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“LG’s Mulaqaat”

LG Manoj Sinha interacts with citizens, addresses the complaints filed on JK-IGRAMS



■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with citizens, through video

conferencing during “LG’s Mulaqaat”- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor sought the action taken report from Deputy Commis-

sioners, Head of Departments on the pending grievances of LG’s Mulaqaat programme. The chair was informed that 355 cases have been redressed.

Turn.....**LG Manoj Sinha**.....Pg 08



J&K Offers 1,016 Citizen Services Online: LG Manoj Sinha

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, AUG 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, formally announced the landmark achievement of reaching

1016 citizen centric services being provided in online mode making Jammu and Kashmir first amongst all States/UTs in the number of e-services being provided to citizens. The Lt Governor said that it

was a milestone achievement in tune with the commitment and resolve of the J&K administration to provide ease, convenience and accessibility of services to the

Turn.....**J&K Offers 1,016**.....Pg 08

NEWS BRIEF

Body of missing R&B engineer found in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Days after a senior engineer went missing, his body was found in a Jhelum River in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district on Tuesday, officials said.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Gurmeet Singh, who was posted in Baramulla, was missing since August 25 evening.

Officials said his body was found from a barrage in Lower Jhelum Hydrel Project (LJHP) in Gantmulla Baramulla.

“The body was immediately taken for the medical examination,” they said.

Protests erupted in the town as

Turn.....**Body of missing**.....Pg 08

Gunmen kill Narcotics smuggler in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Unknown gunmen allegedly kill a narcotic smuggler in Jammu Kashmir’s Kupwara district, police said on Tuesday.

They said during the intervening night of August 28/29, at about 2200 hours some sound of gunshots were heard in Haridal area of Police Post Teetwal Karnah.

Upon hearing the gunshots, a swift search operation was launched by local Police and Army unit in the area that led to the discovery of the lifeless body of Mukhtar Ahmad Shah, (42) of Panjtaran Karnah. The deceased’s body was found in the village of Pingla Haridal.

Police shifted the body to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Tangdhar for necessary

Turn.....**Gunmen kill**.....Pg 08

Sarjan Ahmad Wagay (alias Barkati) Arrested by SIA

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Jammu and Kashmir’s Police’s State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday arrested Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati, the face of 2016 protests in Kashmir, officials said.

They said Barkati was arrested in a case registered in Police station SIA this year.

Officials said the case pertains to Barkati’s involvement in allegedly orchestrating an extensive fund-raising campaign through crowd funding, resulting in the generation of funds amounting to crores.

“These funds were subsequently

Turn.....**Sarjan Barkati**.....Pg 08

Srinagar Court Grants Bail To Gujarat ‘Conman’ Kiran Patel

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: A local court here on Tuesday granted bail to alleged Gujarat conman Kiran Patel who was arrested for posing as a top official in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) in



March this year.

The court of chief judicial magistrate, Srinagar, granted bail to Patel lodged in central jail here, one of his lawyers Anil Raina said.

Turn.....**Srinagar Court**.....Pg 08

Bhaderwah Rajma, Ramban Sulai Honey Bag GI Tag

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUG 29: Two world famous local specialty products namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned



coveted geographical Indication Tag which signifies a great leap forward in promoting these exceptionally popular products of Jammu Division at international level. This was disclosed today by Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, K. K. Sharma here at Krishi Bhawan.

The Director informed that the process for GI Tagging of these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu and finally it

Turn.....**Bhaderwah Rajma**.....Pg 08

26 Officers From J&K’s Most Coveted Service To Attain Superannuation In 2024

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUG 29: As many as 26 officers of Jammu & Kashmir’s topmost administrative service are attaining superannuation in the next calendar year.

26 officers of Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) would complete their bureaucratic innings in calendar year 2024.

Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, son of J&K’s former Chief Secretary Sheikh Ghulam

Rasool, figures in the list of officers hanging up their boots in 2024.

Fayaz is currently posted as Commissioner Secretary, Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks.

Other senior officers figuring in the list includes Nisar Ahmad Wani (Director Employment), Tariq Ahmad Zargar (Secretary in the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj), Raman Kumar Kesar (Secretary in the Power Development Department)

Turn.....**26 Officers From**.....Pg 08

After Chandrayaan, India Set To Launch First Sun Mission: Dr Jitendra

■ **HT News Network**

MAINPURI (UP), AUG 29: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that close on the heels of

Turn.....**After Chandrayaan**.....Pg 08



J&K tops after adding 16 more services of Tpt Department to its tally of online services

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: J&K today added 16 more online services offered by the Transport Department to its list after Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launched them under the e-Transport project of the Department.

With this, Jammu and Kashmir moved to first place in the country amongst States/UTs in offering the number of online services to its citizens. The UT had earlier taken its tally to



1016 online services overtaking Kerala and other top performing States as per the recent edition of NeSDA rankings.

Speaking during the launch of these services, the Chief Secretary maintained that the

motive of the online services is to reduce the burden on our citizens by providing them opportunities to access services from the comforts of their homes. He observed that

Turn.....**J&K tops after**.....Pg 08

Police Freeze Drug Dealers' Property Worth Rs 1.25 cr

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Jammu and Kashmir Police freezes the bank account containing Rs 1.25 Cr of a notorious drug trafficker under the provision of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the Police district of Sopore.

Police said on Tuesday said on August 29, 203 Police Station Bomai of Police District Sopore while investigating in case FIR No. 26 of 2023

Turn.....**Police Freeze**.....Pg 08

Price of domestic LPG cylinder slashed by Rs 200 ahead of festive season

■ **HT News Network**

NEW DELHI, AUG 29: Providing relief to households ahead of festive season, the government on Tuesday announced to reduce the price of domestic LPG cylinder by Rs 200.

“Effective 30.08.2023, the price of a 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder will be reduced by Rs 200 in all markets across the country,” Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a media release.

Accordingly, the decision will bring down the cost of a 14.2 Kg cylinder from the existing Rs 1103 per cylinder to Rs 903 per cylinder in Delhi.

“This is a gift to crores of my sisters of the country on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. Our Government will always do everything

Turn.....**Price**.....Pg 08

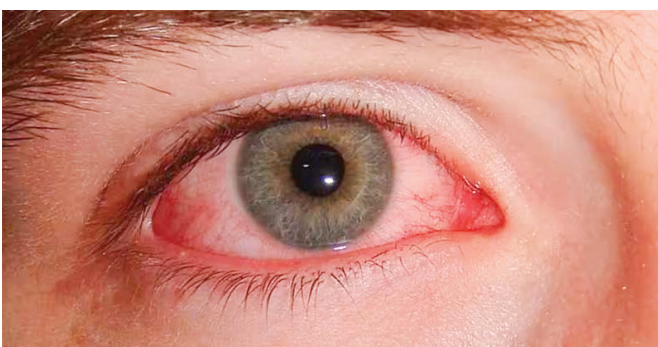
Over 26,000 ‘Eye Flu’ Cases In J&K

Decline in Jammu division, surge in Kashmir: Officials

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: ‘Eye flu’ cases are on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir as the hospitals across the Union Territory continue to receive patients complaining of irritation, redness, swelling and itching in their eyes.

Doctors from Kashmir and Jammu divisions told the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the cases of conjunctivitis, popularly known as ‘eye flu’, are on the rise in Kashmir division while cases have started declining in Jammu division.

They, however, said there is no need to worry as it goes away in one to two weeks.

An official from the

Turn.....**Over 26,000**.....Pg 08





CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Manoj.....

The Lt Governor said the constant endeavour of the UT Administration is to strengthen good governance, to ensure benefits of welfare measures reach the poorest of the poor and immediate disposal of their grievances.

“Efficient handling of grievances and needs of people is an instrument of social change and economic growth. Integrated approach by stakeholders is yielding significant result and collective efforts have encouraged effective public participation in planning and implementation of projects,” he said.

Responding to a complaint of Sh Bashir Ahmad Wani from Dooru Bandipora pertaining to encroachment of Nallah in his locality, the Lt Governor directed the District and Police Administration to remove the illegal encroachment and take legal action against the encroacher.

Sh Siraj Salam from Baramulla drew the attention of the Lt Governor on the issue of unauthorized charging of hefty admission fees for the admission of his daughter by private school. The Lt Governor sought details on the issue and instructed the Director School Education to ensure admission of the child and take necessary action against the school in this matter.

On the grievances of complainants namely Ishfaq Ahmad of Dar Mohalla Budgam and Prem Singh from Jammu regarding water supply in their localities, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and ADC Jammu briefed the chair that the upcoming schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission will address the need for the water supply in the respective areas.

Responding to the complaint of Sh Sant Ram, a resident of Banjer Korara of Doda related to sanctioning of Old-age pension, the Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure the benefits of government schemes reach the beneficiaries timely.

He also sought the status of pendency of pension and scholarship applications from the Secretary Social Welfare Department. He issued a direction for making the process of granting pensions and scholarships more robust for the welfare of the eligible beneficiaries.

“Deputy Commissioners must ensure timely renewal and expeditious sanction of new cases through special camps at Block Divas for complete saturation of pension and scholarship schemes. All stakeholders must work with complete dedication to speed up major road and other infrastructure development projects,” the Lt Governor said.

Ms Rehana Batul, Secretary, Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG’s Mulaqaat.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Sh Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Department; Dr Mandeeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.

J&K Offers.....

common man ushering in a new era of digital governance.

“J&K creates a new benchmark in e-Governance Service Delivery with 1016 services now made available online. Digital transformation of the UT is guided by the principle of people-first and our aim to empower the common man. This historic achievement is testimony to our commitment to transform the social landscape and enhance citizen’s satisfaction, ensure transparency and accountability in the system and empower the aspirational and talented youth and women,” the Lt Governor said.

It was informed that J&K has overtaken MP to become number one amongst States / UTs in the country in the number of online services provided to citizens. Under the Digital J&K programme launched in mission mode last year, the number of online services has increased exponentially from 174 services in July, 2022 to 1016 services as on date with nearly 500 percent increase in just one year.

The Lt Governor noted that remarkable digital journey of J&K and the resultant transformation from a laggard status in e-governance to a leading position in such a short span of time is unprecedented. This has brought about a paradigm shift resulting in increased transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels, he said.

As a result of purposeful and focused action, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an exceptional increase in volume and uptake of e-services which has transformed the government-citizen interface as never before. There has been a palpable reduction in corruption and increase in citizen satisfaction which is being regularly monitored through a citizen feedback mechanism.

It is the adoption of a robust model of e-Governance – not just automation but citizen-centric approach by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir which has resulted in an exponential rise in the number of online services and availability of services 24x7x365. Integration with systems like Digilocker, Aadhaar, e-payment/SMS Gateways has enhanced the ease of living and convenience of citizens obviating the need to visit government offices.

The seriousness of the Government’s resolve can be gauged from the fact that the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011 has been

amended to bring online services under its ambit. Around 300 services have been brought under the auto-escalation mechanism for ensuring time-bound delivery of services and penalties for delays in service delivery.

Taking a leap forward in mobile governance, the recently launched mobile application ‘Mobile Dost’ provides all online services through mobile phones and has a bilingual interface. Moving towards digital inclusion another landmark initiative is the launch of ‘Digi-Dost’ - a mechanism for doorstep delivery of citizen-centric services by leveraging the ubiquitous presence of Common Services Centres (CSC).

The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of all departments of the J&K Government for developing, designing and deploying online services and particularly the IT Department, JaKeGA and NIC for spearheading the Digital J&K mission. He stressed upon the need to ensure proper assessment of citizen feedback and to continually monitor the quality of services.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, exhorted the officials to identify the areas where online services should be developed for citizens for bringing about social transformation and transparency. He further directed that an intensive IEC campaign be launched to inform the public about the digital initiatives and for greater uptake of the online services.

Srinagar Court.....

He said the court granted bail to Patel on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and two local sureties of the same amount.

Apart from Raina, Patel was represented in the court by Mohammad Abdullah Pandit and Kaif Alam.

Patel made headlines when he was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir for posing as a top official in the PMO in March after videos showing him moving around under security cover went viral.

Patel was arrested by J-K Police from a five-star hotel in Srinagar for allegedly posing as an “additional secretary” in the central government. He enjoyed enjoying security cover besides other hospitality during his stints in the Valley.

He was on his third visit to Kashmir when he was nabbed by security officials on March 3.

Patel had claimed to have been given a mandate by the government to identify buyers for apple orchards in south Kashmir. (Agencies)

Bhaderwah.....

was granted today.

A geographical indication or Geographical Indication Tags is a trade name or label applied to a particular product that designates a particular geographic region or country of origin. The GI tag’s primary feature is its uniqueness, which guards against any form of third-party misuse. The Geographical Indications (GI) is a form of intellectual property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location.

Now, only an authorized user has the exclusive rights to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products,” stated the Director Agriculture. He further added “No person can copy it from beyond their geographical areas. This will prevent unauthorized use of these registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties and will boost exports and promote their brands at international level,” the official said.

GI tagging will also promote economic prosperity of locals in the geographical territory and will act as a tool for social economic growth of the producer.

Pertinently, During one of the visits of PM Modi to Britain in 2015, he had gifted this organic Sulai honey to Queen Elizabeth.

26 Officers.....

and Suraiya Jabeen (Secretary in the Tribal Affairs Department).

The other officers attaining superannuation include Ashok Kumar (Mission Director, RUSA), Ashok Kumar Pandita (Additional Secretary, Revenue Department), Farooq Ahmad Rather (Director Floriculture, Kashmir), Suram Chand Sharma (Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Jammu), Kewal Krishan (Additional Secretary, Labour and Employment Department), Ahmad Hussain (Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Baramulla), Ghulam Rasool Wani (Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Ganderbal), Ravi Mohan Khajuria (Registrar, District Udhampur), Sushil Kumar Khajuria (Additional Secretary, Higher Education Department), Nissar Ahmad Malik (Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Shopian), Mohammad Jahangir Khanday (Joint Director, Education, South Kashmir), Saleem Ahmad (Collector Land Acquisition, Defence, Rajouri), Kewal Kumar (Additional Secretary, Cooperatives Department), Sohan Lal (Registrar, GCET Jammu), Saleem Beigh (Deputy Secretary, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens), Ram Lal Sharma (Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department), Ishtaq Ahmad Bhat (Secretary, Srinagar Development Authority), Parveen Akhter (Deputy Director (Administration) Handicrafts and Handlooms Jammu), Noor-ud-din Bhat (Deputy District Election Officer, Bandipora), Shakeel Hussain (Deputy District Election Officer, Srinagar)

and Ghulam Dastagir Alam (Deputy Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment).

After Chandrayaan.....

successful Chandrayaan mission, India is ready with the first Sun Mission “Aditya-L1”, which ISRO is all set to launch, most likely on 2nd of September.

Addressing a public program here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, with the entire world celebrating India’s Chandrayaan mission, the popular interest in the Sun Mission has also increased manifold.

Giving full credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister said, all this would not have been possible, if the Prime Minister had not taken the courageous path-breaking decision of liberating India’s space sector from the shackles of the past which no other government had taken the initiative to do. As a result today, he said, within a short span of four years, ISRO’s financial resources have increased, the number of StartUps have gone up from 4 to 150 and the credibility of India’s satellite launching facility has suddenly soared so high that so far from the launching of European Satellites, India has earned more than 260 Million Euros and from the launching of American Satellite, India has earned more than 150 Million US Dollars.

It is because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi having raised the esteem of the scientific fraternity, said Dr Jitendra Singh, that today we have the confidence and conviction to launch the first-ever space mission to the Sun.

The Sun Space Mission Aditya-L1, explained Dr Jitendra Singh, shall use the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) with seven payloads (Instruments on Board). The spacecraft shall be based in a halo orbit around lagrange point-1(L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million Kilometre from the Earth, while a satellite palaced in the halo orbit will have the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any eclipses, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, after the Mars and Moon mission, Aditya L-1 is the third such mission. It will study the energy sources from the Sun.

J&K tops after.....

the provisions of facial recognition, e-KYC authentication and jivan pramanpatra are few reliable means to ascertain the genuineness of claims. He asked for adopting measures under which the services are offered to the citizens seamlessly without having to make physical visits to government offices.

Dr Mehta further impressed that since volume of services has increased exponentially, it is time to assess digital maturity of these services. He made out that the quantity underpinned by quality would lead to desired results and satisfaction of citizens. He enjoined upon them that the integration with APIs should also be carried out to make single sign-on a prominent feature for all these services.

The Chief Secretary called it is an important milestone in tune with the resolve of the J&K administration to provide corruption free, convenient and accessible services to the common man. He made out that the ‘Digital J&K Programme’ that was launched in mission mode last year has been successful in making J&K to upgrade from ‘line to online’ and ‘physical to digital’ thereby ushering an era of transparency and efficiency in working of government offices across the UT.

