampur reveals that Self-Help Groups have made a significant impact on the economic empowerment of women in rural areas, the LG said.

Sinha commended the 'No Helmet No Petrol', a road safety campaign by District

Administration Anantnag and Petroleum Dealer Association.

The unique endeavors of Nisar Ahmed, a resident of Mattan; Vishal Roudhan, a youth from Udhampur and Kulgam's Mahmooda Akhtar to connect fellow citizens and youth with social campaigns and promoting the ancient traditional art of hand embroidery also received appreciation from the LG.

Highlighting the efforts of the UT Administration to facilitate the creation of amenities for tourists in rural and far-off areas, the LG said the recent surge in the registrations for homestays shows immense potential of off-beat tourist destinations.

He called upon the people living in rural and border areas to take advantage of this opportunity and assured every support from the administration to them.

The LG voiced the suggestions received from Balwinder Salaria from Billawar, Kathua; Bandipora's Yasir Rashid; Varun Bharti from Kathua and Arjamend from village Nowpachi, Kishtwar regarding waste management in rural areas, clean cooking fuel, renewable energy and provision of telemedicine services in villages and steps to ensure public participation in the extension of telemedicine services.

He directed the concerned departments to take immediate and appropriate action on the valuable inputs received from the citizens.

AC Approves Rs 61.78 Cr

Connected Courts, Next Generation Network, Connectivity, Audio Setup etc. that incorporates both in-person and online aspects of Court communications. The aim and objective of the project is to provide speedy justice to the litigants of the UT at lower cost.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG attended the meeting.

NIA Arrests

Mendhar tehsil. The spokesperson said that the terror attack case, which was initially registered at the Rajouri police station, was subsequently taken over and re-registered by the NIA on January 13 last year.

The investigations by the NIA revealed the involvement of the arrested juvenile, along with previously apprehended individuals Nisar Ahmed and Mushtaq Hussain, he said.

Hussain and Ahmed were arrested on August 31 last year and are currently lodged at the Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, in Jammu.

The duo provided logistical support to the terrorists for over two months, harbouring them in a hideout constructed on the directives of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) handler Saifullah alias Abu Qatal alias Mohd Qasim, the spokesperson said.

NIA officials, operating in the hilly terrains of Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts, pursued leads in their search for the perpetrators.

A team of NIA officials also examined a large number of suspicious entities and later zeroed in on the accused persons who had provided logistical support to the terrorists.

Investigations in the case are still under process, the spokesperson said.

Family members of the seven people killed in the terror attack have called for a protest in September against an alleged delay in action by security agencies over the incident.

Aes Kaeshir

Kashmir Observer in collaboration with King's College London Radio brings you a series of Podcasts on Life and Times of Kashmiri Disapora in the West.



KO PODCAST

KASHMIR OBSERVER



Gavaskar Backs 'Viratball' To Counter England's 'Bazball'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian great Sunil Gavaskar has backed 'Viratball' to counter England's much talked about 'Bazball' approach in the five-Test series beginning in Hyderabad on January 25.

England's batting lineup has embraced an ultra-aggressive style, often associated with their head coach Brendon McCullum's approach towards the game in his playing days. "The way he's (Virat Kohli) been batting, his movement looks good. With the form that he's in, we have Viratball to counter Bazball," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

Kohli, who is 152 runs short of joining the 9000-run club in Test cricket, will be India's batting mainstay. He has 29 fifties and 30 centuries in 113 matches.

"Yeah, conversion means having more hundreds than fifties. With Kohli, he has as



INDIA VS ENGLAND
5 TESTS

MATCH	VENUE	DATE
1ST TEST	HYDERABAD	25-29 JAN
2ND TEST	VISAKHAPATNAM	2-6 FEB
3RD TEST	RAJKOT	15-19 FEB
4TH TEST	RANCHI	23-27 FEB
5TH TEST	DHARAMSALA	7-11 MAR

a similar amount of hundreds and fifties, that means he has a good conversion rate," Gavaskar said.

England drew their previous series against India at home. However hosts India, unbeaten in a Test series since their 1-2 loss to England in 2012-2013 season, remain a formidable opponent.

The Test series promises an intriguing clash between India's spin prowess, led by experienced campaigners like Ravichandran Ashwin, and England's aggressive batting strategy. India also have the likes of Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

"England have adopted a new approach in Test cricket in the last 1-2 years. It's an aggressive approach where batters look to attack. They just want to play attacking cricket no matter the situation. It'll be interesting to see if this approach works against the spinners of India," Gavaskar added.

