

LG Sinha To Inaugurate 'Community Radio' At Jammu University On Its Foundation Day

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 4: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will inaugurate a community radio, a first-of-its-kind in the Union Territory, at the University of Jammu here on its foundation day on Tuesday.

"The radio shall act as a medium to promote, propagate and disseminate the poly-vocal and polylingual voices of the various stakeholders of the university and act as a site of exchange for various ideas culminating in motivating people to participate in the national endeavour for integrated development of the country," Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Umesh Rai told reporters here.

Sharing the Jammu University's achievements in the past year, the VC said the recent nomination of the varsity by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as the nodal university to lead the implementation



of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in the Union Territory has helped the institute "indisputably" claim a high status in academic leadership.

This nomination, he added, came on the heels of the widely acclaimed 'Design Your Degree' programme recently launched

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No Scope Of Corruption In J&K Now As All Services Made Online: CS



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 4: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta has said that there is no chance of corruption in the Union Territory now as all services have been made online.

He said various schemes and platforms have brought

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More than 14000 events planned across UT during 'Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K' Week

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today in presence of Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioner and other officers kick-started the week long 'Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K' campaign here across all the districts of the UT. Outstation based officers participated through video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mehta observed that UT of J&K has made remarkable

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NEWS BRIEF

Court quashes PSA of Pulwama youth

SRINAGAR, SEP 4: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of a South Kashmir youth under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA).

Senior Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak representing the incarcerated youth told news agency Kashmir News Trust that the detention of Sakib Akbar Waza of Kulbagh Gulshanpora Tral village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district was quashed by the court nearly over two years after he was arrested on charges of supporting militancy and simultaneously booked under the PSA.

The accused was put behind the bars without letting him know about the charges. He is currently lodged at Kot Balwal Jail Jammu.

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Militant killed, cop injured in Reasi encounter

JAMMU, SEP 4: Police Monday said that a militant was killed while a policeman from counter insurgency wing sustained injured in a gun fight in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier a gunfight broke out between militants and joint forces in Gali Sohab in Tuli area of Chassana in Reasi district. The initial exchange of fire resulted in the death of a militant while a cop suffered injuries too. Sources added that the identification of the victim militant is being ascertained.

ADGP Jammu confirmed the killing of a militant and injuries to a cop.

This is the first encounter of the current month.

Two die in Kupwara road mishap

KUPWARA, SEP 4: A 12-year-old boy died after being allegedly hit by a tractor in the frontier district of Kupwara on Monday morning, official sources said.

They said in the Chemkote area, a tractor (JK09C-0019) hit a boy Nooran Shah son of Khadim Hussain of Chamkote Karnah leading to the on spot death of the boy.

Police seized the tractor, arrested the driver, and registered a case under relevant sections of law.

In another incident in the same district, a 31-year-old youth died after a tractor-turned turtle near Batawari area of Kralgund Handwara.

The victim was identified as

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Digital QR code to provide modern services to the citizens in Srinagar: SMC Commissioner

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 4: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday said that digital QR code or Quick Response Code being provided to every household will provide modern services to the citizens of Srinagar.

Talking to media persons, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

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Chandrayaan-3: Vikram Lander soft lands again, underwent hop experiment

■ HT News Network

CHENNAI, SEP 4: The Vikram lander on board India's third Lunar expedition Chandrayaan-3 made a soft landing on moon again and successfully underwent a hop experiment.

ISRO on Monday said the Vikram Lander exceeded its mission objectives.

On command, it fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm as expected and landed safely at a distance of 30 - 40 cm away.

All systems performed nominally and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Be good mentor, trainer in student's life: Educationist's message on Teacher's Day

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 4: In a message to the fellowmen across the country on the eve of Teacher's Day, Jammu-based educationist, Dr Abhilasha Sambyal, has asked them not only to act as mentors but also be good trainers in shaping the lives of students.

Dr Sambyal, who is presently associated with Rayat Bahra International School, Mohali, as a principal, stated in a message on Monday that the devotion and commitment of a teacher play a key role in shaping young minds on the path to success.

The message marked National Teach-

er's Day, celebrated every year on September 5, as a tribute to the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a philosopher, teacher, and first Vice-President of India.

Working as an educator for the last two decades across various geographies of India, Dr Sambyal, while sharing her experiences-filled journey in the profession, feels that after parents, teachers are playing a vital role in transforming the lives of students.

And, she said with the changing times and the mindsets of the students, especially post-Covid and National Education Policy (NEP), the teacher

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

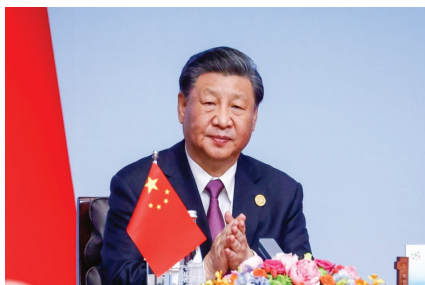
Chinese President Xi Not To Attend G20 Summit; Premier Li To Head Delegation: Foreign Ministry

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 04: Chinese President Xi Jinping will not attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi this week and the delegation will be led by Premier Li Qiang, the foreign ministry announced here on Monday.

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of India, Premier of the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Looking Forward To India Trip, Disappointed Xi Not Attending G20 Summit: President Biden

■ HT News Network

WASHINGTON, SEP 4: US President Joe Biden has said that he is looking forward to his trip to India this week but is disappointed that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will not attend the G20 summit in New Delhi.

Biden will travel to India on September 7 to participate in the G20 Summit and will have a

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Kishtwar SSP Reviews Security Measures Ahead Of Janmashtami

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 4: Senior Superintendent of Police Khalil Poswal on Monday reviewed security measures in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district ahead of the Janmashtami celebrations and directed officials to take action against people involved in anti-national activities.

He also directed police personnel to undertake cordon and search operations

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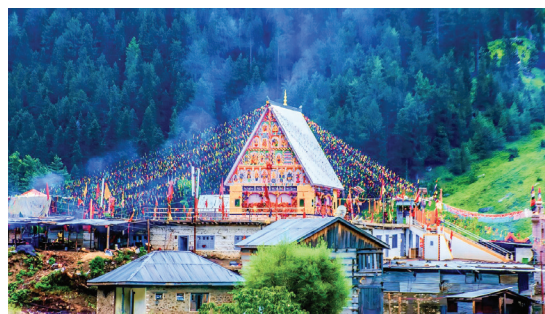
Machail Yatra Witnesses Exponential Rise In Footfall, Popularity This Year, Breaks Past Records

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEP 4: Reflecting rising reverence and esteem of the Temple shrine among the devotees, the Annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2023 has witnessed a record-breaking arrival of nearly 2 lakh pilgrims this year. The pilgrimage, rooted in decades-old tradition, has become a magnet for devotees seeking the blessings of Shree Chandi Mata with every passing year.

The annual Shree Machail Mata Yatra has experienced a remarkable surge in

attendance this year, with a staggering increase from around 58,000 arrivals in



2022 to 1.94 Lakh this year.

This meteoric rise can be attributed

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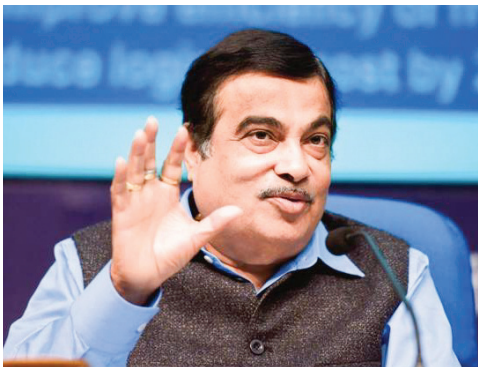
Chandrayaan Sparked Global Aspirations In Indian Students: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 4: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 has sparked global aspirations in Indian students.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is all the

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upgrade is meant to boost accessibility.

"In J-K, we are upgrading the uni-directional Khellani tunnel into a 2-lane structure incorporating a paved shoulder and improving its approach road on NH-244. The entire length of this project spans 2.419 kilometres and

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Sinha To.....

by the university and showcased during the two-day Akhil Bhartiya Siksha Samagam-2023 at New Delhi on July 29.

Designed in consultation with experts across a wide spectrum, this programme focuses on the holistic development of young minds and sets the tone for transdisciplinary knowledge and is therefore in the true spirit of NEP-2020 as envisaged by the Prime Minister of India, the VC said.

Rai also shared that among various other initiatives planned by the Higher Education Council, the university is spearheading a unique project named 'College on Wheels' or 'J&K Gyanodaya' through which about 800 students along with 100 faculty members from various universities of Jammu and Kashmir would undertake an educational tour covering various parts of India.

No Scope Of.....

transparency in the system which has ensured that no money can be withdrawn fraudulently from the public exchequer.

"We have taken the initiative of making all services online. The aim is to create a corruption-free environment. Earlier it was said that out of one rupee, less than 10 paise would reach the ground. Today such a system has been created where the entire rupee reaches the ground," the officer told reporters after launching the 'Bhrashtachar Mukti J-K' campaign here.

No money can be withdrawn without administrative approval, technical approval, e-tendering and geospatial photography, he said.

Mehta said there were still some complaints of malpractices which the administration is working to address.

"Our aim is to address the remaining complaints as well. The government is doing whatever possible, but the people also have to come forward and support this initiative to build a corruption-free society," he added.

The chief secretary said the Jammu and Kashmir administration was trying to become number one in governance in the country.

"We have made a lot of progress in many sectors. Now we want to be number one in governance as well. We are number one in IT services and are doing well in several other sectors too," he said.

On reinstatement of lecturer Zahoor Ahmad Bhat who had appeared as petitioner-in-person before the Supreme Court bench hearing Article 370 petitions, Mehta said, "Let's leave it at that."

More than.....

progress in ensuring transparency and accountability, and there is need to institutionalize it so that it becomes intrinsic to the system.

Dr. Mehta maintained that the initiatives taken during the recent past have reinforced the trust of people in the governance. He recalled that unlike the present system, there was earlier a system of giving contracts without going for tendering process or appointing people without going for due recruitment process.

Implementation of measures like BEAMS, e-tendering, seeking of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction have resulted in establishing financial discipline which has resulted in phenomenal increase in the number of projects being completed, from merely 9,000 projects during 2018-19 to 92,000 during 2022-23 with nearly same expenditure. The Chief Secretary remarked that IT interventions have brought about more transparency where all details of projects and services are being put in public domain. Through RTI and Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), citizens who seek their rights, have been empowered, as guaranteed under law. The accessibility of people to project their grievances before senior functionaries and their timely disposals have been greatly facilitated through IGRAMS and JKGRAMS portals.

The Chief Secretary complimented 'Team J&K' for their untiring efforts for taking J&K to the top performing States/UTs in the Country. While directing all the Prabhari Officers to visit their concerned panchayat at least once during this week, the Chief Secretary asked the Incharge Secretaries of the districts to intensively monitor the activities carried out under the Bhrashtachar Mukti J&K in their concerned districts. Dr. Mehta further advised the Deputy Commissioners to fully involve all representatives of Urban and Rural Local Bodies in this intensive campaign against corruption.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma gave an overview of the activities planned during the week as well as about the improvement in the overall working of the Government which has been made possible through slew of measures taken in the recent past. He informed that the week is going to provide an open platform to the citizens for two way exchange of ideas with the administrative machinery. He revealed that thousands of camps are going to be held across the districts of the UT right from Panchayat, Block, Sub-Division to District level.

On the occasion, several Administrative Secretaries, Divisional and District administration gave their inputs about making this programme successful. The Deputy Commissioners provided details of the activities planned for the upcoming days of the week. They informed that counters/help desks have been established for departments like Revenue, Housing, PDD, PWD, Jal Shakti, Social Welfare etc. for receiving the grievances of public and their instant resolution.

It was further revealed that activities like debates, discussions, painting competitions etc

are also planned to create awareness among the College and school children about the menace of corruption and its possible remedies available to public. More than 14000 events are going to be organized across all the districts of the UT with events at Panchayats, Patwar Khanas, Urban Local Bodies, Tehsils and Districts in which general public is participating in large numbers.

Later on the Chief Secretary also visited Lalchowk to participate in the function being organized by the Srinagar Smart City on the theme 'Digital J&K, Digital Srinagar'. The daylong festival is part of Digital Week (1st to 6th September, 2023) focused on digital initiatives of government in general and SSCL / SMC in particular. Seminars, demos, exhibitions were organized during the day to apprise the public/students from schools and colleges in the city. Stalls have been setup by Smart City, SMC and District Administration to showcase the different digital initiatives.

Those who accompanied him on the occasion included Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; CEO, Srinagar Smart City Limited and many others.

Digital QR.....

of Srinagar Smart City Athar Aamir Khan said that digital QR house code aims to provide modern services in the city.

Jammu Kashmir government recently decided to provide digital QR codes to every household including streets, heritage buildings, and residential houses in Srinagar for easily tracing the address of a place.

SMC Commissioner said that QR code will complete documentation of the house, which could be possible from this system and added that better planning can be done with this method.

He said "each metropolitan city has a specific system for finding a house address".

Khan said that "this (digital QR house code) provides complete documentation of the house and will help to know who the house is used for either for commercial purposes or is it residential, its electricity connection, water supply and other related things".

He said that a Geographic Information Survey (GIS) mapping of the entire city has been done and house to house survey of 2.30 lakh houses have so far been completed in Srinagar city.

The SMC Commissioner said that a street number system has been generated and an address system of houses is also being created.

Khan said that the aim of digital QR code is to provide modern services and better planning in the city.

The CEO said that a metal board will be installed in front of every house on which QR code and house address will be written. UNI

Khellani Tunnel.....

falls within Package 3," he said.

He further said that the upgraded tunnel is set to ensure year-round accessibility which he stressed will benefit the local economy.

"The upgraded tunnel is set to ensure year-round accessibility, a development that will significantly benefit the local economy and the residents of the region," Gadkari added.

The Union Minister further said that the project is dedicated to achieving expeditious, trouble-free, and environmentally conscious mobility in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, this ambitious project is dedicated to achieving expeditious, trouble-free, and environmentally conscious mobility in the Jammu & Kashmir region," he said.

Vikram Lander.....

are healthy.

Deployed Ramp, ChaSTE and ILSA were folded back and redeployed successfully after the experiment.

On the importance of hop experiment, ISRO said this 'kick-start' enthuses future sample return and human missions!

In an update, it said "Chandrayaan-3 Mission: Vikram soft-landed on moon again!"

