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Kashmir Records 60.67% Rain Deficit



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a rainfall deficit of 44 percent since June 01 to July 31 this year. According to the data shared by the local Meteorological department (MeT), there has been a deficit of 60.67 per cent rainfall in Kashmir division while Jammu division has recorded a deficit of 34.83 per cent from June 01 to

August 01, 2024 morning. The highest deficit rainfall has been recorded in Shopian with 85 per cent followed by Poonch with 82 per cent. The data reveals that ten stations out of 20 stations have recorded a large deficient rainfall during the period. The stations include Srinagar, Shopian, Poonch, Kupwara, Kulgam, Kishtwar, Doda, Anantnag, Budgam and Bandipora. | More on P6

Rain Predicted For J&K Till Aug 5

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted significant rainfall and possible adverse conditions over the next ten days in Jammu and Kashmir. From August 1 to August 5, an official said that the region can expect generally | More on P6

SED 'Centralizes' Transfer Powers, Disempowers CEOs & ZEOs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The School Education Department Thursday 'centralised' transfer and deputisation powers by 'disempowering' Chief Education officers (CEOs), Cluster heads and Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) from the mastery. Principal Secretary School Education Department, Alok Kumar in an order said that the decision was taken following the partial modification in previous related orders. "It is ordered that the powers of rationalization delegated to Principals, Cluster Heads is hereby withdrawn with

immediate effect and henceforth shall be exercised by the Joint Directors, with the prior approval of respective directors," the order reads. Kumar further ordered that no rationalisation, internal arrangement, deployment or attachment of teaching and non-teaching staff shall be made by the Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Officers henceforth. "Any deviation of this order reported, the erring officers shall be dealt strictly under law," Kumar said. Earlier, CEOs had powers to transfer and deploy the district cadre employees of the department.

Kashmir & Cinema A Symbol Of Oneness: LG

Launches Single Window Portal For Film Shooting Permissions, Subsidies Feted Winners Of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday inaugurated the J&K Film Conclave, organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations, at Srinagar. On the occasion, the LG unveiled J&K Film Policy 2024 and launched a slew of initiatives including Single

Window portal for Film Shooting Permissions and Subsidies, J&K Film Screening Series and Frames of Transformation Photography competition. He also felicitated the winners of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition. In his address, the LG appreciated the endeavour of the Department of | More on P6

'European Film Model To Be Replicated In J&K'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that the administration led by him was working on a model to build better film-shooting facilities on the lines of European countries as efforts were on to make the J&K a global film destination soon. "I remember Raj Kapoor's love for film

shooting in Kashmir. It wasn't all about just shooting. There has been an organic relation between film shooting and Cinema in J&K. We are trying to revive the Bollywood of yester-years," LG Sinha said addressing the gathering of famous Bollywood directors, artists, short film makers and film lovers at International Convention Centre on the banks of Dal Lake here, on | More on P6

J&K FILM POLICY 2024 WILL ATTRACT, SUPPORT and facilitate regional, national and international film production in the UT."

Discover Unexplored Locations: Bhandarkar



The famous Bollywood director Madhur Bhandarkar Thursday said that Kashmir was apt for the film shooting and that the Tourism department must explore the offbeat and unexplored locations to give shooting a further fillip. Addressing the J&K Film Conclave at International Convention Centre on | More on P6

J&K Assembly Polls: EC Orders Transfer Of Officials From Native Districts

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a fresh indication that assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir are imminent, the Election Commission has asked the Union Territory administration to transfer out officers posted in their home districts, an exercise it holds ahead of conducting elections. The commission has been following a consistent policy that officers directly connected with the conduct of elections in a poll-bound state or Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a considerable long period. It has issued similar directions to the chief secretaries of Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand. It said the terms of the existing legislative assemblies of Haryana, Jharkhand



Jammu and Kashmir and the three states. In June, it decided to accept applications seeking allotment of 'common symbols' from registered unrecognised parties in the Union Territory. Whenever assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile state divided into two Union Territories in 2019. The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30.