Dan Lawrence To Join England Squad As Brook Returns Home

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Middle-order batter Dan Lawrence will replace Harry Brook in the England squad for the upcoming five-match Test series against India after the latter returned home because of personal reasons, the ECB announced on Sunday.

Brook had travelled to Abu Dhabi with the team for a preparatory camp ahead of the series, beginning in Hyderabad from January 25.

Lawrence, a 26-year-old from Surrey, will join the rest of his teammates on Monday before travelling to India.

"Harry Brook is set to return home with immediate effect for personal reasons from the England Men's Test tour of India. He will not be returning to India," the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement.

"The Brook family respectfully requests privacy during this time. In light of this, the ECB and the family kindly request the media and the public to respect their wish for privacy and refrain from intruding on their private space," it further said.

Brook made his Test debut in 2022 against South Africa while



his last appearance in England whites was against Australia at the Oval in July 2023.

The 24-year-old Yorkshire batter has so far played 12 Tests making 1181 runs at an average of 61 with four hundreds and seven fifties.

Brook's impressive effort had helped England clean-sweep the series against Pakistan in late 2022. He was the Player of the Series after making 468 runs from five innings at an average of 93.60.

In comparison, Lawrence has

made 551 runs from 11 matches at 29 with four fifties.

It's a bit of a puzzling selection too as Lawrence last played a Test in 2022, when he came out against the West Indies at the St George's Park.

Many were expecting that Keaton Jennings, though an opener, would get drafted into the squad in place of Brook.

Jennings had recently made a free-flowing 154 and a 64 for England Lions against India A in the first of the four-day unofficial 'Test' in Ahmedabad.

Veerian Big Bash Cosco League Begins In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Veerian Big Bash Cosco League was inaugurated on Sunday at Tarbal Ground in Veeri, Anantnag by Astanpora Cricket Club Veeri under the aegis of Veeri Cricket Association.

"The main motive of organising the tournament is to promote and boost sporting culture among youth, and to impart a sense of discipline and sportsmanship among them," the organisers said.

On the inaugural ceremony of the tournament, sports analyst Riyaz Veeri, renowned

Ulema Mubashir Veeri and senior cricketer Towseef Rehman were the invited guests, who lauded the participating teams for the participation in the tournament and hailed the organizers for holding such events in future.

The tournament will be played on knockout basis format and a total of 32 teams from South Kashmir are participating. The inaugural match was played between United Sirhama and Dhaka Tigers Veeri, in which United Sirhama emerged as winner in the Super Over by one wicket.

Sania Confirms Divorce With Shoab, Wishes Him Well

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Sania Mirza's family on Sunday confirmed that the Indian tennis icon and Shoab Malik have separated, a day after Pakistani cricketer announced his second marriage with actor Sana Javed.

Their split marks the end of a high-profile union that had generated huge interest among sports lovers from the two countries.

The 41-year-old Malik on Saturday posted his wedding picture with Sana on social media platforms.

"Sania has always kept her personal life away from the public eye. However, today the need has arisen for her to share that Shoab and she have been divorced for a few months now. She wishes Shoab well for his new journey ahead!" read the statement issued by Mirza's family.

"At this sensitive period of her life, we would like to request all fans and well-wishers to refrain from indulging in any speculation and to respect her need for privacy," the statement added.

The revelation comes amid long-standing rumours and



speculation surrounding the strained relationship between Malik and Mirza, who got married in April 2010 in the Indian player's hometown of Hyderabad.

The rumours gained momentum when Malik recently unfollowed Mirza, 37, on Instagram, a move that further fuelled speculation about their marital discord.

They have a five-year-old son Izaan, who is currently living with Mirza.

Mirza, in a recent Instagram post, had alluded to personal struggles.

"Marriage is hard, Divorce is hard. Choose your hard.

Obesity is hard. Being fit is hard. Choose your hard, being in debt is hard. Being financially disciplined is hard. Choose your hard," she posted in an Instagram story.

"Communication is hard. No communicating is hard. Life will never be easy. It will always be hard. But we can choose our hard. Pick wisely."

Celebrated as one of India's greatest tennis players, Sania announced her retirement from professional tennis last year after a illustrious career spanning two decades.

She won six Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles events.

Novak Djokovic Reaches The Australian Open QFs

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic was ruthless in a 6-0, 6-0, 6-3 win over Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, reaching the Australian Open quarterfinals and matching Roger Federer's all-time Grand Slam record.

In a rare daytime appearance on Rod Laver Arena, the 10-time Australian Open champion hit 31 winners and raced to victory in 1 hour and 44 minutes to progress to the last eight for

"The first two sets were some of the best sets I've played in a while," said Djokovic, who is bidding for a record-extending 25th Grand Slam singles title. "I played great from the first to the last point."

