



Srinagar

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PM Modi's Acknowledgement Ignites Pride, Gratitude Among Kashmiri Artisans For Namda Craft Revival

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent praise for the artisans behind the revival of Kashmir's historic Namda craft has ignited a wave of joy and excitement among the talented craftsmen of the region.

In a tweet, PM Modi commended their efforts and highlighted the significance of this revival for the rich heritage of Kashmir.

"Delighted that Kashmir's centuries-old 'Namda' craft is reviving and now reaching global shores after years! This is a testament to our artisans' skills and resilience. This revival is great news for our rich heritage," PM Modi tweeted on Monday.

Namda, a centuries-old craft indigenous to the valley of Kashmir, involves the creation of felted rugs and mats by



layering and compressing wool fibres. The craft had faced a decline in recent

years but has now experienced a remarkable resurgence, with the exquisite cre-

ations gaining recognition and demand on a global scale.

PM Modi, quoting a report on Namda exports, expressed his delight at the craft's revival and its subsequent reach to international markets. He lauded the artisans' skills and resilience, viewing their success as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The news of Prime Minister Modi's acknowledgement has spread like wildfire through the artisan community in Kashmir, generating a renewed sense of pride and enthusiasm among the craftsmen.

Many artisans expressed their gratitude for the recognition and credited the government's support and initiatives for the revival of the Namda craft.

Farooq Ahmad Khan, a skilled Namda artisan from Srinagar said, "It is an

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Over 1.40 Lakh Kg Drugs Destroyed, Amit Shah Says Aim Is To Ensure No Youth Under Influence Of Narcotics

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JUL 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the fight against drugs is to ensure that no youth is under the influence of narcotics and the country is safe and free from illegal substances.

Shah said this at a conference on "Drugs Smuggling and National Security" during which he watched through video conferencing destruction of more than 1.40 lakh kg drugs worth Rs 2,381 crore in various parts of the country. "Our aim is to ensure that no youth is under the influence



of drugs.... Our aim is to make the country drugs free and secure. I appeal to all chief ministers and LGs (lieutenant governors) to extend all possible cooperation for it," he said.

The home minister said that in the last one year 10 lakh kg drugs worth Rs 12,000 crore were destroyed and it is a very significant achievement.

"Many congratulations to all the people involved in fulfilling such a big goal in the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav," he said.

He said when the state and central governments along with all the agencies come together on a single platform then only "we will be able to make the country free from drugs".

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NEWS BRIEF

Two IEDs recovered from Wodhpura forest: Police

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Army, in a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police, recovered two sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) from Wodhpura forest in north Kashmir Handwara on Monday.

Police in a statement, said the Indian Army, in a Joint operation with Handwara Police, recovered two IEDs from Wodhpura Ridge near NH 701 early Monday morning.

Based on information from a reliable source, the Indian Army and Handwara Police launched a swift and well-coordinated Search and Destruction

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Two terrorists neutralised, infiltration bid foiled in Poonch

JAMMU, JUL 17: Security forces on Monday foiled an infiltration bid and eliminated two terrorists along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu-based defence spokesman, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal, said that in a joint operation by alert troops of the Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police, a major infiltration bid was eliminated on the night of July 16-17 in KrishnaGhati Sector in District Poonch.

"A movement of terrorists was observed near the Poonch River, moving from across the line of Control towards their own side. Alert troops

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Wheelchair-bound woman in SMHS transforms adversity into artistic mastery

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Encountering the harsh realities of hunger and loneliness while living in a hospital, a wheelchair-bound woman has been transforming her adversity into artistic mastery.

Saima Noor, 38, who tragically got separated from her parents in Bangalore during her childhood, has become an inspiration for other specially-abled people by showing them a way how to live an independent life.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Saima said she got separated from her parents

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K LG Admin Sacks Three Employees For 'Anti-National' Activities

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: J&K government terminated Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Kashmir University, a Revenue Department officer and a Police constable

from the service for allegedly working with Pakistan based militant outfits, providing logistics to militants,

propagating militants ideology, raising finances for militancy and furthering secessionist agenda, official said on Monday.

They said PRO of University of Kashmir Faheem Aslam, Revenue Department officer, Murawath Hussain Mir and Police constable Arshid Ahmad Thoker were terminated after

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



J&K Govt To Verify Service Records Of Employees Whose Appointment Orders Are Not Available

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUL 17: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday constituted a high-level committee to scrutinize/verify service records of the employees whose initial appointment orders are not available.

An order states that the committee shall scrutinize/verify the entries recorded in the service books of such employees whose initial appointment orders are not

forthcoming/available with reference to the other near analogous/supporting/ancillary record, which may be available with the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Dilapidated Footbridge Poses Threat To Commuters In Bheaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, JUL 17: A wooden footbridge, constructed over the Neeru river here about six decades ago to provide surface link to several villages, is in a highly dilapidated condition and poses a risk to commuters including students and elderly people.

The 38-metre-long bridge



connecting half-a-dozen villages with Bheaderwah town near Rainda village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district is in shambles with both sides of its fencing and floor damaged at many places over the years.

Besides Rainda, which is located just one kilometre from Bheaderwah town, the residents of Dhumanda, Dalain, Thubba,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Gurez Village Lacks Basic Amenities, Say Locals

Urge admin to address their grievances on priority

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JUL 17: Shikari village in Tulail area of Gurez is without basic facilities causing immense hardships to villagers.

Residents told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the village lacks proper road connectivity, healthcare facility, electricity, mobile connectivity and potable water supply.

According to the locals, the village health centre has been closed for years now and the staff rarely shows up.

"Also, the situation is no different at the local school where irregular attendance of teachers is negatively impacting students," they said.

Similarly, locals complained about lack of piped water saying they have to collect water in buckets from a distance.

"We have to go to far-off places to fetch water because we don't have access to a drinking water facility nearby," Bashir Ahmad a local resident said, adding that their village is

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Tourist footfall along border villages doubles this year

From April, 1.4 lakh tourists visit Kupwara

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, JUL 17: With peace prevailing at Line of Control (LoC), north Kashmir is experiencing an impressive footfall of international and domestic tourists.

Peace is prevailing along LoC in Kupwara after the two armies of India and Pakistan signed a fresh ceasefire pact in

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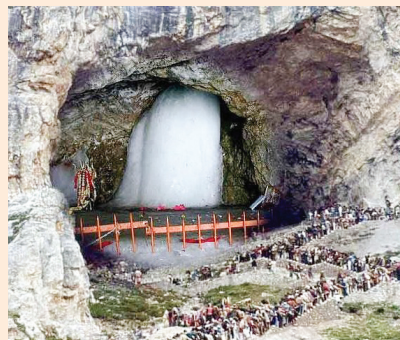


Amarnath Yatra 2023

Three More Amarnath Pilgrims Die, Death Toll Rises To 30

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Three more Amarnath pilgrims have died, taking the



death toll during this year's pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 30, officials said on Monday.

The three pilgrims who died since Sunday morning belonged to Uttar

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi's.....

absolute honour to have our Prime Minister recognize the efforts we have put into reviving this ancient craft. We have dedicated ourselves to preserving our cultural heritage, and this acknowledgement motivates us even further. The global recognition of Namda is a testament to the intricate craftsmanship and artistic talent of Kashmiri artisans."

Another artisan, Mohd Ayoub, emphasized the economic and social impact of the craft's revival.

"The revival of Namda craft has not only provided a livelihood to many artisans like myself but has also rejuvenated the local economy. We are grateful for the government's initiatives and for Prime Minister Modi's recognition, which has brought the craft the attention it deserves," he said.

The resurgence of the Namda craft has opened up new avenues for artisans in the global marketplace, with increased demand for their unique creations. The exquisite rugs and mats crafted by Kashmiri artisans are now finding homes in various countries, serving as a representation of the region's rich cultural legacy. (AGENCIES)

Over 1.40 Lakh.....

"We will be able to succeed in this campaign against drugs by following 'whole of government approach' with cooperation, coordination, collaboration," he said.

Shah said till the financial chain of drug smugglers are not broken, the fight against drugs is not completed.

He said that earlier the main area of drug smuggling was called 'Golden Triangle' and 'Golden Crescent' but the Government of India has proposed internationally that it should be named as 'Death Triangle' and 'Death Crescent'. "This approach shows the direction and intensity of our fight against drugs," he said.

The home minister said there is no question of a single destination for elimination of drugs or a single target for it.

"It is an act of constant vigilance. A moment's laxity can spoil the entire movement," he said.

The destruction of the narcotics, the bulk of it from Madhya Pradesh, was carried out in different cities as Shah watched through video conferencing from New Delhi.

The drugs destroyed include 6,590 kg seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Hyderabad unit, 822 kg seized by the Indore unit and 356 kg by the Jammu unit, officials said.

Besides, various law enforcement agencies from different states also destroyed drugs — 1,03,884 (1.03 lakh) kg in Madhya Pradesh, 1,486 kg in Assam, 229 kg in Chandigarh, 25 kg in Goa, 4,277 kg in Gujarat, 2,458 kg in Haryana, 4,069 kg in Jammu and Kashmir, 159 kg in Maharashtra, 1,803 kg in Tripura and 4,049 kg in Uttar Pradesh.

With the destruction of drugs on Monday, the total quantity of drugs destroyed in just one year has reached around 10 lakh kilogram with a value of Rs 12,000 crore. From June 1, 2022 to July 15, 2023, regional units of the NCB and anti narcotics task forces of the states collectively destroyed around 8,76,554 (8.76 lakh) kg seized drugs worth around Rs 9,580 crore which is more than 11 times the target. (Agencies)

J&K LG Admin.....

investigation clearly established that the trio were "acting on behalf of Pakistan ISI and the terror outfits."

"The trio were terminated from the service for actively working with Pakistani terror outfits, providing logistics to terrorists, propagating terrorists ideology, raising terror finances and furthering secessionist agenda. The government has invoked 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution of India to sack the three government employees after painstaking investigation clearly established that they were acting on behalf of Pakistan ISI and the terror outfits," officials said

The respective orders for the dismissal of the three employees were issued by the General Administration read that the Lieutenant Governor is "satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and on the basis of the information available, that the activities of the trio are such as to warrant his dismissal from service".

Under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution a government employee can be dismissed when the President or the Governor is satisfied that in the "interest of the security of state it is not expedient to hold such an inquiry."

According to officials, Aslam is a "diehard secessionist" who not only "subscribes to and endorses the secessionist ideology, but has been a key propagandist for terrorists and terror outfits in Kashmir Valley."

They said Aslam's social media posts depict beyond doubt that he is a hardcore Pak Embedded High Value Asset (PEHVA) of Terror Outfits, responsible for promoting and glamorising terrorism.

Officials said constable Thokar was a highly effective overground worker (OGW) of banned Jaish-e-Mohammad and on account of being a policeman, as he "took undue and criminal advantage" of his uniform and his credentials.

"..Instead of helping the department in fighting terror which he (Arshid) was mandated for, he chose to be a mole and a collaborator and betrayed his oath and uniform," they said.

Former chief minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the LG administration is "institutionalising a permanent state of disintegration in J-K".

"Criminalising livelihood on preposterous reasons of 'terror links' at a time when the state is reeling from unemployment is only deepening the trust deficit. It's being done by misusing and invoking Article 311(2)b of the Indian Constitution," she said in a tweet.

J&K Govt To.....

departments and/or their subordinate offices to establish the genuineness/ veracity of the said service record.

"The committee shall, after establishing the genuineness/ veracity of the records of the aforesaid employees, and make appropriate recommendations to the concerned Administrative Departments for release of salaries in favour of these employees," reads the order issued by the General Administration Department(GAD).

The committee shall make specific recommendations to the General Administration Department within one month of the issuance of this order in respect of the cases where the genuineness of service records could not be established beyond reasonable doubt, the order states.

J&K Stands.....

which central government's grant upto 80% is applicable for common facility centre projects and 70% for development of Industrial Estates.

J&K has received 10 projects from Ministry of MSME for the development of Industrial Estates and Common Facility Centers (CFCs). MSME-DFO Jammu, field office of Union Ministry of MSME, takes lead role in implementation of various schemes including Cluster Development projects for the benefit of MSME sector of the region.

The total project value of CFC's and ID's in J&K is Rs. 90.73 crore approximately. Recently, the Union Ministry called for Geo Tagging all the projects under MSE-CDP for all states including J&K. An app was also developed by Ministry, used for tracking the performance, including completion, percentage of completion of the projects sanctioned under MSE-CDP, which are monitored online based on the photographs taken through the Geo app.

In Jammu and Kashmir, two teams were appointed for Jammu and Kashmir divisions for completing this task. The teams worked with full spirit and completed the Geo Tagging of all the projects, completed and ongoing across J&K.

Three More.....

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Two of the pilgrims died of cardiac arrest, while the cause of the death of the third was being ascertained, the officials added.

While two people died on the Pahalgam route of the yatra, one death occurred on the Baltal route, they said.

These three deaths have taken the toll during the yatra so far this year to 30.

Among the victims are an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer posted on yatra duty, a sadhu and a sevadar, according to the officials.

Cardiac arrest triggered by low oxygen concentration at high altitude is one of the most common causes of fatalities among Amarnath pilgrims and security forces posted there.

So far, over 2.30 lakh pilgrims have visited the cave shrine to glimpse the natural ice lingam formation.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31. (Agencies)

Dilapidated.....

Wazir Kotli and Chabcha depend on the bridge to travel outside their villages after it was constructed in 1962 using timber including cedar from the nearby forests.

"For the past 20 years, the villagers have been demanding a replacement for the damaged bridge which caters to over 2,000 population, many of whom use the

bridge daily to reach their destinations and bring essentials like ration from the town." Joginder Kumar (70), a resident of Rainda village, said.

Villagers said they have pleaded before the authorities several times to either replace the 61-year-old damaged bridge with the steel plated one, or at least repair it for the safety of the school going children.

"Roads and Buildings Department officials have carried out surveys of the bridge more than 50 times in the past two decades, rekindling hope every time that we will get a safe bridge but unfortunately nothing happened on the ground," Shri Krishan Sharma (68) said.

Amit Kuma Sharma said they are fed up with false promises.

"It's really painful to being in a state of fear all the time, especially during rains when the water level in Neeru almost touches the surface of the bridge. We have no other option but to cross the worn out bridge to reach the other side of the river," he said.

Assistant Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Bhaderwah, Mushtaq Ahmed Sheikh admitted that the old foot bridge is in a "very bad condition" and said they have already sent a detailed project report to NABARD worth Rs 2.15 crore for construction of a motorable bridge on the river.

"The district administration has taken up the issue on top priority considering the safety of the people. As of now, we will send a team of engineers for safety checks and, if necessary, the bridge will be closed for people. The people are requested to avoid crossing the bridge and instead use Sarolbagh bridge," the officer said.

Sarolbagh bridge is three kilometres away from Rainda bridge. (Agencies)

Gurez Village.....

situated on a hill, and rains trigger landslides causing damage to their houses.

"The absence of electricity persists and the government is not concerned about our plight," he added.

Noor Mohammad, another local resident, said they travel to a nearby village to make a call as the village lacks mobile network connectivity.

People appealed to the LG administration and Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Owais Ahamd to personally look into the matter and help to resolve their grievances.

An official said that he will look into the grievances of the people.

Tourist footfall.....

February 2021, halting the bloodshed and firefight. Since then, the erstwhile no-go zones have been opened up for visitors and paving way for night camping, bonfires, trekking, and other related activities.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), officials said that the footfall of both international and domestic tourists has shown an increase compared to previous years.