The Chief Secretary took the occasion to commend the efforts of the IT Department and NIC for the progress made in enhancing the number of online services of different departments. He gave credit to the team work and commitment of all those officers and officials who contributed immensely to take UT at the top of the rankings today from bottom a couple of years back.

While providing details the Secretary Transport, G. Prasanna Ramaswamy revealed that by introducing these services in an online mode would make the Department faceless to a large extent. He gave out that these services would go a long way in resolving many of the issues faced by the Department in serving the citizens better.

He also disclosed that the redundant options like Hold, Inward in file disbursement have been done away with in this improved set-up to bring efficiency in the working of the department. He said that the most downloaded government application named ‘Next-Gen m-Parivahan’ having more than 10 Crore subscriptions would soon be adopted here in J&K to provide holistic information about the transport related services to its users. He added that the Department is soon going to add the feature of auto-appeal in order to curb the chances of delay in providing services to its applicants.

The services which were made online today includes Transfer of Vehicle ownership, Hypothecation termination/changes, issuance of duplicate RC, Change of address in RC, issuance of fresh permit, renewal of permit, renewal of authorization, temporary permit, duplicate permit, transfer/surrender of permit, application for Counter sign/duplicate counter sign, modification of documents, updation of mobile number, checking status and pending transactions.

Those who participated virtually in the meeting included the RTO Jammu/Kashmir,

ARTOs and other concerned officers of the department.

Police Freeze.....

U/Ss. 8/22 of the NDPS Act in which one notorious drug trafficker identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat a resident of Umerabad HMT Srinagar was arrested and found in conscious possession of 350 Bottles of Codeine Phosphate (of 100 ml each).

Bank Accounts of said accused person in which Rs. 1,25,06,377.10 was ordered to be frozen/attached and forfeiture proceedings was taken up with the Competent Authority, New Delhi in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VA of the NDPS Act, 1985.

The property (in the form of bank balance) has been illegally acquired from the income earned through drug trafficking & is of recent origin and does not commensurate with the sources of the income of the accused, police said.

It is worth to mention that said accused person was previously also found to have been involved in case FIR No. 337/2013 U/Ss. 8/22 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Parimpora; FIR No. 92/2020 U/Ss. 8/21, 22 & 29 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Ram Munshibagh Srinagar; and FIR No. 121/2015 U/Ss. 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Sumbal.

The investigation in the case FIR No. 26 of 2023 U/Ss. 8/22 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Bomai is still in progress, police added. UNI

Price of domestic.....

possible that improves people’s quality of life and benefits the poor and middle class,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) consumers will continue to the get subsidy of Rs 200/cylinder in their accounts.

This reduction in LPG Gas cylinder is in addition to the existing targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per cylinder to PMUY households, which will continue. For PMUY households therefore, the effective price in Delhi after this reduction will be Rs 703 per cylinder.

As per official data, there are more than 31 crore domestic LPG consumers in the country including 9.6 crore PMUY beneficiary families.

“To clear pending PMUY applications and to provide deposit free LPG connection to all eligible households, Government will shortly start distribution of PMUY connections to 75 lakh women from poor households who do not have an LPG connection. This will increase the total number of beneficiaries under PMUY from 9.6 crore to 10.35 crore,” Petroleum Ministry announced.

The official statement said that reduction in cooking gas prices is expected to have a positive impact on the cost of living for a wide spectrum of society.

“Government’s proactive step is projected to save significant expenses for households, making an appreciable contribution to the disposable income of citizens,” it said. UNI

Over 26,000.....

Directorate of Health Services Jammu told KNO that 14,412 cases of conjunctivitis were reported in Jammu division including GMC Jammu.

Giving further details, he said so far 3,274 cases have been reported in Jammu district, 789 in Doda, 1,956 in Kathua, 604 in Kishtwar, 946 in Poonch, 1,066 in Rajouri, 975 in Ramban, 401 in Reasi, 1,471 in Samba, 849 in Udhampur and 1,631 in GMC Jammu.

Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Mir Mushtaq said that so far 11,751 cases of ‘eye flu’ have been reported in Kashmir hospitals.

Giving further details, he said that so far 622 cases have been reported in Kulgam district, 703 in Kupwara, 1,719 in Pulwama, 938 in Shopian, 1,363 in Srinagar, 1,876 in Anantnag, 1,042 in Bandipora, 1697 in Baramulla, 1,287 in Budgam and 504 in Ganderbal.

Officials said that around two thousand cases have been reported in Jammu division since 21 August and cases have started declining as today 132 cases were reported. Last week, around 400 cases were reported every day.

They said that cases continue to surge in Kashmir division as around 3,000 cases have been reported in the division since August 21.

The doctors said it is a “self-limiting infection” and each individual’s immunity will have a role to play in the course of the disease. They advised the people to wash their hands frequently with soap and water and disinfect touched surfaces like doorknobs, etc.

The people must avoid touching or rubbing their eyes, sharing personal items, wearing contact lenses, crowded places and swimming poles, they said, adding that an ophthalmologist must be consulted if there is severe eye pain, blurring of vision, sensitivity to light

associated with throat pain and fever and if the symptoms go worse and don’t improve after 24 hours.

Body of.....

the news about the recovery of the body of the engineer spread in the town. Most of the protesters demanded an in-depth probe into his death. Many protesters feared that the engineer might have been murdered

Soon after the AEE went missing on Friday evening, Police had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the case.

Singh, a resident of Kanthbagh Baramulla had attended an official function on Friday and failed to report home. After the family lodged a complaint, a hunt was launched and his car was found on the outskirts of town on Baramulla-Uri road. His mobile phone was found in the car and it was in flight mode. UNI

Gunmen kill.....

medico-legal procedures.

Subsequent to the post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the family for final rites.

A case has been registered under appropriate sections, and a thorough investigation has been initiated.

Police said preliminary investigations suggest that the deceased has been killed by some rival narcotics smuggling gang members or the rival terror operatives.

“Notably, Mukhtar Ahmad Shah was a high-profile narcotics smuggler and a person of deep connections among narcotics smugglers in the region”, police said and added “he had been found involved in two cases of narcotics and weapons smuggling in the recent past and had confessed to orchestrating the transportation of substantial quantities of narcotics and weaponry across the border”.

His association with his brother, Sadiq Shah, a prominent figure as both a launching commander and a supplier of narcotics and weapons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), underscores the depth of his involvement in these illicit activities. Sadiq Shah is himself chargesheeted in narco-terror cases and happens to be a top terrorist commander based in POJK, police further said.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the Shah family has been entangled in various legal cases relating to narcotics and weapons smuggling. At least six other members of the Mukhtar Ahmad Shah’s family are currently facing charges in connection to these criminal activities, they added. UNI

Sarjan Barkati.....

misused, involving money laundering and acquisition of undisclosed assets for propagation of radicalism within the Kashmir valley,” they said.

Barkati, also known as “Azadi Chacha,” gained prominence in 2016 following the neutralization of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani by security forces.

Barkati was a central figure in orchestrating large-scale protests, rallies, and clashes with security forces in 2016, for which more than 30 FIRs were registered against him in various police stations of the valley, the SIA said.

The SIA Kashmir revealed that Barkati managed to raise approximately Rs 1.74 crores through crowd funding campaigns.

These funds were ostensibly raised for personal gains and a significant portion of the collected funds was allegedly misused for undisclosed purposes, including possible financing of secessionist and terrorist activities.

“During investigation SIA Kashmir has found that Barkati had not only exploited public sentiment and trust for personal financial gain but also potentially laundered funds from unidentified sources, suspected to have links with terrorist organizations,” they said.

Furthermore, a substantial portion of the acquired funds had been deposited in various Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) under the names of Barkati’s family members, raising questions about the legitimacy of the sources and utilization of the funds.

The SIA Kashmir emphasized that Sarjan Barkati’s actions amounted to a betrayal of the public’s trust, as he allegedly manipulated emotional appeals and crowd funding platforms to further personal and potentially illicit agendas.

The agency said that Barkati’s activities not only tarnished the sanctity of crowd funding but also raised serious concerns about the misuse of such resources for promoting separatist-terrorist activities. In 2016 unrest in Kashmir, Barkati, a resident of Zainpora Shopian, had coined and popularized many slogans and he was booked under Public Safety Act for organising anti-government rallies.

He remained in custody for over four years. UNI





This woman left law profession to become an integrated farmer

Shazia is providing jobs to over dozen people, says there's a lot of scope in farming

SHOPIAN, AUG 29: A female integrative farmer from south Kashmir, who earlier used to practice law, is now growing conventional and exotic vegetables in her orchards and is providing jobs to over a dozen people.

Syed Shazia, 31, wife of Gulbadin Ahmad Mir, a resident of Moloo Chitragam in Shopian district has been growing grapes, kiwi and other items, and the vegetables grown by her were exported to UAE by the agriculture department last year.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Shazia said she hadn't much information about farming till marriage while her in-laws have been

associated with traditional farming for generations.

"During the COVID-19 lockdown, as the entire world was shut, I found that in my family there was hardly any difference because poultry, dairy, vegetables, fish, fruits, etc were all homegrown and this made me rethink my whole life and my priorities. So, I switched from my active law practice to full-time farming, she said.

Shazia added, "Since I was new to farming and my in-laws already had generations of experience, so I added my own innovation to the traditional farming. My methodology was integrative farming modal where I integrated our farming sectors like dairy-vermicom-



posting, poultry-composting, conventional to exotic varieties, and traditional to hybrid."

With the guidance from Agriculture Department, we switched to exotic vegetables like Nadur (lotus), broccoli, cauliflower, grapes, kiwi and plum, backyard poultry, rabbitry, etc and we were able to obtain more returns from the same resources, she said, adding, "Our farm has been turned into a farming school where farmers come and learn new innovations. In 2022, our vegetables were exported to UAE through the agriculture department."

The fields where Shazia has been working include traditional apples (15

kanals), high density & medium density apples (15 kanals), grapes, plum and kiwi orchards 5 kanals, vegetables: conventional & exotic vegetables like broccoli, Chinese cabagae, lettuce, knol khol, nadur, pulses sweet corn, hybrid cattle fodder/ sorgam, super napier, poultry-broiler (12k/ cycle), backyard layers (van Raja, Kadaknath, Rir), guinea fowl, turkey etc, rabbitry, fish farms-trout (10k fingerlings), carp (5k), dairy farm and vermicompost and compost.

In addition to our family of 10 persons, we have 10 full-time workers and casuals, Shazia said.

She said integrative farming gives employment,

recognition and satisfaction. There is a lot of scope for innovation in our farming and if youngsters, especially educated youth, come forward we can certainly revolutionise the farming industry, she added.

Syed requested other women to start integrative farming with the help of government schemes to become financially independent. "One shouldn't sit idle at home but start their own units with the help of various schemes. Youth shouldn't run after government jobs only. Rather they must start something and if they work hard, they will very soon become job providers instead of job seekers," she said.

Gurez removes tag of death, destruction; becomes much-loved tourist destination in Kashmir

GUREZ, AUG 29: Formerly recognized for its history of death and destruction due to cross-LoC shelling and frequent clashes between militants and soldiers, the enchanting Gurez Valley in North Kashmir district has transformed into a much-loved tourist hotspot, garnering attention from both domestic and international travellers, the valley has surged in popularity, poised to compete with Kashmir's other renowned destinations.

Tucked within the Himalayas and enveloped by verdant forests, the Gurez Valley lies along the historic Silk Route, linking Kashmir with Gilgit. The local populace converses in the Shina language and predominantly resides in traditional wooden homes, which are gradually giving way to modern concrete dwellings.

"After the February 15 border ceasefire pact between India and Pakistan, Gurez Valley has witnessed a surge in tourism, resulting in the emergence of new hotels, home stays, and campsites," the locals told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "We are opening our homes to visitors, offering a glimpse into Gurez Valley's culture." "With the situation continuing in this manner, we envision a promising future ahead for our children," the locals added.

"Just a few years ago, we would switch off our lights and retire early due to the fear of shelling. But now, those circumstances have entirely changed. Our young people are now participating in night camping alongside tourists without any fear," said Mushaq Ahmad, a local resident.

The memory of yearning for tourists to explore this breath-taking valley and transform it into a bustling tourist hub remains fresh. And now, these are the very days we've been waiting for, he said, adding that those days when people here used to spend days in construction of community bunkers to save their lives from border shelling are gone now.

"Not too long ago, we hesitated to welcome any tourists here. The prevalent notion was that border shelling could occur unexpectedly, posing a threat to life," said Abdul Salaam, another local resident.

"Since the cessation of border shelling, our area has experienced a surge in development. We've collectively breathed a sigh of relief as our children pursue their education, schools thrive, and local businesses flourish," he added. "Speaking of network connectivity, there was once a dearth of phone service in our region. However, if you observe every village in Gurez, you'll find functional phone service and reliable internet connectivity," Salam noted. "Half a decade ago, the road from Bandipora to Gurez was in a state of disrepair. However, today it receives regular attention from Beacon, with repairs carried out as needed on a monthly basis," highlighted Altaf Ahmad, another resident of the area.

He remarked that the tourism sector now engages hundreds of youths as tourist guides, tent owners, homestay proprietors, and in various other capacities, allowing them to earn their livelihood through tourism-related activities.

The valley is nearing a permanent solution to its long-standing power challenges. Progress in a power project brings hope, with construction achievements and substantial advancements in critical infrastructure. While challenges posed by geography affect timelines, completion of the ongoing project valued at 2676.92 lacs promises continuous electricity supply for Gurez, eliminating the need for high-capacity diesel generators that presently provide timed power supply.

"We're delighted that continuous electricity is on the horizon as the government is swiftly addressing the issue," Ahmad added "Anticipating a significant tourism surge, we might witness the reopening of the traditional Gurez-Kargil road through Kaabal Gali," he added, referring to the route that links the twin villages of Chakwali and Abdullah in the Tulail region of Gurez to Mushko Valley in Drass, Kargil via Kabul Gali. This road had remained closed for decades due to security concerns.

On J&K's statehood, Centre to make 'positive statement' before Supreme Court on Thursday

SG says J&K's statehood will be restored, Ladakh will remain as UT

SRINAGAR, AUG 29: The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that Jammu & Kashmir's statehood will be restored while Ladakh will remain as Union Territory.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), on the twelfth day of hearing in the Article 370 case, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta today submitted before the five-judge constitution bench that J&K's statehood will be restored while Ladakh will remain as UT.

He informed the Court that he will make a positive statement on restoration of J&K's statehood on August 31 after a meeting at

the highest level.

"Jammu and Kashmir as a union territory is not a permanent feature. However, Ladakh would remain a UT. We will make a statement on this in detail on Thursday and Attorney General and I will visit the government officials and make a statement," Mehta

The AG made the submission after the Supreme Court sought a time frame to restore J&K's statehood and a roadmap of this progression.

The SC sought timeframe for restoration of J&K's statehood after SG submitted that the current status of Jammu and Kashmir as a union territory was not per-



manent and its statehood will be restored.

The five-judge constitution bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice S.K. Kaul, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant are hearing a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization of the erstwhile state of J&K into two UTs.

On August 5, 2019, the Union Government read down Article 370 and reorganized the erstwhile state of J&K into two UTs. Several petitions were filed in the Supreme against the Centre's decisions.

Mandeep Kaur visits Harwan block of Srinagar, reviews progress of SBM-G, MGNREGA schemes



SRINAGAR, AUG 29: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today visited several areas of Harwan Block of Srinagar district and conducted comprehensive inspection of various Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin (SBM-G) projects and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) schemes.

Director, RDD, Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Assistant Commissioner Development, Srinagar, District Development Council (DDC) Members, Block Development Council (BDC) Members, Sarpanches and other senior officers of Rural Development department accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit.

The areas inspected by the Commissioner Secretary include Dara, Faqir Gujri, New Theed, Gandtal, and Saidpora.

The visit was held to have an in-depth assessment of activities under SBM-G like

house-to-house garbage collection, establishment of individual and community soakage pits, compost pits, and establishment of Segregation Sheds. The progress of MGNREGA schemes, which play a crucial role in enhancing rural livelihoods through employment generation and infrastructure development, was also held.

During the visit, Mandeep Kaur interacted with local residents and PRI members, gathering first-hand insights into the ongoing SBM-G and MGNREGA initiatives in the Block.

While interacting with them, she remarked that Government is committed to sustainable rural development, sanitation practices, and enhancing rural employment with proactive engagement with local communities and PRI members. She also noted valuable insights into the progress of SBM-G and MGNREGA projects and their impact on the lives of residents in Harwan Block.