"Vikram Lander exceeded its mission objectives. It successfully underwent a hop experiment", it added.

"On command, it fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm as expected and landed safely at a distance of 30 – 40 cm away", ISRO said.

"Importance?: This 'kick-start' enthuses future sample return and human missions!", it added.

"All systems performed nominally and are healthy. Deployed Ramp, ChaSTE and ILSA were folded back and redeployed successfully after the experiment", it added.

"We have touchdown...AGAIN. Yesterday the Vikram Lander fired up its thrusters once again to perform a little hop on the Lunar surface, becoming only the 2nd spacecraft to ever do so", it said.

"The reason for this hop was to test out aspects of future sample return missions and crewed missions to the Moon by ISRO! #Chandrayaan3 #ISRO", it said. UNI

Be good mentor.....

fraternity needs to act as a mentor and facilitator who can also be good trainers to make students good learners.

Born and brought up in the family of a former BSF officer in Samba district of Jammu region, Dr Sambyal, who pursued her schooling at the BSF School, Paloura, Jammu, has also been

awarded the Jagatguru Shri Krishna Samman certificate of appreciation and the Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award by Mentorx in the year 2020.

Sharing a few tips to be a successful 'guru' in the present scenario of the education system, she feels that the teachers must be approachable to strengthen communication skills with students for better understanding, adding, " safe and structured classroom environment must be prioritised to make students to be regular in attending sessions."

Dr Sambyal feels that bribery in any form should never be encouraged to convince students for transformation or perform well in academics.

"Teachers need not to be friendly or behave casually to impress students but instead must be ideal to them and have an aura of moulding young minds towards a bright future," suggests the educationist, adding that teachers must learn about the behaviour skills of students and deliver interesting and encouraging sessions to attract larger participation.

Dr Sambyal, who was also part of the NCC and achieved the best cadet turnout (the Cherry Blossom Award, New Delhi) after she participated in the Rajpath Parade, has many awards and rewards in her kitty.

Among the few to be counted are Acharya Chanakya Shikshavid Sammaan 2020 by Fun2learn, Education Legend (Eduleaders Summit & Awards 2019 @ Jammu) by CED Foundation, Top Performing School Educator (Progressive School Leader Awards 2019@ New Delhi) by CED Foundation, and Progressive Principal Of The Year (School Excellence Leadership Award 2018 @ Chandigarh) by CED Foundation. UNI

Chinese President.....

State Council Li Qiang will attend the 18th G20 Summit to be held in New Delhi, India on September 9 and 10, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said in a brief statement.

Spokesperson Mao did not provide any reason for President Xi's absence from the high-profile conclave hosted by India for the first time.

President Xi is also skipping the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and East Asia summits in Jakarta this week.

Premier Li will be representing China at the ASEAN Summit in Indonesia.

At the invitation of President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, the current ASEAN chair, Premier of the State Council Li will attend the 26th China-ASEAN Summit, the 26th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from September 5 to 8, and pay an official visit to Indonesia, another Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced on September 1.

Now, Premier Li is expected to travel to India after attending the East Asia summit in Jakarta. In 2021, Chinese President Xi did not travel to Italy to participate in the G20 summit due to China's Covid-19 restrictions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has already conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi his decision to not attend the summit in-person as he has to focus on the 'special military operation' in Ukraine.

The Russian president had skipped the Bali summit of G20 in November last year as well.

The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). (AGENCIES)

Looking Forward.....

bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 8 on the sidelines of the historic meeting, the White House announced on Friday.

In its capacity as the current president of G20, India is hosting the annual summit of the influential grouping in New Delhi on September 9 and 10.

Ahead of his trip, reporters asked Biden on Sunday whether he was looking forward to his visits to India and Vietnam. Yes, I am," Biden replied.

He expressed his disappointment over President Xi of China not attending the summit in New Delhi. "I am disappointed, but I am going to get to see him," Biden said in response to a question.

Biden, along with more than two dozen world leaders, is scheduled to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi that is being hosted by Prime Minister Modi.

According to recent media reports, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi are not likely to attend the summit. India is awaiting a written confirmation from China on President Xi's participation in the G20 Leaders Summit, Muktesh Pardeshi, Special Secretary for G20, said on Friday.

"We have seen some reports in the newspapers. But, we go by written confirmation. And we have not seen (a written confirmation). Unless we see that I am not in a position to say either way," Pardeshi told PTI when asked about reports of Xi skipping the G20 meeting and deputing Prime Minister Li Qiang for the event.

Premier Li is likely to travel to India after attending the East Asia summit in Jakarta. In 2021, Chinese President Xi did not travel to Italy to participate in the G20 summit due to

China's COVID-19 restrictions.

Pardeshi said the participation of world leaders in summits such as the G20 is usually conveyed through a diplomatic note. "I think that is awaited...We have received most of the other confirmations," he said on Xi's participation.

US President Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are among the G20 leaders who have already confirmed their participation in the summit.

Modi will hand over the baton of the G20 Presidency to Brazilian President Lula on September 10. Brazil will formally assume the G20 Presidency on December 1

The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). (Agencies)

Kishtwar SSP.....

as well as area domination exercises in vulnerable areas of the district The SSP directed officers to be vigilant and ensure that no anti-national elements can disrupt peace in the district.

The officers at the meeting were told to actively gather actionable intelligence to thwart any malicious intentions of anti-national elements.

Poswal also called for adopting a public-centric approach in maintaining law and order.

Machail Yatra.....

to a myriad of factors, primarily the foolproof arrangements, augmentation of boarding facilities by the District Administration, coupled with the seamless execution of the events' schedule. The Yatra's newfound popularity and its remarkable growth in turnover underline the enduring spiritual significance it holds for countless devotees, drawing them in increasing numbers.

The Kapat/Door opening ceremony of the Temple took place on the auspicious Baishakhi festival in April 2023. It involved the ceremonial transfer of the revered Shree Machail Mata's Murti from the local priest's residence to the temple, accompanied by the Pratham Pooja.

Distinguished officials from the Jammu administration and senior officers of the Kishtwar District Administration graced the occasion.

This marked the beginning of pilgrims flocking to the temple for Darshans. Officially, the Yatra commenced on July 25, 2023, witnessing a substantial influx of devotees, right from the outset. This auspicious start set the tone for what would become a momentous pilgrimage.

This year, the Machail Mata Yatra achieved unprecedented success, largely attributed to Blessing of Maa Chandi, her Holiness and the comprehensive and tireless efforts of the administration. The harmonious blend of meticulous planning and spiritual devotion has propelled the Yatra to new heights.

One of the notable accomplishments was the provision of accommodation at Yatri Bhawan in Gulabgarh, capable of hosting 2000 pilgrims simultaneously. The addition of Mushroom Luxury Tents and Sapphire Guest House in Gulabgarh further enhanced the comfort of Yatries with premier experience during the journey. A tent city surrounding the temple at Machail Bhawan and local stay houses became a significant attraction, beckoning pilgrims with open arms.

The development of the BT Road up to Kundhail and the timely throwing open of the on foot/ trekkable PMJSY road from Mov up to Hamouri village significantly reduced travel time and fatigue for pilgrims. These Road and Bridge improvements made the Yatra more accessible and efficient attracting a significant number of Yatries this year.

Leveraging the technology for convenience of Yatries, the District Administration under able guidance of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav unveiled the official website of Shri Machail Mata Yatra <http://www.shrimachailmatayatra.com>, which emerged as a valuable resource for pilgrims. Providing real-time updates on facilities and inquiries, it ensured Yatries had the latest information at their fingertips, enhancing their convenience and experience.

A notable milestone in this year's Yatra was the installation of a 30 KV Solar Power Plant at the Machail temple. This innovation illuminated the temple and its surroundings, significantly enhancing the comfort and convenience of Yatries, especially during evening and night visits besides ensuring operation of telecommunication facilities.

The introduction of uninterrupted 4G mobile connectivity at Machail proved to be a game-changer for Yatries. It enabled them to stay connected with their families and stay informed about their well-being during the pilgrimage, adding an extra layer of security and comfort.

Adding to the facilities for pilgrims, the Micro ATM facilities strategically placed en route facilitated easy cash transactions for Yatries, ensuring they had access to financial services as needed during their sacred journey.

Significantly, the easy and accessible chopper facilities from Gulabgarh to Machail and back added a new dimension of comfort and accessibility for specific Yatries with incompatibility in travelling and trekking by foot. The facility reduced travel time and fatigue, making the pilgrimage more accessible to a wider range of devotees who otherwise were not able to visit and have blessings of Maa Chandi.

The administration's commitment extended beyond mere convenience. Pilgrims enjoyed uninterrupted power and water supply, access to medical facilities at halt points of Yatra besides a well-executed traffic management plan was also executed for avoiding inconvenience to Yatries. Security arrangements were ensured on priority for the safety and peace of mind of all devotees by the administration during the pilgrimage.

The Langar facilities set up by local devotees at various spots along the Yatra route were efficiently facilitated by the administration, ensuring uninterrupted water & electricity supply and other logistics, meanwhile also maintaining proper sanitation through thorough checks.

As the Yatra approaches its conclusion on September 5th, it stands as a testament to the unwavering faith of devotees and the dedication of the administration to make the Yatra a grand success. The record-breaking turnout showcases the profound spiritual significance of Machail Mata Yatra and its position as a pinnacle of pilgrimage management turning it into one of the major pilgrimages in the Jammu Division.

In every aspect, from infrastructure to digital connectivity and comfort, the Machail Mata Yatra of 2023 has exemplified what can be achieved when devotion and administration come together in perfect harmony, providing pilgrims with an unforgettable and spiritually enriching experience.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, oversaw efforts, ensuring seamless coordination with local, civil and police administrations besides other departments, army personnel, and BROs. The comprehensive approach catered to Yatries' needs while unlocking the region's tourism potential also.

In conclusion, the Machail Yatra of 2023 is poised to become the second-largest pilgrimage in the Jammu Division. It stands as a testament to unwavering devotion and meticulous planning, creating a safe, comfortable, and spiritually enriching environment for all devotees.

Chandrayaan.....

more evident that after the opening up of the Space Sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020, the number of Space StartUps sky-rocketed from merely 04 to 150 Start-ups and most of them being led by science students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Science 20 (S20) Conference under the aegis of G20 on the topic "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development", at Amity University at Noida.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, StartUps are centres of novel innovations and essential for the growth of the nation and driven by the ideas of the Prime Minister Modi, Startup India, Standup India and Make in India will help transform India to even stronger economic power and contribute towards adding 1 trillion USD to our GDP each year.

"They generate jobs leading to a stronger and healthier economy. Start-ups encourage a pragmatic approach at the academic establishments further leading to large scale employment generation. It motivates students or researchers to put their ideas into practice by collaborating with the start-up, which more importantly help to develop means of economic expansion. India now stands 3rd in terms of Startup ecosystem with almost 110 Unicorns," he said, encouraging the universities to promote students' tie-ups with the emerging StartUps.

Court quashes.....

The court of Justice Sanjay Dhar after hearing the arguments of Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak directed authorities to release him from Jail. [KNT]

Two die in.....

Asif Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Mohi-uddin Wani of Mongwalpora Kralgund.

Official sources said that the youth succumbed on his way to Community Health Centre Kralgund. [KNT]

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Advisor Bhatnagar reviews performance, functioning of SUDA



SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today chaired a meeting to review the functioning and performance of State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development department, Prashant Goyal; Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, Director Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, Director Finance HUDD, and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Advisor took detailed progress of imple-

mentation of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) scheme and its various components like Self Employment Programme (SEP), Shelter for Urban Homeless, Social Mobilisation and Institutional Development – SHGs and Employment through Skill Training and Placement (ESTP).

Addressing the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers for effective communication and cooperation with all relevant departments and agencies to achieve the goals of SUDA efficiently. He delved on them to engage with different

stakeholders for meeting out the desired objectives of the agency.

While reviewing the progress on implementation of SEP, Social Mobilisation and Institutional Development – SHGs and ESTP components, the Advisor called upon the officers for adequate funding of beneficiaries so that they can establish their enterprises and become self sufficient. He asked them for proper handholding of the beneficiaries so that they are made well versed with the emerging start-up ecosystem.

He also asked them to collaborate with other departments or institutions for imparting train-

ing to beneficiaries so that their skills can be upgraded.

While reviewing the Shelter for Urban Homeless component of the DAY-NULM, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon the officers to utilise the assets created for shelter of urban homeless effectively. He enjoined upon them for immediate functioning of all the newly constructed shelter homes.

The Advisor further asked the officers to create awareness among the target group about shelter homes so that they can take advantage of this facility.

The Advisor also called upon the officers to carry out a survey

throughout Jammu and Kashmir for identifying homeless people and involve departments like Social Welfare department and others in identifying the homeless people who can utilise these established facilities.

During the meeting, the Advisor was informed that Shelters for Urban Homeless have been constructed in the districts of Jammu, Kupwara, Reasi and Kathua with a capacity of 100 persons each. It was also given out in the meeting that catering services are being provided free of cost to homeless persons staying in these shelter homes.

JKSCERT frames timeline of formative assessments for classes upto 8th standard

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: JKSCERT has framed a timeline for conduct of formative assessment of students under the Student Assessment and Evaluation (SA&E) up to Class 8th for the summer and winter Zone Schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

Formative assessment is a range of formal and informal assessment procedures conducted by teachers during the learning process in order to modify teaching and learning activities to improve student attainment.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Trainings (JKSCERT) has said that under SA&E in accordance with the provisions in National Education Policy-2020 and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2019 (Amended) for classes up to 8th has framed a timeline for the summer and winter zone schools of JKUT from Academic Session 2023-24.

It said that formative assessments have been conducted during the current academic session 2023-24 by the concerned schools of JKUT.

“Formative Assessment from classes I-VI shall be conducted by subject teachers to evaluate the level of preparation and progress of the child throughout the year as per School Based Assessment and Holistic Progress Report (HPC) without disturbing the routine classwork,” JKSCERT said.

It also said that mentoring of students should be done by mentor teachers as per mechanism notified by School Education Department J&K.

26000 smart meter users switch to prepaid mode so far: Chief Engineer KPDCL

‘Process going on, 2nd phase to be started from next month, cabling work being done simultaneously’

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Amid the installation of smart meters across the Valley, the government on Monday said that at least 26000 consumers have switched to prepaid mode so far in the valley.

“The process to switch the smart meters into prepaid mode has already started for those whose smart meters have been installed in the phase-I. We have crossed about 26000 smart meters so far,” Javid Yousuf Dar, Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). He said that the process is going on gradually and all the consumers will have to switch the smart meters into prepaid mode.