They said that the facilities have been enhanced and everything required for visitors is being facilitated.

A senior administrative official privy to the tourism activities in the district said that the figures compared to previous years are close to double now. "Kupwara is witnessing an ever-increasing footfall of tourists. They include both international and domestic arrivals. All previous records have been broken in terms of tourist arrival," the official said.

Farooq Ahmad, Executive officer of Lolab Bungus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA) said that the tourist footfall is increasing too much. "Since April this year, Kupwara has recorded about 1.40 lakh visitors, both international and domestic."

He said that last year until July, 67,000 tourists arrived in the district. "This year, the number has already gone past 1.27 lakh visitors," he added.

The executive officer said that everything required has been enhanced for a better experience. "About 76 homestay facilities have been readied and are registered with the department. They are providing both accommodation and food to visitors," he said. "Besides, 150 homestays are providing facilities in the district but are not registered with us."

Eco Parks, he said developed by the forest department, are acting as premier tourist attractions. "Waterfronts have been developed. Children's parks are maintained. Tourist huts have been repaired," he said.

Two IEDs.....

Operation (SADO) in Wodhpura Forest in the wee hours of Monday.

The operation resulted in the recovery of two sophisticated IEDs weighing approximately 5 and 7 kg, concealed in the jungle area. The team immediately cordoned off the area with adequate security measures.

The positive identification of an IED

was carried out by the Indian Army's highly trained Explosive detection team, equipped with explosive detectors and an army dog.

The Bomb Disposal team executed a controlled detonation of IEDs, rendering them safe.

A thorough search operation was resumed by personnel of the Indian Army and Handwara Police in the general area of Wodhpura Forest for any more IEDs or hiding militants. No loss to life and property was reported.

The prompt action by the joint team of security forces averted major incidents in the area, police said.

Two terrorists.....

of the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police established an anti-infiltration posture in multiple tiers to prevent any terrorist from escaping," said the spokesman.

He stated that in the early hours of the morning, contact was established, which led to a heavy volume of fire being exchanged.

In the ensuing firefight, two terrorists were hit. One of the terrorists fell on the spot, while the other terrorist was observed falling in the Poonch River," he added.

Lt Col. Bartwal said that in a deliberate and massive search operation, the body of one terrorist has been recovered from the site.

Major warlike stores were recovered, including one AK-74 rifle with magazine, eleven rounds, and other stores for sustenance, he added.

He further said, "By their quick action, alert troops of the Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police have eliminated a major infiltration bid, which was aimed at disturbing the peace in Poonch District."

"The Security Forces continue to remain alert on the Line of Control and are fully prepared to thwart such attempts in future too," said the PRO.

Wheelchair.....

when she was eight years old and has never got connected with them again.

"Then I was brought to the valley by a Kashmiri family from Bangalore. They took care of me like their own child and I spent around 19 years with them. Later, I got very ill due to

rheumatoid arthritis and continued living with them for a few more years," she said.

They even took care of my treatment; bore the expenses of my operation which, however, didn't show any positive result. "I became so weak that I wasn't able to hold anything in my hand. I had to undergo hip replacement surgery as well. Then, I decided to part from them as I didn't want to put further burden on them," Noor said.

Saima said that in Srinagar, she admitted herself in SMHS for treatment and was there for some time. "However, I suffered panic attacks due to the continuous noise in the hospital. Then, after the intervention of a woman working in the Social Welfare Department, the then DC Srinagar ordered the hospital authorities to provide me a room," she said.

She is now living a wheelchair-bound life in SMHS where she has been encountering the harsh realities of hunger and loneliness, and transforming the adversity into artistic mastery.

I started painting at Ward 6 of the hospital to divert attention from noise, loneliness, hunger and other issues and have made hundreds of paintings so far. I even sold a few to manage my expenses, she said, adding, "Sometimes, some friends also help".

"I haven't even eaten anything for weeks together as nothing was available but still I think I am alive only because of Kashmiri people," Saima said. "Had I been living anywhere else, I would have been in the grave."

Saima, however, refuses to succumb to despair and dependency; instead, she embarked on a creative journey using her artistic talents.

"One shouldn't succumb to despair but try to work whatever he/she can so as to remain independent," she said, adding that she has been given a space in Kashmir Haat Srinagar to sell her art pieces.

My message to the other specially-abled persons will be that your disability isn't the end of life, rather you need to be courageous to fight all odds and overcome challenges, Saima said. "If your organ isn't functioning, your brain is working and that is enough to work on your dreams to make them come true."

3-day workshop in camera and editing begins at DCJ

GANDERBAL, JULY 17:Three-day training workshop in Camera and Editing organized by the Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ), School of Media Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) began at varsity's Tulumulla campus here Monday.

Dean Academic Affairs and Media Studies, Prof. Shahid Rasool, conveyed his best wishes for the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Head, DCJ, Dr. Arif Nazir, highlighted the importance of such workshops for imparting practical training among the students. "These workshops are organised every year for Semester IV students and are beneficial, especially for those doing their specializations in Audio Visual and New Media," he said.

Sr. Asst.Prof. and workshop coordinator Dr. Asif Khan, said even though the students are equipped with basic camera handling and execution, this workshop shall provide

them with hands-on practical training to work for their final production.

Resource person, Mr. Shahnawaz Shah from EMRC, University of Kashmir, highlighted the importance of technology in media and emphasized that technology is continuously changing. He told the students that since we are witnessing an era of social media boom, it is their duty as future journalists to uphold the ethical standards of journalism by providing factual information to the masses. He added that improving their technical skills could prove beneficial in this regard, and these kinds of workshops can fill that gap.

Around 22 students from AV Specialization, New Media Specialization, and a few students from MACJ-II doing their projects in AV participated in the event.

Mr. Shahnawaz, was facilitated by Mr. Sameer Javeed Wani, Production Asst DCJ.

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DC Srinagar reviews functioning of Revenue Department

- All Public Services to be given within PSGA period strictly: DC
- 1733 number of Migrant grievances disposed of till date in the District

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: In order to review the functioning of Revenue Department and take Tehsil wise appraisal about Revenue related public services delivery system in the District, a meeting was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, SDM West all Tehsildars, All Naib Tehsildars, officers of Regional Directorate Survey and Land Record and other functionaries of Revenue Department.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review and progress of all Tehsils of the District on various Revenue matters including progress on digitization of Jamabandis/Girdawari, Reconstruction of damaged Masavies, Status of Migrant offline/online grievances, updation of cases on Revenue Court Cases



Monitoring System (RCCMS), Online services delivery system, digitization of legacy mutations.

While reviewing progress with regard to authentication process of digitised Jamabandies and scanning of revenue records as per the targets, the DC asked all the Tehsildars to clear pendencies under set timelines. The DC asked the concerned Revenue Officers to

reconcile the updated/corrected copies of the Jamabandies with the respective Tehsil Offices to ensure presence of up-to-date records. He sets Tehsil wise deadlines for completing the process of Authentication of Jamabandies.

On the occasion, the DC asked the Assistant Commissioner Revenue to monitor the progress on a daily basis so that the process

is completed within set timelines.

Similarly, the DC stressed that the cases enlisted in various Revenue Courts of Srinagar need to be exclusively processed on Revenue Court Cases Monitoring System (RCCMS) by following due procedure. He also emphasised that the proceedings of these court cases should be regularly uploaded, so that functioning of the Revenue

Courts is effectively monitored.

With regard to disposal mechanism of grievances related to Migrant properties filed by the Kashmiri migrants in different categories offline/online, the DC was informed that till date 1929 grievances have been received by the District Administration, out of which 1733 grievances of different nature have been resolved by the Office of District Magistrate Srinagar with quality disposal while disposal of remaining grievances is being carried on fast track basis.

On the Deputy Commissioner instructed all the Tehsildars to pay special thrust on ensuring efficient and prompt delivery of public services to their best satisfaction as envisaged under Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). The DC also appreciated the Tehsildars and their respective teams for ensuring effective and prompt implementation of online services.

During the meeting, the DC also asked the Tehsildars to formulate Action Plans for smooth and peaceful observance of forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram in the respective Tehsils so that people do not face any inconvenience.

J&K stall awarded for presentation, design at TTF Kolkata

Deptt presents road map for sustainable tourism, new products, services offered in J&K

KOLKATA, JUL 17: The J&K Tourism stall was awarded for its presentation and design at the concluding ceremony of three day Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF)-2023 here.

The award to J&K was given by CEO, Fairfest Media, Sanjiv Aggarwal during the last day of three day fair, attended by representatives of participant countries, States and UTs besides organizations working in various tourism sectors across the country.

Earlier, the J&K Tourism department gave a detailed presentation on tourist scenario of J&K, tourism products and services, future prospects as well as new initiatives by the department.

The presentation also highlighted about the scope and role of sustainable tourism and responsibility on the part of stakeholders and tourists to sustain the ecology and future of tourism. The presentation also talked about the initiatives of Government for sustaining and improving the tourist footfall to the UT by enhancing the experiences of tourists and providing them more services and products.

The delegates, during the presentation, were briefed about the new homestay policy launched by the Government as well as resolve to reduce the carbon footprints at the destinations and the introduction of new segments like adventure trails, horticulture tourism, heritage tourism, MICE and the effort to link local art and craft with the tourist experiences. The delegates were informed that to further improve the grievance redressal mechanism a dedicated helpdesk has been set up for the tourists.

It may be recalled that the J&K Tourism stall at the TTF saw a huge rush of visitors comprising prospective tourists, travel agents, travel writers enquiring about the tourism services and products available in the UT.

The fair brought together industry leaders, top media professionals and the entire travel industry from the Eastern part of the country particularly West Bengal and beyond. Around 400 exhibitors from the entire country and many foreign exhibitors including from Thailand, Mauritius, South Africa participated in the three day long tourism fest.

This year, a large contingent of tour operators and hoteliers from J&K, including many women travel entrepreneurs, also attended the fair for which adequate arrangements were made by the Tourism Department.

Apni Party represents aspiration of all regions: Altaf Bukhari

JAMMU, JUL 17: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has said that his party represents aspiration of all the regions in Jammu and Kashmir.

While speaking at a joining programme here at Apni Party Office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Altaf Bukhari said the people from all faiths have extended support to the party's policy and agenda of peace, and equitable development.

Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders were also present on the occasion. The programme was organized by Women Wing Provincial President, Jammu, Pavneet Kour.

Sarpanch, Hans Raj, Tripata Devi, Manoj Kumar, Taranjit Singh, Rakesh Mahajan, Choudhary Yashpal Singh, Satpal Sandotra, Sapna Devi, Balvinder Kumar, Dalbir Singh, Parmeet Singh, Inderpal Singh, Sardar Rajinder Singh, Subash Chander, Sourav Singh, and others who joined Apni Party in presence of Altaf Bukhari sahib and other leaders of Apni Party.

While welcoming the new entrants into the party, Bukhari hoped that their joining would strengthen the party at the ground level. Many people who joined the Apni Party belong to different political parties.

"The policy and agenda of development and unity among the people has widely been accepted by the people of Jammu as well as of Kashmir. The people from all the communities, sections, and areas are joining Apni Party with a hope that their suffering will end. These people supported the traditional political parties, but they tried to create division between the two regions, and the people," he said. He said that the Apni Party believes in equitable development, unity and equality in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The traditional political parties exploited the people of both the regions to garner votes from them and return to power. These regional as well as national political parties misused the vote bank of people for their personal gains, and the plight of people remained unchanged for more than seven decades," he said.

He said that it was due to the policy of divide and rule that these political parties got exposed before the people and lost their trust among the people.

"These political parties are not able to face the people in the elections. As there was a political vacuum, the Apni Party came into being to represent the people when others preferred to remain silent on serious issues, but always tried to create division between Jammu and Kashmir regions. We denounce any kind of divisive agenda. Therefore, Apni Party's acceptance has increased among the people in all the regions, and all sections of society," he added.

He said that "As J&K is passing through a difficult phase where elections have not been held for the last several years, and there is no elected Govt in place. The feeling of alienation is growing among the people. Both the regions seek holding of early assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir."

"The bureaucracy is working in a wayward manner without considering public opinion. The sentiments of the people are against the administration and Govt officials who fail to work as per the demands of the people. The ignorance of public issues and growing unemployment in J&K has led to the feeling of despair among the people that needs to be addressed by holding assembly elections because an elected Govt is answerable to people," he further stated.

59 Posts of Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff Lying Vacant in NIT Srinagar; Reveals RTI

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Fifty Nine positions of teaching and non-teaching staff are lying vacant in National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar which is one of premier education institution of north India, information in this regard has been shared by the Central Public Information Officer of the institute in response to an RTI application by a Jammu based RTI activist Raman Sharma.

In official letter dated 19/06/2023 signed by Registrar & Central Public Information Officer of the institution, the Reply informs that NIT Srinagar has 4-Tier Flexible faculty cadre structure and the total sanctioned strength of permanent faculty staff is 198 and posted strength is 162. It further states that there are 36 vacant faculty posts.

The reply served by the institute also discloses that there are 13 temporary faculty members also, including 03 posted in Electrical Engineering department, 03 in I.T department, 2 in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, 02 in Humanities and Social sciences and Management, 01 each in Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering and department of Physics.

The information provided by the CPIO to RTI activist Raman Sharma also reveals that 23 posts of perma-



nent non-teaching staff are also lying vacant there in NIT, Srinagar.

While giving detail about the intake capacity and as on date enrolled strength of the students there in the institute, the documents provided by the CPIO disclose that intake capacity for undergraduate courses is 952 (including 53 for DASA, Direct Admission for Students Abroad) and for Post graduate courses it is 439 (including 23 for DASA). As on date total enrolled strength of students in Undergraduate courses is 3175 and those pursu-

ing PG Courses is 428.

Category wise detail of Students reveals that 269 students under EWS quota are pursuing Under graduate courses and 7 are admitted for PG courses, 1606 students under open merit category out of which 1406 are pursuing UG courses and 200 undergoing PG programs. In the reply it has also been informed that there are 501(SC), 256(ST), 56(PWD), 742(OBC-NCL), 3(DASA) 163(Self Sponsored) students enrolled in the NIT Srinagar and pursuing different courses.

J&K BJP chief serves legal notice to former MLC; seeks apology for false allegations of corruption

JAMMU, JUL 17: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday served a legal defamation notice to former MLC Surinder Choudhary who recently joined National Conference here after ending his over year-long association with the national party.

Raina sought an unconditional apology from Choudhary within a week for his attempts to damage his reputation among the masses and the party ranks, warning of a defamation suit worth Rs five crore against the politician after the expiry of the deadline.

Choudhary quit Peoples Demo-

cratic Party on March 30, last year before joining BJP within a week. However, he left the BJP and joined National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on July 7. Choudhary announced his decision to quit BJP on his twitter handle and accused Raina of encouraging "familism and corruption".

"I have served a legal notice to Choudhary through my lawyer from J&K High Court (Navyug Sethi) for leveling baseless allegations against me with the sole aim to defame my reputation within the party and the masses. He should apologize within one week or prepare for legal action,"



Raina said.

In the legal notice, Sethi said the intentional defamation of his client was a designed move coinciding with the joining of Choudhary in National Conference and

his client has suffered serious damage to his name, reputation and goodwill besides suffering from mental trauma.

"You may choose any political party that suits your ambition,

yet the choice of words in the tweet on July 11 are purely inappropriate, rather defamatory to my clients and the BJP, despite you knowing well that my client was not involved in any of the alleged acts," the legal notice read.