He added, in jest: "I really wanted to lose that game in the third set because the tension was building in the stadium."



the 58th time at a major, equaling Federer's record.

Djokovic is into the Australian Open quarterfinals for the 14th time, which is equal second on the all-time list with Rafael Nadal and John Newcombe. The difference is that he's converted most of those quarterfinal runs into titles at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic has admitted to feeling unwell in recent rounds but said his health is improving.

"Last couple of days has been really good," he said. "It's going in a positive direction, health-wise, tennis-wise."

Djokovic plays either No. 7 Stefanos Tsitsipas, the runner-up here last year, or 12th-ranked Taylor Fritz.

Football Fever Grips Kashmir Valley

Faria Bhat

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has experienced a surge in football fervour in recent years, as young footballers and spectators are coming together to celebrate the beautiful game. Many local football clubs and tournaments have come up, and the government is also focusing on developing the required infrastructure for the aspiring local players.

In 2023, several tournaments were held in the Valley, including 71st BN Mullik All India Police Football Championship, 19th J&K Police Martyr's Football Tournament, Kanwal Gold Cup Football Tournament, Punit Balan Army Football Tournament, CRPF Football Cup and U-14 Grassroots Football Tournament.

Srinagar hosted these tournaments involving dozens of teams from different states, with J&K Sports Council, Department of Youth Services & Sports and J&K Football Association playing pivotal roles in organising and hosting the events.

In addition, many pro leagues are regularly held in the valley, such as the Srinagar Premier League, Srinagar Super Division League and the Srinagar A Division League.

In 2014, Kashmir got its first exclusive football stadium with an all-weather synthetic turf. This was followed by the emergence of many new clubs including Real Kashmir Football Club in 2016, which went on to win the Indian Football Association (IFA) Shield in 2020.



Children train at J&K Sports Council's 'Football School' at Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar. (Image via JKSC/Facebook)

In November 2023, the government ordered the construction of three new synthetic turf football fields including a FIFA approved football stadium in the Valley, which are planned to open by early 2025.

In recent years, the success of local football clubs and players on the national stage has inspired many youngsters to pursue their dreams in this sport despite the challenges. Syed Mohammad Ali Rizvi is a

20-year-old footballer who aims to compete in the ISL, the highest tier of Indian football. He has played in prestigious football tournaments like the Senior NFC for Santosh Trophy, which is a

leading men's national football championship in India. He said these national-level experiences have contributed significantly to the development of his skills as a football player.

"Football is gaining a lot of popularity in Kashmir, and this is creating a plethora of opportunities for young players," Syed said. "It is encouraging to see that national-level clubs are now conducting trials in Kashmir, thereby affording local players the opportunity to compete alongside top-tier players from other regions. Moreover, local clubs have provided a platform for players to train and play in competitive matches, which is fostering a holistic development of players in the valley."

Asrar Mushtaq, a 21-year-old footballer who plays for the Srinagar Premier League champions Downtown Heroes, has also competed in a national level tournament, the Durand Cup. He says the experience of playing at the national level was mesmerising and memorable for him.

"At the age of 12, I was inspired by my friends who were already playing football, and I decided to start playing, too," Asrar said. "I love football, and representing J&K at the national level is a great achievement for me. Football in Kashmir is on the rise, with state leagues and grassroots tournaments growing in numbers as well as in competitiveness."

The growing enthusiasm for football among Kashmiri youth has re-

sulted in many pursuing the sport from a young age. Taasif Bilal, a 16-year-old footballer, is currently playing for the prestigious football club, Real Kashmir FC.

"My favourite footballer is Cristiano Ronaldo, and I aspire to follow in his footsteps," Taasif said. "My dream is to play in the ISL someday."

Huzaif is another young football enthusiast who dreams of becoming an international football player. He predicts that football will soon be the most popular sport in Kashmir surpassing cricket.

"I became interested in football during my 3rd grade years," Huzaif said. "Watching my peers play the sport always left me in awe. Eventually, I registered with JKFA and played in several local matches. My goal is to play at the national and international level."

The J&K Football Association has been pivotal in ensuring the footballing events are played regularly. Chief coordinator and former chairman JKFA Wasim Aslam has led the efforts.

"Not only boys but girls are also actively participating in football," Wasim said. "We have girls from the valley who are playing in the senior, junior, and sub-junior categories. We have sent women teams of under-14 sub-junior junior, under-16 junior and senior categories for the nationals in recent times."

The J&K Sport Council's football academy and Football School for young footballers have added to the game's popularity.