Newly-setup R&B Division Starts Formally Functioning in LANGATE; Shah Takes additional Charge As Executive Engineer



■ **Dr. Ab Qayoom**

LANGATE, AUG 30: In a significant development, the newly established R&B Division Langate has started formally functioning from today. The newly-setup R&B Division, as per HT NEWS NETWORK, is among one of the divisions which received the nod from the administration recently. Meanwhile Farooq Ah Shah Exn R&B Division Handawar has taken additional charge as Executive Engineer of R&B Division Langate at the office Municipal committee Langate Shah along with DDC

Chairman Kupwara Irfan sultan Pandithpori, McChirman Langate Adv Shah Nawz Abdullah, DDC, BDC Mawar, BDC Chairman Langate were highly welcomed by sub-ordinates and local people especially trade president Lateef Ah Ganie at the Municipal Committee office Langate and shared bouquets. The residents of Langate especially Langate development society, trade and transport body along With MCHAIRMAN in the meantime extended their heartfelt gratitude to the administration for granting a separate R&B Division for Langate.

District Level NCORD Committee meet held at Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, AUGUST 29: A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held at mini-secretariat, here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal-Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat. The meeting was convened to discuss an Action Plan against the drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district and review the implementation of decisions and directions passed in previous meetings, and chalk out a future course of



action. During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various issues related to the incidence of drug addiction, certification of Nasha Mukta Panchayats as per norms, drives against the bhanga cultivation, hotspots of drug use and action taken by the concerned departments with regard to curbing the menace of drugs. The DC sought details from the concerned departments about the measures being taken to control the drug addiction and rehabilitation of addicts in designated treatment and rehabilitation centres.

Hestressed upon all concerned departments to work on certifying the Nasha Mukta Panchayats in a phase wise manner by eradicating all incidences of drug abuse in the selected villages. Directions were given for constituting multi departmental teams for undertaking bhanga destruction drives across the district, more particularly in areas of the concern. The meeting was attended by SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal; ADC, Vikar Ahmad Giri; SDM Noorabad, ACR, CEO, DIO, CAO, DSWO, Tehsildar Hq. and other officers from Excise, Colleges, Health, Drug Control.

One day Workshop on 'Peace and Value Education' held at Bandipora

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 29: The District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with Ali Sports Academy Tuesday conducted a day long workshop on 'Peace and Value Education' at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The workshop presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Umar Shafi, was organised to sensitize people about the fundamental role of peace in our lives and the importance of instilling this core value within ourselves, our families, children, colleagues, and friends.

The programme was



attended by Padmashree Awardee Faisal Ali, JD Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad. Renowned research expert and Principal of Govt. College of Education (IASE) Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, and Coordinator Gandhi Peace Foundation (IASE)

Fazil Illahi, Coordinator were present as guest speakers on the occasion.

During the workshop, Prof. Seema Naz threw light on the topic and said that peace is the foundation of every human being and any deviation from this core

value can lead to disillusionment, discontentment, disengagement, discord, and disparagement. She said that such deviations can pave the way for individual and social discord, potentially culminating in irresolvable conflicts.

During the day-long programme, the teachers and students were sensitized and trained to become advocates of peace-making and peace-building.

The workshop was attended by hundreds of teachers and students from higher and school education, paving the way for a peaceful and dignified life for all.

Entrepreneurship Awareness and Sensitization Programme organized by CIED

Awantipora, August 29. Women's Entrepreneurship Development Cell (WEDC) under the aegis of CIED IUST organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness and Sensitization programme for the students of Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Pulwama

and IUST. A panel discussion on Challenges for women entrepreneurs was also organized. The experts, Ms. Samar Shawl (CEO Ribbons) and Shehla Imran (CEO Turan & Turab) shared their entrepreneurial experiences, highlighted the prospects and challenges of entre-

preneurship in Kashmir. They also delved into the intricacies of securing financing, and navigating the competitive terrain. The experts imparted invaluable wisdom about the nuances of product design and the integral role that society.

Director Agriculture led enforcement flying squad seizes Saffron Corms being exported outside Valley

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: On a specific input regarding the export of saffron corms outside the valley, the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal along with a team of officers seized saffron corms being transported through Air Cargo Srinagar. The team included Assistant Director Law Enforcement Srinagar and Law Enforcement Inspector Srinagar from Enforcement Wing centre. Besides, the raid was made with joint team effort of Agriculture department and officers of Excise department comprising State taxes Officer, Irshad Asadullah, Central Enforcement, Srinagar (Airport wing) along with team.

Vice Chancellor Nalanda University calls on Lt Governor

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: Prof. Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. She was accompanied by Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir.

DC Kupwara reviews preparations for celebration of Digital Week-2023

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, AUGUST 29: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting with concerned officers here to review the arrangements and preparations made for the celebration of upcoming Digital Week-2023.

NEW LIGHT EDUCATIONAL MODEL INSTITUTE TAPPER WARIPORA					
List of Managing Body					
Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation	Occupation	Qualification
Sonaulah Parry	Ab. Khaliq Parry	Tapper Waripora	Chairman	Business	Middle
Gh. Qadir parry	Mohd. Asadullah Parry	Tapper Waripora	Dy. chairman	Retired govt. Employee	Matric
Nazir Ah. Najar	Wali Mohd. Najar	Tapper Waripora	Accountant	Self Employed	B.A
Gh. Mohd. Bhat	Ab. Rahman Bhat	Tapper Waripora	Secretary	Self Employed	Middle
Zahoor Ah. Bhat	Ab. Ahad Bhat	Checki Tapper	School Representative	Private Teacher	M.A, B.Ed
Qurat Ul Ain	Mushtaq Ah. Bhat	Tapper Waripora	Member	Private Teacher	Msc
Tawheeda Rasool	Gh. Rasool Parry	Tapper Waripora	Member	Private Teacher	B.Sc, B.Ed

DC Kupwara inaugurates Job fair at Kupwara

■ **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, Aug 29: District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Kupwara, Tuesday, organised a day-long job fair at Townhall Kupwara which was inaugurated by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan (IAS).

The DDC Kupwara while addressing the youth said that unemployed youth of district should take benefit of employment generation programmes like PMEGP, Mumkin, Tejaswini, HADP etc.

The DDC emphasised that youth should aware themselves about different employment generation schemes and programmes and seek proper help and counseling from concerned departments.

The DDC directed to officers of concerned departments to ensure timely reach-out to the unemployed youth and spread information about employment generation programmes on regular basis.

Ms. Ayushi Sudan directed concerned line departments to organise a mega job fair in coming months and bring more companies to Kupwara so that more and more youth



get employment opportunities.

On the occasion, the District Development Commissioner inspected registration counters of LIC, SBI, Department of fisheries, DIC Kupwara, EDI, DECC and Handicrafts department.

The programme was attended by Assistant Director Employment, and officers of line departments and unemployed youth of the district.

On the occasion Career Counselling Officer of DECC Kupwara emphasised

upon the online registration of unemployed youth on department's portal and integration of Employment portal with National Career Services so that they could get real time information in future regarding employment avenues.

The unemployed youth expressed gratitude to the District Development Commissioner Kupwara, DECC and other Line department for organising this job fair.

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (HYD) DIVISION BANDIPORE

xenhydbpr@gmail.com, xen-hydbpr@jk.gov.in, Fax No 01957-226600

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS E-NIT NO 23-PHE/HYD/BPR OF 2023-2024

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) on "percentage rate basis" from Reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other State Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	App Cost of Rest. (in Lacs)	Earnest Money @2%	Cost of T.D	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	M.H of Account	Position of Funds	Adm. Approval
01	Construction of protection works/ Resectioning works on Gadder Khul/ Nallah at RD 1600 mtr, RD 1700 mtr and other critical spots	Rs.11.66 Lacs	23320.00	600.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E- Challan	30 Days	BEE/CEE / DEE	4711 UT CAPEX		
02	Restoration/ Stabilization of breached spots on Aragam Khul at RD 1100 mtr, RD 1300 mtr, RD 3900 mtr, RD 4100 mtr and RD 4800 mtr	Rs.9.69 Lacs	19380.00	600.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E- Challan	30 Days	CEE/ DEE	4701 UP CAPEX	ASSURED	ACCORDED
03	Restoration/ Retrofitting works of Pir Khul at RD 700 mtr, RD 2400 mtr and other critical spots	Rs.6.79 Lacs	13580.00	300.00 Indicate Name of work with NIT S.No on TR/ E- Challan	30 Days	CEE/ DEE	4702 UT CAPEX		

01. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings (if any), book of quantities (BoQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

S. No	Description	DD	MM	YY	Time
01	Publishing date of NIT	29	08	2023	10:00 Hours
02	Download start date	29	08	2023	10:00 Hours
03	Bid submission start date	29	08	2023	10:00 Hours
04	Bid submission end date	12	09	2023	16:00 Hours
05	Bid opening date	13	09	2023	10:30 Hours

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document as specified in the table above and pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore alongwith @ 2% of Advertised amount as BID Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/DD or BG valid upto 45 days beyond bid validity period.

03. The lowest bidder shall have to furnish Performance Security for an amount equal to 5% of contract value in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG before fixation of contract which shall be released only after successful completion of work.

04. In case the bid submitted being lower than 10% of the advertised cost, the First Lowest bidder (LI) will have to furnish 5% Additional Performance Guarantee in the form of CDR/ FDR/DD/BG.

05. In case the Performance Guarantee being BG, should be valid upto 60 days beyond the Defective Liability Period.

06. Online bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore on scheduled date. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Hard copy of bid documents shall be obtained from 1st and 2nd lowest bidder.

Contd on page 2nd

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07. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an email message on their e-mail address. The bids responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore (Tender Receiving Authority)

08. The bids shall be valid for a period of 90 Days reckoned from the date of opening of bids.

09. The contractor shall be liable for debarment for next two years in respect of competing in the tendering process in PHE Department including forfeiture of Earnest Money if:-

a). Any bidder/ Tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b). Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required bidding documents and performance security within the specified time limit.

c). Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.

10. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS REGARDING E-TENDERING PROCESS

a). The interested bidders can download the NIT/ bidding document from the website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

b). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act 2000 to participate in online bidding.

c). The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature and no proposal will be accepted in physical form.

d). Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the para-1.

e). Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with Bid. Details of documents required available alongwith downloadable tender documents on <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

f). The department will not be responsible for delay or error in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

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

h). The details of cost of documents specified in the tender documents should be the same, as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise bid will not be accepted & shall be rejected therefor.

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

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

1). GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

01. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in.

02. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission in any reasons.

03. The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders or put to fresh tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

04. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BoQ contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BoQ manually. The BoQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes upto completion of work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

05. Successful bidder has to produce valid E-Challan, PAN Card and Registration Card with latest Renewal alongwith last month/ quarterly GST clearance certificate.

06. In case the 1st lowest bidder (LI) doesn't produce the hard copies/ call deposit within a week's time after getting letter from Divisional office, he shall be debarred for participating in tendering process for a period of 01 year and work will be allotted to 2nd lowest (L2)

07. ALL BIDDERS SHALL MANDATORY UPLOAD VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE FROM THE CONCERNED ISSUING AUTHORITIES OF ENLISTMENT REGISTRATION CARD. NON-SUBMISSION OF THE SAME SHALL BE RENDER THE BID NON-RESPONSIVE

08. UNBALANCED/ LOW RATES

a). LOW RATES: The rates if found quoted on lower side than the advertized rates, such rates have to be get analyzed by the bidder concerned within the two days from the date of opening of financial bid and after the scrutinizing the same by the divisional office and such bids shall be treated as non-responsive if the rates were not found workable.

DIPK-7927/23

Dt:-29/08/2023

Executive Engineer
PHE (Hyd) Division
Bandipore

اطلاع عام

میرے والد کا نام میرے سروں کب میں کلرک کی غلطی سے غلط اندراج ہوا ہے۔ میرا میرے بیٹرک سرٹیفیکٹ کا رول نمبر بھی کلرک کی غلطی سے غلط اندراج ہوا ہے۔ میرا نام علی محمد ملک ولد عبدالرحیم ملک ہے۔ Raheim کے بجائے Rehman لکھا گیا ہے اور میری بیٹرک سرٹیفیکٹ کا رول نمبر 503495 کے بجائے 503495 لکھا گیا ہے اور میری غلطی کی وجہ سے سروں کب پر لکھا گیا ہے اب اس کی درستی کرنا مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی بھی غلط یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراض کا ٹائٹل آئی آر پی 4th IRP بتائیں میں کیوارہ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں بعد معیار ذکر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی غلط یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Ali Mohd Malik
S/o Ab Raheim Malik
R/o Tikkee Kupwara Teh. Distt. Kupwara
Ph: 7006079984

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving Licence Bearing Licence No JK 0120 130080351 from Pantha Chowk To Dalgate Srinagar. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with RTO Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....Ishaq Ahmad Bhat
S/O Ghulam Nabi
R/OShalteng Srinagar

Doda authorities take strong measures against Drug Abuse

Peddler booked under PSA, many others under scanner, DM, SSP reveal in NCORD meeting

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 29: District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom today convened the Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee meeting in the DC office here. The gathering served as a platform to discuss the progress made on previous directives and to chart a future course of action against drug abuse in the district.

During the meeting, SSP Abdul Qayoom, who is also the convenor of the Committee, provided updates on the district's efforts to control drug addiction and trafficking.

The DM informed that a notorious drug peddler has recently been booked under the Public Safety Act, and many others,

including women are under scanner, and dossiers are being prepared for their preventive detention under PSA.

The Chief Education officer was directed to coordinate with the Revenue, Police, and Excise officials to conduct a major drive of Bhang (Cannabis) destruction throughout the district on 5th of September 2023.

A committee headed by ADC, Dr RK Bharti has been constituted to work out the proposal of restricting the availability of psychotropic drugs in some selected drug stores/ medical shops. The committee will report within 15 days, along with specific recommendations. The Rehabilitation centre at Bhaderwah shall be inaugurated on the 1st of September 2023. The DM tasked magistrates and police officers to intensify the checking of Medi-



cal Stores and enforce compulsory installation of CCTV cameras and maintenance of proper record of psychotropic drugs in these medical stores. Revenue officials have been given the target of marking

entries in the revenue record of those land holders found involved in the Poppy cultivation in the district, within two days.

The SSP impressed upon officers to undertake exhaustive testing of the suspects in the

hotbeds using testing kits. He has expressed his satisfaction with recent developments in combating drug abuse in the district and has urged to take the fight against drug menace to its logical conclusion.

He reiterated that 2023 has been dedicated to eradicate drug abuse from the district and encouraged all stakeholders to intensify the mission.

The 14th Narco Coordination meeting in Doda showcased a determined effort by local authorities to combat drug abuse comprehensively and achieve a drug-free district. The meeting was attended by ADC Doda, ADC Bhaderwah, SP Headquarter Doda, GM DIC Doda, ACD Doda, SDMs, SDPOs, Dy. SP Headquarter, DIO Doda, DSWO Doda, ETO Doda, CEO Doda, CMO Doda, CAO Doda, Tehsildars, SHOs, Assistant Drug Controller Doda and other concerned officials. A committee headed by ADC, Dr RK Bharti has been constituted to work out the proposal of restricting the availability of psychotropic drugs in some selected drug stores/ medical

shops. The committee will report within 15 days, along with specific recommendations. The Rehabilitation centre at Bhaderwah shall be inaugurated on the 1st of September 2023. The DM tasked magistrates and police officers to intensify the checking of Medical Stores and enforce compulsory installation of CCTV cameras and maintenance of proper record of psychotropic drugs in these medical stores. Revenue officials have been given the target of marking entries in the revenue record of those land holders found involved in the Poppy cultivation in the district, within two days.

The SSP impressed upon officers to undertake exhaustive testing of the suspects in the hotbeds using testing kits. He has expressed his satisfaction with recent developments.

JKAACL organises Multilingual Mushaira on patriotism

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 29: In connection with celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organised a Multilingual Mushaira here in the K. L. Saigal Hall.

The programme was organized in connection with the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign to recall the sacrifices of war heroes and pay a poetic tribute to them. About 30 poets from six languages like Hindi, Dogri, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Gojri and Pahari presented their poems on the theme.

Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh welcomed the Guests and the dignitaries. In his welcome address, he said that the main thought behind organizing this program was to show what the importance of this Day in our lives is. In ancient days our Country was known as the Golden sparrow and what happened to this country, the people here had to suffer cruelty or unjust acts of exploitation, oppression and the wrongdoing of slavery. And after a lot of struggle for Independence our country got Independence. Now we have our own constitution. Today's programme is dedicated to all those people who had sacrificed for this freedom.

DC Rajouri reviews Drug Control Measures

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 29: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired the meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to deliberate upon and invigorate the ongoing measures to combat the drug abuse in the district. The meeting commenced with a comprehensive review of the progress made since the previous meeting, highlighting the formation of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan committees at the tehsil and panchayat levels as a significant milestone.

A crucial focus of the discussion was the enforcement of regulations on registered pharmaceutical shops to prevent their certificates from being misused by drug peddlers. The efficacy of various awareness campaigns, including those conducted in educational institutions, unique events such as special sports tournaments held in July, and engaging sessions like 'Chai Pe Charcha' were thoroughly scrutinized and reinforced.