Asked when the smart meters installed in the second phase will be switched to prepaid mode, KPDCL Chief Engineer said that at present



the integration process is going and the smart meters will be switched into prepaid mode once the integration process is completed. “It will hopefully be started from next month,” he said.

Earlier in July this year, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had directed over 57,000 smart electricity meter users to switch from postpaid to the prepaid mode to keep receiving electricity. Else, their connections would be cut off.

About installation of smart meters, the KPDCL Chief Engineer, said that the process is going on and will take almost one or two years more to complete.

Amidst the installation of smart meters, the KPDCL Chief Engineer, told KNO that the cabling work is also being done simultaneously. “In many areas, not only in Srinagar but in towns too, the new cabling work has been done and furthermore, the process is still going on,” he added.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING MEGA SURGERY PROJECT IN SOUTH KASHMIR

2000 patients registered for surgical camp

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: The Rotary international is conducting a mega surgical project in South Kashmir with 2000 patients registered for the camp.

As per the details available with News Agency Kashmir News Observer, the surgeries will be performed in different government hospitals of South Kashmir and it will continue till September 13. As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Girish Gune Chairman-Kashmir Mega surgical project said that a Kashmir Mega Surgical Project was held in North Kashmir in four places in Baramulla, Kupwara, Sopore and Ganderbal.

“This Mega Surgical Project was highly successful with the fact that 2500 beneficiaries got operated in nine days. The Government provided all the infrastructure for surgeries including theatres, hospitals etc. Moreover extra paramedical staff, nursing

and theatre assistant staff and local medical consultants & Government Doctors were made available to take care of patients pre & post operatively,” he said.

With the help of a team of 42 Rotary Volunteer Surgeons, operations were performed in specialities of Ophthalmology, General & Laparoscopic Surgery, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, ENT Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology, he said.

“This year, we are conducting a Mega Surgical Project of the Government of Kashmir and Rotary International in South Kashmir from 3rd September to 13th September. The Surgeries will be performed at Government Hospitals in Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian & Kulgam in specialities of Ophthalmology, General & Laparoscopic Surgery, Gynaecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, ENT Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology, Paediatric Surgery and Cancer



Surgery. A team of 32 Rotary Volunteer Surgeons with the help of Local Government Doctors, Paramedical Staff will do these surgeries,” he said. “Almost 2000 patients are registered for this Mega Surgical Camp. We are extremely thankful to the Government of Kashmir for showing this trust in Rotary for this humanitarian service,” he added. Dr. Rajiv Pradhan, Chief Advisor of the club, said that Rotary dis-

tricts started doing large scale surgery projects in Africa in 1997.

“Initially the team consisted of only orthopedic and ophthalmic surgeons, however over the years, we have started doing all types of surgeries including super specialties like spine, brain, plastic surgeries,” he added.

“These days, the team comprises 20-25 surgeons and 7-8 volunteers. Till today, Rotary districts in India have done 47 mega

surgical projects in 18 African countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Madagascar, Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, Cameroon, Gabon etc. The teams have also done projects in Mongolia, Cambodia,” he said.

“Over one lakh free surgeries have been performed in all these projects. The public image of Rotary & India has greatly enhanced in these countries. The projects have established India’s credibility as a giving country. The skills, talent and knowledge of Indian doctors have been hailed in all these countries. In India too, similar large-scale projects have been organized in Orissa, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh and in Kashmir. Over 300 surgeons have participated in these projects,” Dr Rajiv said. He said they have done a similar project in Udhampur and North Kashmir and are ready to serve the people of South Kashmir now.

528 dengue cases reported in J&K this year so far

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Dengue cases are on the rise in Jammu & Kashmir with 528 cases reported this year so far in the Union Territory.

The State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet Rai told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that this year, 528 cases of dengue have been reported in J&K.

He said dengue cases are projected to surge post-monsoon and advised people to take “preemptive” measures to combat the painful mosquito-borne disease in the absence of any vaccine.

Dengue caused by viruses carried by infected mosquitoes has always been a health concern and people need to take precautions to protect themselves from falling prey to the virus, he added.

Meanwhile, the doctors have advised people to use mosquito repellents and wear full-sleeves shirts to save themselves from mosquito bites which they said choose to breed in stagnant water accumulated by water-logging mainly during monsoon.

“The best way to prevent dengue fever is to eliminate pockets of stagnant water that serve as mosquito breeding sites at home, at schools, workplaces and their vicinity, and to avoid mosquito bites,” the doctors advised.

They said the mosquitoes that spread dengue are active during the day. “Cover as much of your body as possible and use mosquito nets if sleeping during the day and spray the nets with insect repellents,” they said.

The most common symptoms, as per doctors, are fever and headache, eye pain (typically behind the eyes), muscle, joint or bone pain, rash, nausea and vomiting.

Anyone having stomach or belly pain, tenderness, vomiting (at least 3 times in 24 hours), bleeding from the nose or gums, vomiting blood, or blood in the stool and feeling tired, restless, or irritable, must consult a doctor, the advisory mentions, adding that the mosquito remains active mostly at dusk and dawn and people must wear clothes that minimise skin exposure to these mosquitoes.

Meanwhile, the officials said that 8,269 dengue cases (the highest number) and 18 deaths were reported in J&K last year.

They said two cases were in 2009, none in 2010, three in 2011, and 16 in 2012. However, 1,837 cases were reported in 2013.

In 2014, four cases were reported, 153 in 2015, 79 in 2016, 488 in 2017, 214 in 2018, 439 in 2019, 53 in 2020, and 1,709 in 2021, the officials said.

Nailing posters on Chinar Trees in Kupwara: A threat to Heritage trees

Dr. Ab Qayoom

UPWARA, SEP 03: (HT) Posters and flexes nailed on Chinar tree trunks in different areas of Kupwara district are not only causing defacement but also damaging the trees, say environmentalists. Locals told HEADLINES TODAY, that the practice is rampant in the different locations like Kulangam, Baripora, Chotipora, Handwara, Sagipora, Unisoo and other areas of district. Senior Citizen’s told that the nails can damage the vascular system of the trees, making them more vulnerable to disease and pests. In severe cases, the nails can even kill the trees. “The practice of nailing posters on Chinar tree trunks is illegal. The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act of 1980 prohibits the cutting, damaging, or destroying of trees without a permit,” said a local environmentalist. “However, the law is rarely enforced, and the practice continues unabated.” The environmentalists have urged the government to take action to stop the practice of



nailing posters on Chinar trees. They have also called on the public to be more responsible and to avoid using nails to attach posters to trees. “The Chinar tree is a symbol of Kashmir’s heritage. We must do everything we can to protect these trees,” said the environmentalist. While talking to Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara She assured that strict action will be taken against those who nail posters on Chinar trees. She has also warned the agencies concerned to remove the posters immediately. The practice of nailing posters on Chinar trees is a serious threat to these trees. It is important to stop this practice and to protect the Chinar trees for future generations. (HT)

Week-long " Bharshtachar Mukht J&K" campaign takes -off in Kupwara

■ HT News Network

Kupwara, Sep 4: The "Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K" campaign was kick started today, with a pledge ceremony which was attended by all the officers and officials of District administration at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex Kupwara.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the Officers/Officials to be responsive in public service delivery and grievances redressal. "It is our duty to listen to the people patiently and dispose- Off all genuine grievances in a time bound manner" the DC said.

She urged upon all the officers to create a Nodal Point of Contact in their respective offices for Coordination with the control room, set up for the purpose, in DC Office.



The DC asked officers to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations and contribute in establishment of corruption free environment in all offices. She emphasised upon the officers to achieve the daily targets set forth by her office for the grievances registered on JK-IGRAM, strictly. She exhorted upon all

officers and officials to make themselves aware of all kinds of corruption and ensure that no one should fall prey to corruption. Meanwhile, similar pledge taking ceremonies were also held in District Offices, Sectoral offices and different institutions across Kupwara district wherein the Officer/officials took pledge to make Kupwara district corruption free.

Special sessions were held In all government offices and institutions with regard to sensitization of employees about creation of corruption free environment.

Special Gramsabhas were held across all Panchayats and Municipal councils of the district by involving PRIs, Councilors, Prabhari Officers, MGN-REGA workers, SHGs, Pani Samitis, and other stakeholders.

Pertinently "Bharstachar Mukht J&K" Week w.e.f 4th Sep. to 10th Sep.2023 is being celebrated across the country with a resolve to make India corruption free and to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of corruption and to raise public awareness regarding corruption, it's causes and gravity.

DC Bandipora inaugurates 'Brashtachar Mukht J&K' Week; administers Anti-Corruption Pledge

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad Monday inaugurated the 'Brashtachar Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Week' in an inaugural ceremony held at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The function was attended by ADDC, Ali Afsar Khan; Nodal Officer Coordination, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; ADC, Umar Shafi; ACP, JD Planning besides all the district and sectoral heads of the district.

It was given out that the week-long program aims to combat corruption and promote transparency in the administration, thereby ensuring a corruption-free Bandipora.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Owais said that the District Administration is committed to eradicate corruption at all levels. He said that online services and e-offices play an important role in achieving the goal of corruption free work culture in the administration, streamlining government processes, and reducing opportunities for corrupt practices.

The DC informed that to make government services

hassle free; there are already 200 plus e-services available in the district.

He said that to make Bandipora corruption-free, the importance of modern technology and digital solutions are recognisable. He said that online services and e-offices not only enhance efficiency but also minimize the chances of corruption.

The DC directed all the departments, especially executive departments, to

timely identify and resolve all the pendencies in their respective departments. He said pendencies lead to time delays, and ultimately, corruption has a scope in such cases. He therefore stressed the timely resolution of pending works.

It was informed that the 'Brashtachar Mukht J&K' Week will feature a series of awareness programs, workshops and interactive sessions to educate government officials and citizens about the detrimental effects of corruption and ways to combat it.

It was given that the week will also highlight the success stories of individuals and departments that have effectively adopted digital solutions to eliminate corruption from their operations.

Pledge Ceremony under Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K celebrations held at Budgam

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 04: A pledge ceremony under week-long Bharshtachar Mukht J&K celebrations was held today at Conference Hall Budgam. The ceremony was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak; Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr Nasir Ahmad and other senior officers and officials of the DC Office Budgam. During the pledge ceremony, the employees vowed to eliminate corruption and promote transparent governance across the district. The week-long Bharshtachar Mukht J&K campaign will culminate on September 10. To join this campaign against corruption, the District Administration Budgam will conduct a series of awareness events across the district with a focus on the promotion of transparent and accountable governance. On the occasion, ADDC Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak stressed upon employees to ensure speedy redressal of public issues besides prompt service delivery through transparent and fair manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my medical assistant marks sheet under roll no: C-II-1159 passed in year February 1983. Now i am applying for duplicate certificate of this from pharmacy council srinagar. If anybody have any objection regarding this he may contact President pharmacy council srinagar within one week from issuance of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Sulaiman Rather
S/o Gh Mohammad Rather
R/o Tilagam Pattan

Digital Services Awareness rally flagged-off by Police and Civil Administration at Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 04: In a remarkable display of commitment to digital empowerment, an awareness rally was today organized by District Administration Budgam in collaboration with School Education department Budgam.

The event, centered on the theme of 'Digital Jammu and Kashmir', was aimed at promoting digital literacy and highlighting the numerous benefits of online services.

The rally, a vibrant showcase of enthusiasm and dedication, was flagged-off by Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam, Al- Tahir Gilani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Nasir; CEO Budgam, Romana Qazi and District Informatics Officer and other officers and officials of the district. Their presence underscored the importance of digital initiatives in fostering progress and inclusivity.

Commencing from the SSP Office in Budgam, the rally witnessed participation from students of various educational institutions coming together early in the morning. Their spirit and fervor for the cause were truly infectious, inspiring to everyone who witnessed the event.

As the rally progressed through the streets of Budgam, participants carried banners, placards, and shared informative pamphlets, spreading awareness about the transformative potential of digital technologies in the region.

The vibrant procession drew the attention of locals and passersby, amplifying the message of digital inclusion.

Pre Lok-Adalat Session held at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 04: In connection with the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled on 9th of September 2023, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal today conducted Pre Lok-Adalat session for Pre-Litigation cases in District Court Ganderbal.

During the Pre Lok-Adalat Session, hundreds of Pre-Litigation cases were taken up for settlement in which almost 50 cases were resolved by Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak. During the Pre-Lok Adalat Session, Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal said that the prime objective of the Lok Adalats is to settle the disputes amicably through compromise so as to save the time and money of the parties and to reduce personal enmity between them. Victim Compensation Cheques were also distributed among the victims by Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal, reflecting its commitment to providing support and justice.

DC Baramulla chairs NCORD meeting at Dak Bungalow

Dr Sehrish emphasises on developing Intelligence Network to Identify Drug-trafficking Hotspots

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 04: In order to discuss the comprehensive strategy to counter the menace of drug abuse in the district besides taking appraisal of the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to control measures, a 10th meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) was today held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar. The meeting evaluated the actions performed



by the respective departments in terms of drug control measures in the district. It also comprehensively discussed the incidences of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug

abuse and status of drug rehabilitation centres in Baramulla district. During the meeting, Dr Sehrish called for zero tolerance against perpetrators of drug abuse in the district and took a detailed appraisal of

implementation of ban on the sale of tobacco within 200 meters radius of all educational institutions across the district.

The DC further said that collective efforts are needed to curb the drug menace and all stakeholders shall have to work in tandem to enhance the rehabilitation of persons involved in drug abuse. Dr Sehrish also exhorted upon the Youth Services and Sports Department to ensure the involvement and engagement of youth clubs in various activities meant to help in eradication of the drug menace.

Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K Week kickstarts in District Pulwama

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 04: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Monday inaugurated week-long Bharshtachar Mukht J&K Week at Town Hall Pulwama.

Addressing the occasion, the DC stressed on highlighting all the interventions made by the Administration for a seamless and transparent system. He said and for this dissemination of the same will be carried out vigorously this entire week throughout the District starting from the District level to the Panchayat level.

Dr Basharat laid emphasis on adoption of confidence building measures



and conveyed that public feedback is an important factor and all the departments shall ensure that the grievances are disposed-off in a proper manner. Digital week and Bharshtachar Mukht Week have a harmonious relationship and Digital Governance is synonymous with Corruption Free Governance, as such all the services

should be delivered within the PSGA timeline, DC added.