Sethi said it was clear that in order to damage his client reputation and years of goodwill as an honest upright politician, the allegations have tarnished his reputation amongst the general public as also in his party circles and relatives. He said his client is well within his legal rights to invoke remedies both under civil and criminal law against Choudhary.

Crime Branch, NCB, District Police Pulwama and Samba destroys seized contrabands worth crores

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Jammu and Kashmir Police in collaboration with Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has carried out destruction of large scale seized narcotic drugs in Samba and Pulwama today.

Under the Union Governments programme, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Crime Branch J&K as (Nodal agency) in collaboration with NCB, District Police & Judiciary took a major leap forward and destroyed 7798 Kgs seized contraband, 8545 /106730/51 Psychotropic substance at M/S Anmol Healthcare Samba & M/S Kashmir Healthcare IGC Lasipora, Pulwama. The contrabands were seized in 670 different NDPS cases of UT JK and were valuing approximately Rs.17 Crores.

The destruction was carried out by incineration in a controlled manner as provided under rules to avoid any harm to the environment. This was just a start of the process and in the coming day all the drugs lying in different Police, Court and ANTF Godowns are being destroyed as per the laid down guidelines. It is pertinent to mention here that the destruction of seized contraband initiative has been taken by Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan throughout the country.

9th NCORD meeting: DC Baramulla calls for Zero Tolerance against Perpetrators of Drug Abuse

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JULY 17: The 9th meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) was today held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

The meeting took appraisal of the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to control measures to overcome drug menace in the district.

It also discussed threadbare the incidences of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug abuse and status of drug rehabilitation centre in Baramulla district.

During the meeting, Dr Sehrish called for zero tolerance against perpetrators



of drug abuse in the district and issued directions to the concerned officers to ensure blanket ban on the sale of tobacco within 200 meter radius of all educational institutions across the district.

The DC further said that collective efforts are needed to curb the drug menace

and all stakeholders shall have to work in tandem to enhance the rehabilitation of persons involved in drug abuse.

Dr Sehrish also exhorted upon the Youth Services and Sports Department to ensure the involvement and engagement of youth clubs in various activities meant

to help in eradication of the drug menace.

Dr Sehrish emphasised on conducting awareness camps in schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.

Meanwhile, the chair was informed that 8 medical shops have been sealed in the district violating the guidelines of the government besides 170 Kanal poppy cultivation have been destroyed and 58 FIRs lodged against the culprits during the last drug De-addiction drives.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla/ Sopore, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Programme Officer ICDS, SDM's and other functionaries of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

DC Pulwama reviews arrangements for ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of District Officers and Shia religious/Community leaders at Circuit house Pulwama, to review arrangements to be put in place for ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram starting from 20th July.

On the occasion, the Chief Medical Officer and officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, medical teams and Ambulances available in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

The DC directed Block Development Officers and Executive Officers (EOs) of MCs to repair all dysfunctional Street lights including High Mass lights around Imambaras and make them functional well before the important days of Muharram. He



stressed on ensuring cleanliness of lanes and drains inside the compounds of Imambaras, Shrines and Procession routes. He also asked them to enhance manpower for ensuring proper cleanliness during the

Muharram days.

Similarly, the SFC department was directed to dump the required quantity of firewood at already identified locations as per past practice.

Export Awareness cum e-Commerce Onboarding Workshop held at Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, JULY 17: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in association with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) today organized an export awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding workshop for potential exporters at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The Assistant Commissioner (AC) Shopian, Shahbaz Ahmed Bodha presided over the workshop and expressed his salutation to the business community members from Shopian District. Addressing the gathering, the Assistant Commissioner emphasized on proper branding of the



products to make the branded products export ready. He further highlighted the major products from Shopian which have potential for exports and spotlighted the importance of fine tuning and finishing of products. The workshop is first in line of the planned events to be held across the UT to promote exports from all districts of J&K. It included

ed detailed sessions on benefits of exports, awareness regarding India Business Portal and India Trade portal, credit linkages for exports and credit risk insurance facilities and potential of products of the region in international market. The emphasis of the workshop was to boost and support exports from District Shopian with a focus

on developing the district as an export hub under the District as Export Hub/ ODOP initiatives. The beneficiaries were briefed regarding the potential of their products for exports, countries to be targeted and procedures of exports.

JKTPO has brought all export agencies/ stakeholders to the grassroots level through these drives. Special focus was given on ODOP of district Shopian.

The detailed sessions were conducted by the experts on the benefits of exports, the process of getting an Import/Export code, endorsing local products to an international market, credit linkages for exports and credit risk insurance facilities.

SWD Kulgam organises Awareness programme on drug abuse at Devsar

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 17: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Kulgam today organized a day-long awareness program on drug abuse at Townhall, Devsar. The event witnessed participation of resource persons from Social Welfare Department Kulgam, Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, District



Drug controller office Kulgam and Addiction Treatment Facility District Hospital Kulgam. Students, Teachers, Aasha workers, and Aanganwadi workers participated in the event.

During the programme, importance and need for collaborative efforts from different departments and segments of society was highlighted to effectively tackle this pressing issue. Throughout the programme, engaging speakers and experts delved into various dimensions of the drug menace, providing valuable insights into the psychological and clinical aspects of drug abuse.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK ZALDAGAR

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for this office Short Term e-NIT No. 12 OF 2023-24, Dated: 10-07-2023 for below mentioned work: -

Part-4:-

Repairs of rotor of 425HP VT motor of Unit No. 03 at Stage 2nd Marval.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2023_IFC_220725_4

Extension Notice 1

Due to poor response to above mentioned sub-part of this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	21/07/2023 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	22/07/2023 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

**DIPK-5258/23
Dated: - 17-07-2023**

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar**

THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS TRAL

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTIONS
FROM GENERAL PUBLIC)

ISRAR RAFIQ SHEIKH THROUGH HIS FATHER
RAFIQ AHMAD SHEIKH
R/O PINGLISH TEHSIL TRAL
DISTRICT PULWAMA
(...Applicant)
Vs
Registrar Births and Deaths (BDO Tral)
(...Non-applicant)

WHEREAS an application has been made before this court that ISRAR RAFIQ SHEIKH S/O RAFIQ AHMAD SHEIKH R/O PINGLISH TEHSIL TRAL DISTRICT PULWAMA was born on 13.02.2009 (THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY TWO THOUSAND NINE) and the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars of HIS WARD ISRAR RAFIQ SHEIKH in the concerned Register of Births and Deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person/s having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.
Dated: 12.7.23

(ALTAFAHMAD MAGISTRAT
JudiCIALMagistrate
Tral Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8Th pass marks card .Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

FAISAL SHAFI BHAT
S/O MOHD SHAFI BHAT
R/O DOLIPORA KAWACHECK

PUBLIC NOTICE

I inform to general public that my electric bill is on the name of GH AHMAD GANAIE S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN GANAIE R/O WAGOORA. bearing Consumer ID No. 02212040004158. Now I want to change my electric bill name from GH AHMAD GANAIE S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN GANAIE R/O WAGOORA to ABDUL AHAD MALLAH S/O GH AHMAD MALLAH R/O WAGOORA ...If anybody have any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...ABDUL AHAD MALLAH
S/o ...LATE GH AHMAD MALLAH
R/o WAGOORA
Distt...BARAMULLAH AHMAD BHAT
S/O... MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT
R/O...KACHWAMUQAM
Block.... WAGOORA

University of Kashmir, Srinagar NOTICE

The Candidate whose particulars are given below, Reported University that he has lost his University certificates and has applied for duplicate Certificates.

Name. Mudasir Ahmad wani
S/O Ab Majid Wani
R/O Wadipora Harda punzoo
Registration No 15647 IC 2001
Certificate Lost. Bsc Ist year Marks card
Roll No I2117.
Session. Oct Nov 2001
If any Body have any objection In this regard He |She may contact Concerned authority within 7 Days After the Publication of the Notice .No Date No Objection will be entertained



Asistant Controler Examniton.
University of Kashmir

از عدالت سب جج کیواڑہ

باجلاس: منظور احمد خان

Resham Jan
Wife of, Abdul Rashid Khan
Kanipora Kalaros Drugmulla
Kupwara
v/s public at Large

درخواست بابت حصول D.O.B

اطلاع آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندر بہ عنوان المصدر میں سائل سائے نے ایک درخواست بابت حصول D.O.B پیش کی سائل/ سائل کی تاریخ پیدائش 25/7/1958 -ازمجم ڈیٹھ اینڈ پڑھو عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست بغرض حصول پیش کی اگر درخواست ہذا میں حکم صادر فرمانے بحق سائل/ سائلدریشتم جان ج عبدالرشید

خان سائنہ Kanipora Kalaros Drugmulla
Kupwara اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو کالتا یا آئیندہ رجسٹرار عدالت ہذا میں 26/7/23 تک تحریری طور پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزارنے کے بعد کوئی نجی، ہوگا تحریر الصار یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تحریر الصدر سب جج کیواڑہ



Government of Jammu & Kashmir Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal

گورنمنٹ کالج آف فزیکل ایجوکیشن گادورا گاندربل

Website: www.jkgcope.edu.in

Email: pgcope@gcope.edu.in

Ph No.: 0194-2951795

Short Term Tender Notice

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs 5/- are invited from the Approved contractors/suppliers registered with UT of J&K Government for **supply and installation of Natural Grass Turfing for Cricket 25 Yard Circle and Outdoor (Open) Gem with total land area of 32700 sqft (for both)** to be executed at Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal. The tenders should be accompanied with CDR of Rs. 2500/- pledged to **Principal, Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal** which should reach this office within 07 days from the issuance of this notice in the newspapers. The firms/contractors shall visit the site during office hours from the date of issuance of the tender notice through print and electronic media up to last date to examine the nature of work. The tenders will be opened on the subsequent or any other working day in presence of the College Development Committee. The development committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof:

Terms & Conditions:

- GST Registration Certificate and PAN Number should be accompanied.
- The rates so quoted shall include supply, levelling & installing.
- The rates as quoted for should be in inclusive of the charges as mentioned in the notice and F.O.R Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal.
- The payment shall be released subject to satisfactory report submitted by the college development committee.

**DIPK-5284/23
Dated, 17 July 23**

**Sd/-
Dr. Hartej Singh
(Principal)**

Doda hosts 2-day Lal Draman Festival from Aug 5 DC finalises arrangements for mega event

HT News Network

DODA, JULY 17: In the run up of hosting the much anticipated Lal Draman festival, Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan today chaired a meeting to finalise the arrangements for the mega event.

The 2-day festival is scheduled to start from August 5th in the sprawling Lal Draman meadows. The meeting discussed the action plan and inventory of activities, besides holding detailed discussion on varied arrangements for the visitors.

Transportation/ logistics for the festival were thoroughly reviewed, and the Deputy Commissioner set timelines for key arrangements to be made for the event. Emphasizing the importance of adequate facilities,

the DC instructed the concerned officers to make provision of tents, electric generators, lights, sound systems and other necessary amenities by August 4th without fail.

To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to deploy an adequate number of sanitation staff two days prior to the event.

Further, he urged the Power Development Department (PDD) and the Municipal Committee Doda to take measures for proper lighting at the venue and the approach paths leading to it, to ensure a hassle-free experience for the visitors.

The meeting was attended by all district officers and representatives from relevant departments, demonstrating the collective effort put forth to make the festival a resounding success.



lective effort put forth to make the festival a resounding success.

The Deputy Commissioner also addressed the security

arrangements, urging the Superintendent of Police (SSP)

Doda to finalize the necessary measures to facilitate a safe and secure environment throughout the festival.

The DC discussed the adventure sports and activities to be organized during the festival, including marathons, zip-lining, kabaddi, and cultural programs.

To promote awareness and community participation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner of Panchayat to organize a painting competition, focusing on cleanliness and maintaining a pristine environment.

The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to make medical care arrangements during the festival, including the deployment of specialist doctors of orthopedics, gynecology and physician. Moreover, the Principals

of Colleges and the Chief Education Officer Doda were directed to prepare student groups for engaging in discussions during the festival, enriching the experience for attendees.

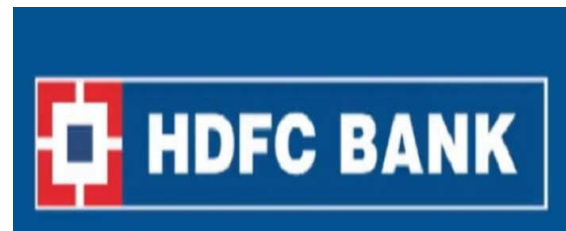
Additionally, the concerned officers were urged to make arrangements for tents to accommodate overnight stays for tourists and visitors. The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged both government and private schools to actively participate in the festival to create a vibrant atmosphere.

With these comprehensive arrangements and a dedicated team of officials, the Youth Conclave/Lal Draman festival in Doda promises to be an unforgettable event, showcasing the cultural vibrancy and natural beauty of the region.

HDFC Bank financial results (India GAAP) for the Quarter ended June 30 2023

HT News Network

Srinagar, July 17, KNT: The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank Limited approved the Bank's (Indian GAAP) results



for the quarter ended June 30, 2023, at its meeting held in Mumbai on Monday, July 17, 2023. The accounts have been subjected to a 'Limited Review' by the statutory auditors of the Bank.

The Bank's consolidated net revenue grew by 25.9% to 35,067 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 from 27,844 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. The consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 was 12,370 crore, up 29.1%, over the quarter ended June 30, 2022. Earnings per share for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 was at 22.2 and book value per share as of June 30, 2023 was 542.7.

The Bank's net revenue grew by 26.9% to 32,829 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 from 25,870 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 grew by 21.1% to 23,599 crore from 19,481 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. Core net interest margin was at 4.1% on total assets, and 4.3% based on interest earning assets.

Other income (non-interest revenue) at 9,230 crore was 28.1% of the net revenues for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 as against 6,388 crore in the corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2022. The four components of other income for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 were fees & commissions of 6,290 crore (5,360 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year), foreign exchange & derivatives revenue of 1,309 crore (1,024 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year), net trading and mark to market gain of 552 crore (loss of 1,077 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year) and miscellaneous income, including recoveries and dividend, of 1,079 crore (1,080 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year). Other income, excluding net trading and mark to market income, grew by 16.2% over the quarter ended June 30, 2022. Operating expenses for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 were 14,057 crore, an increase of 33.9% over 10,502 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The cost-to-income ratio for the quarter was at 42.8%.

Pre-provision Operating Profit (PPOP) at 18,772 crore grew by 22.2% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Technology Day celebrated at KVK Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, JULY 17: Samba Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology- Jammu today organized "Technology day cum Awareness programme" under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

As many as 80 farmers/ farm women enthusiastically participated in the programme. On this occasion, a display of new and innovative technologies was also organized, in which different types of specimens, exhibits and agricultural tools and implements were demonstrated for the farmers.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba.

He welcomed the farmers and highlighted the importance of new and innovative technologies in agriculture particularly in Samba district for growing the income of the farmers. He emphasized upon the need to include new and innovative technologies in agriculture to improve the profitability in the agriculture sector. He informed them about the organizing kisan goshtis, awareness camps to sensitize farmers about the novel technologies in the agriculture sector.