During the crucial meeting, a series of impactful directives were issued to the concerned officers to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse in the society. Recognizing the urgency and gravity of the situation, the Chief Education Officer was entrusted with the pivotal task of organizing comprehensive awareness camps across various grade levels within educational institutions. In a bid to ensure maximum impact, the Chief Education Officer was specifically instructed to incorporate drug abuse awareness programs into Parent-Teacher Meetings.

DM Doda reviews Implementation of District Environment Plan

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 29: District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of the District Environment Plan (DEP) here at a meeting of the District Environment Committee (DEC) held in the DC office.

The meeting centred around the assessment of the action taken by different government departments to mitigate the detrimental effects of human activities on the environment. It also delved into the ongoing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiatives designed to raise awareness about the critical importance of environmental preservation.

Notable attendees included Senior Superintendent of Police, Abdul Qayoom;

ADC, Dr RK Bharti; GM DIC, Idrees Lone; ACD, Phulail Singh, SE PWD, DFO Doda and Bhaderwah, CMO Doda, Div Officer PCC Doda, EOMC Doda/Bhaderwah/ Thathri and other concerned officers.

The meeting reviewed the progress made by different departments in key action areas, encompassing City Afforestation, Bio-medical waste disposal, water body restoration, creation of ponds and water bodies, enforcement guidelines for minor mineral mining, management of E-waste, Solid waste, and Industrial waste, among other pertinent issues. During the meeting, responsible officers and officials provided updates on their respective department's progress in implementing DEP within the district.

DC Kathua flags off batch of Farmers to SKUAST J for Capacity Building Programme

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 29: In a significant step towards promoting agricultural development and empowering local farmers, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas today flagged off a group of farmers to Centre of Excellence SKUAST- Jammu for a Capacity Building Programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The program aims to equip farmers with essential knowledge, skills and resources to enhance their agricultural practices and contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

The Capacity Building Programme is a part of the broader Holistic Agriculture



Development Programme which is designed to transform the agricultural landscape by introducing sustainable and modern farming techniques, improving crop yield, and fostering economic prosperity in rural communities. By providing farmers with access to training, information, and

resources, the program seeks to bridge the gap between traditional farming methods and contemporary agricultural practices.

DC while addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in enhancing the livelihoods of farmers and ensuring food security. He

said that during this programme, the 25 progressive farmers from Kathua will undergo training at the Centre of Excellence SKUAST in Jammu. He highlighted the need for continuous learning and adaptation to new agricultural technologies in order to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The farmers will also visit Mega Fruit Nursery Chakrohi in R. S Pura wherein they will get themselves acquainted with State of the art techniques. He also said that these programmes are in line with the PM's vision of doubling the farmer's income.

The Chief Horticulture Officer Kathua, while sharing the details, disclosed that the initiative underscores the commitment.

Chairperson DDC Udhampur reviews working of education, other sectors

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 29: To discuss the issues related to Education and other sectors, Chairperson District Development Council Udhampur Lal Chand chaired a meeting of officers of the Education Department in his office Chamber, here today.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Chief Education Officer, Geetu Bangotra, ZEOs, ZEPOs and concerned cluster heads attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Chairman DDC, Udhampur also telephonically contacted to Director School Education, Jammu, to resolve various issues, including the posting of 44 Masters in District Udhampur who were transferred but not relieved from their place of posting due to certain reasons and the adjustment of newly promoted masters after their DPC.

In the meeting, the DDC chairman raised the issue of rationalization of Teaching Staff



projected by numerous deputations and also during his recent visits to schools, including GHS Hartaryan, GHS Kalta, and GHS Sudhmadhadev where the student-teacher ratio was not appropriate as per rules and it was found that some clusters of teachers are placed where few students are available, and vice versa.

During the meeting, several other issues were also discussed which included shifting of classes from old building, GHS Gandala to newly constructed building, Fair selection of AAYAs after proper scrutiny, cluster Re-organisation, Handover/takeover of completed buildings of schools.

DC, SSP flag off inspiring 'Tiranga Rally' from DC Office Samba

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, AUGUST 29: To imbibe patriotism and environmental awareness among the students, a 'Tiranga Rally' was held today under the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh Campaign.'

The rally commenced from the DC Office Complex and was flagged off by the chief Guest, Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma and Special Guest, SSP Samba, Benam Tosh.

In the backdrop of banners, students raised fervent slogans that echoed the spirit of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh Campaign,' resonating across the nation. The compelling event witnessed enthusias-



tic participation of about 100 students and staff members of MV International School.

The rally concluded at the Samba District Administration Complex, where students from the cultural department staged a poignant Nukkad Natak (street play). The theatrical performance encapsulated India's journey from its struggle for independence to its current global prominence,

attributing this success to robust policies and the selfless contributions of citizens. Officials from the District Samba administration were also present to witness this impactful portrayal. The DC Samba lauded the School management for launching the consequential campaign. He commended the school for establishing an 'Amrit Vaatika' within its premises, dedicated.

District Admin Jammu gears up for Digital J&K Week celebrations

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 29: District Administration Jammu has established a major setup in Kala Kendra to use it as the epicentre of activities during the Digital Jammu & Kashmir Week celebration.

The week-long event is set to start from August 31 to September 6, to showcase digital initiatives and services of the government.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sandeep Seointra, today inspected the preparation made in the Kala Ken-

dra in the run up to the weeklong event.

During the visit, the ADC revealed that celebrations will be held across the district, with Kala Kendra serving as the epicentre. A mobile awareness van will traverse across the district, disseminating valuable information on digital services and government programs.

The ADC examined the venue's readiness, ensuring sanitation, access to drinking water and a reliable power supply. To enrich the experience, different departments are gearing up to establish stalls,



where they will spotlight their unique digital services and flagship schemes.

The BSNL officers were entrusted with the task of ensuring seam-

less connectivity during the Digital J&K Week festivities. Meanwhile, the Education Department received instructions to orchestrate competitions and

awareness activities involving school children, thus spreading digital literacy to the masses. The Higher Education Department was also asked to active-

ly engage their institutes in promoting digital awareness during this week of celebration. A significant emphasis was placed on educating the public about online fraud and digital security, empowering citizens to safeguard themselves against malicious online activities. Each department was directed to appoint Nodal Officers for smooth coordination and execution. Moreover, officials will be stationed at the stalls to answer queries. The ADC examined the venue's readiness, ensuring sanita-

tion, access to drinking water and a reliable power supply. To enrich the experience, different departments are gearing up to establish stalls, where they will spotlight their unique digital services and flagship schemes.

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DPMU, JJM, Dist Admin Kulgam hold District Level Pani Samiti Convention at Kulgam

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, AUGUST 29: District Level Project Management Unit, JJM Kulgam in collaboration with District Administration Kulgam today organized District Level Pani Samiti Convention at mini-secretariat Kulgam. The convention was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Muhiud-Din Bhat. The event was organized to mark successful culmination of JJM fortnight which was held from 1st August to 15th August, 2023 across the district where multifarious activities were held to sensitize masses about proper care of water assets and conservation efforts required from all stakeholders. The event started with the water testing demonstration performed by the members of the Implementing Support Agency (ISA) team with Field Test Kits (FTKs). ISA Expert JJM, informed the participants about the mandate of Paani Samitis who have a key role in implementation of JJM.

EDITORIAL

Environmental Conservation: A Look at Kashmir's Ecological Concerns

Beneath this picturesque facade lies a complex web of ecological concerns that demand immediate attention. As the forces of urbanization and tourism collide with the fragility of nature, the imperative for environmental conservation in Kashmir becomes ever more pronounced.

One of the most pressing issues facing the region is deforestation. Rampant logging, driven by the demand for timber and land development, has led to the degradation of vital forest ecosystems. This loss not only disrupts the delicate balance of the local flora and fauna but also contributes to soil erosion, reduced water quality, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters. Recognizing the importance of these forests as carbon sinks and essential components of the region's climate resilience is crucial.

Water bodies like Dal Lake, once the crown jewels of Kashmir's natural wonders, now suffer from pollution and encroachment. Unregulated tourism and inadequate waste management practices have turned these aquatic ecosystems into dumping grounds, threatening the livelihoods of those dependent on them and the health of the entire region. The deterioration of these water bodies also reflects broader challenges in environmental governance and sustainable tourism practices.

Moreover, the effects of climate change, from receding glaciers to unpredictable weather patterns, compound the ecological issues in Kashmir. The warming temperatures disrupt traditional agricultural practices, leaving local communities vulnerable. Collaborative efforts between local communities, governmental bodies, and international organizations are vital to implement adaptive strategies that address these evolving challenges.

To tackle these ecological concerns, a multi-pronged approach is imperative. Stricter regulations on logging and land use, coupled with community-driven conservation efforts, can help revive the diminishing forests. Comprehensive waste management initiatives and sustainable tourism practices can restore the region's water bodies to their former glory. Investment in climate adaptation strategies and renewable energy can mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

Lastly, the environmental conservation of Kashmir is not merely a luxury, it's an urgent necessity. As this paradise on Earth grapples with ecological challenges, there is a collective responsibility to preserve its natural wonders for future generations. Through a harmonious blend of policy interventions, community engagement, and global cooperation, the jewel of Kashmir can shine brightly once more amidst its stunning Himalayan backdrop.

"Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unraveled" by Dr. Rohi Jan

"Know thyself." - Socrates

■ [Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo](#)

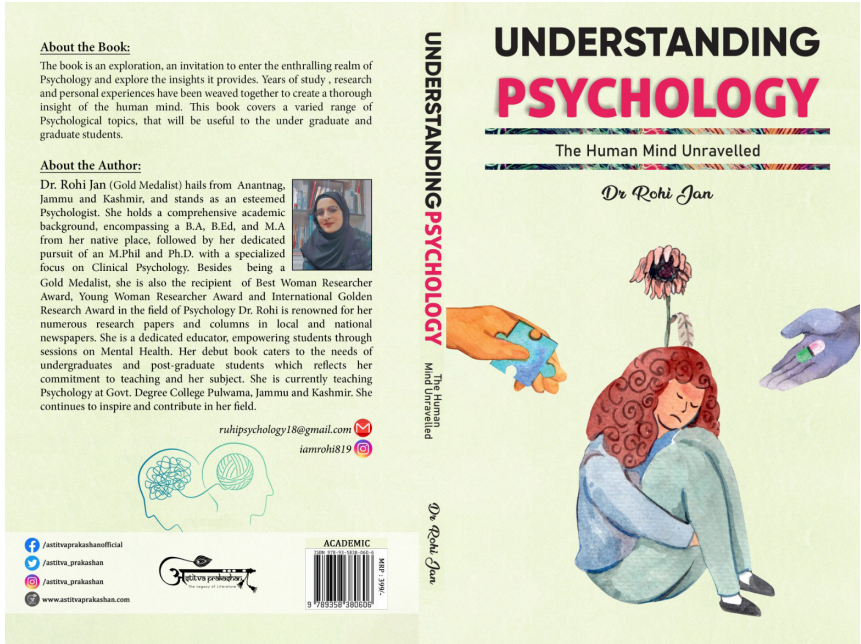
This timeless wisdom from Socrates underscores the fundamental exploration of the human mind that Dr. Rohi Jan's book embarks upon. It invites readers to delve into the depths of self-discovery and understanding, mirroring the journey you'll undertake within the pages of this enlightening work.

"Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unraveled" is a literary masterpiece that brilliantly illuminates the intricate and captivating world of psychology. Authored by the exceptionally talented Dr. Rohi Jan, hailing from the picturesque town of Anantnag in Jammu & Kashmir, this book is a testament to her profound understanding of the subject matter and her gift for making complex concepts accessible to readers of all backgrounds.

Dr. Rohi Jan's writing is a breath of fresh air in the world of psychology literature. Her book offers a comprehensive exploration of psychology, delivering a deep and engaging narrative that is both educational and profoundly thought-provoking. It's evident that the author possesses an unparalleled passion for the subject, which shines through every page, making it an absolute delight for readers.

The title, "Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unraveled," perfectly encapsulates the essence of this book. Dr. Rohi Jan masterfully unravels the mysteries of the human mind, taking readers on an unforgettable journey through the realms of behavior, cognition, and emotions. Her ability to distill complex theories and research into accessible language is nothing short of remarkable.

One of the book's standout qualities is its versatility. Whether you're a student embarking on an academic journey or a curious individual seeking to expand your knowledge of the human psyche, this book caters to your needs.



The author's skillful storytelling and comprehensive coverage of fundamental psychological concepts ensure that every reader can find value within these pages.

Dr. Rohi Jan's deep appreciation for the pioneers of psychology is evident throughout the book. She pays homage to the researchers, professors, and practitioners whose groundbreaking work has paved the way for the knowledge presented within these pages. It's a testament to the author's humility and acknowledgment of the collective effort that drives the field of psychology forward.

Furthermore, the author extends her gratitude to her colleagues and mentors, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that fuels the book's content and spirit. This collective effort enhances the book's quality and ensures that it remains engaging and informative from start to finish.

Moreover, it's worth noting that Dr. Rohi Jan's personal journey, from her academic pursuits to her role as a col-



umnist and a guest speaker, adds a unique layer of authenticity to this work. Her experiences provide a compelling backdrop to the valuable insights she shares within these pages.

Ultimately, "Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unraveled" celebrates the inquisitive nature of

readers who dare to embark on this intellectual journey. It invites us to explore the complexities of human behavior, cognition, and emotions with open hearts and minds. Beyond being an academic resource, this book serves as a catalyst for personal growth, empathy, self-awareness, and a deeper understanding of the human experience.

Tailpiece: "Understanding Psychology: The Human Mind Unraveled" by Dr. Rohi Jan is a literary gem that enriches the field of psychology. Its accessibility, comprehensive coverage, and the author's deep appreciation for the subject matter make it an essential read for students, scholars, and anyone fascinated by the enigmatic workings of the human mind. This book is a remarkable addition to the world of psychology, a tribute to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, and an ode to the intricacies of human nature.

Readers who wish to delve into the fascinating world of psychology can look forward to purchasing this enlightening work on their preferred online booksellers. The book is Published by: Astiva Prakashan Location: Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh - 495001. Dive into this captivating journey of the mind, and let Dr. Rohi Jan be your knowledgeable guide on this intellectual adventure.

"As an art, the study of psychology pertains more to the philosopher than the physician, though the physician can profit by a knowledge of it." - Aristotle

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo is a renowned Columnist & Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill'. He currently serves as the Senior EDP Head at DD Target PMT Kashmir, a reputable institute renowned for its coaching classes in the medical/ JEE/Foundation Classes. akhoo. aubaid@gmail.com

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Education for All Students

■ [Vijay GarG](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming an integral part of our everyday lives, transforming industries and reshaping the way we work, learn and communicate. This rapid technological advancement highlights the importance of incorporating AI education into the curriculum not only to ensure that all students are well-equipped for their academic futures but also for workforce development.

With that in mind, it is crucial to consider under-represented populations as these students are typically left out of the newest technological advancements.

AI Support for Teaching

AI has the potential to revolutionize the education sector by enhancing learning experiences, supporting teachers and offering more personalized learning opportunities for students. We must equip teachers with the knowledge and strategies they will need to use this new technology to improve and streamline everyday processes as well as classroom implementation.

Some areas in which AI can transform the classroom include personalized learning, ideation, adaptive learning, special needs education, bilingual education, gamification and immersive learning.

Personalized learning involves AI-powered systems that analyze students' learning styles, strengths and weaknesses to create tailored lesson plans and suggest resources to serve their individual needs.

Adaptive learning platforms can adjust to each student's progress in real-time, identifying gaps in knowledge, providing immediate feedback, and suggesting targeted interventions to help students master the material. AI can also help teachers automate administrative tasks, enabling them to focus more on instruction and student interaction.

Furthermore, AI-powered virtual tutors can provide round-the-clock support to students, while customized learning solutions can empower students with special needs to reach their full potential. Gamification and immersive learning experiences can make education more engaging, fun and memorable.

AI-driven language translation tools can break down communication barriers, enabling students and educators from different countries or with different languages to collaborate on

projects and learn from one another.

All means all. Teaching students about AI is essential for developing digital literacy, critical thinking skills, and preparing students for future academic and career success. A basic understanding of AI systems enables students to engage and ideate with AI technologies safely, responsibly and ethically. Learning about AI also encourages students to analyze and evaluate question structure, complex information, question assumptions and consider the ethical implications of AI technology usage.

Moreover, AI is transforming the job market, with increasing demand for professionals skilled in AI and related fields. Teaching students about AI can help them develop the knowledge and skills needed to pursue careers in technology, data science and other in-demand industries. AI learning can inspire students to generate ideas and solutions, fostering creativity and innovation – essential skills in today's competitive and evolving job market.

It is particularly important to not exclude AI education from underrepresented student populations. In fact, it is vital to integrate diversity, equity and inclusion within this domain to ensure that a broad perspective of values are embraced to combat digital bias and discrimination.