Stressing upon the officers that 'Zero Tolerance Against Corruption' is not only ensured in offices but the contact details of all the officers shall be shared so that there is complete eradication of corruption and a Bharshtachar Mukht Pulwama is achieved.

During this week-long programme, events will be held all across the district. Meanwhile on the first day, DC on having a look at the initiatives taken by the Revenue Department directed all the officials to ensure that not only service delivery shall be online but flagging-off pending applications shall be done at the appropriate level.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee

Department of Horticulture (Planning and Marketing) Prichoo Pulwama

Re-Tender Notice/Dasti Quotation

For and on behalf of Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit & Vegetable Market Prichoo Pulwama, fresh sealed tenders/bids accompanied with CDR worth Rs. 12000.00 (Rupees Twelve thousand only) pledged to Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit & Vegetable Market Prichoo Pulwama as earnest money are invited (offline mode) from the interested parties/ persons for outsourcing of Canteen at the specified place in the Administrative Block of Area Marketing Office at Fruit and Vegetable Market Prichoo Pulwama for the period commencing from the date of execution of agreement upto 12-9-2023. The tender forms @Rs10/- can be obtained from the office of undersigned on all working days.

Critical dates table

1.	Publishing date	04/09/2023
2.	Bid submission start date	05/9/2023
3.	Bid submission closing date	12/9/2023
4.	Bid opening date (offline)	12/9/2023
5.	Awarding of contract	12/9/2023

The successful tenderer shall have to enter into an agreement with the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit & Vegetable Mandi Prichoo Pulwama.

The other terms and conditions are as under:

01. The minimum reserve bid is fixed at Rs.1,20,000 (rupees One lakh twenty thousand only).
02. The offer shall be super-scribed as Outsourcing of Canteen of Fruit & Vegetable Market Pulwama.
03. The successful tenderer shall have to execute an agreement with Member Secretary MAC Prichoo Pulwama and deposit the full bid amount on receiving the contract letter and before taking the possession of Canteen.
04. No structure/alteration shall be allowed to be raised/done in the Market premises/Administrative Block by the successful tenderer.
05. The allottee shall utilize only the specified space for running the Canteen.
06. The allottee shall be bound by the labour laws for the time being in force.
07. The allottee shall be liable to pay tax of any kind chargeable under the Income Tax Laws for the time being in force.
08. The personnel engaged by the successful tenderer for running the Canteen shall have to submit their identity proof in the office of MAC Prichoo Pulwama.
09. The successful tenderer shall have to provide his own utensils crockery and other required infrastructure in the canteen. And besides shall be solely responsible for maintaining hygiene in the Canteen.
10. The successful tenderer shall not be allowed to use heater/boiler in the canteen.
11. In case of any dispute between the parties, the matter shall be referred to the Director Horticulture P&M / Chairperson MAC Prichoo Pulwama for arbitration and decision of the Director Horticulture P&M shall be final and binding upon both the parties.
12. The MAC shall not be responsible in case of Strikes/ Curfew during the contract period.

The successful tenderer shall have to charge the customers for different eatables as per the following rates:-

S.No	Name of the Item	Quantity	Rate
01	Tea lipton	Per cup	Rs. 10/=
2	Hot Coffee	Per cup	Rs. 18/=
3	Dip tea/ lemon tea	Per cup	Rs. 12/=
4	Namkeen tea	Per cup	Rs.12/=
5	Cake	1pc.	Rs.12/=
6	Samosa	1pc.	Rs.10/=
7	Kashmiri Roti/ Nan	1Pc	Rs.5/30/=
8	Butter Toast	02pc.	Rs.15/=
9	Maggi	Per plate	Rs.35/=
10	Sheermal	Per piece	Rs.12/=
11	Omelet(02 eggs)	Per plate	Rs.30/=
12	Rice (basmati/Punjabi)	Per plate	Rs.45/35/=
13	Mutton Kanti	Per plate	Rs.110/100gm
14	Chola puri with chatni	Per plate	Rs.40/=
15	Mutton Rista / Gushtaab	Per 2 Pieces	Rs.120/150/=
16	Chicken biryani half/ full	Per Plate	Rs.65/130/=
17	Curd 200gm	Per packet	Rs.As per MRP/=
18	Mix Vegetables	Per plate	Rs.90/=
19	Daal fry	Per Plate	Rs.35/=
20	Rajmash Daal	Per Plate	Rs.35/=
21	Salad	Per plate	Rs.40/=
22	Fried Rice	Per Plate	Rs.95/=

DIPK-8273/23
Dated:04-09-23

Sd/-
Member Secretary
Market Administrative Committee
Prichoo Pulwama.

EDITORIAL

The Vanishing Heritage: Kashmir's Chinar Trees Under Threat

Kashmir, often referred to as 'Paradise on Earth,' among its many treasures, the majestic Chinar tree holds a special place in the hearts of Kashmiris and all who have had the privilege to witness their splendor. Yet, today, these emblematic Chinar trees face an existential crisis as they are ruthlessly felled, endangering not just a species but a crucial part of Kashmir's cultural and natural heritage.

For centuries, Chinar trees have adorned the landscape of Kashmir, their vibrant red and orange leaves casting a mesmerizing spell over the region, especially during the autumn season. These trees are not just aesthetically pleasing; they are intrinsically linked to the region's history and culture. The Chinar tree has been a symbol of endurance, providing shade and shelter to generations of Kashmiris and serving as a backdrop for countless cultural events, celebrations, and gatherings. Sadly, this heritage is under grave threat.

The indiscriminate cutting down of Chinar trees, often to make way for development projects or due to illegal logging, poses a severe threat to Kashmir's ecosystem. Deforestation disrupts the delicate balance of nature, leading to soil erosion, reduced water retention, and an increased risk of natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Furthermore, this loss carries a profound cultural significance. Chinar trees are an integral part of Kashmir's identity, featured prominently in its art, literature, and folklore. The destruction of these living monuments diminishes the region's cultural vibrancy and historical continuity.

It is imperative that immediate action is taken to protect Kashmir's Chinar trees. Stricter regulations and vigilant enforcement are essential to curbing illegal logging and promoting sustainable development practices. Reforestation efforts should be undertaken to ensure the Chinar's survival for future generations.

Kashmir's Chinar trees are not just a testament to the beauty of nature but also a reflection of the resilience and identity of its people. Preserving this heritage should be a collective endeavor, not just for Kashmiris but for all who cherish the natural wonders and cultural diversity of our world. We must act decisively and swiftly to ensure that the legacy of these magnificent trees endures for centuries to come.

PERSONALITY

Shad Ramzan: A Living Legend

His contribution is the greatest Legacy that inspires countless minds

■ [Khursheed Dar](#)

In the enchanting valley of Kashmir, where nature weaves a tapestry of mesmerizing landscapes, cultural richness, and historical significance, the name of Professor Mohammad Ramzan Shah popularly Known by his literary name Shad Ramzan, stands as a beacon of literary brilliance. Born in the picturesque village called Arehpora in Kulgam district of South Kashmir, on April 12, 1956 to an educated family, this literary icon's contribution to Kashmiri language and literature continues to resonate with the hearts and minds of generations, offering a glimpse into the soul of Kashmir and its people.

The recipient of Sahitya Akademi award for his collection of Kashmiri poetry, “Kore Kakud Pushrith Gome”; Shad Ramzan has authored number of books and his research articles have been published in prestigious literary journals of Kashmiri language and literature.

Professor Shad Ramzan's journey into literary horizon of Kashmir began like a delicate bud, gradually unfolding to reveal a plethora of emotions, thoughts, and reflections. His early life was deeply influenced by the social and cultural mosaic of Kashmir, a region renowned for its mysticism and artistic heritage.

Kashmir, often referred to as "Paradise on Earth," has a long history of poetic tradition. The region's breathtaking beauty, interwoven with its tumultuous history, has been a recurring theme in its literature. Professor Shad Ramzan's verses, however, goes beyond the conventional portrayal of scenic beauty. His poetry delves into the complexities of life, love, brotherhood, peace, pain, spirituality, and the socio-cultural milieu of his era.

One of the remarkable aspects of Pro-

fessor Shad Ramzan's poetry is his ability to evoke a deep sense of nostalgia. His verses painted vivid pictures of the changing seasons, the blooming gardens, and the serene lakes of Kashmir. His words carried the fragrance of saffron fields and the melody of traditional music. Through his poetry, he takes his readers on a journey through the narrow lanes of Srinagar, the bustling markets, and the tranquil houseboats that adorn the Dal. That is why, his work has been recognized widely in Kashmir and has earned picturesque titles like Shayer i Maraz, Fakhrei Maraz, Shani Gazal from different literary and cultural forums of Kashmir.

At the core of Professor Shad Ramzan's poetry has a deep spirituality that is synonymous with Kashmir's ethos. Influenced by the rich Sufi tradition that had flourished in the region, his verses often explore the spiritual journey, the search for meaning, and the quest for divine love. If one looks at "Choonth Kulis Tal" (Beneath the apple tree), a long poem in free verse by Professor Shad Ramzaan written in the usual context of the larger theme, fall of man, Professor Shad Ramzan beautifully creates an atmosphere for confluence of eternity and non eternity beneath the same apple tree;

*"Baar Khudaya
Taeth Bagus Manz
Choont Kolus tal
Ker ghachi azlus abdu moel"
(oh God !when will be the confluence of
eternity and non eternity beneath the
apple tree in the garden)*
skillfully employs metaphors and allegorical imagery, infusing his poetry with layers of meaning that resonate with readers of all ages. His ability to blend traditional poetic forms with contemporary ideas adds a fresh perspective to Kashmiri literature. His words reflect the teachings of the sages and saints

who had walked the valleys of Kashmir, imparting wisdom that transcends time and religious boundaries.

Professor Shad Ramzan's poetry is characterized by its profound themes, lyrical expressions, and deep connection to the social, religious and cultural ethos of Kashmir. His verses often explore themes of love, nature, spirituality, and the complexities of human emotions.

In addition to his poetry, Shad Ramzan made significant contributions to Kashmiri prose. He ventured into essay writing and even literary criticism. His master pieces "Ath zulmatas Lal kiyah chhi Tay" and "Sahal Cha Maine Bozun" Shad Ramzan showcase his versatility as a writer. Through his prose works, he addressed contemporary issues, advocated for social reform, and provided insightful commentary on the changing dynamics of Kashmiri society. His writings often reflect his concern for preserving the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir while embracing modernity. Professor Shad Ramzan's dedication to linguistic research greatly impacted the Kashmiri language. He delves into the origins of Kashmiri, its evolution, and its intricate linguistic features. His research helps in documenting and standardizing the language, which was crucial for its preservation in a rapidly changing world. He also championed efforts to develop a modern Kashmiri lexicon, bridging the gap between the language's rich literary history and its relevance in the contemporary context.

One of Professor Shad Ramzan's notable achievements was his role in reviving the traditional Kashmiri "vaakh" tradition. Vaakh, a form of folk poetry, had been fading from public consciousness, but Professor Shad Ramzan's efforts helped rekindle interest in this oral tradition. He collected, compiled, and disseminated vaakhs,

ensuring that the wisdom and cultural expressions contained within them were passed on to future generations. This endeavor not only preserved the linguistic and cultural heritage of Kashmir but also instilled a sense of pride and identity among the people.

Besides poetry and prose, Professor Shad Ramzan's monographs on "Kabir", *"Waza Mahmood"*, *"Wahab Khar"* and "Khazir Malik Safayee" stand as profound pillars of knowledge, illuminating intricate subjects with meticulous research and eloquent prose. Through these monographs, Shad Ramzan sparks intellectual curiosity, leaving an indelible mark on the pursuit of wisdom.

Professor Shad Ramzan is also recipient of national translation award for Anhaar Te Aks, 2009 (Kashmiri rendering of seventeen short stories written in different Indian languages) by Sahitya Academy New Delhi . The work, a lucid and honest rendering, reflects the translator's clear understanding of the content and spirit of the original writing. Besides these, his work has been recognized widely in his own state and he has received prestigious awards like Khilati Harmuk, Khilat Shabaz, Fhakri Maraz, Khilatai Noor, Khilati Moti Lal and Khilati fazil Kashmiri

As the sun sets behind the Himalayan peaks, casting a golden glow over the valley, the words of Professor Shad Ramzan continue to echo through the corridors of time. His poetry, prose and monographs are not just words; they are a living legacy that immortalizes the spirit of Kashmir and its eternal connection to the world of poetry.

The author is a sufi scholar and can be reached at khurdheed.dar33@gmail.com

Advantages of early education for children

■ [Vijay GarG](#)

Psychologists claim that imparting early education to children between the ages of 3 and 5 is highly beneficial for their overall development. Preschools provide toddlers with a positive learning environment so that they can learn the basic life skills required to face the world with confidence. Here are the 13 benefits of imparting early childhood education that gives your toddler a headstart towards a happy and healthy future:

Benefits of pre-primary education

1. Nurtures inquisitiveness

Toddlers are born with an inherent urge to understand the world around them. They have an active imagination and are always eager to discover new things, make new friends, and explore new environments. Early childhood education nurtures this inquisitiveness and imagination of your child so that they can become effective learners.

2. Improves child's concentration

Toddlers are curious and playful by nature; hence, they have a shorter attention span compared to adults. Early childhood education imparted by pre-primary schools helps boost concentration in children. It also encourages them to be good listeners, so that they can follow directions or do tasks on their own or participate actively in group activities.

3. Boosts cognitive skills

Preschools play a key role in strengthening the cognitive skills of young minds. Since toddlers get the opportunity to engage in a variety of practical activities, the fun learning environment motivates them to solve problems, observe things closely, and ask questions to satiate their curiosity.

4. Teaches diversity

The multicultural classroom environment in pre-primary schools teaches toddlers to embrace and respect diversity in cultures and opinions so that they become well-rounded individuals. It helps them understand the fact that every individual is unique in his or her own way.

5. Boosts confidence

Early childhood education encourages your child to be confident in social set-ups. Pre-primary schools appreciate her every big and small achievement and enable her to perceive her talents and capabilities in a positive yet realistic way. This instills a sense of competence in her, thus, boosting her self-confidence and self-esteem.

6. Makes a lifelong learner

Pre-primary education provides your toddlers with a fun environment that instills in them an eagerness to learn. This inspires your child to become a lifelong



learner.

7. Builds team spirit

In order to develop the social competence of your child, pre-primary classrooms use fun ways to encourage toddlers to work in a team. By inculcating team spirit in young minds, pre-primary teachers teach students how to work collaboratively in a group environment to achieve a shared goal. As a result, the child becomes a good listener and learns to respect the opinion of his team members so that the team can function without any disruption.