SC Has 2 Women Judges, 109 In HCs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: As many as 109 women judges are serving in the higher judiciary, including three in the Supreme Court, the government informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a written reply that at present, three women judges were working in the Supreme Court and 106 in the various high courts. He also said the Constitution did not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons in the higher judiciary -- the Supreme Court and the 25 high courts. Since 2018, recommendations for the post of high court judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format, prepared in consultation with the | More on P6

80% Of Lung Cancers Linked to Smoking: Experts

Agencies

Srinagar: Lung cancer remains one of the most prevalent and deadly cancers worldwide, with approximately 80 percent of cases due to smoking. Doctors said that quitting smoking is the most effective way to reduce lung cancer cases in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). They added that deteriorating air quality is contributing to the rising incidence of the disease. Dr Zahoor, a leading oncologist at SKIMS Soura, said that lung cancer has a very strong association with smoking. "It is the most common cancer globally and a leading cause of cancer-related deaths. By quitting smoking, we can prevent more than 80 percent of lung cancers, thereby significantly reducing the cancer burden and related deaths," he said. Dr Zahoor added that lung



cancer continues to be a major concern worldwide in terms of incidence and mortality. "Smoking cessation can have a long-lasting and meaningful impact on reducing its incidence rate and associated mortality," he explained. He said all necessary modalities for evaluating and treating lung cancer are available within the UT. Dr Sheikh Aijaz, another prominent oncologist in Kashmir, said that lung cancer is currently one of the leading causes | More on P6

Pak Intruder Shot Dead On Border

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A Pakistani intruder was gunned down by BSF troops along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior officer said on Thursday. The officer asserted that anyone stepping his foot on Indian soil with "nefarious design" will meet the same fate. The 45-year-old unarmed intruder was neutralised near the Khora post in Manguchek area after he sneaked into this side from Pakistan post Tugliyalpur late Wednesday night, officials said. "At around 10.15 pm, forward duty points (of Border Security Force) observed movement of one human being crossing the International Border from Pakistan. His movement was kept under

observation and was challenged when he entered into this side," Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, D K Boora told reporters near the scene of the incident. Boora along with other senior BSF and Police officers visited the area this morning despite heavy rains and reviewed the security situation. "The intruder tried to flee and was fired upon by the alert personnel and neutralised. The search of the area is still going on," the IG BSF said. He said it seems the intruder was deliberately sent to probe the possible gap to be utilised later to push armed terrorists. "This operation is an achievement and a lesson that anyone trying to step his foot on Indian soil with nefarious design will meet | More on P6

We Support Development, Not Expansionism: PM



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India and Vietnam on Thursday adopted an action plan to expand their strategic ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowing to work jointly for a rules-based Indo-Pacific and asserting that New Delhi supports development and "not expansionism" in remarks that came amid concerns over China's military posturing in the region. The two sides signed six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and finalised three other documents to broaden cooperation in a range of areas following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. It was also decided that India will provide USD 300 million credit line to Vietnam primarily to strengthen the Southeast Asian nation's maritime security. An agreement was sealed between the central | More on P6

KPDCL To Install 40K DT Meters To Curb Power Losses

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to protect distribution transformers (DTs) from damage and curb power losses, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is installing 40,000 DT meters & 1400 feeder meters under the premier loss reduction scheme of RDSS. This shall be besides 6.85 lakh consumer smart meters which shall be installed in unmetred flat-rate areas as well those areas where conventional meters have been installed in Kashmir Division over the next 27 months. Giving details in a press release issued here today, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that DT & Feeder metering shall facilitate real-time monitoring of electrical systems, paving the way for

reliable power supply to the consumers by way of remote monitoring of load and voltage unbalancing. "Installation of feeder meters shall help us in better load forecasting and relay information regarding duration and interruptions in electricity supply in digital mode," he added. 340 feeders have already been integrated with the National Feeder Monitoring System (NFMS) while the rest of the feeders will be covered under RDSS. In a big relief to domestic consumers, living in flat-rate areas and areas where conventional/ non-communicating meters are installed, to cut down on their consumer bills, Kashmir DISCOM is set to install 6.85 lakh smart meters under RDSS to give option of digital monitoring | More on P6



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DIPR Organizes Successful Day-Long J&K Film Conclave At SKICC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) hosted a vibrant and engaging first ever Jammu and Kashmir Film Conclave at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) situated at the banks of world famous Dal Lake.

Manoj Sinha unveiled the J&K Film Policy 2024 and launched a slew of initiatives including Single Window portal for Film Shooting Permissions and Subsidies, J&K Film Screening Series and Frames of Transformation Photography Competition. He also felicitated the winners of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition.

The day-long event featured a series of panel discussions, filmmaking workshops, and exclusive film screenings, marking a significant milestone in the region's cinematic landscape.

The conclave's afternoon session commenced with insightful panel discussions focusing on the evolving film ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion, Director Information, Jatin Kishore spoke about the Jammu & Kashmir Film Policy 2024 and informed that it is designed to simplify processes

and enhance opportunities for the growth of cinema in Jammu and Kashmir. With the launch of the single-window system, the aim of the department is to simplify the process of permissions and subsidies, so that the filmmakers can focus on their creative endeavours.