Providing students with access to AI education can help close opportunity gaps, ensure they have the skills and knowledge to compete in the global workforce, and create a more diverse pool of talent in AI and related fields. This diversity can lead to better problem-solving, creativity and innovation in the development of AI technologies and solutions.

AI education can empower underrepresented communities to leverage technologies for social good and drive positive change in their local and global contexts. Lastly, ensuring underrepresented populations are well-served in AI positions them to contribute to policymaking and decision-making processes, shaping the rules and regulations governing AI applications.

Risks of Excluding Students from AI Education

Excluding any student group – either deliberately or by neglect – from learning how to leverage artificial intelligence can lead to several negative consequences, both for individuals and society at large. Following are some of the dangers associated with excluding

students from AI education.

Digital divide – Excluding students from learning about AI can contribute to the digital divide, as they may not have the knowledge and skills needed to navigate AI-driven technologies in their daily lives. This can hinder their ability to access information, participate in the digital economy and engage with online communities effectively.

Biased AI systems – AI systems often are trained on data collected from human behavior, which can contain biases. For example, facial recognition originally was designed exclusively with white faces because the developers were not diverse. Excluding diverse perspectives from the development and design of AI systems can perpetuate or amplify existing biases, leading to unfair or discriminatory outcomes for certain groups of people.

Wider skills gap – As AI becomes increasingly important in various industries, the demand for professional skills in using AI will grow dramatically. Excluding students from AI education can exacerbate the skills gap, making it more difficult for businesses and organizations to find the diverse talent they need to thrive in the AI-driven economy.

Economic inequality – Students who lack AI education may find it more challenging to secure well-paying jobs as many traditional roles may be automated or significantly transformed by AI. This can lead to increased economic inequality and limit social mobility for those who are not adequately prepared for the AI-driven job market.

Loss of creativity and innovation – A diverse workforce in AI and related fields leads to more creative problem-solving and innovative solutions. By excluding certain students from AI education, we risk losing the valuable insights and ideas that they could bring to the development of AI technologies.

Ethical concerns – As AI becomes more integrated into our lives, it is essential to have a diverse group of professionals involved in the development and regulation of AI systems to ensure ethical considerations are taken into account. Excluding students from learning about AI may result in a lack of diverse perspectives, leading to potential ethical issues and unintended consequences. It also leaves students unprepared to navigate ethical dilemmas.

To mitigate these dangers, it is essential to promote equitable access to AI education for all students, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. This will help to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the advancements in AI and contribute to a more inclusive and just society.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Sharp Rise In Rape Cases

Girls are pearls, ladies are rubies, mothers are moulders, and women are wonderful.”

___ Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

■ [Farheen Wani](#)

The girl kid is a forerunner of today's happiness and success, but she is also delicate and prone to injury like a flower. They need to be properly fostered while being protected from malice and abuse. They are mothers who will raise the future generation, as well as a vital component in the development of tomorrow..

The entire scenario again raises some important issues. Do we not impart societal awareness of good and wrong to our citizens? Do our boys develop into young princes who don't learn to respect women and treat them as equal human beings deserving of respect and consideration rather than as chattel and sex objects?

People need to have a completely new perspective on female children. A girl who experiences sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a physical or mental kind throughout infancy grows up in terror and eventually develops permanent scars. She endures terrible suffering not just at the hands of the offenders but also as a result of society's uncaring attitude. Until we grasp this and pass it on to the following generation.

Female children's human rights are infringed in practice, even when they are protected on paper.

We must put a stop to the damage and offenses linked with immoral trafficking, which has evolved into an organized criminal.

Rape cases in India are increasing year after year, and it has recently been determined that rape against children is also on the rise.

During the previous few months, there has been a troubling trend in criminality cases involving children and women. Offenses are being reported on social media, which is increasing public worry. Surprisingly, many child abusers are family members, teachers, or neighbors.

The humbleness that survived back then had a divine glare within that diverged every spirit and originated the elegance. How come we overlook that it is likewise hailed 'Pir Vaer'-a valley of Pirs (or saints)? The vision of Sufism that is currently amused globally retained its heritage in our valley.

If we look at our current strategy, all we find is drug addiction, scams, corruption, rebellion, robbery, molestations, humility, vulgarity, and so on. We have lost sight of the essence of Kashmiriyat, which is to be natural, sensitive, and compassionate. Marriages no longer endure forever, divorce is widespread, and extravagant weddings are the norm. Drug addiction and molestation, as well as rape, are at the top of the list.

There are many causes to all of this, including unemployment, failures, and abuses, but

one can never justify dealing with the harsh side of life with lethal methods. Life isn't supposed to be a comfortable bed, therefore when we hit rock bottom, we should pick ourselves up with practical measures. We are more preoccupied with gathering than with.

Although the literacy rate is improving, significant scams and degeneration are already prevalent. The more familiar the public is, the more likely they are to commit misconduct. Well, I'm not generalizing the fortes, but in many situations, we see damage caused by people in awning positions.

We overlook incorrectly used equipment as a result of technology. What was created to make people's life easier is now used to justify why they are trapped in harsh conditions. The mobile phone is an asset, but the overuse of mobile phones by children and teens is having an uncontrollable effect.

More appropriately, the right use of mobile phones at the right time in the right proportion is what it was meant to be. Meanwhile, the non-finishing queue of social media is so extensive that children hardly find focus when left without it.

Molestations and rapes have also become more common, and that is a worrisome indicator for where we are heading. Many times, I realize I'm watching a TV serial crime patrol, and I receive a sensation that we are about catching another episode where cases of rape are leading to a new plot.

Crimes that include rape of juveniles, participation by youngsters in stabbings as well as additional crimes, violence against women, harassment, eve teasing, and even murders 'Kathua Rape Case', that involves an eight-year-old girl was brutally gang-raped by eight different adults at a Kathua temple. She was allegedly assaulted and held hostage in the temple for days.

Rape is a heinous crime, and its effect of ravishment not only physically but also psychologically damages the victim. Ravishment may be committed for an array of intentions, including lust, enmity, anger, revenge, and more.

But what is the psychology of the individual committing rape extremely when he commits rape on minors?

A 46-year-old man for allegedly raping his 15-year-old relative in Srinagar

A man raped a minor girl in Srinagar. The accused has been identified as a 22-year-old. "The accused is a close relative of the victim.

An Imaan has been arrested for committing unnatural sex offenses with a nine year old child.

Rapists commit rape on minor girls, preferably those they know, because they have convenient access to such girls, such minor



girls have trust in such people they know, and such family members would not doubt and leave the minor girl alone with such person known to them, minor girls would not resist or would not resist as strongly as a major would, minor girls would not be aware she had been raped, it is easy to threaten or manipulate such minor girls and sometimes the family members would also not prefer filing a complaint of rape of a minor girl by a known person or by a relative due to the fear of losing their social status in the society. The psychology of the criminal in raping a minor girl is that he can show power to her with fewer efforts and the chances of his exposure would be less.

In case of the preventative measures approach, preventive measures such as educating minors about good and bad touch; encouraging minors' confidence to inform them if any incident of sexual assault occurs to them; increasing public awareness about rape on minors and the severity of the punishment for such crimes to create a deterrent effect among people;

The survey should be made as to in which areas, whether rural or urban, the crime of rape on minors is more prominent and to target the awareness programs appropriately towards those areas; to avoid the minors wandering alone in the streets, especially at night and to always accompany the minor girls when they go out; the parents of the minors should always keep a check on the behavior of their neighbors or the relatives towards their child and if they have any suspicion then they should talk directly to that person regarding it and should also warn their child and such other measures should be taken to prevent the crime of rape on minors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines child abuse as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, are unable to give informed consent to, are not developmentally prepared for and cannot consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society CSA is demonstrated by such activity between a child and an adult or another child who, due to age or development, is in a position of responsibility, trust, or control over the child. The conduct is intended to gratify or satisfy the perpetrator's wants.

Child sexual abuse is classified into two types: (a) physical contact and (b) non-physical contact. Touching, grabbing, compelled sexual activity, attempted coercion, and rape are all examples of physical contact. Showing adolescents pornography, encouraging them to pose naked, sharing nude images, online abuse, and making nasty remarks are all examples of non-physical interaction.

Warning Signs

"If a youngster is abused, you will observe changes in emotion and behavior." "The child may appear terrified, anxious, or depressed." They may become quieter or more distant, cry for no apparent reason, or wet the bed despite being previously toilet trained."

Irritability, nightmares, losing interest in playing, and avoiding specific places or individuals are further warning signals. There could be an abrupt weight loss or gain, or a drop in academic performance."

Nude photographs, online abuse, and making crude remarks are all examples of inappropriate behavior.

Good & bad touch

"Among the many ways to inform a child against sexual abuse and bad touch, the initial phase is to help them get acquainted with their body parts and biological names." They would have acquired greater skills in communicating their experiences with their parents or trusted guardians if they had done so. We need to teach kids that they own their bodies and that no one is authorized to touch them. This permits them to keep their body parts private. This would teach kids that certain areas of their body should not be seen, handled, or photographed by others.

When you start talking to children about their bodies from an early age, helping them learn the names of their private and non-private parts, they find it easier to have an open and candid conversation regarding anything or anyone that may be trying to cross their physical boundaries. Discussing body anatomies or processes during bath time may be a good way to help children learn.

As a parent or guardian, we must make sure that your child is not keeping any secrets from you. Try and be your child's best friend as a parent, and let them know that you will protect them at any cost and that they can have total confidence in you while discussing their issues. In most cases, children fear that their parents might not believe them in incidents of sexual abuse, which is why they fail to express their problems and become silent victims of years of abuse.

For example, getting treated by a doctor, or being examined by a parent in terms of their health. Teach a child how to react and what to say when a stranger or even a close relative suggests or performs sexually or abusively towards them. They should be taught to scream 'NO' or run away to a safe person immediately in such cases. Children should be able to ask for help and should be listened to in such cases.

Lastly, to save your child and yourself from the pain and woes of child sexual abuse, please observe them around other people or adults. The danger posed by strangers isn't the only thing your child should be alert against. Sometimes, the worst predators can be the ones you trust the most and are in close relation to you and your child. If a child does not want to meet or hug a certain person, don't force them. Let them take control of their personal space and let them trust you in their difficult times.

These are some ways to get you and your child on the right track regarding sexual and physical safety and create a healthier environment for your child to grow up in.

The writer is a journalist and can be reached at farheenwani47@gmail.com

Far Right Political Violence Is On Rise In Germany As Left Influence Declines

Pro-Nazi Elements Taking Leading Part As Afd Extends Strong Support

■ [Katharina Hunfeld](#)

In Germany, a high-profile trial has drawn the attention of the media and reignited debates around the political nature of the country's judiciary. On May 31, the Higher Regional Court of Dresden sentenced Lina E., a left-wing activist, to five years and three months in prison for attacks on high-profile neo-Nazis. Public debate surrounding the case was quick to paint her as the alleged figurehead of a nascent "left-wing extremism." What has been dubbed the Antifa-East trial constitutes one of the most significant cases targeting someone associated with a left-wing political organization since the Red Army Faction, the West German militant urban guerrilla network that carried out bombings, assassinations, and bank robberies from the 1970s to the early 90s.

The prosecution has accused Lina E. and her three codefendants of having organized and carried out at least six assaults against prominent neo-Nazis in the period from 2018 to 2020, injuring thirteen people. However, the prosecution did not just allege that Lina E. and her associates had caused bodily harm, but that they were involved in the "foundation of a criminal organization." Most of the reporting focused on Lina E., the alleged ringleader, a twenty-eight-year-old student of social pedagogy with no previous convictions. Brought to the general federal prosecutor in Karlsruhe by helicopter, surrounded by masked police officers, Lina E. became an effective symbol of a movement whose existence is dubious.

The conservative politicians have used the public obsession with Lina E. — whom the right-wing tabloid Bild called "Germany's most dangerous far-left extremist" — to motivate a relentless campaign of fearmongering about "left-wing terrorism."

The German state based its charges primarily on Paragraph 129 of the German Criminal Code, a highly contentious section dealing with the formation of criminal associations. According to Paragraph 129, anyone who founds or attempts to establish an association aimed at committing offenses can receive a prison sentence of up to five years. Law enforcement initially used this law to criminalize communist organizations in the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1950s. Since then, however, Paragraph 129 has remained an important juridical mechanism for justifying almost unlimited investigative authority. Since lawmakers reformed the law in 2017, prosecutors no longer need to provide detailed proof of an organizational structure in order to charge defendants. This does not just allow but necessitates the use of circumstantial evidence by the jury to support the existence of a coherent criminal organization.

Importantly, invoking Paragraph 129 allows the court to consider several separate criminal offenses within one case, which legitimizes far-reaching surveillance measures to prove the connection between individuals alleged to be part of a single organization. In the context of the Antifa-East trial, the definition of an offense under Paragraph 129 lends itself to the legitimization of

extensive information gathering about the leftist scene as a whole.

Paragraph 129 also criminalizes being a member of, recruiting members to, or generally supporting any criminal organization, effectively creating a situation in which a liberal, democratic state puts political activism in close proximity to criminal liability, while also moving towards the criminalization of anti-fascist sympathies. The judgment in the Antifa-East trial should therefore be understood as part of a larger wave of repression against left-wing activism. In these cases, the application of Paragraph 129 is part of the state's deterrence mechanism — the narrative of "state-threatening offenses" aims to undermine both left-wing solidarity and public sympathy.

In some cases, however, this tactic has had the opposite effect. When the Centre for Political Beauty, a political performance art collective, built a replica of Berlin's Holocaust memorial on the plot of land right next door to Björn Höcke's home in 2019, the group gained significant public approval. Höcke, a former history teacher and, since 2014, the leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) in Thuringia, had described Peter Eisenman's original Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe as "a monument of shame" in a relatively routine exercise of neo-Nazi rhetoric. In response, Höcke, backed by the right-wing media, attempted to create a public campaign against the Centre for Political Beauty, which he wanted to see treated as a terrorist organization under a law closely related to Paragraph 129.

Influenced by Höcke's campaign, Thuringia's state prosecutors pressed what was a clearly a baseless case against the center, exposing in the process the influence the political right holds over Germany's judiciary. Allegations made by Höcke, and unsuccessfully pursued by the public prosecutors, that the collective's artistic director, Philipp Ruch, could, according to Paragraph 129, be described as the "founder and leader of criminal association," proved insubstantial. They did, however, succeed in one respect: they provided an effective marketing campaign for the Centre for Political Beauty that called on willing "accomplices" to incite "public unrest in the service of aggressive humanism."

Most recently, public attention was captured by investigations into the German chapter of the climate protest group Letzte Generation (Last Generation). Earlier this year, the Bavarian state targeted seven activists under Paragraph 129 for having "formed or supported a criminal organization." Arguing that the group posed "a considerable threat to public safety," the state legitimized electronic surveillance, raids targeting fifteen properties, freezing bank accounts, and temporarily blocking the group's website.

Ironically, the group is known for their overwhelmingly peaceful actions aimed at raising awareness about the climate emergency through road blockades, hunger strikes, dumpster diving, and art stunts. Their "extremist" demands range from adding a speed limit on German motorways to reducing the price of public transport and

forming a democratic emergency council to address climate policies. However, two activists linked with the German environmental movement at large have been charged with attempting to sabotage the Trieste-Ingolstadt oil pipeline in 2022. Thanks to Paragraph 129, these two arrests allow the police to investigate Letzte Generation as a whole.

Critics of politically motivated investigations conducted under Paragraph 129 tend to foreground the question of parity across the political spectrum. The Antifa-East trial is, from this perspective, yet another case which contrasts with the large number of far-right prosecutions that lack a similar level of investigative vigor and public attention. Citing the case of Lina E., the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) — Germany's domestic intelligence agency — warns against "growing left-wing extremism." In its latest annual report, the BfV worries about the increasing radicalization, noting "anti-fascism" as key to such "extremist ideological orientation." Simultaneously, however, it also notes an actual decline in "violent left-wing extremist offenses" by 39 percent, with most offenses only constituting property damage.

In contrast, according to its own numbers, politically motivated right-wing crimes — the vast majority of which are physical assaults — are not only six times more prolific than criminal actions carried out by leftists, but actually on the rise. Meanwhile, public trust in the BfV remains low, particularly following the scandal surrounding

the trial of the National Socialist Underground (NSU) group. The case against this neo-Nazi terrorist cell, which was responsible for murdering ten people with immigrant backgrounds in the 2000s, highlighted extensive links between German intelligence services and the far right. Despite the popularity of narratives that laud the seriousness with which Germany has fashioned a culture of remembrance during the postwar era, its investigative authorities are increasingly under pressure for underestimating the sharp rise in violence associated with the populist AfD.