8. Builds resilience

Pre-primary education encourages your child to become independent and tough in life so that she can deal with greater challenges in a resilient manner. The teachers provide her with a challenging environment so that she can find suitable solutions to problems and face difficulties without losing heart.

9. Enhances social and emotional skills

Preschools train children to become socially and emotionally aware by regulating their behavior and helping them create a personal identity. At the same time, preschools promote social interactions as your child gets the opportunity to develop friendships with her fellow classmates.

10. Prepares for school

Pre-primary education plays a critical role in preparing your child for kindergarten and beyond. Social

readiness and emotional preparedness combined with pre-reading / writing skills and a basic understanding of mathematical concepts help him succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

11. Develops early math skills

Early childhood education promotes numeracy and early math skills in toddlers which later help them solve more complicated mathematical problems in high school.

12. Encourages patience

Pre-primary schools provide your child with ample opportunities to learn the art of patience so that he can face challenging situations in life with persistence and fortitude.

13. Teaches cooperation

Preschools teach your child the valuable skills of cooperation through classroom games, which involve sharing, following instructions, and taking turns. Cooperation is an important life skill that helps her build relationships and get along with others in any situation.

In order to ensure the success of future generations, it is the parents' responsibility to optimize the early years of their children's education. It is the most powerful investment they can make towards ensuring a bright future for themselves.

Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab



HAPPY Teacher's Day

Celebrating Teachers' Day:

Honoring The Guiding Lights Of Tomorrow

"To teach is to touch a life forever." (Jerry Whittle)



■ Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

As we turn the calendar to September 5th each year, we embark on a journey of gratitude and reflection. Teachers' Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the mentors and guides who illuminate our paths, is a time to appreciate the incredible role educators play in shaping the future of society.

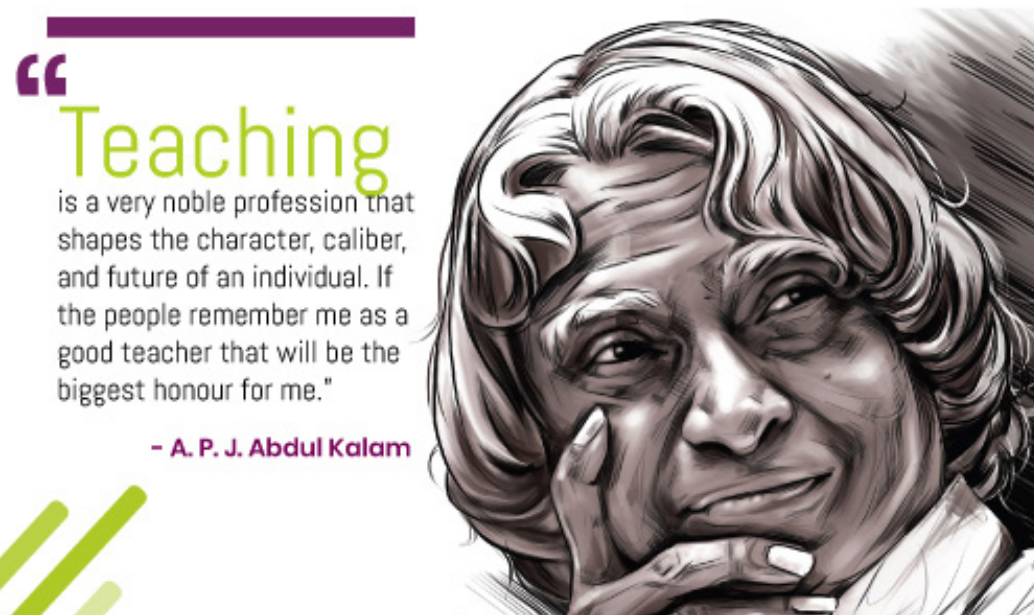
The Teaching Profession in the 21st Century
An effective teacher in the 21st century embodies a unique blend of knowledge, skills, beliefs, values, professional aspirations, and unbridled motivation. They transcend the traditional confines of curriculum and content mastery, possessing a wealth of soft skills that enable them to empower students with advanced knowledge and skills. These educators are beacons of guidance, nurturing their students with the latest research and the seamless integration of cutting-edge educational technologies.

When we reflect on the luminaries who have shaped our world, let us not forget the dedicated teachers who worked tirelessly in the shadows, the quiet heroes of our progress. To nurture students with not just knowledge but also values like environmental awareness, social consciousness, tolerance, altruism, and respect, we must ensure teachers can develop without constraints, equipped with all the resources they need to excel.

The Teacher-Student Relationship and its Sacred Significance

The teaching profession is more than just a job; it creates the foundation for all other professions. Among the various human relationships in the world, one stands as particularly sacred: the teacher-student relationship.

In Islam, the teacher's status is deemed equal to that of biological parents. A teacher is considered the second parent of a student. After parents, it is the teacher who imparts the real meaning of life—how to behave, how to live,



how to differentiate between right and wrong, and more.

A good teacher should possess certain qualities. They should have a pure character and a welcoming demeanor. Effective communication skills, education, and knowledge are essential. Teachers should be role models for their students, diligently revising and reinforcing previous lessons. They should avoid overwhelming students with excessive homework, instead, assessing their performance empathetically. Scolding and corporal punishment should be avoided, with attention given to students' feelings, emotions, and self-esteem. Individualized methods of discipline should be adopted, and special support provided to slow learners. Teachers should also nurture physical and aesthetic development and foster students' character development. Above all, they should use appropriate methods of communication, presenting themselves as role models in words, actions, morals, and intellect.

Teachers and the Modern Age

The teacher can impart others the same knowledge that they themselves have access to. However, the teaching profession is far

from easy; it demands constant hard work, up-to-date knowledge, dedication, passion, ethics, humanity, consciousness, spirituality, and a calm demeanor.

In the present age, moral education is as crucial as secular education because knowledge without moral principles is like a fruitless tree, a futile endeavor. The Quran underscores moral education as a central theme, with numerous verses emphasizing the formation of good character and embodiment of morality.

Knowledge is intrinsically tied to morality. Knowledge pursued solely for personal gain is like poison, lacking in productivity.

Appreciation & Criticism

We often hear about government teachers who struggle with basic tasks, like writing a simple application, betraying the great profession they represent. It is disheartening to witness some teachers who, during the pandemic, remained idle for nearly three years, yet proudly celebrate Teachers' Day, seemingly unaware of the true essence and responsibilities of the teaching profession.

On the other hand, we have seen teachers who dedicatedly fulfilled their duties, even joining

forces with healthcare professionals to combat COVID-19 while continuing to teach online. There are also honorable government teachers who provided free home tuition during the pandemic, significantly contributing to the improvement of education standards in government schools.

To uplift government schools, it is imperative to introduce in-service training courses to equip teachers with modern education, ensuring they can impart cutting-edge knowledge to their students. Regular assessments of teachers' performance, similar to student evaluations, can maintain high standards in government schools. Encouraging government teachers to enroll their own children in government schools would also foster a personal investment in improving these institutions.

A Personal Contribution to Education

Whether in a supporting role behind the scenes or in more direct involvement, I, like many others, contribute to students' education by orchestrating exams, creating assignments, and providing practice papers. We are silent observers to the remarkable dedication of teachers who mold the minds of our budding learners. With a profound sense of pride, we find ourselves deeply engaged in their educational journey, sowing the seeds of knowledge alongside these inspiring educators.

Tailpiece: as we celebrate Teachers' Day, let us recognize the profound impact teachers have on society. They are not only educators but also mentors, shaping the character and future of our youth. It is a day to honor their dedication, inspire change, and pledge our support to empower these guiding lights as they lead us toward a brighter and more enlightened future. "Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together." - Scott Hayden

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun 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. akhoun.aubaid@gmail.com

"Rahulyaan Couldn't Be Launched Or Landed": Rajnath Singh Targets Congress

■ HT News Network

Jaisalmer: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday hit out at the opposition over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's comments on Sanatan Dharma, asking why Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Ashok Gehlot are "silent" on the issue.

Addressing a public meeting in Jaisalmer on the launch of the third round of the BJP's Parivartan Yatra in Rajasthan, he also took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi, saying Chandrayaan successfully landed on the south pole of the Moon but "Rahulyaan" could neither be launched nor landed.

On Udhayanidhi Stalin's comments, Mr Singh said, "I want to ask (Rajasthan Chief Minister) Ashok Gehlot why he does not speak, why Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, (Congress president Mallikarjun) Kharge do not say what is their thinking on Sanatan Dharma."

The DMK has hurt Sanatan Dharma and Congress leaders are "silent" on the issue, the senior BJP leader said.

INDIA bloc members should apologise for the insult to Sanatan Dharma or the country won't forgive them, the Defence Minister said.

The DMK leader should be asked for an explanation over his comments, Mr Singh said and added that "Sanatan Dharma considers the world as a



family and gives the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family)". Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has alleged that Sanatan Dharma is against equality and social justice, and that it should be eradicated.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, also likened Sanatan Dharma to coronavirus, malaria, and dengue fever and said such things should not be opposed but destroyed.

Defence Minister Mr Singh attacked the Congress in Rajasthan, where polls are due later this year, saying the party is trying to gain support in the state by invoking the 'Hindu-Muslim' issue and the 'backward'. Training his guns at the Rajasthan Chief Minister, he said Mr Gehlot is sitting in the driver's seat but someone else is pressing the clutch and someone else the accelerator.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday hit out at the opposition over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's comments on Sanatan Dharma, asking why Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Ashok Gehlot are "silent" on the issue.

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Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, also likened Sanatan Dharma to coronavirus, malaria, and dengue fever and said such things should not be opposed but destroyed.

"INDIA Bloc Must Apologise": Anurag Thakur On DMK Leader's 'Sanatana' Remark

■ HT News Network

Phagwara: Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday slammed DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin for his comments against 'Sanatana Dharma' and asked leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc to tender a public apology.

Describing the INDIA alliance as a "ghamandiya gathbandhan", Mr Thakur accused the bloc of stooping to "politics of polarisation" to derive political mileage and claimed that people have seen through their game plan.

Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has courted controversy after claiming that 'Sanatana Dharma' is against equality and social justice and that it should be eradicated.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, also likened 'Sanatana Dharma' to the



coronavirus, malaria and dengue, and said it should not be opposed but destroyed.

Mr Thakur told reporters after addressing a 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' campaign at Harbanspur village that 'Sanatana Dharma' "was, is and will remain here".

"...you, the ones dreaming to abolish Hindus, (should) be formidably reminded that all those who had nursed such a sinister dream were

reduced to ashes and dust. The friends of the 'ghamandiya gathbandhan' may or may not be there but 'Sanatana' was, is and will remain here," Mr Thakur said.

Hitting out further, Thakur said, "Leaders of the INDIA alliance should tender a public apology to the nation as well as the Hindu community. The Congress and its allies are in a desperate race to malign and demean the Hindus, either by calling them extremists or by their verbal barbs or physical attacks, especially in West Bengal, Bihar and other places."

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"Their objective and mindset is to polarise people with an eye on votes but people will throw them away as they have understood their designs," Mr Thakur added.

Four of a family hacked to death by boozers in TN

Chennai, Sep 4 (UNI) In a shocking incident, four members of a family, including two women, were hacked to death by a four-member gang who were boozing in the backyard of his house at Kallakinaru village near Palladam in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu on Sunday night.

Police said Senthilkumar (47), a functionary of the BJP, confronted a group of people consuming alcohol on the backyard of the land owned by him and asked them to leave.

Enraged by this, one of the drunkard person attacked him with a sickle. Senthilkumar's family members-

-Mohanraj, Rathinambal and Pushpavathi--came to his rescue and the gang did not spare them and they were also brutally hacked to death.

The gang, said to be a group of four people, later fled the scene.

Later, police arrested one of the assailants and a manhunt is on to nab the other three involved in the killings.

All the four died on the spot and their bodies were shifted to Government hospital where a post mortem was done. As tension prevailed in the village, a large number of police personnel drawn from Namakkal, Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts

were posted in Palladam to prevent any untoward incident. Senior police officials, including Superintendents of Police of five districts were camping in the village. The family members of the deceased along with the locals refused to accept the bodies till all the culprits were arrested and staged a protest demonstration in front of the hospital in Palladam. About 25 state-owned TASMAL liquor shops in and around the district were closed following the killings. Some of the political parties, including BJP and AIADMK, also staged a protest demanding the arrest of the killers.

21 families renders homeless as fire gutted nine houses

■ HT News Network

Shimla, Sep 4 (UNI) 21 families belonging to nine houses in Daroti village in Tikkar tehsil of Jubbal Kotkhai assembly constituency in Shimla district were gutted in a massive fire that broke out on Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, Education Minister Rohit Thakur and Deputy Commissioner Shimla Aditya Negi also reached the spot and consoled the affected people.

The fire broke out around 0030 hrs on the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday, and it took seven to eight hours to douse it completely. The villagers also tried to extinguish the fire at their own level. Information was also given to the fire department and the police. The fire department team reached the spot and stopped the fire from reaching other houses. A total of 21 families lived in these nine houses. The fire was so fierce that, within a short time, all the houses were burned. In the preliminary investigation, a short circuit is believed to be the cause of the fire. Property worth two crores reduced to ashes.

An immediate relief of Rs 10 thousand each has been disbursed to the affected families. SDM Rohru Sunny Sharma said that the police and administration teams reached the spot and took stock of the relief work.

Cong demands special session of Maharashtra legislature on Maratha reservation

■ HT News Network

Mumbai, Sep 4 (UNI) Congress' Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar on Monday demanded that a Special Session of the state legislature be convened to discuss and finalise the quota for the Maratha community even as the Maratha groups' agitation continued for the 7th day in Jalna.

Wadettiwar told mediapersons that the state government should convene a special session of the legislature to consider and finalise the Maratha quota permanently. Maratha groups have called for bandh in pockets of Jalna, Aurangabad, Solapur, Pune, Beed and other districts and police made tight security arrangements in all the sensitive areas. Last evening, preliminary efforts by the Maharashtra government to resolve the crisis apparently failed after the agitators refused to call off their hunger strike, demanding quota announcement within 48 hours, and suspension of all the police personnel involved in the caning incident on September 1.

Three bills tabled in Arunachal House

■ HT News Network

Itanagar, Sep 4 (UNI) Three key State Government bills were tabled in the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on the opening day of the four-day monsoon session on Monday. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, also Minister in-charge of Law, Legislative and Justice introduced the 'Arunachal Pradesh Court Fees Bill, 2023' in order to have the state's own legislation on court fees.