Renowned film director Madhur Bhandarkar, director and writer Rahhat Kazmi, casting director-producer Paragg Mehta and Actor Mir Sarwar shared their invaluable perspectives and experiences with the audience.

Workshops on filmmaking were also organised during the conclave with discussions ranging from the global appeal of local narratives to practical insights for aspiring actors and filmmakers. Highlighting the artistic diversity of the region, the conclave featured screenings of impactful short films such as "Melting Stones," "I am Valmiki," and "Unveiling Strength: The Women Athletes of Kashmir."

7 Years On, Health Centre In Anantnag's Dadoo Awaits Completion

Agencies

ANANTNAG: A health and wellness center in Dadoo area of Bijbehara hamlet in Anantnag district is awaiting completion for the past seven years, thereby pushing the local populace to face hardships.

hospitals until anyone would accompany them due to fear of wild animals and dogs. Had there been facilities in Dadoo village, there wouldn't have been any necessity for locals to visit other hospitals for even minor ailments, they said, adding that the abandoned building is being used for anti-social activities and authorities must take cognizance of the issue immediately.

The residents of Dadoo area said that the work on the health and wellness centre was started around seven years ago but the building is yet to be completed. A centre was working in a rented accommodation, however, due to unknown reasons, it has been shifted to some other place.

"Every evening you can find youth from different areas entering the building for drug addiction and other anti-social things," they said. Authorities must complete the building as soon as possible and equip it with modern facilities so that they won't be forced to visit other places for even minor ailments, they said.

MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY OF IMAM ZAINUL ABIDEEN

Protests Held Against Killings Of Haniyeh, Parachinar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The martyrdom anniversary of Imam Zain-ul-Abideen, the only male survivor from the household of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) in the massacre of Karbala was observed on Wednesday across Kashmir.

Thousands of mourners joined Majalis and processions in Srinagar and other districts to pay tributes to the martyred Imam.

where thousands of black-clad mourners marched beating their chests and reciting soul-stirring elegies for the martyrs of Karbala.

The procession commenced from Chandpora and passed through Arabal and later culminated at Imambargah Gulshan Ali, Shalimar late in the night. Aga Syed Hassan al Musavi delivered a sermon at the start of the majlis. Other two major processions were carried out at Mirgund and Chenabal. Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari delivered a sermon before commencement of procession at Mirgund.

A daylong mourning ceremony was also held at Doonipora, Zadibal. Later, a procession was taken out from Doonipora to Zadibal in which thousands of mourners participated. Reports of similar processions and gatherings were reported from Budgam, Baramulla and Kulgam.

Indian national flags and raised anti-Pakistan slogans to protest Shia killings in Parachinar province in the country's lawless North West. Molvi Imran Ansari led a procession in Chenabal. In a first, people raised the Indian tricolor in the mourning procession along with Alam sharif. The participants chanted pro India and anti-Pakistan slogans and called for an end to Shia killings in Pakistan.

Paris Bajaj Officials Visit Srinagar For Official Launch Of NS 400

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Earlier this week, Paris Automobiles made waves in the motorcycle community by launching the highly anticipated NS 400z in Srinagar. The company's officials arrived in Srinagar to officially introduce the new model to the local market, marking a significant moment for motorcycle enthusiasts in the region.

launch it here in Srinagar, a city with a deep appreciation for high-performance bikes. We are confident that the NS 400 will redefine the riding experience for many in this region."

The event, held in the heart of Srinagar, saw key figures from Paris Bajaj, along with local dealers and bike aficionados, come together to celebrate the arrival of the NS 400. The motorcycle, which has already gained a reputation for its powerful performance and sleek design, was showcased in an elaborate unveiling ceremony.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of Paris Automobiles Managing Director Mr. Hashim and General Manager Syed Mushtaq. Their dedication and commitment to bringing quality products to the local market have played a crucial role in the success of the NS 400 launch in Srinagar.

Among the first to own the NS 400 in Srinagar is Irfan. Sharing his experience, he said, "The NS 400 is every-

thing I hoped for and more. The power, the handling, and the sheer thrill of riding it through the city streets and the open roads have been amazing. It's a game-changer, and I'm glad I made the decision to be one of the first owners."