Beyond questions of the equal application of state force, we need a sustained critique of the logic underlying the idea that neo-Nazi violence and militant anti-fascism are two sides of the same coin. Mainstream narratives of left-wing and right-wing radicalism follow what is commonly referred to as "horseshoe theory." Widely discredited among leading political scientists, this theory asserts that the far left and the far right are similarly "extreme," creating and perpetuating the illusion of a politically neutral middle ground. The political consequence of such a reductive understanding is the loss of collective ability to not only differentiate between the political substance of various camps, but also to identify regressive, undemocratic positions in the political center. Debates around "left extremism," such as the one surrounding the Antifa-East trial, play into the hands of the increasingly institutionalized far right.

(IPA Service)
Courtesy: Jacobin

"Simple Solutions To Complicated Problems": S Jaishankar's Top Quotes

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: In a wide-ranging interview with NDTV's Editor-In-Chief Sanjay Pugalia, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar outlined India's position in world order, its role in addressing global challenges and how it has emerged as voice of Global South

Here are the top quotes from the interview

"The world in 2023 is far more complicated than it has been for a long time because of the pandemic and an ongoing conflict. In such a situation, who can step forward and find a middle ground? There are east-west and north-south divides. Who can bridge this? This country should not be neutral, but also command respect and should have something to show to the world. That country happens to be India."

"India found a solution to the global wheat crisis. Our attempt is to find simple solutions to complicated problems. If we are able to send this message across through the G20 summit, I would say we are successful."



ful."

"Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) wanted to take G20 to the country and not confine it to conference halls and Delhi. If the production of millet can be increased, you will increase nutrition and reduce climate impact. We are aiming for public involvement. It is our collective responsibility, this is the message. G20 is about Food-Energy-Climate. Unless we change our daily lifestyle, and bring about climate-friendly changes, nothing will change."

"I agree that people who preach, don't practice it. What we have to do is, with our actions, we have to show the world. We must

debate at the debating forums. But we have to embarrass people if they back out of promises made (at talk shops). As a voice of The Global South, it is our responsibility."

"We have gone to 125 countries and asked them about G20 issues. The climate issue is getting worse. This is not a different department. Climate disasters are happening regularly and have become a major economic disruptor. If supply chains are interrupted by climate changes, your entire economy will be in jeopardy."

"The Global South knows they are the Global South. Because at the end of the day, the Global South is a

reflection of development, income, and history, and is a place in the heart. Anyone can say we are the Global South. But do you behave that way?"

"The Global South are those who, whatever their limited resources, will do for other countries because we feel we all are a part of a family and their problem is our problem."

"When I tour countries, I notice that a lot of countries have started speaking to us over the last few years. When they see the efficiency and scale of our schemes, they see these as inspiration and feel this can be replicated and done."

"We are an example; we give motivation and solidarity, a new method of solving old problems. Our delivery is commensurate with the developed world."

"China has put out such maps in the past where they have claimed territories that don't belong to them. Putting out a map does not mean anything. These territories are very much a part of India. We are very clear what our territories are. Making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours."

PM Telling Putin "Not An Era Of War" Summed Up Global Sentiment: S Jaishankar

■ HT News Network

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a very strong understanding of global politics and his statement "this is not an era of war" summed up global sentiment on the Russia-Ukraine war, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said today.

In an exclusive interview with NDTV, the minister said, "Just that one sentence, which he said when he was meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand... In a way, if I were to take a single sentence of global sentiment... Global sentiment today does not envisage conflict or war as a solution, because it has so many consequences for everybody's life. I would say he, in that one sentence, articulated what were the views of very diverse countries."

Mr Jaishankar described PM Modi as someone who has a lot of interest in foreign policy. "And not just now. I first met him in 2011, he was in China for a few days and I was the ambassador. I found him very interested, very insightful but very willing to learn, so it was a mix of all of that.



Since then, in the past ten years, I travel a lot with him. A lot of his travels are (about) constantly trying to understand what's happening where and what's new. He is constantly looking at best practices." Stating that the Prime Minister is someone who is very committed to building India, the minister said he is a person with great curiosity who is very open to learning new things. He said PM Modi gives a lot of time to foreign policy because we are living in a globalised world.

"I got to know him really well only after I became foreign secretary. I did not know how much he had travelled before, what his experiences were, how much he had picked up, what his connections were.

I am still amazed at the people that he knows and the places he has been. There is a lot to him which, perhaps, only those who know him well really get," said Mr Jaishankar. The minister cited India's handling of G20 as an example of the PM's interest in the world. "Our motto is one family, one future. We are doing our presidency in a truly global manner. Today, you actually have someone who has thought this through and said, when I go out there, I am not only speaking for 1.4 billion Indians but I am also speaking for 125 other countries because they are not on the table and they need somebody to speak for them," he said. Speaking on the successful Chandrayaan-3 landing during the BRICS

summit, Mr Jaishankar said that, by the second day, the talk in the summit had shifted to the mission.

The minister said, "By that evening, the speech which South African President Cyril Ramaphosa gave, it was like everybody felt part of Chandrayaan. In fact, he said 'I am going to sit next to Prime Minister Modi and I hope some of it will rub off on me.'" "I got to know him really well only after I became foreign secretary. I did not know how much he had travelled before, what his experiences were, how much he had picked up, what his connections were. I am still amazed at the people that he knows and the places he has been. There is a lot to him which, perhaps, only those who know him well really get," said Mr Jaishankar. The minister cited India's handling of G20 as an example of the PM's interest in the world. "Our motto is one family, one future. We are doing our presidency in a truly global manner. Today, you actually have someone who has thought this through and said, when I go out there, I am not only speaking for 1.4 billion Indians."

PM greets Keralites on Onam festival

■ HT News Network

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug 29 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted Keralites all over the world on the occasion of Onam festival.

The Prime Minister tweeted, "Onam greetings to everyone! May your lives be showered with good health, unparalleled joy, and immense prosperity. Over the last many years, Onam has become a global festival, and it beautifully showcases the vibrant culture of Kerala."

Earlier, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said, "I convey my heartiest Onam greetings to the people of the state and other Keralites all over the world."

"The celebration of Onam calls to mind the cherished legacy of a life of equality, oneness, and affluence and brightens every home with the ethereal joy of festivity."

Telangana Guv conveys distress, demands report on alleged rape and murder of woman

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (UNI) Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, the Governor of Telangana, expressed deep distress upon being informed about the alleged rape and murder of a woman in Nanakramguda, falling under the jurisdiction of Gachibowli Police Station within the ambit of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.

The incident was reported by the media on Tuesday. In response to this grave matter, the Governor has issued a directive for a comprehensive report on the incident to be submitted by the Chief Secretary, the Director General of Police, and the Commissioner of Police of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate within 48 hours, according to an official communication from the Raj Bhavan.

Prominent Marxist thinker Prof. M K Sharma is no more

■ HT News Network

Shimla, Aug 29 (UNI) Head of Department of MBA Department of Himachal Pradesh University, Former State President of Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti, State Resource Centre, Shimla's Chairperson and Prominent Marxist thinker Prof. MK Sharma is no more.

He died in Delhi on Tuesday morning. Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti and the State Resource Centre, Shimla, have expressed deep condolences on the death of Prof. Sharma. Dr. Kuldeep Singh Tanwar, founder and state president of the Himachal Gyan Vigyan Samiti and currently chairperson of the resource centre, said that MK Sharma was not only a progressive thinker but also a good motivator.

He connected thousands of youth with progressive ideology at the university. Dr. Tanwar said that Prof. MK Sharma was his mentor, and Prof. It was under Sharma's guidance that he obtained his MBA and doctorate from Himachal Pradesh University.

Dr. Tanwar said that while serving in the Forest Department, leading the trade union, and later working in the Jan Vigyan Andolan, Prof. He continued to get the guidance of Sharma. Dr. Tanwar said Prof. Sharma's demise is a personal loss for him.

P Chidambaram Nominated To House Panel Looking Into New Criminal Laws

■ HT News Network

P Chidambaram Nominated To House Panel Looking Into New Criminal Laws

The three bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday nominated former home minister and Congress member P Chidambaram to the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Mr Chidambaram's nomination comes in the wake of the retirement of Congress member P Bhattacharya from Rajya Sabha.

The Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs is currently looking into the three new bills - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill - seeking to replace criminal laws Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act. "The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has, on the 28th August, 2023, nominated Shri P. Chidambaram, Member, Rajya Sabha, to the Committee on Home Affairs vice Shri P. Bhattacharya, who retired from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2023," a bulletin from the Rajya



Sabha secretariat said. Mr Dhankhar had, on August 18, referred the three proposed laws that will replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and asked it to submit its report within three months.

The three bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 11. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has members from both Houses of Parliament. BJP member Brij Lal is the chairman of the committee. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) provides for several changes in the existing provisions including that of defamation, attempt to commit suicide and expanded the scope of offence against women pertaining to sexual intercourse by employing "deceitful means".

Inculcate 'Nation First' spirit: Arunachal Governor to people

■ HT News Network

Itanagar, Aug 29 (UNI) Paying a visit to the border village of Chayang Tajo, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik on Tuesday called upon the people to inculcate the 'Nation First' spirit.

He said that security of the border areas is not the responsibility of security forces only but of every citizen, and advised the people to be vigilant and make their presence felt in the border areas.

The Governor said this while addressing a public meeting at the 'Vibrant' village Chayang Tajo, one of the remote villages of the State's East Kameng district which has been selected under the Centre's ambitious Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) on a pilot basis.

The Governor, who was on his maiden visit to Chayang Tajo, that too by road from Itanagar, said that people in the border areas must not feel neglected as in the spirit of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas aur Sabka Prayas', under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State Chief Minister Pema Khandu, many welfare schemes and programmes are in the pipeline for developing the border villages.

He asked the people, especially the youth to avail the benefits from the programmes and become 'Atma Nirbhar'



instead of migrating towards urban areas. The Governor exhorted the youth to imbibe knowledge, inculcate discipline and be resilient. He asked them to prepare themselves for the future challenges and contribute in the 'Amrit Kaal' to take the State and the Nation towards prosperity.

The Governor while stating that the State Government and the Raj Bhavan are committed to eradicate tuberculosis, cancer and drug menace in the State, urged the people to join hands in the 'mission' in this regard.

Expressing his concern about dropout rate in school education, the Governor called upon the parents and guardians to provide adequate opportunities to their children and wards to excel in educational pursuit. He also asked them to encourage games and sports activities and Yoga amongst the young boys and girls to make the future leaders and professionals, physically fit, mentally alert and morally upright.

Mamata charges Governor Bose with violating Constitution by appointing VCs

■ HT News Network

Kolkata, Aug 29 (UNI) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has charged Governor C V Ananda Bose with violating the Constitution by appointing "his friends as vice-chancellors in the state-owned universities."

"We have another eye over us now. I respect his (governor) chair but he is violating the Constitution. Look at the condition of the universities. He is appointing his friends as vice chancellors. For instance, an IPS officer with no experience as a professor has been appointed vice chancellor. The BJP cell president was appointed as V-C of Jadavpur University."

The governor, by virtue of his office, is also the chancellor of the state-owned universities. Banerjee, who is also the ruling Trinamool Congress chairperson, said this while addressing his party's student wing's foundation day on Monday in the city.

"There should be mutual respect towards the roles dictated to us as per the law. Their position is not the same as that of the Chief Minister."

While they are nominated, we are elected. Nobody should try to undermine an elected government or stoke communal



fires," the chief minister said.

She also pointed out that she also noticed that people were being brought in to set up contact numbers for universities in the Raj Bhavan.

Students are being called and questioned about corruption. But first, they must answer: Who engaged in corruption during the time of demonetization? the TMC supremo asked.

Closure of banks, shady foreign deals, commodification of the private sector, corruption in Covid vaccinations, and suppressing facts—who engaged in such graft? Banerjee questioned.

I have never seen such a vindictive government. I got an input on Sunday saying they will arrest Abhishek Banerjee ahead of the elections.

ALL JAMMU KASHMIR STUDENTS SOCIETY STARTED ITS UNIT IN CHANDIGARH PUNJAB



In an important academic development, the All Jammu Kashmir Students society organization was formed today with an aim to promote welfare of Jammu and Kashmir students, and build strong bonds of nationalism in them. It's branch office would be in Kharar Punjab Musab Rafiq Chairman AJKSS observed that they discussed various issues of college students in office today. He observed that the Organisation will look to give heed to the Grievances of all the students of Jammu and Kashmir, and build bridges between them and the government / Administration. Musab Rafiq termed students as backbone for the progress and prosperity of India.

Musabrafiqudesk@gmail.com

Imran Khan's Conviction, 3-Year Sentence Suspended By Islamabad High Court

■ HT News Network

Islamabad: The Islamabad High Court today suspended Imran Khan's conviction and three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release, in a big relief for the former jailed Pakistan prime minister.

A division bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooqi and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated verdict which was reserved on Monday.

"Decision of District Court (has been) suspended by IHC," Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said in a short WhatsApp message. "The copy of the judgment will be available shortly all we are saying now is that [Imran's] request has been approved," Justice Farooq said.

Khan's aide on legal affairs Naeem Haider Panjotha posted on X, formerly Twitter: "The CJ has accepted our request, suspended the sentence and said a detailed decision would be provided later." The judges reserved the verdict on Monday after the rival lawyers concluded their arguments on the suspension of the three-year sentence awarded by Judge Humayun Dilawar on August 5.

A trial court in Islamabad convicted and sentenced the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman to three years in prison on August 5.

The cricketer-turned-politician was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling



state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. He has also been barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election.

Khan challenged his conviction within days and the IHC began a formal hearing on August 22. It adjourned the case on Friday after the lawyer representing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) did not appear due to illness.

Imran Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa completed his argument on Thursday, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and was full of shortcomings.

He also urged the court to set aside the

sentence but the defence team demanded more time to complete its arguments.

Separately, a three-member top court panel led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is also set to resume hearing petitions against the Toshakhana case. Earlier, the Supreme Court on Wednesday after hearing various petitions against the Toshakhana case observed that there were "shortcomings" in the judgment of the sessions court.

The panel observed that the verdict was given in haste and without giving the right of defence to the accused. "Prima facie,

there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict," the chief justice said.

The top court had also stated it would wait for the IHC hearing before giving its judgment. It resumed the hearing Thursday but adjourned it without fixing any date after it was told that the IHC was holding a hearing.

The Toshakhana case was filed by ruling party lawmakers in 2022 in the ECP, alleging that Khan concealed the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The ECP first disqualified Khan and then filed a case of criminal proceedings in a sessions court which convicted him and subsequently, Imran Khan was sent to jail. Khan is currently in Attock Jail following his arrest from his Lahore home.

The case alleges that Khan had "deliberately concealed" details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana - a repository where presents handed to government officials from foreign officials are kept - during his time as the prime minister from 2018 to 2022 and proceeds from their reported sales.

As per Toshakhana rules, gifts/presents and other such materials received by persons to whom these rules apply shall be reported to the Cabinet Division. According to reports, Imran Khan received 58 gifts worth more than 140 million from world leaders during his three-and-a-half-year stint and retained all of them either by paying a negligible amount or even without any payment.

US raises concerns over China curbs on American businesses

■ HT News Network

BEIJING: US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo discussed concerns about restrictions on American businesses including Intel and Micron with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on Monday in a meeting where the two countries also agreed to launch an export control enforcement information dialogue.

The pair also discussed China's restrictions on gallium and germanium exports in wide-ranging and candid talks that lasted more than two hours, followed by a two-hour lunch, according to brief comments from Raimondo and the Commerce Department.

Raimondo wants to address concerns from US businesses that are having difficulties operating in China. "We're delivering. We will have that formal communication," she said in a meeting with business officials.

She is the latest Biden administration official to travel to Beijing in an effort to strengthen communications, particularly over the economy and defense, as the economic friction between the world's two largest economies threatens to shake business relationships on both sides.

Both superpowers agree to new formal working group on commercial issues

Raimondo told reporters that she had discussed concerns over China's effective ban on purchases of Micron Technology memory chips with her Chinese counterpart.

As part of the discussions, Washington



and Beijing also agreed to a new formal working group on commercial issues as well as the informational exchange on export control enforcement, the US Commerce Department said.

The launch of the exchange would provide a "platform to reduce misunderstandings of US national security policies," Raimondo said, adding: "We are not compromising or negotiating on matters of national security. Period."

The first in-person meeting of the export control information exchange will be led on the US side by Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Matthew Axelrod at the Ministry of Commerce, in Beijing, on Tuesday, Raimondo added.

A senior official said the exchange will meet at least yearly and emphasised it is not a policy dialogue but an effort for both sides to answer questions about how export controls work.

"We're not negotiating what our policies are going to be," the official added.

"The United States is committed to be transparent about our export control enforcement strategy," she said.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un Calls For Strengthening Naval Forces

■ HT News Network

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for strengthening the country's naval forces, accusing the United States of turning waters near the Korean peninsula into "the most unstable waters with the danger of a nuclear war," state media KCNA reported on Tuesday.