Dr. Neerja Sharma, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) discussed in detail the value addition of the fruits and vegetables in the Samba district and various post harvest measures to improve the income of the farmers.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Senior Scientist (Agriculture)

DC Ramban chairs rent assessment committee meeting

HT News Network

RAMBAN, JULY 17: The District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) today approved 18 rent assessment cases of different departments here at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam. Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma, ACR, Gias-ul-Haq, district officers of various departments and officers from the Police and Army, besides owners of buildings attended the meeting.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, FCS&CA, Army, Revenue, Education, Health, PMGSY, and other departments



were approved by the Committee. As many as 19 rent assessment cases were put up for discussion, out of which 18 cases were approved by the Committee in the presence of building owners and respective departmental representatives. The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of buildings and structures on time ensuring safety and security of the Government and rented

property. As many as 19 rent assessment cases were put up for discussion, out of which 18 cases were approved by the Committee in the presence of building owners and respective departmental representatives. The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of buildings and structures on time ensuring safety and security of the Government and rented

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

HT News Network

RAJOURI, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today reviewed the arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations here at a meeting of officers. The meeting discussed the features of cultural program, composition of parade, and award presentations etc, besides arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, power supply, medical care, emergency services and security.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of the day and urged officials to put in coordinated efforts to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well in time. The day will begin with Shehnai Vadan by the Information Department, followed by the flag hoisting ceremony and parade comprising contingents of District Police, NCC, CRPF, BSF, Home guard, JKFPF, and ITBP.

To ensure that the celebrations are conducted smoothly, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to



ensure adequate security arrangements, cleanliness, illumination of government buildings, parking facilities, traffic management, and proper seating arrangements at the main venue.

The meeting was attended by the Commandant, CRPF 72 Bn Rajouri; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; CEO Tourism, Vivek Puri; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SE Jal Shakti, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; SE PWD(R&B); DSEO, Sandeep Sharma and other concerned officers.

Religious fervor, gaiety marks Amavasya festival celebration at Purmandal, Uttarbhehni

HT News Network

SAMBA, JULY 17: Amavasya festival was today celebrated with religious fervour at Purmandal/ Uttarbhehni in the District Samba.

Nearly 1 lakh devotees thronged the twin shrines of Purmandal and Utterbehni to pay obeisance and joined the festivities which began on Monday morning. Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma also participated in Devika Pujan along with devotees, PRI members, officers from the district and police administration, besides, children from Sanskrit Ved Vidyalaya, Purmandal 'Chota Kashi', is a place of immense



religious significance for Hindus from times immemorial. It is an important pilgrimage center situated at a distance of 40 km from Jammu City, on the banks of the river Devika. The Devika is prominently known as the Gupt Ganga which bifurcate this highly sacred town into two equal parts. The Devika is known to have originated during the last phase of the Dwapar period. The UT Government

and local administration and all concerned departments and agencies had made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims in coordination with the management of the Dharmarth Trust. The locals complimented the Government and Deputy Commissioner Samba and his team for making satisfactory arrangements at the site. They also exuded confidence that such activities would increase the footprint of tourists at the holy site of Purmandal/ Uttarbhehni. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner complimented the locals for their support in making the celebrations a grand success. He emphasized the importance.

Div Com reviews progress of JMRDA, Smart City projects Emphasises on timeline completion of works

HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 17: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, who is also the Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority (JMRDA), today chaired a meeting to review the progress of different projects under the purview of the JMRDA. The meeting was attended by key officials including Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Vice Chairman JDA, Chief Engineer PWD, Deputy Director Planning, Chief

Accounts Officer JMRDA, Architect of JMRDA, Executive Engineer ERA and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioner Kathua participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The meeting assessed the status of ongoing projects and discussed strategies for expediting their completion within the stipulated timelines. The Div Com examined the progress of the projects, encompassing the development and up-gradation of Transport Nagar Jammu, the construction of a modern parking facility, the establishment of green spaces and



pathways in Hiranagar Town and the provision of amenities for the prestigious Tawi River Front View Project.

Additionally, the Div Com reviewed the development of the state-of-the-art bus stand at Thandi Khui Vijay-

pur, the implementation of the Rajeev Nagar Nallah drainage scheme, the formulation of comprehensive regional, sub-regional and zonal plans for JMRDA, as well as the construction of a flyover bridge linking the

circular road with the iconic Heritage complex in Jammu. Taking comprehensive review, officials reported substantial progress on various fronts. Regarding the upgrading of Transport Nagar project, it was informed that the drainage and culvert slab works are nearing completion, with the work of installation of paver blocks and road construction in progress. The concerned officers expressed their commitment to ensure timely completion of the project. To accelerate the construction of the vital flyover bridge connecting the circular road with the Heri-

tage complex, the Div Com asked Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) to immediately initiate the tendering process, emphasizing the importance of commencing the project without delay. Regarding the development of pathways and amenities for the Tawi River Front View Project, it was revealed that over 50% of the work has been successfully accomplished, with further progress underway. It was further informed that several other projects have also received approval and will shortly commence in different districts, paving the way for further progress.

SKUAST-Jammu conducts awareness programme on "Career opportunities for Veterinary graduates"

HT News Network

JAMMU, JULY 17: Under able guidance and leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, a one day awareness programme on "Career opportunities for Veterinary graduates in Indian Army and other Sectors" under NAHEP-IDP, SKUAST-Jammu conducted by Counselling and Placement Cell, SKUAST-Jammu at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura campus. The event was held to provide an opportunity to the upcoming veterinary graduates to discuss and exchange ideas/knowledge/experiences with the experts/resource persons and to give exposure to them on scope and opportunities for their career in the Indian Army with special reference to the Remount Veterinary Corps and other sectors. Dr. M. S. Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & A.H.

EDITORIAL

Drug Abuse : A Major Challenge for Gen-Next

More than three decades of Sustained conflict in Kashmir valley which has traumatized the people shows dangerous fallout as tens of thousands of youth in Valley are involved in different kinds of drug abuse. Every day the police bulletins are a buzz with news of Notorious drug peddlers being nabbed and huge hauls of drugs being recovered from their possession. Although the majority of drug users are male and drug stores are the major suppliers to addicts, however the alarming trends surfacing are that a good number of female folk has been dragged into this menace through a well knit conspiracy. Experts have taken serious note and warn disaster if society doesn't act now.

In Kashmir Valley alone the aftermath the of conflict is depressing as well as dangerous for the society. Mass destruction of life and property, and overwhelming fear and uncertainty during the past many years of disturbance has taken heavy psychological toll- being manifested in terms of rampant drug abuse among youth.

A recent study conducted by a local NGO in Srinagar revealed substantial increase in the number of patients diagnosed as drug abusers during last 10 years. Valley's leading psychiatrists giving the background of the menace are of the opinion that over the past decade Kashmiri youth are highly traumatised and to relieve of the stress they often take drugs .Psychological problems are in the back ground. The use of various drugs has increased tremendously during these years of traumatic violence. The Study shows that the society at large is in deep slumber and needs to wake up and every member has a role to play to put this mess in order otherwise it is bound to spell the disaster.

Sociologists warn that the abuse has assumed a kind of epidemic and it's consequences would be disastrous on the society. The problem needs to be handled immediately, otherwise it would be too late to act. Nobody as a member of society can be exempted from the responsibility. There is need to make awareness especially among youth about the hazards of drug abuse otherwise next generation would be doomed, Social scientist have warned and educated the family, teachers, NGOs, govt. agencies and media to play an important role if the menace is to be eradicated.

Another shocking revelations was made by a local and only de-addiction center in entire Valley through its recent survey carried out in different educational institutions and in the area believed to be vulnerable to the drug addiction . The authorities and law enforcing agencies silence on this lethal menace have further aggravated the condition . No accountability and restriction on the sale of these drugs in the market has made them easily accessible to abusers and addicts . Abuse of drugs like codein and other medicinal opioids have reached epidemic proportions in the valley.

There should be restriction on the sale of these drugs .J&K is the only state where drug Act hasn't been implemented yet .Govt. and society has to wake up otherwise it would be too late. The ongoing turbulence has given rise to gruesome and unrelenting situation in this conflict ridden state once known for its rich and civilized social ethos now grappling with moral degradation.

Let peace prevail in my Vale which is at the verge of moral death, is the refrain of the people who rue over the loss of traditions of Kashmir which was once known for Sufi culture the characteristic of which is the purity of the society.



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON



"In the face of success, many will be ready to share the glory, but in the face of failure, one must be prepared to bear the weight alone." These poignant words by Friedrich von Schiller encapsulate the essence of the challenges faced by students in Kashmir, as revealed by the recent examination results of the 11th class. The alarming trend of poor academic performance calls for a collective response, acknowledging the contributions of various stakeholders involved. While it is essential to acknowledge the existence of loopholes within the education system, attributing the entire blame to teachers alone may oversimplify the complex issue at hand. To address this situation effectively, it is imperative to consider multiple factors that contribute to students' academic outcomes. By fostering collaboration and shared responsibility among parents, teachers, policymakers, and students themselves, we can pave the way for significant improvements in the educational landscape of Kashmir.

Parental Involvement:

Parents play a vital role in shaping their child's educational journey, and their active involvement is crucial for academic success. However, it is important to recognize the challenges faced by parents, including limited access to educational resources, socio-economic constraints, and a lack of awareness about effective parenting practices. To bridge this gap, schools and educational institutions should strive to establish strong partnerships with parents. Regular parent-teacher meetings, workshops on parenting techniques, and providing resources for parental support can empower parents to become active participants in their child's education, fostering a positive learning environment at home.

Teacher Accountability:

The role of teachers cannot be underestimated in shaping students' academic achievements. While it is true that teachers are entrusted with the responsibility of imparting knowledge, it is important to remember that they operate within a complex educational system. Factors such as overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, and inadequate professional development opportunities can hinder their effectiveness. To ensure teacher accountability, it is crucial for policymakers to invest in teacher training programs, provide necessary resources, and establish mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and support. By addressing these systemic issues, teachers can be

better equipped to deliver high-quality education and take responsibility for their students' success.

Reimagining Pedagogy:

The traditional methods of teaching and assessment may not always align with the diverse learning needs of students. Educational institutions should strive to adopt innovative pedagogical approaches that promote critical thinking, creativity, and active student engagement. This includes incorporating interactive teaching methods, project-based learning, and integrating technology into the classroom. By fostering a student-centric learning environment, teachers can motivate students to take ownership of their education, paving the way for improved academic performance.

Leveraging Technology:

In the digital era, technology offers vast opportunities for enhancing the learning experience. Online platforms, educational apps, and digital resources can provide students with access to a wide range of educational materials.

The widespread availability of mobile technology presents both opportunities and challenges for students' academic performance. While mobile devices can serve as powerful learning tools, they can also be distracting and detrimental to focused study. Encouraging responsible use of mobile devices, such as implementing designated study hours, utilizing educational apps, and establishing clear guidelines, can help students leverage the benefits of mobile technology while minimizing its potential distractions.

However, it is crucial to ensure equitable access to technology and address the digital divide that may exist in certain areas. By providing reliable internet connectivity, investing in infrastructure, and facilitating teacher training on effective technology integration, educational institutions can harness the potential of digital tools to support student learning and academic achievement.

The Impact of Session Change:

Amidst the exploration of factors contributing to poor academic performance in Kashmir's 11th class, a significant aspect that demands attention is the recent change in the academic session. Traditionally, exams in Kashmir were held in November-December; however, this year, the government decided to shift the session to March. This alteration, coupled with a tendency among students to take the 11th class lightly, has posed unique challenges to academic success.

The shift in the academic session from November-December to March has disrupted the familiar pattern of study and examination schedules in Kashmir. Students accustomed to the previous session now face a prolonged period of preparation and revised timelines. This change has the potential to affect their study routines, motivation levels, and overall academic performance. It is essential for educators,

parents, and students to adapt to this new session structure and establish effective strategies to mitigate its impact on learning outcomes. By collectively recognizing and addressing these factors, we can strive to create a more conducive environment for improved performance among Kashmiri students

Taking 11th Class Lightly:

In addition to the session change, another factor that contributes to poor performance is the tendency among some students to underestimate the significance of the 11th class. Regarded as a preliminary year before the crucial 12th class, students may perceive the 11th class as a time for relaxation or experimentation. This lack of seriousness and dedication can lead to complacency, reduced effort, and ultimately, subpar academic results. It is imperative to instill in students the understanding that the 11th class serves as a foundation for their future academic pursuits and merits their full attention and commitment.

Tail Peice:

The poor 11th class results in Kashmir indicate a need for collective action and shared responsibility among various stakeholders. While acknowledging the loopholes in the education system, it is crucial to avoid placing the entire burden on teachers. By fostering collaboration between parents, teachers, policymakers, and students themselves, we can address the underlying factors contributing to poor academic performance.

The recent shift in the academic session from November-December to March, coupled with students taking the 11th class lightly, presents unique challenges to academic performance in Kashmir. By collectively addressing these challenges through orientation programs, heightened awareness, and the cultivation of effective study habits, we can empower students to overcome these obstacles and thrive academically.

Through increased parental involvement, teacher accountability, innovative pedagogy, and the thoughtful integration of technology, we can create an inclusive and supportive educational ecosystem that empowers students to excel academically. Let us join hands as educational institutions, teachers, parents, and students themselves to create an environment that fosters excellence, paving the way for a brighter future for Kashmir and its next generation.

About the Author: Aubaid Ahmad Akhoon is a renowned Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the weekly publication 'Education Quill.' With a Master's degree in Urdu and Education, and expertise in computer technology, he has been working in the coaching industry for the past eight years. Follow the author on Instagram at @UBI9305.

Crucibles: Must-haves in leadership development



R GOPALAKRISHNAN

There is great value in moving across functions, geographies, work relationships, and domains—what I term as talent portability and adaptation. A questioner may rightly ask why this is so; where does the value accrue? The answer lies in the idea of a 'crucible'.

A crucible is a vessel in alchemy where the nature and character of the contents change and become quite different from the original ingredients. The change may be for the better or for the worse. In chemistry, it is a fairly severe trial in which different elements interact, creating something new.

Essentially, when an individual undergoes a life experience, they are modified by that experience—like, for example, when Gandhiji was thrown out of a first-class compartment in South Africa despite possessing a valid ticket, or when school-pass Srinivasa Ramanujan left for Cambridge, England, to do high research in mathematics with Professor G H Hardy.

A crucible experience may arise due to an incident (what happens), due to the context (how, where, and when), or both. For example, Indians who went to the USA in the 1960s, when immigration rules in that country were liberalised, were impacted—many favourably, but some unfavourably—by what happened to

them as well as the new context. If you imagine an x-axis titled 'incident impact' and a y-axis titled 'context impact', you can construct a matrix: from low impact/context to high impact/context with combinations in between.

When Nandan Nilekani moved from his post as CEO of Infosys to a government job as head of UIDAI (Unique Identity Development Authority of India), aka Aadhaar, it was a high-impact/context transition. When a young Deepak Parekh quit his multinational bank job in 1977 to join a startup called HDFC, it was a crucible experience for him. When I moved from the post of vice-chairman of HUL to director of Tata Sons, it was a high-impact/context situation. On the other hand, when I was moved from being a regional sales manager in the west to the north, it was a low-impact/context situation. All had developmental implications (crucible effects), but some were more impactful than others.

Such a logic drives the idea of talent portability and adaptation, which means that every few years, a high-potential executive should experience work change along one or more of the four vectors of talent portability—function, geography, relationships, and domain. In great talent companies, crucible effects are designed, but they may also occur unplanned. The following anecdote illustrates the point about unplanned crucible events.

A Hungarian lieutenant took part in a leadership development program. On his first leadership assignment, he led his small team on the required

manoeuvres for two days in the Swiss Alps.