Currently, the Court Fees Act, 1870, which is a pre-Independence and pre-Constitution law, is being followed by all courts of Arunachal Pradesh as per the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Act, 1972, since Arunachal Pradesh does not have High Court of its own.

G20 workshop addresses climate change impact, India promotes climate-resilient agriculture

■ HT News Network

Hyderabad, Sep 4 (UNI) Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, on Monday emphasised on the global significance of climate change during the three-day G20 Technical Workshop on Climate-Resilient Agriculture. The event was organised by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare here.

In her address to the media, M. Karandlaje underscored that many countries, particularly those within the G20, are grappling with the tangible effects of climate change. She stressed the critical need for collective efforts to promote climate-resilient agriculture worldwide, reaffirming India's unwavering commitment to ensuring food security both domestically and on the global stage, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Karandlaje highlighted that the G20 event comprised 56 main sessions and an additional 100 side events held throughout India, fostering collaboration among G20



member countries. The main event is slated for September 8, 9, and 10 in New Delhi. The Union Minister emphasized the vital discussions taking place among scientists and researchers regarding climate-resilient agriculture and innovative strategies to adapt to the ever-evolving challenges posed by climate change.

She expressed her appreciation for the enthusiasm exhibited by G20 delegates towards Indian culture, cuisine, and tourism during the event. Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR, emphasized the profound significance of India's G20 presidency and the imperative of global cooperation in addressing climate change. He elaborated on India's

Govt succeeded in winning the trust of women: Yogi

■ HT News Network

Lucknow, Sep 4 (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that the double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh has succeeded in winning the trust of women on the issue of security.

Addressing the 'UP Rising: 10 Years, 10 Changes' event held at a hotel, Yogi Adityanath said that UP has experienced a significant reduction in crime, with not even a single riot occurring in the past six and a half years.

He said, "Today, the state enjoys a secure environment, reinforced by official figures from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) confirming the decline in various crime categories."

The CM said that his government's track record in maintaining law and order in the state played an important role in securing



a resounding two-thirds majority in the 2022 assembly elections. "It is a big achievement, which reflects the increased sense of security in a sizable section of the population of the state today. Today, women can confidently travel alone throughout the state without any fear, signifying the success of our government in gaining the trust of a substantial portion of the population," he said.

Highlighting the significant transformation that UP has undergone since 2017, he said that before

2017, there was a widespread belief that UP faced challenges that adversely impacted both the state and the nation.

Yogi said, "However, over the past six and a half years, our government has successfully changed this perception, both within India and globally. Today, UP no longer carries the burden of negative stereotypes; instead, it is forging ahead on a positive trajectory."

He attributed this remarkable change to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, who, according to him, has given the state a new sense of purpose and direction.

The CM said that before 2014, the perception of India around the world was negative. "No country in the world took India seriously. However, perception underwent a remarkable transformation under the efficient leadership of PM Modi. Nowadays, the world regards India positively and with a sense of seriousness. India, under PM Modi's guidance, plays a constructive role in resolving global disputes and crises," he said.

He further highlighted that today, there is a prevailing sense of confidence across the country, spanning from the north to the south and from the east to the west. "This confidence comes from the belief that decisions made by the country's political leadership are in the best interests of both the people and the nation," he said.

Manipur CM condemns EGI report on crisis, FIR lodged

■ HT News Network

Imphal, Sep 4 (UNI) Manipur government has condemned a report of Editors Guild of India and filed an FIR on the individuals who made the report.

When the people are facing such hardship in Manipur with various government agencies trying to resolve the crisis, some people with vested interests add fuel to the ongoing crisis by giving reports without properly assessing the situation, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said on Monday. Addressing the media at his office, N Biren said, "a report was published by the Editors Guild of India about the Manipur crisis. He questioned the way the report was prepared and asked who influenced it, as no attempt was made to find out the root causes of the crisis. When people are dying and displaced, such a biased report has aggravated the situation in Manipur."

The victims feel that they have been portrayed as aggressors. The government knows the causes of the crisis, yet it is not taking any decision or making any statement as it will be subjudice. He reminded that the Supreme Court had already decided to probe the crisis.

"Who are you who make such a report, how much you know about the complex situation, about the history of Manipur" Chief Minister asked. During such a critical juncture issuing a report and giving verdict when people are suffering is highly condemnable,' he said.

The FIR filed against the four individuals who made the report was necessitated as they poured oil into the burning fire, the Chief Minister said. The Manipur government has all the information about arson and violence that started at 10.30 am on May 3 in Churachandpur district, but no statement has been issued as it will disturb the peace process, and the Supreme Court has decided to investigate the matter.

Russia Open To Talks On Ukraine Grain Deal, Says Putin

■ HT News Network

Moscow: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan met Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday, aiming to persuade him to return to a Ukraine grain export deal that helped ease a global food crisis.

Russia quit the deal in July - a year after it was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey - complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced obstacles and that not enough Ukrainian grain was going to countries in need.

President Putin told President Erdogan they would discuss the Ukraine crisis and that Moscow was open about discussions on the grain deal.

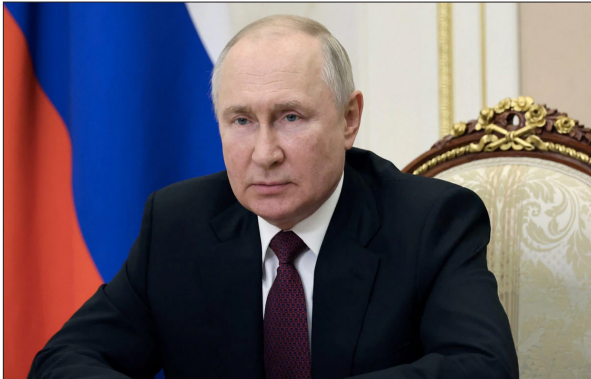
Tayyip Erdogan previously played a significant role in convincing Vladimir Putin to stick with the deal.

"We are cautious, but we hope to achieve success," Mr Erdogan's chief foreign policy and security advisor Akif Cagatay Kilic said in an interview on A Haber television channel.

President Erdogan's top economic policymakers are visiting Russia for meetings on Monday, a Turkish official who requested anonymity told Reuters. Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek and Hafize Gaye Erkan, the central bank governor, will attend meetings.

President Putin told President Erdogan things were moving ahead in the energy sphere with Turkey and Erdogan said talks between the two countries' central banks would be important.

The grain deal was aimed at getting grain from Ukraine to world markets through the Black Sea and easing a global food crisis that the United Nations said had been worsened by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February last year.



Russia and Ukraine are two of the world's key agricultural producers, and major players in the wheat, barley, maize, rapeseed, rapeseed oil, sunflower seed and sunflower oil markets.

Vladimir Putin has said Russia could return to the grain deal if the West fulfils a separate memorandum agreed with the United Nations at the same time to facilitate Russian food and fertiliser exports.

While Russian exports of food and fertilizer are not subject to Western sanctions imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has said restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance have hindered shipments.

Ahead of the Erdogan talks, Ukrainian officials said Russia launched an overnight air attack on one of Ukraine's major grain exporting ports.

Romania denied a Ukrainian statement that Russian drones fell and detonated on the NATO member's territory.

UN Proposal

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday that he had sent Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov "a set of concrete proposals" aimed at reviving the deal.

One of Moscow's main demands is for the Russian Agricultural Bank to be reconnected to the SWIFT international payments system. The EU cut it off in June 2022 as part of sweeping sanctions imposed in response to the invasion.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said on Saturday that things that were implied by the agreement had not been implemented last time, without specifying. In its report on the Erdogan meeting, Russian state television said promises made to Russia must be implemented.

Russia has blockaded Ukrainian Black Sea ports since it invaded its neighbour, and threatened to treat all vessels as potential military targets after pulling out of the UN-backed deal, which allowed Ukraine to export tens of millions of metric tons of produce.

In response, Ukraine announced a "humanitarian corridor" hugging the western Black Sea coast near Romania and Bulgaria. On Sunday a third vessel, the Liberia-flagged Anna-Theresa, exited the Black Sea via Istanbul through the corridor.

Russia has also been discussing a Putin initiative to supply up to 1 million tonnes of Russian grain to Turkey at reduced prices for subsequent processing at Turkish plants and shipping to countries most in need.

For Russia, Tayyip Erdogan is a key broker - and one respected personally by Vladimir Putin. It is their first in-person meeting since October.

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Ahead of Monday's meeting, US wheat prices closed lower on Friday as markets weighed tight global stocks against the prospect of hefty Russian wheat production and efforts to renew the deal.

Typhoon Haikui leaves trail of destruction in Taiwan

■ HT News Network

Taiwan woke up Monday to toppled trees, floods, and persistent rainfall after Typhoon Haikui made landfall on the island and swept overnight across its central mountain ranges.

Haikui initially appeared to leave the island but made a second landfall early on Monday in southwestern Kaohsiung, before it was downgraded to a severe tropical storm. There were no reports of deaths, but destruction was seen in coastal Taitung, a mountainous county in lesser-populated eastern Taiwan where the storm directly hit the day before.

This screen grab taken from AFP TV footage shows a worker clearing fallen trees from a road in the aftermath of Typhoon Haikui in Taitung County on September 4, 2023. — AFP

"I've lived here for so long and I have never seen such wind gusts," said Chen Hai-feng, 55, a village chief in Taitung's Donghe township, where he was with an early-morning work crew removing trees from a road. Although Haikui is considered to be less severe than previous storms, Chen said it felt more powerful.

"It came straight through us."

Further north from Donghe, workers ferried massive blocks to a coastal highway that had partially collapsed from the force of waves slamming into it, hoping that the concrete structures would absorb the impact. Haikui — the first typhoon landfall in Taiwan in four years — forced the evac-



uation of more than 7,000 people across the island, particularly from landslide-prone mountainous regions. Hundreds of flights were cancelled and businesses were closed. More than 217,000 households temporarily lost power through the day. By Monday morning, 58,000 homes still had no electricity, while schools and businesses remained closed in 14 cities as torrential rain bucketed down. A forecaster with Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said Haikui initially appeared to move through the island and out to sea but made a second landfall in Kaohsiung at around 4am (2000 GMT Sunday). During the night "the centre of the typhoon was almost circling" Kaohsiung, but as it moved along the coastline "the structure of the typhoon is damaged by the terrain and gradually weakens", she said. Local news outlets reported that the roads were flooded in Kaohsiung, and uprooted trees were strewn across streets.

Nearly 80 people were injured during the typhoon, according to authorities, though they were minor —

Air strike in Khartoum kills 20 civilians

■ HT News Network

WAD MADANI: Residents of Khartoum awoke on Sunday to artillery and rocket fire, hours after an air strike in the city's south killed at least 20 civilians including two children, according to Sudanese activists.

"The death toll from the aerial bombardment" in southern Khartoum "has risen to 20 civilian fatalities," according to a statement by the neighbourhood's resistance committee. They are among many volunteer groups that used to organise pro-democracy demonstrations and now provide assistance to families caught in the crossfire between the army and paramilitary fighters.

In an earlier statement, they said the victims included two children, and warned that more fatalities went unrecorded, as "their bodies could not be moved to the hospital because they were severely burned or torn to pieces in the bombing".

Since war began between the regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on April 15, around 5,000 people have been killed, according to estimates from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project. The Sudanese Armed Forces control the skies and have carried out regular air strikes while RSF fighters dominate the streets of the capital. Western countries have accused the paramilitaries and allied militias of killings based on ethnicity in the western Darfur region, and the International Criminal Court has opened



a new probe into alleged war crimes.

The army has also been accused of abuses, including a July 8 air strike that killed around two dozen civilians.

More than half of Sudan's 48 million people now require humanitarian aid and protection, and six million are "one step away from famine", according to the United Nations. Despite insecurity, looting and bureaucratic obstacles, the world body says it has been able to get aid to millions of those in need. The war has internally displaced around 3.8 million people, the UN says, while another million have crossed borders into neighbouring countries.

Among the displaced are nearly 2.8 million from Khartoum, according to the International Organisation for Migration. That is more than half the capital's pre-war population of around five million. Those who remain shelter from the crossfire, rationing water and electricity. In Khartoum, resistance committees have been some of the only sources of relief, helping dig survivors out of the rubble of bombed buildings, braving gunfire on the streets to deliver medicine.

UK govt vows action over schools' crumbling concrete scandal

■ HT News Network

LONDON: The UK government vowed on Sunday to "do what it takes" to ensure pupils' safety, after scores of schools were forced to shut buildings made with an aerated concrete prone to collapse.

As many as 104 schools and colleges containing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) have been ordered not to reopen buildings this coming term, in a growing scandal dating back years.

More than 50 other education sites have already been forced to put "mitigations in place" this year due to the presence of RAAC.

Structural experts have warned it is likely to be



found within many other sites, including hospitals, courts and some public housing, and they may also have to close for remedial works.

Over 104 schools and colleges have been ordered not to reopen buildings

RAAC — a cheap, lightweight form of concrete — was widely used in parts

of building construction across Britain from the 1950s to the mid-1990s, with concerns about its risk of collapse emerging since 2018. That year the roof of a primary school in Kent, southeast England, collapsed without warning.

"The government will take action immediately when we know there is any

kind of risk," finance minister Jeremy Hunt told Sky News as he faced a barrage of questions about the issue.

"We will do what it takes to make sure that children are safe," he added, amid a public outcry as millions of pupils return to school from summer holidays.

"We will prioritise spending money to sort out these problems where that needs to happen," Hunt said. Officials had initiated a "huge survey" of every single school in the country to identify where RAAC is in place.

The Sunday Times reported that experts have cautioned that asbestos could be exposed in the schools affected by the crumbling concrete, resulting in many being shut for months.

China calls on US to avoid undermining peace in Asia ahead of Biden's trip to Vietnam

■ HT News Network

Beijing, Sep 4 (UNI) The United States should avoid undermining peace in Asia and refrain from targeting any third party in developing relations with the nations in the region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Monday, days before US President Joe Biden is set to visit Vietnam. In mid-August, Politico reported that Biden is expected to sign a strategic partnership agreement with Vietnam during his visit to Hanoi in mid-September in an effort to bring the two nations closer amid rising tensions with China. "In our view, in handling relations with Asian countries, the US needs to give up the zero sum game and Cold War mentality, observe the basic norms governing international relations, refrain from targeting any third party, and avoid undermining regional peace, stability, development and prosperity", Mao told a daily briefing when asked about Biden's upcoming trip to Vietnam and the possible upgrade of diplomatic ties between the countries. Last week, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said that Biden would visit Hanoi on September 10 to meet with Nguyen Phu Trong, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Finland testing world's first digital travel documents

■ HT News Network

Helsinki, Sep 4 (UNI) The Finnish Border Guard is testing the world's first digital travel documents at Helsinki Airport en route to and from the United Kingdom, the border guard's representative, Mira Alopaeus, told RIA Novosti on Sunday, adding that the digital passports are expected to be as equally reliable as physical documents.