In a speech to mark Navy Day, Kim said the "gang bosses" of the United States, Japan and South Korea announced regular joint military exercises, KCNA reported, apparently referring to their Aug. 18 summit at Camp David, Maryland.

Owing to the reckless confrontational moves of the U.S. and other hostile forces, the waters off the Korean Peninsula have been reduced into the world's biggest war hardware concentration spot, the most unstable waters with the danger of a nuclear war," Kim was quoted as saying.

South Korea and the United States last week began the Ulchi Freedom Shield summer exercises, designed to enhance their joint responses to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. Pyongyang has long denounced the drills as a rehearsal for



war.

Kim said North Korea requires its Navy to maintain war readiness, a "constant combat alertness," and called for "radically" modernising its weapons and equipment.

"He stressed that the navy of the DPRK would become a component of the state nuclear deterrence carrying out the strategic duty," KCNA reported. In the first standalone meeting between the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan, the three agreed to deepen military and economic cooperation as they seek to project unity in the face of China's growing power and the North's nuclear threats.

Syrian airport closed after Israeli strikes

DAMASCUS: Israeli air strikes on Aleppo airport in northern Syria caused the grounding of flights on Monday, Syrian state news agency Sana reported, citing a military source. During more than 12 years of civil

war in Syria, Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes on its territory, primarily targeting Iran-backed forces and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters as well as Syrian army positions. "At about 4:30am (0130 GMT)

this morning, the Israeli enemy undertook an aerial aggression from the direction of the Mediterranean west of Latakia, targeting Aleppo International Airport," the source said, adding that this resulted.

Air pollution greatest global threat to human health, says benchmark study

■ HT News Network

Air pollution is more dangerous to the health of the average person on planet Earth than smoking or alcohol, with the threat worsening in its global epicenter South Asia even as China fast improves, a study showed on Tuesday.

Yet the level of funding set aside to confront the challenge is a fraction of the amount earmarked for fighting infectious diseases, said the research from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

Its annual Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report showed that fine particulate air pollution - which comes from vehicle and industrial emis-



sions, wildfires and more - remains the "greatest external threat to public health."

If the world were to permanently reduce these pollutants to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) guideline limit, the average person would add 2.3 years to his or her life expectancy, according to the data, which has a 2021

cutoff. Fine particulate matter is linked to lung disease, heart disease, strokes and cancer. Tobacco use, by comparison, reduces global life expectancy by 2.2 years while child and maternal malnutrition is responsible for a reduction of 1.6 years.

Asia and Africa bear the greatest burden yet have some of the weakest infra-

structure to deliver citizens timely, accurate data. They also receive tiny slices of an already small global philanthropic pie.

For example, the entire continent of Africa receives less than \$300,000 to tackle air pollution.

"There is a profound disconnect with where air pollution is the worst and where we, collectively and globally, are deploying resources to fix the problem," Christa Hasenkopf, director of air quality programs at EPIC, told AFP.

While there is an international financing partnership called the Global Fund that disburses \$4 billion annually for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, there is no equivalent for air pollution.

Taliban ban on women in park condemned

■ HT News Network

KABUL: Rights monitors condemned on Monday a ban on women visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, the latest curb shutting women out of public life under Taliban government rule.

The Taliban government's morality ministry closed the Band-i-Amir national park to women at the weekend, claiming female visitors were failing to cover up with proper Islamic dress.

The park, 175 kilometres (110 miles) west of Kabul, is renowned for its striking blue lakes surrounded by sweeping cliffs. The Bamyan province park is a hugely popular spot for domestic tourism and is regularly swarmed with Afghans relaxing at the shore or paddling the waters in rented boats. Human Rights Watch's Associate Women's Rights Director Heather Barr said the decision to ban women was "cruel in a very intentional way".

"Not content with depriving girls and women of education, employment and free movement, the Taliban also want to take from them parks and sport and now even nature," she said in a separate statement.

"Step-by-step the walls are closing in on women as every home becomes a prison," she said.

The Minister for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice Mohammad Khalid Hanafi justified the ban on Saturday on the grounds women were failing to wear hijabs properly.

Kremlin says Putin will not attend Russian mercenary chief Prigozhin's funeral

■ HT News Network

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not go to the funeral of Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who died last week in a plane crash, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. Prigozhin - a Putin confidant turned "traitor" - was killed last Wednesday two months after ordering his troops to topple Russia's military leadership, in what observers deemed the biggest challenge to Putin's authority since he came to power.

"The president's presence is not envisaged," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday when asked whether Putin would attend the funeral. There have been no public announcements of when or where Prigozhin, who was 62, will be buried.

"We have no information specifically about the funeral. The decision in this regard is made by family and friends," Peskov added.

Putin, last week, described Prigozhin as a man who had made "serious mistakes in his life, but he achieved the right results."

The Kremlin has dismissed speculation that it orchestrated the crash in revenge for Wagner's march on Moscow in June.

Ukraine claims retaking town, eyes gains in south

■ HT News Network

KYIV: Ukraine said on Monday its troops had liberated the south-eastern settlement of Robotyne and were trying to push further south in their counter-offensive against Russian forces.

The Ukrainian military said last week that its forces had raised the national flag in the strategic settlement, but were still carrying out mopping-up operations.

Ukrainian forces believe they have broken through the most difficult line of Russian defences in the south and that they will now start advancing more quickly, a commander who led troops into Robotyne said last week. "Robotyne has been liberated," Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar was quoted as saying by the military. The settlement is 10 km (six miles) south of the frontline town of Orikhiv in the Zaporizhzhia region on an important road towards Tokmak, a Russian-occupied road and rail hub.

Tokmak's capture would be a milestone as Ukrainian troops press southwards towards the Sea of Azov in a military drive that is intended to split Russian forces following Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Ukraine's defence ministry posted a video on social media platform X of soldiers describing the liberation and raising the flag in the settlement.

"Mr President, commander-in-chief, the village of Robotyne in the Zaporizhzhia region has been liberated from the occupiers by the forces of the 47th Mechanised Brigade and adjacent units," a Ukrainian soldier said in the video.

"The blue and yellow flag will be raised in every Ukrainian village," the soldier said.

Russia has not confirmed the Ukrainian advance. In its statement, Russia's defence ministry said Moscow's troops had repelled attacks by Kyiv's forces near Robotyne and Verbove. A military spokesman told Ukrainian television Kyiv's forces were continuing to fortify their positions in the settlement.

Kishida slams China over stone-throwing at embassy, schools

■ HT News Network

TOKYO: Japan's prime minister hit out at Beijing on Monday over what he said were instances of stones being thrown at diplomatic missions and schools in China, following the release of wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant. Last week, China banned all seafood imports from its neighbour after Japan began releasing cooling water from the stricken Fukushima plant in an operation that Tokyo and the UN's nuclear watchdog have said is safe. Since then, Japanese businesses ranging from bakeries to aquariums have received reportedly thousands of sometimes abusive crank calls from Chinese numbers.

"There have been numerous harassment calls believed to originate from China and instances of stones being thrown into the Japanese embassy and Japanese schools. It must be said these are regrettable," Fumio Kishida told reporters.

"We summoned the Chinese ambassador to Japan today and strongly urged him to call on Chinese people to act in a calm and responsible manner," Kishida added.

Obama, others warn Bangladesh over 'harassment' of Nobel laureate

■ HT News Network

DHAKA: More than 160 global figures, including Barack Obama and Ban Ki-moon, published a joint letter on Monday warning of "threats to democracy and human rights" in Bangladesh ahead of upcoming elections. The letter decried the "continuous judicial harassment" of Nobel laureate and micro-credit pioneer Muhammad Yunus and said it feared for "his safety and freedom". Yunus, 83, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty but he has fallen out with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has said he is "sucking blood" from the poor.

Workshop on Fundamentals of Network and System Administration concludes at NIT Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar, 29 Aug: A five-day workshop on "Fundamentals of Network and System Administration" concluded at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar. It was aimed to highlight journey through the intricacies of modern network and system management.

The mega event was organized by Computer Service Center, IET On-Campus NIT Srinagar and IEEE Student Branch NIT Srinagar in collaboration with Juniper Networks. It covered various topics related to System Administration, network

administration and virtualization. In his inaugural address, Prof. (Dr) Sudhakar Yedla, Director NIT Srinagar lauded the initiative for its forward-looking approach in bridging the gap between academia and industry.

He emphasized the significance of such collaborative endeavors that bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry demands. Prof. Yedla highlighted the workshop's potential to equip students with practical skills that will be invaluable in their careers.

"In the rapidly evolving landscape of technology, workshops like



these provide a unique opportunity for our students to gain hands-on experience, fostering a deeper understanding of the concepts and practices that drive modern network and system administration," he said.

On Sunday, the valedictory session witnessed a gathering of not only participants and coordinators but also esteemed guests who added prestige to the occasion.

Prof. A H Bhat, Convener of the workshop, welcomed the audience and set the tone for an evening of reflection and appreciation. He acknowledged the representatives from Juniper Networks, Prof G A Har-

main, Dean of Faculty Welfare, Dr Pankaj Kumar, Dr. Janib-ul-Bashir and Dr. Chilakaranga for their presence and support. The presence of Dr. Shahid Saleem, Head of the Department of Training and Placement also graced the occasion. The event unfolded with an insightful welcome address by Prof. A H Bhat. He lauded the collaborative spirit that powered the workshop and expressed his gratitude to everyone involved. "The workshop is a testament to what can be achieved when academia and industry converge to empower students with knowledge that goes beyond textbooks.

DC Udhampur chairs review meeting to assess progress under SBM (U-R)

HT News Network

U D H A M P U R , AUGUST 29: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today chaired a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban and Rural schemes in the district. The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Udhampur, brought together officers from the

Urban Local Bodies and Rural Development Department.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner meticulously examined the advancement of the Swachh Bharat Mission at the Municipality/Block level. She also outlined clear timelines for the completion of pending projects within the current financial year. To ensure efficient execution, BDOs and EOs were enjoined to adopt a



mission-oriented approach, discharging their duties with unwavering accountability and collective coop-

eration. The paramount importance of fostering awareness among the public about the manifold

advantages of sanitation was underscored, alongside a reaffirmation of the scheme's fundamental objectives.

Emphasizing the need for meticulous oversight, the Deputy Commissioner directed the BDOs to institute a system of regular Panchayat-wise monitoring for the Swachh Bharat Mission initiatives.

The meeting was graced by the presence of Additional Deputy Com-

missioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Chief Planning Officer Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar, Assistant Commissioner Development Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, and DPO Dr. Manmeet Kumar, among others. All BDOs participated actively in the discussions, collectively displaying a commitment to driving the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the district.

IUST hosted Prof. Nisar Ali under Meet the Eminent Programme

Syed Tajamul

Awantipora. Aug. 28. Under the Meet The Eminent Programme, the Department of Economics, IUST hosted Professor Nisar Ali, member UPSC and former Dean Social Sciences at University of Kashmir. The guest speaker deliberated on the topic 'Perceptions and Perspectives of Development: J&K Scenario'. Prof. Nisar Ali's lecture shed light on different challenges in agriculture and manufacturing sectors, resulting in union territory's dependency on other states. Referring to research and statistical data, he invited attention towards the need of society's inadvertent involvement in compounding multiple challenges and underlined the contribution of the higher educational institutions for the same.

The program attended by students, scholars, faculty members and university officials including Librarian Rumi Library, and Head, Department of Economics provided a dynamic forum for interactive exchanges between the expert, faculty members and participants.

Deputy Commissioner reviews Aadhar Enrollment status in Rajouri District

HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 29: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today assessed the progress of Aadhaar enrollment in the district here at a meeting.

He underscored the utmost importance of the Aadhaar enrollment process for equitable access to different government schemes. In the course of the meeting, a comprehensive evaluation of the current status of Aadhaar enrollment was conducted, encompassing individuals of all age groups. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the vital significance of enrollment of children aged 0 to 5 years to facilitate comprehensive coverage and accessibility of eligible individuals to different schemes.

Recognizing the accuracy, efficiency, and comprehensive coverage in the enrollment process, Vikas Kundal issued directives for vigilant supervision and continuous monitoring by all pertinent officers. "This hands-on involvement guarantees that citizens receive accurate Aadhaar documentation, enabling them to seamlessly access benefits offered through various government initiatives," he said.

3 Months free Skill Training organized by DE&CC commences at Kulgam

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, AUGUST 29: Joint Director Employment, Kashmir, Zeenat Ara today inaugurated the three months free skill training at Govt. ITI Kulgam. The free training course is being organized by District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam with the aim of bridging the skill gap, building entrepreneurship capacity and equipping the educated unemployed youth in the employment market/industry driven sectors. During three months free skill training in Assistant Technician-Networking & Storage, the selected candidates will be imparted quality training as per NSQF guidelines besides the stipend of Rs. 1000 will be credited into their bank accounts per month provided that they shall attend the course regularly. Pertinent to mention here that after following the due procedure, 30 candidates have been selected to undergo the training course.

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CUK holds 10th meeting of PMB, takes important decisions

HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 29: The 10th meeting of the Planning and Monitoring Board (PMB) of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) was held at SKICC here on Tuesday, with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, in chair.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakeel A Romsho, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University, Prof. Sunaina Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Qayyum Hussain, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, Former Director, Academic Audit, Osmania University, Prof. C Vishnuvardhan, Joint Secretary, UGC, Prof. Shakeel Ahmed, Dr. Gitanjali Angmo, Dean and CEO, HIAL, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari, Dean School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Prof. Wali Muhammad Shah, Head Deptt of Management Studies, Prof. Abdul Gani, Planning and Development Officer, Prof. S Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Finance Officer, Dr. Mehraj ud Din Shah and other functionaries of the university. Addressing the maiden meeting, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, gave a detailed overview about the functioning of the University and said the varsity is making steady progress on the academics, research and other allied fronts. Prof. A Ravinder Nath, presented the futuristic agenda of the university and said that several measures and steps are in the offing to further promote and nurture the academic development in the varsity. He said the university is creating a Bureau of Academic Affairs, to provide a broad framework for the curriculum development specifically on scheme of instruction, examination and evaluation.

Mission Director reviews functioning of ICDS (POSHAN Projects) in District Doda

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 29: Mission Director POSHAN J&K, Rubina Kousar today conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing ICDS-Poshan Projects in Doda here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow Bhadarwah. Accompanying her was Devinder Singh Katoch, Joint Director, Mission POSHAN, J&K.

At the outset, Ashfaq Khanji, District Programme Officer Mission POSHAN Doda gave a detailed presentation, highlighting the project wise achievements of ongoing POSHAN schemes in the district. Attendees included CDPOs (Child Development Project Officers) and Supervisors from all eight Poshan Projects in the District Doda.

The Mission Director meticulously examined the financial and physical progress of all projects within the district, encompassing schemes such as PMMVY (Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana), Poshan tracker, SNP (Supplementary Nutrition



Programme), ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education), Geo-tagging of AWCs (Anganwadi Centers), Honorarium, Rent, and expenditures across different categories. Furthermore, the recruitment process for Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in all the Poshan projects of District Doda was thoroughly reviewed. Immediate directives were issued to fill any remaining vacancies for Sanginis and Sahayikas, in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Additionally, the Mission Director instructed each CDPO to oversee the procurement process of SNP and maintain accurate records of all procurement activities.

NC will provide corruption-free governance, roll back property tax if voted to power in ULB elections: Rattan Lal

HT News Network

JAMMU, AUG 29: National Conference will deliver corruption free governance to the Jammuites and provide the people respite from the miseries thrust upon them by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Govt, if National Conference, the only secular party of Jammu and Kashmir, is voted to power in upcoming elections of ULB.

This was expressed by Rattan Lal Gupta, NC Provincial President Jammu while addressing a meeting of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Core Committee of Jammu Urban here today at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

Today's meeting of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Core Committee was held to gear up for the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls by adopting a fool proof result-oriented strategy. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chander Mohan Sharma,



National Conference District President Jammu (Urban).

During the meeting, the NC leaders conducted a ward-wise analysis of the existing status and after holding deliberations at the appropriate strategy for the upcoming ULB polls.

Rattan Lal Gupta asserted that if the people voted National Conference to power, it will provide not only corruption free governance to the Jammuites but will also roll back property tax, will open health centres at Ward level, provide regular water and 24x7 power supply in each and every concerned area.

While slamming the Govt for failure to resolve Sarore Toll Plaza issue, the provincial president said that not only the Jammu Pathankot National Highway but even the roads in Jammu City are lying in utter dilapidated condition in the garb of Smart City thus causing much inconvenience to the common people.