On the evening of the third day, the team camped to rest for the final assault the next day. Since the weather was clear, several soldiers in the team volunteered to do an advance recce of the assault area so that the probability of success on the next day would increase. The leader agreed. The soldiers left but without their equipment or instruments.

An unexpected blizzard arose that night. None of the men returned throughout the long night. The lieutenant was rightly distraught at letting his men go on an unplanned recce sans instruments and equipment. When the blizzard miraculously abated the next morning, the men straggled back, much to the amazement of the leader. What happened, he enquired. "We had given up," said a young soldier, "When suddenly Pietr here pulled out a map. The map helped us to find our way back." Upon seeing the map, the lieutenant was astonished that it was a map of the Pyrenees, whereas their action had occurred in the Swiss Alps. It is the equivalent of a team finding their way back from Kedarnath with a map of the Nilgiris!

The story is used in leadership training to illustrate that managers find their way out of troublesome and unexpected situations through 'sense-making', not precise maps. Such sense-making has a tremendous impact on how a leader develops.

Crucible training has existed in one form or another for many years. Vanavasa for Sri Rama was a crucible training as it was also for the Pandavas.

It was adopted formally by the US Marine Corps in the mid-1990s, when a Commandant introduced an incredible 54 hours of Marine training—live fire exercises, long marches, and sleep deprivation at the end of base training. He called it 'The Crucible'.

Without calling their training programs by that name, great talent companies design their crucible programs, improving and tweaking these continuously. McKinsey makes associates work on unfamiliar domains, and Hindustan Unilever sends its future leaders on rural development stints. Indian defence and administrative officers change the station and role for upcoming officers every few years.

Portability and adaptation are also techniques people of other professions resorted to voluntarily. Dr John Goodenough, who died recently at age 101, won the Nobel Prize at age 97! His scientific work on lithium batteries has made possible our enjoyment of modern-day marvels in the form of cell phones and other hand-held instruments.

In short, crucibles and adaptation are the antitheses of stagnation. They hold the key to human neoteny, which means rejuvenation and youthfulness. Leaders who cling on to positions of responsibility—CEOs of companies, heads of State, leaders of political parties—fail their stakeholders by throttling the potential rewards of neoteny.

Author and business commentator. His fifty-year professional career was spent in HUL and Tata (rgopal@themindworks.me). Courtesy New Indian Express

Urgent Plea to the Indian Government:

Safeguard Kashmiri Youth from False MLM Scams

Unmasking the Kashmiri Influencers' Role in Exploitative MLM Schemes



IRFAN ATTARI KASHMIRI

In a plea to the Indian government, I write this urgent article to shed light on a distressing issue plaguing the Kashmiri youth—their vulnerability to false scams and deceptive means of advertisement that claim extravagant earnings of 50-60 thousand rupees per month. It is imperative that immediate action is taken to protect these young individuals from falling prey to the treacherous world of multi-level marketing (MLM) scams.

Unveiling the Deceptive Nexus: Kashmiri Influencers and MLM Scams

Over the years, MLM schemes have spread like wildfire, capitalizing on dreams of financial freedom and flexible work-life balance. However, beneath the glossy surface of these opportunities lies a sinister reality. MLMs have transformed into breeding grounds for scams, preying on the hopes and aspirations of unsuspecting individuals. This article aims to expose the dark underbelly of MLMs, highlighting the exploitative business models, deceptive practices, and the devastating impact they have on countless lives.

The Rise of Kashmiri Influencers in MLM Scams

With the rise of social media, influencers have become influential figures in shaping public opinions and aspirations. Regrettably, some Kashmiri influencers have become entangled in the web of MLM scams, exploiting the trust and admiration they once enjoyed from their followers. This article delves into the concerning involvement of Kashmiri influencers in MLM scams, exposing the exploitation of trust and the detrimental consequences faced by the community.

1. Cultivating a Believable Image: Betrayal of Trust

Kashmiri influencers often build their online personas around authenticity and relatability, fostering personal connections with their followers. However, some influencers have deviated from this path, embracing MLM scams and betraying the trust placed in them. By associating themselves with MLM companies, they manipulate the trust of their followers, presenting the scams as legitimate and appealing.

2. Glamorizing MLM Success: The Illusion of Prosperity

Influencers hold significant sway over their followers' aspirations and dreams. Unfortunately, some Kashmiri influencers have chosen to exploit this influence by glamorizing the success stories associated with MLMs. They flaunt luxurious lifestyles, extravagant purchases, and extraordinary experiences—all attributed to their involvement in MLM schemes. By showcasing this illusion of success, they entice their followers into believing that joining an MLM will lead to similar prosperity.

3. Manipulating Emotional Connections: Exploiting Vulnerability

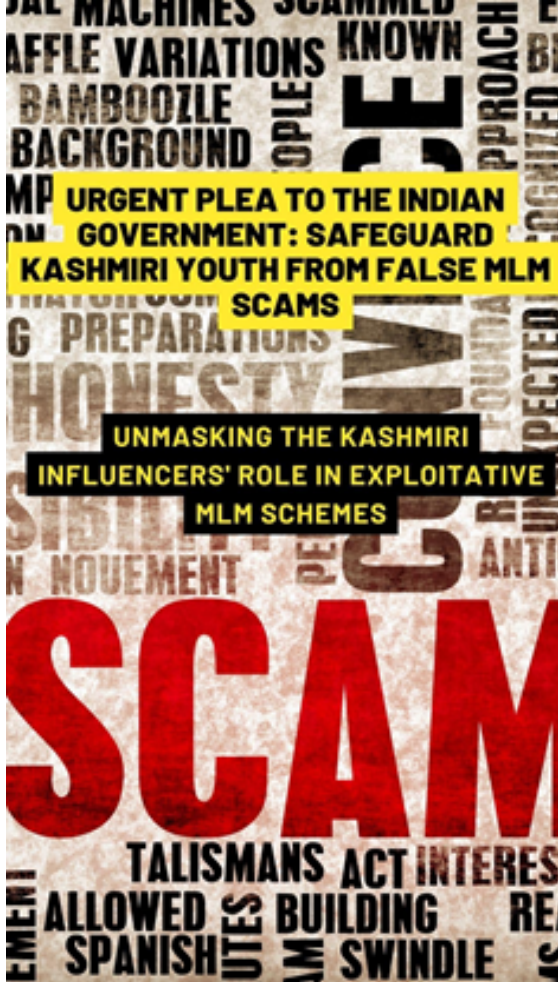
Kashmiri influencers often share strong emotional connections with their followers, who regard them as role models and sources of inspiration. Exploiting these emotional connections, influencers prey on their followers' desires for financial security and independence. They promote MLM scams as solutions to financial woes, promising a pathway to freedom and prosperity. Leveraging emotional manipulation techniques, such as testimonials and personal anecdotes, they persuade their followers to invest in these fraudulent schemes.

4. Concealing the Dark Reality: Hiding the Truth

Kashmiri influencers involved in MLM scams often hide the dark reality of these schemes. They conveniently omit the financial struggles, emotional distress, and shattered dreams experienced by the majority of participants. Instead, they focus on highlighting the few success stories, perpetuating the illusion that everyone can achieve similar outcomes. By downplaying the risks and amplifying the rewards, they deceive their followers into believing that MLMs are a guaranteed path to financial stability.

5. Exploiting Community Bonds: Targeting Their Own

In Kashmiri society, community bonds and trust hold immense value. Unfortunately, some influencers exploit these bonds by targeting their own communities. They capitalize on the trust placed in them by fellow Kashmiris, knowing that individuals are more likely to trust someone from their own community. Exploiting this familiarity, influencers effectively



manipulate their followers into joining MLMs under the guise of community support and collective prosperity.

The Devastating Consequences

The involvement of Kashmiri influencers in MLM scams has profound consequences for the community. As individuals invest their hard-earned money, time, and energy into these scams, they find themselves trapped in a web of debt and disappointment. Relationships within the community become strained as friends and family members are pitted against each other in pursuit of recruitment and profit. The exploitation of trust erodes community cohesion and perpetuates financial vulnerability.

It is incumbent upon the Indian government to address this distressing phenomenon promptly. The trust and credibility that Kashmiri influencers once held within their community have been undermined



by their involvement in MLM scams. By exploiting their influence and emotional connections, these influencers perpetuate MLM scams, leading unsuspecting individuals down a path of financial ruin. It is crucial for the government to take proactive measures to protect the youth from such deceptive schemes.

In conclusion, the rise of MLM scams targeting Kashmiri youth demands immediate attention. The Indian government must act swiftly to implement stringent regulations and safeguard the community from false promises and exploitative MLM schemes. By raising awareness, providing education, and taking proactive measures, we can dismantle the MLM empire and ensure a safer future for all Kashmiri youth.

Advisory: How to Shield Yourself from MLM Scams
The proliferation of MLM scams poses a significant threat to individuals and communities. To shield yourself and your community from falling victim

to these scams, follow this advisory:

1. Research and Educate Yourself: Thoroughly research MLMs and their business models, paying attention to warning signs and red flags associated with scams.
2. Verify the Legitimacy: Scrutinize MLM companies, their products, and their compliance with regulations. Rely on credible sources for information and testimonials.
3. Guard Against Emotional Manipulation: Stay cautious of high-pressure tactics, exaggerated success stories, and emotional appeals used by recruiters or influencers. Make decisions based on critical thinking and objective evaluation.
4. Assess the Product Value: Independently evaluate the MLM's products or services. Consider their market competitiveness and whether you would genuinely use or recommend them outside of the MLM opportunity.
5. Understand the Compensation Structure: Thoroughly review the MLM's compensation plan and ensure it emphasizes product sales rather than recruitment commissions. Be wary of high upfront fees, mandatory inventory purchases, or imposing monthly quotas.
6. Seek Advice from Independent Professionals: Consult financial advisors or legal experts to assess the risks and potential returns associated with MLMs. Their objective insights can help you make informed decisions.
7. Discuss with Trusted Individuals: Engage in open discussions with trusted friends, family, and community members who have experience or knowledge about MLMs. Gain different perspectives and insights to make an informed decision.
8. Trust Your Instincts: If something feels too good to be true or raises suspicions, trust your instincts. MLMs often make unrealistic promises and exploit vulnerabilities. Stepping away is the best course of action.

The steps that need to be taken by the Government of India in Kashmir to save the youth from MLM scams are as follows:

1. Strengthen Regulatory Framework: The government should establish and enforce stringent regulations specifically targeting MLM scams. These regulations should include clear guidelines on MLM operations, disclosure of financial information, and penalties for fraudulent practices. Additionally, regulatory bodies should be empowered with resources and authority to investigate and take legal action against MLM scams.
2. Public Awareness Campaigns: The government should launch extensive public awareness campaigns to educate the Kashmiri youth about the risks and deceptive nature of MLM scams. These campaigns can

utilize various mediums such as television, radio, social media, and community outreach programs to disseminate information and raise awareness about the tactics employed by MLM scammers.

3. Collaborate with Law Enforcement Agencies: The government should collaborate closely with law enforcement agencies to identify and crackdown on MLM scams operating in Kashmir. Specialized units or task forces can be created to specifically investigate MLM scams and prosecute those involved. This collaboration will ensure a coordinated effort in combating these fraudulent activities.

4. Empower Consumer Protection Organizations: Consumer protection organizations should be strengthened and equipped with resources to provide assistance to individuals who have fallen victim to MLM scams. These organizations can offer legal guidance, counseling services, and support to victims, helping them recover from the financial and emotional conse-

The involvement of Kashmiri influencers in MLM scams has profound consequences for the community. As individuals invest their hard-earned money, time, and energy into these scams, they find themselves trapped in a web of debt and disappointment. Relationships within the community become strained as friends and family members are pitted against each other in pursuit of recruitment and profit. The exploitation of trust erodes community cohesion and perpetuates financial vulnerability. It is incumbent upon the Indian government to address this distressing phenomenon promptly. The trust and credibility that Kashmiri influencers once held within their community have been undermined by their involvement in MLM scams

quences of MLM scams.

5. Establish Support Programs for Victims: The government should establish support programs that provide financial, psychological, and educational assistance to individuals who have suffered financial losses due to MLM scams. These programs can offer counseling services, vocational training, and financial aid to help victims rebuild their lives and regain financial stability.

6. Collaboration with Social Media Platforms: The government should collaborate with social media platforms to identify and take down fraudulent MLM advertisements and accounts. By working closely with platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, the government can reduce the reach and impact of MLM scams on Kashmiri youth.

7. Inclusion of Financial Literacy in Education: The government should include financial literacy and consumer awareness programs in the school curriculum. By educating young individuals about personal finance, investment, and the risks associated with MLM scams, they can make informed decisions and protect themselves from falling victim to fraudulent schemes.

8. International Cooperation: The government should collaborate with international organizations and governments to share best practices, experiences, and strategies in combating MLM scams. By leveraging global expertise and knowledge, the government can strengthen its efforts to protect the Kashmiri youth from MLM scams.

The Government of India needs to take proactive measures to safeguard the youth in Kashmir from MLM scams. By implementing stringent regulations, raising public awareness, collaborating with law enforcement agencies, and providing support programs for victims, the government can effectively combat MLM scams and protect the Kashmiri youth from financial exploitation.

In the end, safeguarding yourself and your community from MLM scams requires diligent research, critical thinking, and reliance on trusted sources. By educating yourself, assessing legitimacy, and seeking advice, you can protect yourself from falling victim to these deceptive schemes.

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BJP Says 38 Parties Support NDA As 26 Opposition Parties Meet In Bengaluru

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: The BJP's mega show of strength in Delhi -- to be conducted parallelly with the Opposition's unity meet in Bengaluru -- will be attended by 38 parties, party chief JP Nadda announced today. Though most of the 38 are smaller allies with pockets of influence and a few or no MPs, the figure far outstrips the 26-party tally announced earlier by the Congress -- a psychological advantage the ruling party hopes to deploy in the run-up to next year's general elections. Addressing the media this evening, BJP chief JP Nadda said the NDA's reach and scope has increased over the years. "The growing desire of the people to push the agenda of development has led to the expansion of the NDA... Good governance given in the last nine years under the leadership of Modi-ji... It is a continuous process," he told reporters. The BJP's outreach to allies had come late in the



day -- weeks after the opposition held its first unity meet in Patna in June. The opposition has jeered that its unity move -- modelled after the JP movement of 1970s -- has had the BJP jarred. The BJP, though, has been moving in a planned manner. Most of its push has been in Bihar, where Nitish Kumar had mopped up the board when he parted company with the NDA, leaving only the fractured Lok Janshakti Party to the BJP. The BJP is now attempting to effect a reconciliation between Chirag Paswan and its uncle, which will give it access to the six per cent Paswan votes.

Three more parties from Bihar -- Upendra Singh Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party, and Mukesh Sahani of the Vikassheel Insaan Party and Jitan Ram Manjhi of Hindustani Awam Morcha -- are expected to join the NDA. While the key allies -- AIADMK and Tamil Manila Congress in Tamil Nadu and Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) and Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP in Maharashtra -- are expected to keep the seat count up in the two major states, the BJP has also kept close its allies in the northeast. Seven parties that helps the BJP govern the seven

northeastern states -- NPP (National People's Party Meghalaya), NDPP (Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party), SKM (Sikkim Krantikari Morcha), MNF (Mizo National Front), ITFT (Tripura), BPP (Bodo People's party) and AGP (Assom Gana Parishad) -- are on the list. There are a few new entrants also. Besides the ones in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the BJP has drawn actor Pawan Kalyan's Janasena and the faction of Kerala Congress led by Kerala Congress (Thomas). The latter had quit the NDA in 2021 alleging trouble in seat sharing, but has since refreshed the alliance. Post a comment The list overall makes clear the party's trajectory. Already strong in most northern states, the BJP has been sticking to its plan of beefing up in the south, west and northeast. In crucial states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it is only seeking to extend its footprint by patching in parties that have influence among backward classes and Scheduled Castes.