"The digital travel document is currently being tested in real border control for the first time in the world. The Finnish Border Guard invites passengers on Finnair flights to and from the United Kingdom to test the digital travel document at the border control at Helsinki Airport," Alopaeus said.

She also said that only Finnish citizens, who are traveling with the Finnair flag carrier on the London, Manchester and Edinburgh routes, would be able to pass through the border control faster than usual until the end of February 2024.

The Finnish nationals can test the digital passport by registering as a voluntary Digital Travel Credentials (DTC) user and using it at the border control when leaving and/or arriving in Finland, Alopaeus said, adding that it is necessary to inform the Finnish Border Guard about the foreign trip no less than four hours before crossing the country's border.

The DTC Pilot project, led by the Finnish Border Guard, involves Finnish and Croatian partners and will be also tested at Zagreb International Airport this autumn. The European Union is co-funding the project with 2.3 million euros (\$2.5 million).

Violent riots erupt in Sweden overnight after Quran-burning action

■ HT News Network

Stockholm, Sep 4 (UNI) A residential district in the Swedish city of Malmo was rocked by clashes overnight in the wake of a Quran-burning demonstration on Sunday, with protesters pelting police officers with stones and torching cars, the Swedish police said.

The demonstration was organized on Sunday by Iraqi immigrant Salwan Momika, who had previously carried out a string of Quran-burning protests, the Sveriges Television (SVT) broadcaster said, adding that the police detained a man who was trying to disrupt the action. Later that day, a crowd gathered in the street, with protesters putting up posters calling for the Quran burnings to be stopped, and some masked individuals throwing stones at the police. No casualties or arrests have been reported so far, SVT said.

"Police and emergency services have been called to Ramels vag Street [in Rosengard neighborhood]. According to the caller, several cars and a separate waste collection building have been set on fire there," the police said in an incident report issued overnight from Sunday to Monday.

When police officers arrived at the scene, the protesters started pelting them with stones, the report said, adding that the unrest had subsided by 3:20 a.m. local time (01:20 GMT).

Several Quran-burning demonstrations have taken place in Sweden as well as Denmark in recent months. Most Muslim countries have condemned the demonstrations, and some have summoned the Swedish and Danish ambassadors to give them notes of protest. In July, hundreds of Iraqi protesters stormed the Swedish embassy after the burning of the Quran in Stockholm.

Erdogan says grain deal talks with Putin important for world

■ HT News Network

Sochi, Sep 4 (UNI) The negotiations on the Black Sea Grain Initiative between Turkey and Russia are important for the whole world, including the African countries, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

"Of course, the most important thing is the grain issue. The world is also waiting for today's results (of negotiations) ... I think that a step towards the underdeveloped African countries will be very important," Erdogan said.

Sato Kilman elected as new PM of Vanuatu

■ HT News Network

Port Vila, Sep 4 (UNI) Sato Kilman was elected as Vanuatu's new prime minister on Monday after winning 27 votes to 23 in a parliamentary ballot, local media reported.

According to Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation, it will be the fifth time for Kilman, 65, also the leader of the People's Progressive Party to serve as Vanuatu's PM. Kilman most recently took office from June 2015 to February 2016.

The parliament convened at 5:00 p.m. local time on Monday for the election. The meeting came after the Court of Appeal upheld a decision by the Supreme Court that a vote of no confidence against the outgoing PM Ishmael Kalsakau was valid, according to the national broadcaster.

At about 6:25 p.m. local time, the ballot concluded with an absolute majority of 27 votes for Kilman, while Kalsakau got 23. The parliament convened at 5:00 p.m. local time on Monday for the election. The meeting came after the Court of Appeal upheld a decision by the Supreme Court that a vote of no confidence against the outgoing PM Ishmael Kalsakau was valid, according to the national broadcaster.

V.C SKUAST-K inaugurates 03 day National Conference on 'Future of Agriculture & Agriculture for Future Indian Perspective'

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 4: The Vice Chancellor (V.C) SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Nazir Ahmed Ganaie today inaugurated a three-day National Conference on 'Future of Agriculture and Agriculture for Future Indian Perspective' here.

The Conference has been organised by Division of Vegetable Science, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST- Kashmir in collaboration with Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS).

Directors, Deans Heads of Divisions / Research Stations, University Scientists attended the inaugural function. About 200 delegates from across the country are participating

in the three-day National Conference.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in his address, emphasized the critical role of agriculture in shaping India's future, highlighting the need for sustainable practices, technological advancements, and innovation to address the challenges of food security, climate change and rural development.

He said with a commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the conference promises to be a catalyst for transformative change in the agricultural sector, aligning with India's vision for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir also expressed heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Baseerat Afroza, Orga-



nizing Secretary and head division of Vegetable Science, SKUAST-K and her dedicated team for their exceptional efforts in orchestrating a

highly successful National Conference to explore into the pressing theme of the conference, which is the need of the hour.

Earlier, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir Dr. Tariq Hussain Masoodi presented a formal welcome address and emphasized on collective efforts towards envisioning the future of agriculture in India.

He stressed that we should not merely discuss abstract concepts but to formulate concrete strategies and solutions that will shape the future of our agricultural sector. In our discussions over the coming days, we should explore the complicated web of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, he added.

Dr. S. K. Bhatnagar, Founder Chairman of Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS) highlighted the pivotal role that Vegetos Journal has played in disseminating cutting-edge

research papers and fostering innovation within the agricultural community. Over the years, this esteemed publication has been instrumental in shaping the future of agriculture science, serving as inspiration for scholars and researchers dedicated to the betterment of agriculture practices. The Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS) conferred awards upon eminent scientists who have made exceptional contributions in various fields of agriculture.

On this occasion, one book and one abstract book authored by division of vegetable science was released.

Organizing Secretary and head division of Vegetable Science, SKUAST-K presented the vote of thanks

JKEDI starts celebrations of 'Brashtachar Mukht - J&K' Week with IPR Awareness Program

HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 04: To raise understanding and awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Pulwama, today organised a comprehensive awareness program.

This initiative marks the commencement of the 'Brashtachar Mukht - J&K' week, designed to combat corruption and promote transparent and accountable governance within the region.

The program witnessed active participation from students and individuals eager to delve into the intricate world of Intellectual Property Rights. This awareness program aligns seamlessly with the



broader goal of promoting ethical practices and integrity within the administrative and entrepreneurial

domains of Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the inaugural session, Director,

JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat delivered insightful remarks highlighting the importance of this initiative. He emphasized the pivotal role that awareness programs such as these play in nurturing a culture of transparency and accountability. He underscored that an informed understanding of Intellectual Property Rights is not only vital for innovation but also for establishing a robust, corruption-free ecosystem in

J&K. The 'Brashtachar Mukht - J&K' week, initiated with this IPR awareness program by JKEDI, aims to pave the way for a broader movement towards eradicating corruption and promoting ethical governance practices. By empowering individuals with knowledge about IPRs, this endeavor not only nurtures innovation but also strengthens the foundations of a more transparent and accountable society,

Paras in collaboration with CMERA organize ENT and Skull base conference

HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep, KNT: Paras Hospital collaborated with Continuous Medical Education & Research Association (CMERA) Kashmir in organizing the first annual national ENT and Skull base conference cum workshop in the auditorium of the Department of Information in Srinagar.

The conference was inaugurated by the Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather. He congratulated organizers for holding this event and wished that delegates would benefit from this conference and workshop. The conference was attended by delegates across the country including local ENT faculty, Consultants, ENT specialists and postgraduate scholars.

The workshop was conducted by reputed skull base and rhinologist of India, Dr Nishit Shah from Bombay Hospital Mumbai, and Dr Virendra Ghaisas a reputed Rhinoplasty surgeon from Ghaisas Hospital Pune. Dr Vijayendra H from Bangalore conducted advanced ear surgeries and Dr Manmohan Jagade from MG Hospital Mumbai demonstrated the role of threads in facial palsy. Other highlights of the conference include invited talks by guest faculty members, a panel discussion on parathyroid adenomas by local faculty, and poster presentations by Postgraduate and DNB scholars.

Organizers of the event Dr Danish Andrabi, Dr Bilal Ahmed Raja, Dr Imtyaz Majid Qazi, and Dr Shafaqat Islam thanked the guest faculty delegates, JK Medical Council chairman academics Dr M Iqbal for awarding 8 credit hours, hospital staff of Paras Health Srinagar, department of information J&K, sponsors and all volunteers for participating in this hybrid conference. [KNT]

'Bhrastachar Mukht Week' commences at Kulgam DC kick-starts week-long campaign by inaugurating Special camp of Revenue department at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 04: To promote transparent governance, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today kick-started week-long Bhrastachar Mukht J&K campaign in the district by inaugurating Special camp organized by Revenue department Kulgam at new conference hall of mini-secretariat, here.

During the programme, through a power-point presentation participants were briefed about various online services of the revenue department.

Addressing the gathering, DC said that the aim to observe this week-long programme is to eradicate corruption and promote transparent and accountable governance. He said that there are more than 1000 services available online in UT and all services of the revenue depart-



ment are also available online.

This online shift of services has paved the way for transparent, accountable and accessible Government to citizen transactions, where people need not to visit offices physically anymore, and has been cost effective for the people, he added.

The online mode of services has also ensured time-bound issuance of certificates, documents, and other services to the applicants/people and has infused a new vibrancy and accountability in the sys-

tem, stated Dr Bilal.

ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri while speaking on the occasion said that corruption is multidimensional and we need to eliminate all forms of corruption from the system. He said that digitization of revenue records is a revolutionary step. ACR Kulgam during the programme briefed the participants about the online services of the revenue department. He said that all 23 services of the department are available online. Giving a brief ACR added that the revenue department has issued

more than 1.25 lac certificates through online mode and the online services have made the system prompt, accountable and transparent. He also added that Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars in the district shall conduct special camps (village wise) in the district under Bhrastachar Mukht programme with the aim to eradicate corruption, promote transparent and accountable governance and to provide hassle free service delivery to the general public. During these camps, awareness about the online services offered by the Revenue department will be shared, complaints/ Grievances will be considered and disposed-off on land related matters, pending applications, particularly nearing PSGA timeline and Focus on attestation of all pending mutations, issuance of certificates, revenue extracts and demarcations etc will be priority during these camps added ACR.

Pipping Ceremony held at DPHQ Baramulla

HT News Network

Baramulla September 04: At an impressive ceremonial function held at DPHQ Baramulla, a pipping ceremony of recently promoted two Assistant Sub-Inspectors was held.

SSP Baramulla Shri Amod Ashok Nagpure-IPS along with SDPO Pattan Shri Mohd Nawaz-JKPS pinned rank to the newly promoted 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors namely ASI Mohammad Sajid & ASI Ab Rehman of Executive wing of J&K Police at DPHQ Baramulla.

SSP Baramulla congratulated the newly promoted officers and advised them to continue doing work with more enthusiasm, zeal and zest and highest degree of dedication. He emphasized upon them that promotion is not only about upgrading the status but it also adds more responsibilities and challenges in the working team spirit in J&K Police.

The promoted officers pledged to work with the same zeal and enthusiasm in future also and ensured better public services.

Police arrests owner of bakery shop for selling expired bakery goods in Baramulla

HT News Network

Baramulla September 02: To safeguard the health and well-being of the general public, Police have arrested a bakery shop owner involved in selling expired and noxious bakery items to customers in Hyderbeigh area of Baramulla. Yesterday, a credible information was received by Police Post Palhallan that owner of New International Bakers located in Hyderbeigh, Wusaan Khoie area namely Ghulam Hasaan Sofi is allegedly selling expired and noxious bakery items to the general public. Acting swiftly, a police party from Police Post Palhallan raided the said bakery shop & during the operation, a substantial quantity of expired bakery items and cakes were seized. The police team arrested the shop owner & shifted him to police station where he remains in custody.

A case under relevant sections of the law sands registered at Police Station Pattan and investigation has been taken up.

We encourage the public to be cautious while purchasing food items and check for expiry dates and proper labelling. If you come across any suspicious activities or have information regarding criminal conduct, please do not hesitate to contact your local police station. Grammes will be conducted across the district.

DC Ramban discusses allotment of 5 marla land to landless PMAY-G beneficiaries

HT News Network

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Mussarat Islam today chaired a meeting to discuss allotment of 5 marla land to the landless beneficiaries for construction of houses under PMAY-G. Assistant Commissioner Revenue Gias-UI-Haq, SDMs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers attended the meeting. During the meeting, the ACD informed that a total 181 cases are on the waiting list which include 94 in Ramban block and 87 in Batote block. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed for thorough verification of credentials of the beneficiaries as per the guidelines issued by the government, including possession of domicile certificates. It was further informed that as per the guidelines, five Marlas of state land will be allotted to landless PMAY (G) beneficiaries under the waiting list prepared by the Rural Development Department.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass Certificate.... Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact with Principal office of GOVT HIGHER SECANDARY SCHOOL AUTHOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..HALEEMA MAQSOOD
D/O.MOHD MAQSOOD MALIK
R/O ... DULATPORA Distt ...BARAMULLA

Director Agriculture holds interaction with Saffron Farmers at Chandhara Pampore

HT News Network

PAMPORE, SEPTEMBER 04: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today visited saffron growing areas of Pampore and held interactions with the saffron farmers of Chandhara. He also took stock of various interventions by the department in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that the department is committed to the development of the saffron sector. A number of initiatives have already been taken by the Department and a number of other steps are in progress, he further said.

Iqbal said that for the economic development of saffron farmers, the department has endeavoured to ensure that our GI Tagged saffron reaches national and international markets. He assured the concerned farmers of every possible technical support from the department for making saffron crop cultivation a successful venture.

Director Agriculture held detailed



interactions with the saffron farmers of Chandhara area and took feedback regarding the role played by the department. Chief Agriculture officer Pulwama, Mohammad Iqbal Khan; District Agriculture Officer Extension, District Agriculture Officer Inputs, Agriculture Extension Officer Pampore were present on the occasion.