Expressing lament over the Union Minister Gadkari's assurance in the Lok Sabha that no Toll Plaza will be established within 60 km range and all illegal toll plazas will be lifted across the Country if establishment within 60 Kms, he said that loot in the

name of toll continues at Sarore Toll Plaza in J&K. He appealed to Nitin Gadkari to issue directions to your Ministry to immediately remove the Toll Plaza at Sarore as it is illegal as per the rules and norms. He also demanded that the ongoing installation of Smart Meters in Jammu be stalled and the decision on the issue be left to the popular Govt after Assembly elections.

Meanwhile, Rattan Lal also criticized the Govt for not giving the due share of J&K youths and asked the Govt to fulfil its promise of providing 50000 govt. jobs to Jammu and Kashmir youth under the ongoing Amrit Kaal Ka Mahotsav programme. At last the NC leader asked the party workers to gear up for upcoming ULB polls in J&K ensuring the party's unprecedented success.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, provincial Secretary of JKNC, called for unity among the people and urged their support for the J&K National Conference in the forthcoming polls.

On the eve of Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RAH) Jabbar Foundation in collaboration with JKUM organised blood donation camp in Qamararia Park Ganderbal.

HT News Network

Ganderbal 29th August: To commemorate the spirit of selflessness and service exemplified by Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RAH) on his Urs Mubarak a special blood donation camp was organized. The event was a joint effort between the Jabbar Foundation and the JKUM (Jammu Kashmir United Movement) aiming to contribute towards the noble cause of saving lives.

The camp was organised by Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, Ex MLA Ganderbal, Founder Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Jabbar Foundation and President JKUM in the memory of Shaheed Sheikh



Abdul Jabbar (EX MLA Ganderbal). On the occasion, Ishfaq Jabbar and Ex MC Chairman Hilal Ahmad Tantray donated blood along with 100 youth volunteers.

The blood donation camp took place at Qamararia Stadium Ganderbal where volunteers from both organizations worked tirelessly to set up the necessary arrangements.

At the end of the camp Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar expressed deep gratitude

to all the donors volunteers and medical professionals especially to district administration who made the event a resounding success.

On the occasion Jabbar said that the blood donation camp in commemoration of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RAH)'s Urs Mubarak served as a shining example of how a community can come together for a noble cause. It demonstrated the power of collective effort and the impact that small gestures of kindness can have on the lives of others. The legacy of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RAH) continues to inspire countless individuals to serve humanity and make a positive difference in society, he added.

Scientists Say This is the Best Temperature for a Good Night's Sleep

Along with diet, exercise and lifestyle, getting enough sleep is one of the foundations of a person's overall health.

According to a new study, the optimal sleep temperature in the bedroom for older adults is between 68 to 77 °F. Results were published in the journal Science of The Total Environment.

How temperature plays a role in sleep quality

Ambient temperature is a crucial environmental factor when it comes to falling asleep and staying asleep.

"For initiation of sleep, low ambient light and temperature send signals to the body that it's time to secrete neurotransmitters that facilitate sleep," said Dr. Sudha Tallavajhula, sleep neurologist at UTHealth Houston and TIRR Memorial Hermann. "During sleep, we oscillate between phases where our body temperature is regulated differently."

During REM sleep, the human capacity to regulate temperature is impaired.

This means that if room temperature is high, the body is unable to adjust to it, Tallavajhula explained. This leads to frequent arousals from sleep.

What the study found

Participants wore sleep monitors and environmental sensors, which monitored the length of sleep, efficiency, and restlessness. Researchers gathered data from 50 older adults, which included 11,000 nights of sleep and environmental information.

Findings revealed a 5 to 10% drop in sleep efficiency as temperature escalated from 77°F to 86°F.

How the outdoor temperature can take a toll on sleep

The study highlights the possible influence of climate change on sleep quality among older adults.

"Both climate change and urban induced warming (aka, urban heat island effect) can substantially increase nighttime temperatures," lead researcher Amir Baniassadi, PhD, Hinda and Arthur Marcus Insti-



tute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, and Harvard Medical School, stated. "Meanwhile, our study finds a rapid decline in quality of sleep as the nighttime temperature rises above 77 degrees. So, we expect a decline in sleep quality as cities around the country get warmer."

This also means people who do not have the funds or ability to pay for cooling their home are at a higher risk. Additionally, people with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to live in houses and apartments that easily overheat and also more likely to live in dense urban areas with less green space where the urban heat island effect is more intense.

Finally, they also have less access to healthcare to deal with the health consequences of disrupted and inadequate sleep, Baniassadi added.

"Several studies have now looked at the effect of climate change on sleep quality, many in adults and also some in children," said Tallavajhula. "In general, as we age, the depth of sleep and sleep duration are usually impacted."

Additionally, our physiology also changes

as we age, with sleep preferentially moving to earlier bedtimes. Aging adults with baseline medical conditions, mental health conditions, underlying sleep disorders, and those on certain medications are among the most vulnerable to environmental disruptions, Tallavajhula stated.

"As climate changes and temperatures rise, the odds are stacked against those with lower associated social economic status, which usually involves poor housing, inability to afford air conditioning due to elevated electricity costs and noisy environmental conditions," Tallavajhula added. "These layers magnify underlying physiological changes in the elderly."

Helping those most at risk

"We need to prioritize those who are at the highest risk in our research to better understand their needs and come up with strategies to help them adapt to a changing climate. So, our next step is to focus on those who are less able to regulate their thermal environment," said Baniassadi.

They are particularly interested in two groups. First, older adults who are not able to cool down their homes due to economic reasons, especially those who live

in subsidized housing.

The other group are older adults who can't regulate their thermal environment due to limited mobility or cognitive decline, Baniassadi explained.

"We would like to explore, as an intervention, an automated way of regulating their bedroom temperature based on their specific needs," said Baniassadi.

Habits to improve your sleep

Consistency is key in order to improve your sleep health. That requires adopting certain habits. Tallavajhula recommends the following:

Regular sleep schedule

This is perhaps the most important. Similar to physical training with exercise, mental training to sleep and wake up at certain times of the day reinforce the body's sleep physiology.

Maintain low light and low temperature

This will also augment the sleep tendency.

If falling asleep is a problem, some individuals may benefit from avoiding naps during the day.

Wind down at the end of the day

Continuous stimulating activity, particularly towards the evening disrupts the brain's sleep-initiating networks. Therefore, individuals prone to sleep onset insomnia would benefit from a consistent winding down schedule.

Speak to a sleep specialist

If all efforts to improve sleep on your own have failed, consultation with a sleep medicine expert to seek solutions is the next logical step. Most sleep disorders are treatable, with eminently satisfactory outcomes.

A new study demonstrates shows the optimal temperature for sleep among older adults is between 68 to 77°F.

Climate change may also play a role when it comes to sleep issues.

For a good night's sleep, adhere to a consistent sleep schedule, keep the lights and temperature low in the bedroom and wind down at the end of the day.

NEWS

Children's Health: 8 Foods To Never Give To Your Child



Diet plays a crucial role in the health of children. Proper nutrition is vital for their growth, development, and overall well-being. A balanced diet provides essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals necessary for a child's physical and cognitive development.

Certain foods can indeed be bad for children's health if consumed in excess or if they lack nutritional value. Excessive intake of sugary foods, processed snacks, and sugary drinks can increase the risk of obesity, tooth decay, and chronic diseases like diabetes. There are various other types of foods kids should avoid and various ways in which these foods can be harmful to your child's health.

1. Processed meats

Foods like hot dogs, deli meats, and sausages are often high in sodium, unhealthy fats, and preservatives that can be harmful to children's health.

2. Sugary drinks

Avoid giving children sugary beverages like soda, fruit juices, and sports drinks, as they provide empty calories and can lead to weight gain, tooth decay, and other health issues.

3. Artificial sweeteners

Products containing artificial sweeteners should be avoided as they can negatively affect children's metabolism and potentially lead to long-term health problems.

4. Fried foods

Limit or avoid giving children foods that are deep-fried or fried in unhealthy oils, as they are high in unhealthy fats and can increase the risk of heart disease and obesity.

5. High-sugar cereals

Many breakfast cereals marketed towards children are loaded with added sugars. Opt for low-sugar cereals or whole-grain options instead.

6. Processed snacks

Chips, cookies, crackers, and other processed snack foods are often high in unhealthy fats, sodium, and artificial ingredients. Opt for healthier snack options like fresh fruits, vegetables, or homemade snacks.

7. Fast food

Limit or avoid fast food as it tends to be high in unhealthy fats, sodium, and added sugars. Homemade meals using fresh ingredients are a healthier choice.

8. Artificial food colouring

Some children can have adverse reactions to artificial food colouring. Avoid foods and drinks that contain artificial dyes whenever possible.

Workout Meals To Eat For Better Recovery

Following a healthy diet is essential to weight loss. Similarly, it is important to eat the right foods at the right time. A post workout meal helps you recharge your energy levels. Keep reading as we share some easy post workout meals to help boost your recovery.

These meals work because they provide the body with a combination of essential macronutrients (protein, carbohydrates, and fats) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) required for optimal recovery. They also include

antioxidants, which help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress caused by intense workouts.

1. Grilled chicken with sweet potatoes and broccoli

This meal offers a combination of lean protein from chicken, complex carbohydrates from sweet potatoes, and vitamins from broccoli. The protein helps repair and build muscles, while the carbohydrates replenish glycogen stores, and the vitamins aid in recovery and reduce inflammation.

2. Salmon with quinoa and



asparagus

Salmon is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which help reduce muscle soreness and inflammation. Quinoa provides a complete source of protein, and asparagus offers essential nutrients and

antioxidants for better recovery.

3. Greek yogurt with berries and almonds

Greek yogurt is high in protein and provides essential amino acids for muscle repair. Berries are rich in antioxidants and help reduce muscle damage, while almonds offer healthy fats and additional protein.

4. Whole grain toast with avocado and eggs

Whole grain toast provides carbohydrates for replenishing energy stores. Avocado offers healthy fats and provides anti-inflammatory properties, while

eggs provide protein and essential nutrients for muscle recovery.

5. Tofu stir fry with brown rice

Tofu is an excellent plant-based source of protein and provides essential amino acids. Brown rice offers complex carbohydrates for energy replenishment, and the stir-fried vegetables provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

6. Oatmeal with banana and peanut butter

Oats are a great source of carbohydrates and fibre for sustained energy. Banana adds potassium, which aids in muscle function and recovery.

8 Benefits Of Consuming Cinnamon Water Regularly & How To Make It

Cinnamon is a spice derived from the bark of trees belonging to the Cinnamomum genus. It has a sweet and woody aroma and a distinct flavour. There are several types of cinnamon, with Ceylon cinnamon (also known as "true" cinnamon) being the most common.

Cinnamon water is made by infusing cinnamon sticks or powder in water. It is believed to have various health benefits, but it's important to note that the scientific evidence supporting these claims is limited. Cinnamon is rich in antioxidants, which help protect the body against oxidative damage caused by free radicals.

Cinnamon has also been shown to possess anti-inflammatory properties, which may help reduce inflammation in the body. Along with this, some studies suggest that cinnamon may help regulate blood sugar levels, potentially benefiting those with diabetes or insulin resistance. Continue reading as we share the benefits and recipe of cinnamon water.

1. Improves digestion

Cinnamon has natural digestive properties that can help soothe the stomach and alleviate digestive issues such as gas, bloating, and indigestion.

2. Boosts metabolism

Cinnamon is known to help regulate



blood sugar levels and improve insulin sensitivity, which can in turn boost metabolism and aid in weight management.

3. Reduces inflammation

Cinnamon has anti-inflammatory properties that can help reduce inflammation in the body, leading to a reduced risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer.

4. Enhances brain function

Cinnamon has been found to improve cognitive function and memory by increasing focus and attention span. It may also help protect against age-related neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

5. Supports heart health

Consuming cinnamon water regularly can help lower cholesterol levels

and reduce the risk of heart disease by improving blood circulation and reducing inflammation.

6. Strengthens the immune system

Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antiviral properties that can help boost the immune system and protect against common infections and illnesses.

7. Provides antioxidant protection

Cinnamon is rich in antioxidants, which help protect the body against free radicals and oxidative damage that can contribute to ageing and chronic diseases.

8. Improves skin health

Cinnamon water can help improve skin health by reducing inflammation and promoting a healthy complexion. It may also help to reduce acne and other skin issues.

Instructions

If using cinnamon sticks, break them into smaller pieces.

Place the cinnamon sticks or powder in a saucepan with water.

Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for about 15-20 minutes.

Turn off the heat and allow the mixture to cool.

Here's How The DASH Diet Can Protect Your Heart Health

The DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) diet

is a flexible eating plan designed to lower blood pressure and promote heart health. It emphasises consuming a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy products while minimising the consumption of saturated fats, cholesterol, and sodium.

1. Reduces high blood pressure

The DASH diet is specifically designed to lower blood pressure, one of the major risk factors for heart disease.

2. Lowers cholesterol levels

The DASH diet includes plenty of foods that are low in saturated fat and cholesterol, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, which can help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. High cholesterol increases the risk of heart attack.



3. Promotes weight loss

The DASH diet emphasises portion control and a balanced approach to eating, which can help with weight loss or maintenance. Maintaining a healthy weight is important for heart health. Being overweight puts pressure on the heart, increasing the risk of various heart diseases.

4. Increases intake of heart-healthy nutrients

The DASH diet encourages the consumption of foods rich in potassium, magnesium, calcium, and fibre, all of which are beneficial for heart health. The

nutrients also further boost your overall mental and physical health.

5. Reduces inflammation

The DASH diet includes many anti-inflammatory foods, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and nuts, which can help reduce inflammation in the body and protect the heart. Inflammation can cause various diseases including chronic heart diseases.

6. Promotes a lower sodium intake

The DASH diet recommends limiting sodium intake to help reduce high blood pressure. Excess intake of sodium is a major risk factor for heart disease.

7. Encourages heart-healthy fats

The DASH diet promotes the consumption of heart-healthy fats found in foods such as avocados, olive oil, nuts, and seeds, which can help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease.

8. Supports a balanced and varied diet

The DASH diet encourages a wide variety of nutritious foods, which ensures a balanced intake of nutrients and helps maintain overall heart health.

9. Reduces the risk of developing type 2 diabetes

Following the DASH diet can help lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, which is a major risk factor for heart disease. Developing type-2 diabetes can further increase your risk of various chronic heart diseases. The DASH diet is not a short-term solution but rather a long-term lifestyle approach,

CS declares 2nd edition of University/College level sports festival open at GCOPE Gbl



GANDERBAL, AUG 30: On the eve of National Sports Day, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today declared 2nd edition University/College level sports festival open at Government College of Physical Education (GCOPE) Gadoora, Ganderbal. The Department of Youth Services and Sports bestowed the honour to Government College of Physical Education to organize the Festival from August 29 to September 02 in this sprawling and magnificent college campus that affirms an impressive merger of 10 events covering Football (Men), Volleyball (Men & Women), Basketball (Men), Handball (Men), Tug-of-war (Men & Women), Kho-Kho (Women), Table-Tennis (Women) and others.

A participation of around 5000 students both Men and women of 160 teams across the colleges and universities of Kashmir Valley would showcase their sports talent besides over 26 cultural programme shall be showcased during the event.

Declaring the festival open, Chief Secretary congratulated all the participants on the eve of National Sports Day and said that people of J&K are vibrant who are actively participating in sports and it is because of them that sports culture in emerging like never before when compared to population

ratio and we are determined that over 75 lakh people will participate in various sports events in current year, which was hardly 3 lakh in 2019, he added.

Chief Secretary encouraged the students to understand their interests, abilities and challenges in sports and to integrate, sustainable development goals with Physical Education and Sports in the Curriculum.

Dr Mehta also appealed teachers and parents to encourage the people of all walks of life to participate in sports which is must to create positivity and all should be determined to say 'No to Drugs and Yes to Life' adding that it is our moral responsibility to inculcate sports culture among the youth to keep them away from drugs.

Highlighting the development of sports infra, Chief Secretary said that sports fields have been developed in every Panchayat and further sports facilities will be made available very soon.

Dr Mehta further stated that such events provide opportunity for showcasing sports talent and make sports integral part of life.

Director YSS, Subash C. Chibber while presenting the welcome address shared the details of unprecedented initiatives and achievements recorded in the sports sector of Jammu Kashmir.

While giving details about the activities in the current year, the Director said that the department is engaging old age persons and specially abled persons in sports activities besides department is also targeting to engage Transgender persons in such activities.

To give flip to sports infra in the UT, the department is utilizing Rs 45 core plan so that state of art sports infrastructure is created in the UT which could be instrumental to produce international talent and make JK drug free UT.

Earlier, March Past, Drug pledge and Cultural programmes were presented by the students of the colleges, officials of the Department of YSS.

Among others present on the occasion were DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhatulshafaq; Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; ADDC Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani and officers from JK Sports Council.

Later, the Dr Mehta visited Qamaria Ground where he inspected the stalls being installed by various departments on eve of the annual Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA) being observed in Reshipora, Saloora area of Ganderbal.

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