Regional Manager Sales & Service, Manpreet Singh and Naved Mohsin who spoke at the event, highlighted the company's excitement about bringing the NS 400 to Kashmir valley. "The response to the NS 400 has been phenomenal, and we are thrilled to officially

able at all Paris Bajaj dealerships across Kashmir. Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest showroom to explore the new model and take advantage of the special offers available during the launch period. This event underscores Paris Bajaj's commitment to expanding its presence in the region and offering products that resonate with the local market. The NS 400's arrival in Kashmir is set to elevate the standard for motorcycles in the area, offering an unparalleled riding experience to its customers.

Court Directs Maha Gram Sabha To Resolve Grazing Rights Dispute In Budgam

Allows Both Parties To Utilize Pastureland

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Court of Sub Judge in Chadoora in district Budgam has ordered that a Maha Gramsabha be held to decide granting of grazing rights to the local population of Branwar, Neegu, Jabbad and adjoining villages as mandated under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Reignition of Rights) Act also known as Forest Rights Act 2006 -FRA.

rest range in Budgam until the final call was taken by the Gram Sabha. The order reads as: "In presence of all parties to the suit it was agreed that all disputes would be settled if a Maha Gram Sabha for all the pastures is conducted under the supervision of an expert lawyer designated by the court, involving all sub division heads of the concerned departments and in accordance with the law, rules and guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Until Maha Gram sabha is conducted any person enjoying rights recognized by the Forest Department shall continue to do so without interference, until the Maha Gran sabha has the opportunity to deliberate and decide on the rights and preferences regarding this land to avoid any dispute pending decision by Gram Sabha. The defendants are permitted to utilize the 12 designated pasturelands in Doodh Ganga forest

officers at the helm of affairs" Pertinent to mention that plaintiffs Ghulam Mohammad Jahara @ Chowdhary and others had claimed rights over Chaskani Nad meadow which is spread over an area of approximately 20,000 kanals of land located in Doodh Ganga forest range of Pir Panjal forest division Budgam. The other party Ghulam Qadir Thekrey (defendants) who also belong to Gujjar community allege that Ghulam Mohammad Jahara alias Chowdhary had forcibly taken control over such a huge chunk of meadows and were allegedly earning money from it as the family takes money from Bakarwals of Rajouri and Poonch for grazing their animals in summer months while as majority of the local Gujjar and other pastoralist communities were deprived of these rights.

some orders and repeatedly it was ordered that the Gram Sabha must decide the matter. Pertinently under Forest Rights Act 2006 also Gram Sabha is the supreme authority to decide upon the claims filed by local population. The Gram Sabha is the adult population of the village (18 years and above) and 50 % quorum is necessary to decide on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) related cases. Last month one of the applicants (plaintiffs) in the case Saifudin Jahara who is brother of Ghulam Mohammad Jahara along with Abul Rashid Jahara Hangdar had requested DC Budgam to withhold the Gram Sabha which had to meet on July 1st 2024. The Chief Planning Officer-CPO Budgam had written to concerned Block Development Officer -BDO Surasary to postpone the Gram Sabha. Since then Gram Sabha also called Deh Majlis hasn't been held. Both Saifudin and Rashid as per the

local sources are Chairpersons of the Forest Rights Committee in Branwar and Jabbad panchayat halqas and Gram sabha has the power to change these Chairpersons as well. "The members and chairpersons of Forest Rights Committees-FRC in Branwar, Jabbad and Neegu and even many other villages were not appointed by the Gram Sabha and they are under the apprehension that they will lose their posts. These people are totally ignorant of their job and are mostly illiterate. I would suggest local educated people including women be appointed as Chairpersons and Members of the Forest Rights Committee through democratic means by Gram Sabha. Several existing Chairpersons and members of FRC apprehend that gram sabha might vote in majority against a particular family who have taken control over 20,000 kanals of land around Chaskani nad meadows. I want them to also get their share

for grazing but to graze their 70 or 80 sheep they don't require 20,000 kanals of land? This is injustice and violation of the Forest Rights Act 2006. The other party owns around 1000 sheep and they were being deprived of the grazing rights. The court has underscored the importance of the Forest Rights Act. I am sure that Maha Gram sabha will decide the case on merits soon and other villages like Bonen, Jeddin, Kutbal, Gogipathri has also been included as parties in this case and they too have grazing rights on this land" said Advocate Nazeer Ahmad who pleaded this case along with Advocate Umar Shafi

"We appeal DC Budgam to allow locals to file community claims for Chaskani Nar meadows and then get a gram sabha convened in the area so that this issue is addressed as mandated under the Forest Rights Act 2006" said Ghulam Qadir Ganai a local social activist of Branwar. He along with Ali Mohammad Jahara & Abdul Rashid Gorski of Jabbad village have also appreciated the court verdict.