Assets Of Those Involved In Drug Trade Should Be Confiscated: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday pitched for harsher punishments such as confiscation of assets of those involved in the drug trade and their public shaming, saying such action will act as strong deterrence.

Mr Shah addressed a conference on "Drugs Smuggling and National Security" during which he also watched through video conferencing the destruction of more than 1.40 lakh kg of drugs worth 2,378 crore in various parts of the country.

He said it is the aim of the Modi government to create such an India where not even a single youth is addicted to drugs and to achieve this it is necessary for both the states and the Centre to work together.

Harsher punishment will act as a stronger deterrent as it will send a stronger message, he said, adding confiscation of assets of those involved in the illicit drug trade should be increased.

He emphasised that public shaming or boycotting



of such individuals will discourage others from joining the drug trade. "We need to move ruthlessly towards the confiscation of assets,"

The home minister said states should collaborate with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on financial investigations and refer the cases to the ED.

"Until we conduct financial investigations of drug traffickers and break their interest chain, our campaign will not be successful. Our approach should be such that those who consume drugs should be considered as victims, while those who engage in the trade should be marked as culprits," he said.

Mr Shah said those who use drugs are victims and everyone should make efforts to bring them back to the right path rather than leaving them to become addicts permanently.

"The fight against drugs is to ensure that no youth is under the influence of narcotics and the country is safe and free from illegal substances. Our aim is to make the country's drugs free and secure. I appeal to all chief ministers and LGs (lieutenant governors) to extend all possible cooperation for it," he said.

The home minister said that in the last one year, 10 lakh kg of drugs worth 12,000 crore were destroyed and it is a very

significant achievement. He said when the state and central governments along with all the agencies come together on a single platform then only "we will be able to make the country free from drugs".

"We will be able to succeed in this campaign against drugs by following 'whole of government approach' with cooperation, coordination, collaboration," he said.

He said that earlier the main area of drug smuggling was called 'Golden Triangle' and 'Golden Crescent' but the government of India has proposed internationally that it should be named as 'Death Triangle' and 'Death Crescent'.

"This approach shows the direction and intensity of our fight against drugs," he said. The destruction of the narcotics, the bulk of it from Madhya Pradesh, was carried out in different cities as Mr Shah watched through video conferencing from New Delhi. The drugs destroyed include 6,590 kg seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Hyderabad unit, 822 kg seized by the Indore unit and 356 kg by the Jammu unit, officials.

Kejriwal condemns ED raid at TN minister's premises

■ HT News Network

New Delhi, July 17 (UNI) Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday took a dig at the BJP-led Centre over an Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at multiple premises of K Ponmudy and his son in an alleged money laundering case.

Kejriwal alleged that the BJP is trying to break political parties and scare everyone with ED.

Taking to Twitter, Kejriwal wrote, "We strongly condemn the ED raid on the TN Education Minister now. They are trying to break up parties and scare everyone with ED. But for ED, the NDA would be left with no partners, and many leaders in the BJP would have also left. You cannot scare or control a great nation like India through ED."

This reaction came after the ED raided the premises belonging to TN Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy and his son Gautham Sigamani on Monday morning in connection with an alleged money laundering case.

State govt stands firmly with people along with Baliraja: Eknath Shinde

■ HT News Network

Mumbai, July 17 (UNI) Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde asserted that the priority of the government is to provide basic facilities to the people of the state and that the government stands firmly with the people along with Baliraja (farmers), official source said on Monday.

The Chief Minister addressed a press conference last night at the Sahyadri guest house in preparation for the monsoon session of the legislature.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandrakant Patil, Agriculture Minister Dhananjay Munde, Forest, Cultural Affairs, and Fisheries Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Gulabrao Patil, School Education and Marathi Language Minister Deepak Kesarkar, and relevant dignitaries were also present on this occasion.

Speaking further, Shinde said that, keeping in mind that the general public has expectations from the monsoon session, decisions will be taken in the interest of the general public.

Anurag Thakur urges workers to expose Congress party in masses

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, July 14 (UNI) The Central government has appointed Justice P Naveen Rao, the senior-most judge of the Telangana High Court, as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court on his retirement day, an official source said on Friday. Justice Rao's appointment comes after the elevation of the incumbent Chief Justice, Ujjal Bhuyan, to the Supreme Court. Upon Justice Rao's retirement on July 14, Justice A K Shavili will assume the responsibilities of the Chief Justice of the High Court. The Department of Justice website published a notification confirming the appointment. The notification states, "In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of

Sharad Pawar "Was Silent", Again, In Meet No. 2 With Team Ajit Pawar

■ HT News Network

Mumbai: A day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar met his uncle and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar along with several loyalist MLAs to seek blessings, he today again visited the party patriarch with his supporters. Praful Patel, senior Pawar's close aide who rebelled along with Ajit Pawar to join the BJP-Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra, said several NCP cabinet ministers were not present during the surprise visit yesterday as it was a Sunday. "They met Sharad Pawar today after the Assembly session, and he patiently listened to us," he said, adding that the senior leader didn't say anything. Meanwhile, the Sharad Pawar camp consulted with their legal team in Delhi for passing a resolution through MLAs, sources said. While the legal opinion sought for was to remain in Opposition benches, but even the legal team is confused with the back-and-forth meetings.

As per the legal opinion, Sharad Pawar camp MLAs were to pass a resolution to remain in Opposition and to forward that resolution to Assembly Speaker today.

Praful Patel and Ajit Pawar will attend



the big NDA meeting in Delhi tomorrow.

After meeting Sharad Pawar yesterday, the rebel camp had said that they have requested the senior leader to ensure that the party isn't divided. "Sharad Pawar didn't reply to us, he just kept on listening to what we were saying and after meeting him, we are going back," Praful Patel had said.

"Today we met our God and our leader Sharad Pawar to take his blessings," Praful Patel said as the rebels emerged from the meeting yesterday. "We came here without asking for any appointment. We understood Sharad Pawar reached here for a meeting and that's why we all came here to take his blessings," he said. According to reports, Sharad Pawar addressed the party workers later in the day and made it clear that he will continue his "progressive politics" and never ally with the BJP.

President Murmu to attend several progs during her visit to Odisha from July 25

■ HT News Network

Bhubaneswar, July 17 (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu will attend several programmes during her three-day visit to Odisha from July 25. Official sources here said. A high level preparatory meeting for the visit of the President was held here at the Lok Seva Bhawan on Monday, chaired by state Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena. As per the schedule programme of the President, she will arrive here on July 25 and stay at the Raj Bhawan where she would meet the representatives of the "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" (PVTGs).

On July 26, the President will have a day-long visit to Cuttack to visit Chandi temple, birthplace of Madhusudan Das, the birthplace of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose which has been converted into a national museum.

She will also grace the 75th anniversary celebration of Orissa High Court, address the convocation of National Law University and attend the annual function of SCB medical college and hospital, Cuttack.

On July 27, Murmu will lay the foundation stone of Brahmakumari centre light house complex at Dasbatia near Tamando in the morning and then proceed to Bhadrak to attend the diamond jubilee celebration of



Bhadrak Autonomous College before returning to New Delhi. This will be her third visit to Odisha after assuming the highest office of the country. During her first visit to Odisha on February 10 and 11, Murmu had attended several programmes in Bhubaneswar and addressed the national seminar at the National Rice Research Institute (NRRI), Cuttack. During her second visit to the state from May 4 to 6, the President visited her native village, Simlipal National Park and attended the convocation ceremony of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University at Baripada. The high level preparatory meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Nikunj Kishore Dhal, DGP Sunil Bansal, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi, Odisha Governor's principal secretary Saswat Mishra.

13.5 Crore Indians Escaped Poverty In 5 Years: Niti Aayog

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: As many as 13.5 crore people in five years ended March 2021 moved out of multidimensional poverty, measured by improvement in health, education and standard of living, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh registering the fastest reduction, said a Niti Aayog report on Monday.

India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of India's multidimensionally poor from 24.85 per cent in 2015-16 to 14.96 per cent in 2019-2021, according to the second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

While rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59 per cent to 19.28 per cent, urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65 per cent to 5.27 per cent.

"A record 13.5 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21," said the report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023' released by Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog.

The National MPI measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weight-



ed dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators.

These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts.

Marked improvement is witnessed across

all the 12 indicators, Niti Aayog said, adding the report follows the Alkire-Foster methodology developed by its technical partners -- the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

According to the latest update of the global MPI released by UNDP and OPHI at the University of Oxford, a total of 415 mil-

lion people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.

The Niti report attributes the decline in poverty to the government's dedicated focus on improving access to sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, drinking water, and electricity. All 12 parameters of the MPI have shown marked improvements.

The report states that the fastest reduction in the proportion of multidimensionally poor was observed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty reduced from 47 per cent to 44 per cent.

India is on the path of achieving the SDG Target 1.2 (of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) much ahead of the stipulated timeline of 2030, said Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam.

The report said schemes like Poshan Abhiyan and Ananya Mukh Bharat have contributed to reduced deprivations in health.

Initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have improved sanitation across the country.

South Korea flood death toll rises to 40, Yoon blames botched responses

■ HT News Network

South Korea's president vowed on Monday to "completely overhaul" the country's approach to extreme weather from climate change after at least 39 people were killed by recent flooding and landslides during monsoon rains.

Rescue workers waded through thick mud as they drained a flooded underpass in central Cheongju, searching for more victims after vehicles were trapped in the tunnel by flash floods, the interior ministry said, with nine people still missing nationwide.

South Korea is at the peak of its summer monsoon season and days of torrential rain have caused widespread flooding and landslides, with rivers bursting their banks and reservoirs and dams overflowing — and there is more rain forecast this week.

"This kind of extreme weather event will become commonplace — we must accept climate change is happening, and deal with it," President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Monday, ahead of a visit to flood-hit North Gyeongsang province.

The idea that extreme weather linked to climate change "is an anomaly and can't be helped needs to be completely overhauled", he said, calling for "extraordinary determination" to improve the country's preparedness and response.

South Korea will "mobilise all available resources" including the military and police to help with rescue efforts, he said.



"The rainy season is not over yet, and the forecast is now that there will be torrential rain again tomorrow," he added.

The majority of the casualties — including 19 of the dead and eight of the missing — were from North Gyeongsang province and were largely due to massive landslides in the mountainous area that engulfed houses with people inside.

Some of the people who have been reported missing were swept away when a river overflowed in the province, the

interior ministry said.

Stay inside

South Korean police said they would launch an investigation into the fatal flooding of the underpass in Cheongju, some 112km south of Seoul, Yonhap reported.

The underpass flooded early on Saturday when a nearby river overflowed and an embankment collapsed, leaving 16 vehicles, including a bus, trapped inside, with at least 12 people killed and rescue workers warning the toll could rise as they searched

the area.

The Korea Meteorological Administration forecast more heavy rain through Wednesday and urged the public to "refrain from going outside".

South Korea is regularly hit by flooding during the summer monsoon period, but the country is typically well-prepared and the death toll is usually relatively low.

Scientists say climate change has made weather events around the world more extreme and more frequent.

South Korea endured record-breaking rains and flooding last year, which left more than 11 people dead.

They included three people who died trapped in a Seoul basement apartment of the kind that became internationally known because of the Oscar-winning Korean film "Parasite".

The government said at the time that the 2022 flooding was the heaviest rainfall since Seoul weather records began 115 years ago, blaming climate change for the extreme weather. Yoon, just back from an overseas trip, on Monday convened a disaster response meeting and conceded the situation was made worse because of poor management of vulnerable areas.

"We've repeatedly emphasised access control over dangerous areas and preemptive evacuation since last year, but if basic principles of disaster response are not kept on the spot, it is difficult to ensure public safety," Yoon told the meeting. Yoon, just back from an overseas trip, on Monday convened a disaster response meeting.

Heat Index At Iran Airport Hits 66 Degrees Celsius As Climate Scientist Warns Earth Will Become "Inferno"

■ HT News Network

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges, with rising temperature being a prominent consequence. The Earth's climate is undergoing unprecedented shifts primarily caused by human activities, particularly the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial processes, and agricultural practices have all contributed to the accumulation of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, creating a greenhouse effect that traps heat within the Earth's atmosphere. As a result, the planet's average temperature has been steadily climbing over the past century.

Iran's Persian Gulf International Airport experienced record-breaking heat on Sunday due to a rare combination of extremely high temperature and



abundant atmospheric moisture that created a heat index.

According to Colin McCarthy from US Storm-watch, the Iran airport reported a heat index of 152 degrees Fahrenheit (66.7 degrees Celsius).

"Persian Gulf International Airport in Iran reported a heat index of 152 degrees Fahrenheit (66.7 degrees Celsius) today at 12:30pm. Those are intolerable conditions for human/animal life," he said in a tweet posted on July 16.

To calculate how hot or cold the weather feels, meteorologists use equations that factor in air temperature and other atmo-

spheric variables. One of the most widely-used methods for estimating the impacts of hot weather is called the 'heat index', which combines air temperature and humidity.

The shocking temperature was seen in Iran after searing inland heat clashed with humid air flowing off the very warm waters of the Persian Gulf.

At the time mentioned by Mr McCarthy, the temperature at the Persian Gulf International Airport reached 40 Degrees Celsius, with a relative humidity of 65 per cent, according to NOAA data. This created an apparent temperature of 66.7 degrees Celsius.

Pacific Region Becoming More Contested, Less Secure: New Zealand PM

■ HT News Network

Auckland: New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said on Monday that the Pacific region is becoming more contested, less predictable, and less secure as China becomes more assertive.

"China's rise and how it seeks to exert that influence is also a major driver of the increasing strategic competition, particularly in our wider home region, the Indo-Pacific," Chris Hipkins said in a speech to the China Business Summit.

Chris Hipkins added that it is important that we continue to engage with China - to listen and to build dialogue, to pursue New Zealand's interests, and to add a voice where it matters.

Wellington has historically taken a more conciliatory approach towards China than Australia or its other Five Eyes security partners, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

But in recent years, New Zealand has become increasingly vocal on issues including human rights, the



international rules based order and potential militarization of the Pacific.

Chris Hipkins said a small country like New Zealand cannot work alone, and the government recognises the importance of building partnerships and inclusivity to address global challenges. That New Zealand's approach will often align with that of our most like-minded partners, with whom we share many common interests and values, should not be a surprise, he added.

"Common interests and concerns do not mean we will always take the same approach. Sometimes there is tactical strength in a diversity of approaches to

achieve the same outcomes," he said. Chris Hipkins added that it is important that we continue to engage with China - to listen and to build dialogue, to pursue New Zealand's interests, and to add a voice where it matters.

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1,500 flights canceled as storms hit NE US

■ HT News Network

New York, July 17 (UNI) Over 1,500 flights in and out of the United States have been canceled as of Sunday evening as storms battered the country's northeast over the weekend.

Thunderstorms and heavy rain have caused massive flight disruptions and ground stops at major airports in New York and New Jersey, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey has experienced the most significant cancellations, with 362 flights canceled and 337 delayed as of Sunday evening, according to the flight-tracking site FlightAware.

In New York, John F. Kennedy International Airport has seen 318 canceled flights and 426 delayed flights. At LaGuardia Airport, another airport in the city, the number of canceled flights has reached 270.

Boston Logan International Airport also experienced a ground stop due to thunderstorms on Sunday evening. FlightAware data showed that nearly 260 flights were canceled.

In the U.S. Northeast, over 56 million people were under a flood watch, as heavy rain moved through on Sunday, causing flash flooding and power outage in parts of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

Hong Kong issues No. 8 typhoon signal as Typhoon Talim draws near

■ HT News Network

Hong Kong, July 17 (UNI) The Hong Kong Observatory issued the No. 8 Southeast Gale or Storm Signal on Monday morning, which will remain in effect until 4 p.m. local time under the effect of Typhoon Talim.

The No.8 signal is the third-highest warning under Hong Kong's weather system. Winds with mean speeds of 63 km per hour or more are expected from the southeast quarter.

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has suspended trading, multiple flights have been canceled at Hong Kong International Airport, several piers have been suspended, and attractions such as Hong Kong Disneyland have been temporarily closed.

At 1 p.m. on Monday, Typhoon Talim was centered about 270 km southwest of Hong Kong and is forecast to move west-northwest at about 18 km per hour in the general direction of Leizhou Peninsula, Guangdong Province.

Norway temporarily bans Facebook, Instagram from tracking users for ads

■ HT News Network

Oslo, July 17 (UNI) Norwegian authorities have imposed a three-month ban on Instagram and Facebook from showing users in the country personalized advertisements, based on information not expressly authorized by the user for such purposes, the Politico news agency reported on Monday, citing an official order.

The Norwegian Data Protection Authority ordered US company Meta (banned in Russia as an extremist organization), the owner of Facebook and Instagram, to cease showing Norwegian users personalized ads based on any personal data, except for data given by users in the "about" section of their profiles, Politico reported.

The ban starts from August 4 and will last for three months, and Meta will have to pay a fine of 1 million Norwegian Krone (\$99,504) for each day it does not comply with the order, the news outlet reported.

At the moment, Meta uses several controversial advertising practices that involve showing its users personalized ads based on personal data, which a person did not provide willingly, such as online activity and estimated locations.

Iran relaunches police patrols against veil violations

■ HT News Network

Iranian police on Sunday relaunched patrols to catch the increasing number of women leaving their hair uncovered in public in defiance of a strict dress code, state media reported. The report comes exactly 10 months after the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22, triggered nationwide protests and saw morality police largely disappear from the streets, while more and more women flouted the law.

Amini, an Iranian-Kurd, had been arrested by morality police for allegedly violating the dress code, which requires women to cover their head and neck in public. While the morality police withdrew, authorities have taken other measures to enforce the law. These included the closure of businesses whose staff do not conform to the rules, and installing cameras in public places to track down offenders. But beginning on Sunday, the traditional approach is being tried again, state media said. "The police will launch car and foot patrols to warn, take legal measures, and refer to the judiciary those who disobey police orders and disregard consequences of dressing against the norms," the official IRNA news agency quoted police spokesman Saeed Montazer Alamehdi as saying. Online images have shown female police officers, clad in all-black chadors, berating and arresting women whose heads were uncovered. AFP could not independently verify the authenticity of the images.

Hamas unable to pay salaries in Gaza after Qatari aid delay

■ HT News Network

GAZA: The Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers have been unable to pay salaries for 50,000 public sector workers, with officials in part blaming a delay in a monthly payroll grant from Qatar, a crucial aid donor to the impoverished Palestinian enclave.

The salary crisis has sparked an unusual amount of criticism on social media in Gaza, including by some of Hamas' own employees. A drop in tax revenue and a jump in spending has made the situation even more difficult.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents live in poverty, and the economy is dependent on foreign aid. Qatar



has paid hundreds of millions of dollars since 2014 for construction projects. It currently pays \$30m per month in stipends for families, fuel for electricity, and to help pay public sector wages. Hamas officials say no salary aid has been received since just over half of a \$5m grant to support the May payroll. The reason for the delay was not clear. Crisis sparks criticism on

social media. In Doha, Qatar's International Media Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The government is going through a stifling and escalating financial crisis, with a continuous increase in the deficit month after month, which led to the delay of salaries this month," Awni Al-Basha, the Hamas-appointed deputy minister,

told Hamas Aqsa radio.

"We are making significant efforts to pay the salaries, and we hope to do so at the end of this week," he said. Monthly payroll costs Hamas 125m shekels (\$34.5m) per month, said Basha. On Sunday, Salama Marouf, chairman of the Hamas government media office, said there has also been an increase in spending, particularly for the ministry of health and repayment of bank debts. He called on Qatar to increase the salary grant to \$7m. Gaza has been under an Israel-Egyptian blockade since 2007 when Hamas, which opposes peace with Israel, took control. Public sector employees have not received full salaries since 2013.

Nato's partnership with Pakistan to continue: ambassador

■ HT News Network

ISLAMABAD: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (Nato) partnership with Pakistan would continue in the days to come as both had a cooperation programme that included research and development.

Talking to Dawn, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan Delogne Charles, who is also the point ambassador of Nato to Pakistan, however, candidly stated that the level of cooperation had diminished following the withdrawal of Nato troops from Afghanistan. He further said frequent talks at the military level did take place between Nato and Pakistan. Sharing details of the decisions and deliberations at the recently-held two-day Nato summit at Vinis, the Lithuanian capital, Delogne Charles said China was not an enemy but a challenge for Nato. Says China seen as a challenge not enemy "Chinese policies affect our economy and security. This is something we have to deal with," he said, without elaborating on it further. He also said China did not respect some key rules of the international order.

"It continues to expand its military arsenal and there is no transparency in its nuclear stockpile," he added.

The ambassador also accused China of seeking to invest in Nato countries to gain control on key technological and industrial sectors, critical infrastructure, strategic materials and supply chains and create strategic dependencies.

DC Kupwara Ayushi Sudan Chairs Revenue Officers Meeting,

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan (IAS) Monday convened a meeting of Revenue Officers at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review the performance of officers.

At the outset, ACR Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur apprised the Chair through a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding functioning of the revenue department and the performance of the officers.

The DC reviewed all agenda points including Jammabandies, Quality check, Back-log Mutations, Status of Geo-referencing, SVAMITVA (Survey of villages and Mapping with Impro-

vised Technology in village Areas), Status of Agricultural Census, Issuance of Pass books (generations and distributions), Fencing of retrieved land, Status of Mutations, Status of Girdawaries, Status of revenue court cases, RCCM Portal and other related issues. On the occasion, DC sought feedback from the concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner while stressing for better service delivery, directed the officers and Field functionaries for improving their performance and ensuring sticking to the time-line.

While reviewing the status of Jammabandies and quality check, DC gave a deadline of 10 days to officers to complete the process and asked NTs, Tehsildars, and SDMs to take the



ownership of quality check of Jammabandies.

DC directed ACR Kupwara to get the updates of the progress on a daily basis and seek the certificates about the correctness of the Jammabandies from concerned Tehsildars.

While reviewing the fencing of the retrieved State land, DC directed officers to prioritize the fencing of the retrieved state land. On the occasion ADC Kupwara, Gh.Nabi Bhat asked the concerned officers to work out on a fund requirement plan for fencing of retrieved state land and send proposal to the DC office.

DC directed officers to focus on Revenue Court Cases and get them uploaded on RCCMS (Revenue court Cases Monitoring System) Portal.

DC directed officers to stick to the deadline of 10 days and finish the pending revenue works.

DC asked officers to submit the court case reports within the timeline and follow-up them.

DC directed officers and field functionaries to be responsive to the people, remain available for them, interact with them and prioritize the dispute resolution.

DC emphasized on Revenue Officers to co-operate with BDOs in identification of suitable land for important projects.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACR Kupwara, SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, DIO Kupwara, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam chairs 13th NCORD meeting; reviews measures against drug menace

HT News Network

BUDGAM, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted the 13th meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to take review of the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to decisions made in previous meetings.

The future course of action to uproot the drug

menace and destruction of Narco crops from Budgam District was also formulated during the meeting.

At the outset, the DC took detailed feedback from every concerned Department regarding the measures undertaken for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and its consumption in the district to save youth from the dangerous effects of the drugs.

The DC said that drug abuse is a serious problem that not only affects individuals, but also families



and communities. He stated that it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives, includ-

ing deterrence, treatment and enforcement.

He reiterated that the District Administration is

committed to create a drug-free environment in the district and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

On the occasion, the DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Budgam to install CCTV camera in the drug stores and achieve 100% saturation. He also directed Excise Officer to ensure coordination with Revenue and police departments at sub-division level for imposing greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking, destruction of poppy and

cannabis cultivation in the district. He said that efforts with Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs, and cultivation in narco crops.

He further directed Excise Officer to initiate legal paperworks in Police Stations on regular basis whenever there is destruction of any poppy or cannabis cultivation in the District.

DC inspects Water Filtration Plant at Azad Gunj Baramulla

HT News Network



BARAMULLA, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar today visited Azad Gunj Baramulla and inspected the Water Filtration Plant there. During inspection, Dr. Sehrish had a detailed assessment of the status of the filtration plant. She also checked the requisite parameters for providing potable drinking water facilities to the people.

While giving a brief about the functioning of the filtration plant, the DC was apprised that the water treatment plant feeds potable drinking water to more than 35 thousand souls of Baramulla town.

The DC also interacted with the concerned officers and discussed various measures for further streamlining of the plant. On the occasion, Dr. Sehrish said that the administration is duty bound to provide safe drinking water to the people and re-affirmed Government's resolve to ensure smooth supply of drinking water in the district. Moreover, the DC stressed upon the engineers to maintain quality and ensure that potable water is supplied to consumers regularly.

Second Edition of Pagah Theatre Festival culminates with spectacular theatrical brilliance.

Surkhab Zehra

Srinagar, July 17, 2023 - The highly anticipated Pagah Theatre Festival Second Edition 2023, presented by Vomedh in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), reached its grand finale today at Tagore Hall in Srinagar. The festival, which commenced on July 10, showcased an extraordinary lineup of performances, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir through the power of the theatre. The highlight of the second edition was the focus on folk theatre along with contemporary modern theatre. The encouragement that the folk artists received through the second edition of Pagah was highly appreciated by artists fraternity in Kashmir.

The closing day of the festival was graced by the presence of Khalid Tufail, General Secretary of Kash-



mir Province (DPAP), who attended as the esteemed Chief Guest. Tufail's presence added a touch of honor and distinction to the event, emphasizing the importance of promoting and preserving the arts in the region.

The play staged on the

final day was "Mouj," presented by the renowned Mehak Dramatic Club. Under the direction of Farhat Siddiqi, "Mouj" offered a captivating exploration of emotions, presenting a poignant narrative that resonated deeply with the audience. The performance

showcased the exceptional talent of the actors and the dedication of the entire production team.

Reflecting on the success of the festival, Rakesh Roshan Bhat, Festival Director of Vomedh, expressed his gratitude, stating, "The Pagah Theatre Festival has once again exceeded our expectations, offering a platform for the diverse artistic expressions of Kashmir. We are immensely proud of the incredible talent showcased throughout the week, and we thank all the participating groups for their exceptional performances." Rohit Bhat, Festival Director and Founder/President of Vomedh, added, "The overwhelming response from the audience and the support of our esteemed guests have made this festival a resounding success. It has been a privilege to witness the celebration of our cultural heritage through the medium of theatre, and we are grateful to all who have contributed to its success."

M S Nazki receives Jointly Honorary 'Doctorate' in Humanities

HT News Network



Jammu, Internationally renowned Journalist, Bureau Chief Global News Service, Defence Correspondent, Author, and Owner of National Tv News, from Poonch, Tehsil Mendhar of Border District, M S Nazki whose Social Services, National Defence, National Security, and Human rights, including the country's interests, watched, read and checked well out then he has been ticked genuine for the most precious degree and finally he has awarded. In recognition of his numerous services, the International Organization and Manam Foundation for Social Services, jointly conferred the highest and most distinguished Doctorate degree award, the 'Doctorate of Humanities', M S Nazki has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree, Doctor of Humanities, by an International Organization 'Good Samaritan Theological Seminary and Manam Foundation for his outstanding services. He also received several International awards. All media outlets, social, political and religious organizations and people congratulated him for being Dr. Nazki and for this important honor they wished him their best bestows.

Namda craft, a classic of its own

HT News Network

Srinagar, July 17, KNT: Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), with nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar today flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export to the United Kingdom (UK).

The project sets a great example of the public-private partnership (PPP) model in the field of skill development, as it is being implemented in collaboration with local industry partners. Under this initiative, nearly 2,200 candidates have been trained in the art of Namda craft, representing a significant milestone in preserving this traditional craft and empowering the local weavers and artisans. The project has successfully trained individuals across six districts of Kashmir, namely Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Budgam, and Anantnag.

Under the government's commitment to skilling, reskilling, and upskilling India's youth remains steadfast under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The successful implementation of this pilot project in J&K, with the support of local industry partners such as Mir Handicrafts and Srinagar Carpet Training and Market Centre, exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships in driving skill development and attracting investments for economic development.

13th Round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under HADP held at Ramban

Dr Abdul Qayoom

RAMBAN, JULY 17: The first day of thirteen weeks' round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation programme) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme Aatmanirbhar Bharat was held today in 02 blocks of district Ramban.

People turned up in large numbers and were keen to learn about the schemes of HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well. The participating farmers were sensitized about various schemes aimed at holistic development and promotion of Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector. The use of audio-visual aids to explain the schemes engaged and engrossed the farmers. Informative booklets in 03 (three) languages regarding the scheme of HADP were distributed among the participants.

Labour Deptt Kulgam organises Awareness programme for Building & other Construction Workers

HT News Network

KULGAM, JULY 17: Labour Department Kulgam today organized an awareness programme for building and other construction workers at community facilitation centre (CFC) D.H Pora Kulgam.

The event aimed to educate participants about the registration/ renewal process and welfare schemes provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWVB). At the venue, Assistant Labour Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Adnan Tariq addressed the participants, provided detailed information about the registration process and explained the welfare schemes currently



in vogue by the JKBOCWVB for welfare of the construction workers.

On the occasion, Dr. Nida Yousuf, Assistant Labour Commissioner JKBOCWVB enlightened the participants about the welfare schemes of JKBOCWVB both presently active and those planned to be implemented in the next financial year.

During her speech, she apprised the participants about several upcoming enhancements to the welfare schemes, including an

increase in the rate of scholarships for various classes.

She also apprised them about a special scholarship of Rs. 50,000 for the wards of registered BOC workers who secure 90% and above marks in 10th and 12th class. Furthermore, she discussed the re-induction of marriage assistance, emphasizing the importance of registration for construction workers to avail themselves of the benefits offered by the welfare schemes for the betterment of their livelihoods.

RDD conducts Plastic free Baltal rally at Base camp Baltal

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JULY 17: In order to eliminate the use of plastic products and ensure plastic free Shri Amarnathji yatra, Rural Development Department (RDD) in collaboration with other sanitation agencies today conducted awareness rally at Base Camp Baltal.

The rally was headed by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simani along with Camp Director Baltal in which all stakeholders participated.

During the rally, all stakeholders including yatries and shopkeepers were urged to use jute bags and other eco-friendly products including bio-degradable products during the Yatra.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC Ganderbal and Camp Director Baltal said that the UT government has taken significant steps to transform the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra into a zero-waste journey



by promoting cleanliness, waste management and emphasized the importance of instilling a sense of responsibility towards the environment among the pilgrims.

During the rally, reusable cloth bags were distributed among the pilgrims to encourage them to avoid single-use plastic during Yatra.

Antibiotics, Antacids Linked to Obesity Risk in Kids

Can antibiotics and antacids given to kids at a young age increase their risk for childhood obesity? That's what a new study, recently published in the British Medical Journal Gut, suggests. The research, a collaboration between the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, found that children who were given antibiotics and antacids in the first two years of life were more likely to develop obesity.

The researchers looked at the Military Health System records of 333,353 children born between October 2006 and September 2013.

They found that 72.4 percent were prescribed an antibiotic and 11.8 percent were given antacids before they turned two. There was a correlation between the prescription of antibiotics and those who had childhood obesity.

Those who had antacids, such as those given to control acid reflux, were also associated with increased risk for obesity over time.

Lead researcher and Air Force Lt. Col. Dr. Cade Nylund, an associate professor of pediatrics at USU, said that it seems the impact these prescriptions have on the human gut microbiome might be the cause.

"Antibiotics directly kill portions of the healthy gut microbiome; antacids alter the gut microbiome by decreasing acidity in the gut," Nylund told Healthline. "Both antibiotics and antacids have been shown to decrease the bacterial diversity in the gut. Certain changes in bacteria have an effect on both how we digest nutrients and our metabolism."

Nylund said it was somewhat surprising to see that these kinds of medications might bear some "significant negative effects" on a child's overall health.

"Antibiotics will always play a role in treating bacterial infections and we do not wish to discourage treating bacterial infections with antibiotics," Nylund stressed. "However, many illnesses in children are viruses like the common cold. Viral infections do not need to be treated with antibiotics. Likewise, the vast majority of gastroesophageal reflux in early infancy is normal, it resolves in time and antacid medications have been shown to not decrease symptoms like infant fussiness."

Gail Cresci, PhD, RD, a researcher in the department of pediatric gastroenterology at Cleveland Clinic Children's, echoed the idea that these medications could be impacting the gut microbiome, or the community of helpful microorganisms that live in your gut.

"Antacids take away the first line of the body's defense against ingested pathogens by decreasing gastric acidity which can destroy many of these pathogens," Cresci told Healthline. "Obesity is known to be



associated with 'low grade' inflammation. This then may allow the pathogens to reach the distal intestine and then alter microbial diversity."

Cresci pointed out that antibiotics target a variety of gut microbes which decreases gut bacterial numbers and diversity.

"This overall may decrease intestinal immunity and ability to fight infections and regulate inflammation," Cresci said.

Cresci added that the microbes that live in your gut produce various "metabolic byproducts" that help regulate a person's inflammation and immunity. Altering the number of microbes could impact the regulation of inflammation tied to something like obesity.

The factors that lead to obesity

That being said, there are some limits to this observational study. It doesn't take into account other environmental factors in these children's lives or family health histories that could increase risk for obe-

sity.

Cresci explained that "obesity is multifactorial," so, when coming across studies like this, consider that a lot more contributes to whether a child is at risk for obesity than just being prescribed antibiotics at a young age.

For instance, she said we know diet and exercise are important in regulating a person's body weight, which means making sure these two things are a key part of you and your child's daily lives is important to regulate and prevent obesity.

"Consuming a diet rich in fruits and vegetables loaded with antioxidants and fibers may assist with keeping the gut microbiota's abundance and diversity as well as provide support to immune function and could be anti-inflammatory," she added.

What parents should know

So, what should you be concerned about when it comes to giving a child an antacid



or antibiotic medication at a young age? If your child is on an antibiotic, should you consider also giving him or her some kind of probiotic, live bacteria and yeasts — think yogurt — that could be good for digestion and protect those helpful microbes that live in the gut?

"Only consume antibiotics or antacids if absolutely necessary. Consider taking a probiotic along with — and up to two weeks after — an antibiotic to prevent gut dysbiosis, or microbial imbalance," Cresci said.

She added that not all probiotics are created equally. Some available on the market have been studied regarding their protection against antibiotics, so be sure to take a probiotic that's beneficial against antibiotics, she stressed. As always, consult your doctor or your child's pediatrician if you're concerned about your best option.

Moving forward, what is next for Nylund's research?

"I have an interest in whether these findings translate over to other complications of obesity, like heart disease, liver disease, diabetes, et cetera," he added. "We will need to follow the established cohort over a longer time to establish any associations with these conditions."

The bottom line

A new study found a correlation between the prescription of antibiotics and those who had childhood obesity. Those who had antacids, such as those given to control acid reflux, were also associated with the development of obesity in children over time. "I have an interest in whether these findings translate over to other complications of obesity, like heart disease, liver disease, diabetes, et cetera," he added. "We will need to follow.

NEWS

5 Benefits Of Consuming Durian



Although there are many different durian fruit kinds, they are all distinguished by their sharp exterior and potent aroma. The nutrition value of durian is relatively high when compared to other fruits. It is considered a distinctive tropical fruit.

It is well-liked in Southeast Asia, where people refer to it as "the king of fruits." More vitamins and minerals are present in durian than in most other fruits. Read on as we list some of the amazing benefits of adding this tropical fruit to your diet.

1. High nutritional value

The pulp of durian is a fantastic source of many elements necessary for human nutrition. It contains a lot of vitamins, including vitamin A, vitamin C, a natural antioxidant, and B-complex vitamins including folic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamin B6 that are good for your health. Additionally, it has a healthy amount of minerals including phosphorus, potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium, and magnesium.

2. Boosts immune system

Our immune system, which is part of our body's defence system, is crucial to keeping us healthy. Disease-causing germs including bacteria, viruses, and fungus, among others, are kept out of our bodies by the defensive mechanism in place. The durian fruit can aid in boosting the immune system, which is vital. The high vitamin C content in durian helps strengthen the immune system, making you less prone to illnesses and infections.

3. Improves digestion

Durian's dietary fibre aids in facilitating easier bowel movements. Constipation is so avoided, and digestive health is enhanced. The fruit's thiamin content may increase elderly people's appetites and general wellbeing. Additionally stimulating peristaltic action, the fibre in durian fruit facilitates digestion in the intestines. Additionally, it aids in the treatment of heartburn, excessive gas, and bloating.

4. Supports cardiovascular health

Durian is rich in potassium, which helps regulate blood pressure and improves heart health. Durians contain an organosulfur that may control inflammatory enzymes and lower the risk of cardiovascular illnesses. According to numerous studies, eating fruits high in soluble dietary fibre may help lower levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and minimise the risk of developing coronary heart disease. The heart-healthy durian fruit has a high fibre content.

5. Regulates blood sugar levels

Despite its high sugar content, durian has a low glycemic index, meaning it doesn't cause a rapid spike in blood sugar levels. This makes it a suitable fruit for individuals with diabetes or those looking to manage their blood sugar levels.x

‘End of AIDS’ still possible by 2030, hopes UN

GENEVA: "The end of AIDS" is still possible by 2030, the United Nations insisted on Thursday, but cautioned that the world's deadliest pandemic could only be halted if leaders grasped the opportunity.

"AIDS can be ended" as a public health threat, the UNAIDS agency said, as it outlined a roadmap of investment, evidence-based prevention and treatment, empowering civil society and tackling the inequalities holding back progress.

UNAIDS said ending the pandemic was, above all, a political and financial choice.

"We are not yet on the path that ends AIDS," the agency's executive director Winnie Byanyima said, but "we can choose to get on that path".

The UN first set out in 2015 the target of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Byanyima said the greatest progress on HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — was being made in the countries and regions that have invested strongly.

She cited eastern and southern Africa, where new HIV infections have dropped by 57 per cent since 2010.

Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have already achieved what are called the 95-95-95 targets.



This means that 95pc of those living with HIV know their status; 95pc of those who know they have HIV are on life-saving anti-retroviral treatment; and 95pc of people on treatment to achieve viral suppression — and therefore highly unlikely to infect others.

At least 16 other countries are close to achieving the target.

They include eight in sub-Saharan Africa — the region where 65pc of HIV-positive people live — and Denmark, Kuwait and Thailand.

39 million living with HIV

In a report, UNAIDS said that two decades ago the AIDS pandemic seemed unstoppable, with more than 2.5 million people acquiring HIV each year and AIDS claiming 2m lives annually.

But the picture is now dramatically different.

UNAIDS said that in 2022, 39m people globally were living with HIV, of whom 29.8m were accessing anti-retroviral therapy. Those missing out include 660,000 children. The numbers on anti-retroviral treatment have near-quadrupled from 7.7m in 2010.

Furthermore, 82pc of pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV had access to anti-retroviral treatment in 2022, compared to 46pc in 2010 — which has led to a 58pc drop in new infections in children.

Around 1.3m people became newly infected with HIV last year — down 59pc from the peak in 1995.

Meanwhile, 630,000 died from AIDS-related illnesses, and it is still the "number one killer" in countries including Mozambique, said Byanyima.

"Overall, numbers of AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by 69 per cent since the peak in 2004," the report said.

"Dependent on action"

"The end of AIDS is an opportunity" for today's leaders to be remembered as "those who put a stop to the world's deadliest pandemic", said Byanyima.

"We are hopeful, but it is not the relaxed optimism that might come if all was heading as it should be. It is, instead, a hope rooted in seeing the opportunity."

Here Are The Adverse Effects Of Consuming Artificial Sweeteners

Artificial sweeteners are sugar substitutes created to mimic sugar's taste but with fewer or zero calories. They are often used as alternatives to sugar in beverages, desserts, and other food products. Examples of common artificial sweeteners include aspartame, saccharin, sucralose, and stevia.

These sweeteners are generally much sweeter than sugar, so only a small amount is needed to achieve the desired level of sweetness. However, these sweeteners may not be as good for your health as you may think. Many of these sweeteners have been linked to causing chronic damage to our health. Keep reading as we discuss the negative effects of consuming artificial sweeteners.

1. Increased risk of weight gain

Artificial sweeteners may disrupt the body's natural ability to regulate calorie intake, leading to overeating and weight gain. Some studies have suggested a correlation between artificial sweet-



ener consumption and an increased risk of obesity.

2. Increased cravings for sweet foods

Artificial sweeteners can intensify cravings for sugary foods and cause a preference for sweet flavours. This might further lead to an increase in your caloric intake. This effect may also result in overconsumption of high-calorie and unhealthy foods such as processed foods.

3. Digestive issues

Consuming artificial sweeteners in excessive amounts can lead to digestive problems such as bloating, gas, and diarrhoea. They can disrupt the bal-

ance in the gut and cause digestive discomfort. This can cause bowel issues and might also negatively alter the health of your gut bacteria.

4. Negative impact on gut health

Artificial sweeteners may alter the composition of gut bacteria, potentially leading to imbalances in the microbiome. These imbalances have been associated with various health issues, including metabolic disorders and impaired immune function.

5. Increased risk of metabolic disorders

Artificial sweeteners

have been linked to an increased risk of metabolic disorders such as type 2 diabetes and insulin resistance. Some studies have suggested that artificial sweeteners may negatively affect glucose metabolism.

6. Potential impact on cardiovascular health

Some research has found an association between regular consumption of artificial sweeteners and an increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and other cardiovascular problems. However, more studies are needed to establish a definite causal relationship.

7. Altered taste perception

Regular consumption of artificial sweeteners can alter taste preferences and perception, making naturally sweet foods seem less appealing. This could potentially lead to a reduced intake of nutrient-rich foods like fruits and vegetables. If you don't eat enough nutrient-dense foods.

James Anderson back in England XI for Old Trafford Test

Veteran seamer replaces Ollie Robinson while Moeen Ali carded at No. 3

James Anderson has been recalled to the England team for the fourth men's Ashes Test, which starts on Wednesday at his home ground, Emirates Old Trafford.

Anderson was rested for England's victory in the third Test at Headingley after taking three wickets at 75.33 in the first two Tests of the series, but will return in place of Ollie Robinson in England's only personnel change. Robinson declared himself "100 percent fit" to play last week but looked short of his best in Leeds even before suffering a back spasm.

But there is another significant change from the team that started the Headingley Test, with Moeen Ali carded to bat at No. 3. Moeen batted at No. 7 in the first innings in Leeds, but asked to be pushed up the order in the second, thereby enabling Harry Brook to return to his favoured No. 5 spot.

Moeen made only 5 in his new role, but the change was vindicated by Brook's 75 in a more familiar position. England have retained the same batting order, with Ben Stokes due to come in at No. 6 and Jonny Bairstow keeping wicket and batting at No. 7. Stokes, England's captain, hinted at Anderson's inclusion in Manchester before the Headingley Test, saying Anderson would have the opportunity to get some rest and prepare "to charge in from the James Anderson End at Old Trafford next week".

Anderson returned from a groin injury, sustained playing for Lancashire, at the start of the series and was some way short of his best. But Stuart Broad, his long-time new-ball partner, believes that Anderson was "unlucky" with both the timing of his injury and the pitches.

"At Lord's, we had six of the best bowlers in the world bowling cross-seam bouncers, which tells you all you need to know about what the pitch was offering from a good length," Broad wrote in his Mail on Sunday column.

"But Jimmy has been one of the world's best bowlers for a long time and he can put those issues behind him. He's bowled goodness knows how many overs at Old Trafford and I'm expecting a big performance from him in a high-pressure game."

Anderson himself acknowledged in his Telegraph column last week that his selection for the Old Trafford Test could not be governed by "nostalgia", even though he conceded that, with his 41st birthday approaching this month, it might be his final opportunity to play on his Lancashire home ground.

His record there, however, is excellent - 37 wickets at 22.02 in ten previous Tests, including a vital role in last year's series-



levelling win against South Africa.

Moeen himself was unequivocal: "There's no doubt England are a better team with James Anderson in it," he said. "Even in the first two games, I actually thought he bowled really well. When he feels like, or people say, that he doesn't bowl well, he doesn't go for any runs... he's been a bit unfortunate with catches and things not going his way."

"[For] anybody that plays at their home ground for England, it's amazing, but especially for him having his own end here," Moeen added. "Being the best bowler England have ever had, being a legend of a player and a great guy as well, it's great to see him have the opportunity to play what could be his last one. Hopefully he bowls well and gets us the win."

Moeen's own promotion to No. 3 came about when, on the third evening of the third Test, he approached Brendon McCullum and suggested a reshuffle. "We thought that him coming in at No. 3, he was able to impact the game more than he would be at No. 7," Stokes explained.

Stokes said that the move epitomised the

"selfless" approach he looked for from his team. "I just love the fact that Mo is willing to put himself in those situations; that he wants to get out there and help the team in a positive way... Mo going to Baz and saying, 'I want the opportunity' is everything that we're about as a team."

Moeen said that he felt as though shuffling up the order was the best thing for the team as a whole, if not necessarily for him. "Brooky is a great player and will be a great player," he said. "I just personally feel No. 5 is great for him: the impact he can have there is much more than he probably can at No. 3 at the moment. I'm not saying he won't be a great No. 3, I just feel right now, for the team, it's probably best I go No. 3."

He has scored 92 runs in his seven Test innings at No. 3, but has nine first-class hundreds in the role, having frequently batted there for Worcestershire in county cricket. "It's obviously going to be challenging batting No. 3 vs Australia, the best bowling attack in the world... but it's not totally alien. If I'm seeing the ball well, I might be aggressive. If they're bowling well... I'll try and bat as properly as I can."



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