Later, Pledge against corruption under 'Brashtachar Mukht J&K week' was administered by Director Agriculture in presence of Joint Director Agriculture inputs Tabassum Naz to the Officers, officials of Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir.

DLSA Ganderbal organizes Legal Awareness programme on 'Pre-Institution Mediation & Settlement'

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 04: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal today organized Legal Awareness programme on the topic 'Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement, and Benefits of Settlement of cases through ADR' at Conference Hall of District Court Ganderbal.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey and under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The event took place at the conference hall of the District Court Ganderbal which saw the active participation of Judicial Officers, legal professionals, Advocates, Law Students from School of Legal Studies, Department of Law, Central University of Kashmir, litigants, PLVs and General Public.

The purpose of this event was to create awareness and provide an opportunity for the amicable settlement of pending cases prior to the Lok-Adalat, with a



dedicated focus on the efficient and timely resolution of legal disputes.

Chief Judicial Magistrate, Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi who was the guest speaker on the occasion captivated the audience with an eloquent speech centered on the importance of embracing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. He highlighted how ADR can contribute to faster resolution of disputes, lower costs, and reduced stress for the parties involved.

He expressed gratitude towards the DLSA for spearheading this crucial initiative and highlighted the remarkable achievements made in promoting ADR.

Quinoa vs rice: Can the magic seeds reduce sugar craving, body weight and serve as a staple substitute?

Are you worried about overcoming the sugar-induced cravings of rice and wheat? Then you may find a healthier replacement in quinoa, which, with its mild and nutty flavour, is similar to the texture of rice, particularly that of brown rice. Although quinoa is a seed, originally hailing from the diverse landscapes of South America, it can easily masquerade as a grain.

AS A PROTEIN, IT LENDS HEFT

In the realm of nutrition, quinoa stands as a formidable contender, boasting a protein content that eclipses most traditional cereals. The protein concentration in quinoa ranges between 14 per cent and 18 per cent, surpassing rice at eight per cent and even wheat at 14 per cent. What sets quinoa apart is its status as a complete protein source, embodying all nine essential amino acids that our bodies are incapable of producing independently. This remarkable attribute makes quinoa an invaluable addition to diets seeking to enhance protein intake.

FIBRE CONTROLS CHOLESTEROL, BLOOD SUGAR

Furthermore, quinoa distinguishes itself with its carbohydrate composition, containing a modest 69 grams per 100 grams, in contrast to 80 grams per 100 grams in rice. Notably, quinoa offers 14–20 per cent dietary fibre, with approximately one-third, or 30 per cent, being soluble fibres. Soluble fibre has the remarkable ability to form a gel-like substance, which can actively reduce blood cholesterol and blood



glucose levels. Due to its elevated fibre content and lower carbohydrate load relative to grains like rice, quinoa has earned recognition for its health benefits, especially for individuals dealing with diabetes, heart conditions, weight management concerns, or those afflicted with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or Celiac Disease, as it is entirely gluten-free.

It has a low glycemic index and is slow-digesting compared to other grains like rice and wheat. Hence, the release of glucose from these foods into the bloodstream is delayed.

The dietary fibre and protein load increases metabolism, keeps you feeling full longer, stalls random snacking that usually adds empty calories, improves gut

bacteria, all of which can help you lose weight.

HOW MUCH SHOULD ONE EAT FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT?

Calorically speaking, quinoa holds its own, aligning closely with rice at around 370-390 calories per 100 grams. This similarity underscores the importance of portion control, as mindful consumption is key. Nutritionists often recommend one to two servings per meal, which typically translates to 20-40 grams, ensuring that you relish the benefits without overindulging.

Incorporating quinoa into your diet is a

breeze, thanks to its versatility. This exceptional seed can be effortlessly boiled and added to salads, employed to thicken hearty soups, or even transformed into a nourishing breakfast porridge. It serves as a commendable substitute for rice in various recipes, and its small, tender seeds cook swiftly, saving you precious time in the kitchen.

HOW TO INCREASE ABSORPTION OF NUTRIENTS?

However, it's essential to exercise prudence when consuming quinoa due to its natural content of phytic acids and oxalates. These compounds can hinder the absorption of certain vital nutrients, necessitating thorough soaking before cooking. Additionally, raw quinoa is enveloped in saponin, a toxic soap-like substance that can bind with minerals, impeding their absorption. To mitigate these concerns, rinse quinoa meticulously under running water before cooking. The cooking process enhances its digestibility, ensuring your body fully capitalises on the wealth of nutrients quinoa has to offer.

Despite its numerous merits, quinoa possesses a distinctive nutty, mild flavour profile that may not seamlessly integrate into traditional Indian cuisine as a rice substitute. Rather than viewing quinoa as a replacement for rice, it thrives as a complementary addition to our cherished culinary traditions. Incorporating it as a salad or side dish can unlock its true potential, enriching our meals with both flavour and nutrition. Perhaps then a transition will be easier.

NEWS

Celery seeds: Nutritional Value, health benefits, uses and more



In the world of spices and seasonings, celery seeds often remain an underappreciated gem. These tiny seeds pack a big punch, not only enhancing the flavors of dishes but also offering numerous health benefits. In this article, we will explore what celery seeds are, their nutritional value, health benefits, culinary uses, types, how to buy and store them, as well as precautions and potential side effects.

What Are Celery Seeds?

Celery seeds, scientifically known as *Apium graveolens*, are the small, brown seeds extracted from the wild celery plant. While they may resemble the familiar celery stalks, celery seeds possess a much more concentrated flavor, often described as earthy, slightly bitter, and reminiscent of celery, albeit intensified.

Health Benefits

Anti-Inflammatory Properties: Celery seeds contain compounds that may help reduce inflammation in the body.

Blood Pressure Regulation: Some studies suggest that celery seed extract may have a mild diuretic effect, potentially aiding in blood pressure control.

Antioxidant Effects: The seeds are rich in antioxidants, which combat oxidative stress and promote overall health.

Digestive Health: Celery seeds have been traditionally used to alleviate digestive discomfort, such as bloating and gas.

Arthritis Relief: Some people use celery seed supplements to manage the symptoms of arthritis and gout.

Culinary Uses

Celery seeds are a versatile spice with a distinct flavor that compliments various dishes: Seasoning: They are often used as a seasoning in soups, stews, and sauces. Pickling: Celery seeds can add a unique flavor to homemade pickles and relishes.

Salads: A pinch of celery seeds can enhance the taste of coleslaw and potato salad.

Baking: Incorporate them into bread or cracker recipes for an extra layer of flavor.

Types of Celery Seeds

Celery seeds are available in two main types: whole seeds and ground seeds (celery seed powder). Whole seeds are typically used in pickling, while ground seeds are more suitable for seasoning dishes. How to Buy and Store Celery Seeds

When buying celery seeds, opt for those stored in airtight containers to maintain freshness. Store them in a cool, dark place away from direct sunlight and moisture. Properly stored, celery seeds can maintain their flavor for up to two years.

Gut and hormonal health: Unveiling the role of good nutrition

In the intricate dance of human health, two vital players often go hand in hand: the gut and hormones. These two systems, seemingly unrelated, wield remarkable influence over each other, creating a delicate balance that is crucial for overall well-being. The key to maintaining this harmonious relationship lies in good nutrition, a cornerstone of health that is deeply ingrained in the Indian diet.

The Gut-Hormone Connection

At first glance, the gut and hormones may appear to operate independently. However, beneath the surface, they share an intricate connection that affects numerous aspects of health, from digestion to mood regulation. The gut, often referred to as the "second brain," is home to a vast community of microbes known as the gut microbiota. These microorganisms play a pivotal role in digesting food, absorbing nutrients, and even influencing mood and mental health. Hormones, on the other hand, act as messengers in the body, regulating a wide range of physiological processes, including metabolism, growth, and reproduction. The endocrine system, responsible for hormone production and



regulation, is closely intertwined with gut health. An imbalance in gut microbiota can lead to disruptions in hormonal signalling, potentially contributing to issues like insulin resistance, weight gain, and even hormonal disorders.

The Role of Nutrition

Enter the hero of our story: good nutrition. A well-balanced diet provides the building blocks for a healthy gut and supports hormonal equilibrium. In the context of the Indian diet, which is rich in diverse flavours and culinary traditions, the potential for nurturing gut and hormonal health is vast.

Fibre: A Gut-Healthy Hero

Fibre, often hailed as a gut-friendly

nutrient, plays a crucial role in maintaining gut health and supporting hormonal balance. Traditional Indian foods, such as lentils, chickpeas, and whole grains, are abundant sources of fibre. Fibre acts as a prebiotic, nourishing the beneficial gut bacteria and promoting their growth. This, in turn, enhances gut function, aids in nutrient absorption, and contributes to a healthier hormonal environment.

Probiotics and Fermented Foods

Indian cuisine boasts an array of fermented foods, including yoghurt, buttermilk (chaas), and various pickles. These foods are rich in probiotics, the "good" bacteria that foster gut health. Probiotics help maintain a diverse and balanced gut microbiota, which has been linked to improved hormonal regulation. The consumption of probiotic-rich Indian dishes supports both gut and hormonal well-being.

Spices and Phytonutrients

Spices are not just culinary delights in Indian cuisine; they also offer a treasure trove of health benefits. Turmeric, for example, contains curcumin, a potent

anti-inflammatory compound that may support gut health and help regulate hormones. Fenugreek (methi) seeds, commonly used in Indian dishes, have been shown to have positive effects on insulin sensitivity, an important factor in hormonal health.

Balancing Blood Sugar

The Indian diet, with its emphasis on complex carbohydrates and a variety of spices, contributes to stable blood sugar levels. This is of paramount importance for hormonal health, particularly in preventing insulin resistance. Foods like whole grains, legumes, and vegetables release glucose gradually into the bloodstream, avoiding rapid spikes and crashes in blood sugar that can disrupt hormonal balance.

Mindful Eating Practices

Traditional Indian eating practices encourage mindful consumption, which has far-reaching effects on gut and hormonal health. Eating slowly, savouring flavours, and practising portion control can support healthy digestion and aid in weight management—a crucial factor in hormonal regulation.

How much screen time is too much for children

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), while children under one year of age should not be exposed to any devices like mobile phones and laptops, screen time for children from one to five years should not exceed one hour in a day.

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics recommends that children below two years of age should not be exposed to any type of screen, whereas exposure should be limited to a maximum of one hour of supervised screen time per day for children in the 2-5 years age group, and less than two hours per day for children in the five to ten years age group.

According to child psychologists, exposure to gadgets at a young age can lead to serious developmental issues, both cognitive and emotional, in children.

"The use of mobile phones, especially in the first six years of a child's life, actually affects brain development. A lot of health issues might not show up immediately but later in life," Charan Teja Koganti, neuro-psychiatrist at the KIMS Hospital, Kondapur, Andhra Pradesh, said.

Dr. Koganti cautioned that there should be zero exposure to gadgets, particularly up to two years of age.

Older children, on the other hand, are often required to study online, as was seen during the COVID pandemic.

ic. Many experts argue that children cannot be isolated from the Internet and a safe level of exposure is beneficial.



cial for the development of cognitive skills in the 6-14 years age group.

However, there has to be clear demarcation between time for online studies, and gaming and social media.

"For 6-14 years, the maximum screen time should be six hours per day, according to the WHO, but only if a child has online education. Otherwise, the preferred time is two hours," Dr. Koganti said.

'Healthy screen use'

"We have to clearly differentiate between problematic screen use and healthy screen use," Yatan Balhara, child psychiatrist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said.

War games, for example, can lead to aggression and poor impulse con-

trol. Social media can make children dependent on validation. They could find it challenging to develop friendships in the physical world or plan life in a physical space. The use of Internet and mobile devices also exposes them to substance abuse and pornographic content.

Watching and playing games or spending time on social media could lead to addiction, but for online classes and activity tutorials, this should not be a problem, although it could lead to some physical health issues like obesity and myopia.

Experts, however, agree that it is very difficult to create compartments as screen time is not a uniform concept.

Controlled access

Many parents are depending on tools provided within screen-based gadgets to control what their children can access. Mobile phones have for a long time had such tools. For instance, the iPhone has a 'Content and Screen Time' setting that can limit children's screen time, and select which apps are subject to time limits; Apple also allows parents to select the 'Limit Adult Websites' option to restrict access to mature content. These limits, which exist on phones using Google's Android operating system as well, rely on parents setting a PIN that only they know.

: These 7 Spices Can Help Boost Metabolism & Promote Weight Loss

Spices are aromatic substances derived from the seeds, fruits, bark, roots, or other parts of plants. They are mainly used to flavour or season food and beverages, enhancing their taste and aroma. While spices are not a direct source of significant nutrients, many of them possess bioactive compounds that have potential health benefits.

Some spices contain antioxidants, which can help protect against cell damage caused by free radicals. Regarding weight loss, spices can indirectly support healthy weight management. They can enhance the flavour and smell of low-calorie dishes, making them more enjoyable and satisfying.

However, it is important to note that spices alone cannot cause significant weight loss; a balanced diet and regular exercise are essential for achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. Regardless, adding certain spices to your diet might be beneficial for your health. Keep reading as we share a list of spices that



can promote weight loss.

1. Cayenne pepper

The compound called capsaicin present in cayenne pepper can help increase metabolism by boosting the production of heat in the body, a process known as thermogenesis. This increased heat production can lead to an increase in calorie burning and promoting weight loss.

2. Cinnamon

Cinnamon can help regulate blood sugar levels, which plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy metabolism. By controlling blood sugar, cinnamon can help prevent insulin spikes and crashes, which can contribute to weight gain. Stable blood sugar levels can also reduce cravings

for sugary foods, aiding in weight loss.

3. Ginger

Ginger contains compounds that have thermogenic effects, meaning they can increase body temperature and metabolic rate. This can result in higher calorie burning and improved weight loss. Additionally, ginger has been shown to suppress appetite and reduce inflammation, which can indirectly contribute to weight loss efforts.

4. Turmeric

The active compound in turmeric, called curcumin, has been found to have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties that may help boost metabolism. Curcumin can

increase the production of heat in the body, enhance fat burning, and regulate blood sugar levels, all of which can support weight loss.

5. Black pepper

Black pepper contains a compound called piperine, which has been shown to have thermogenic properties similar to capsaicin. Consuming black pepper can increase the metabolic rate and enhance the absorption of other nutrients, potentially aiding in weight loss.

6. Mustard seeds

Mustard seeds are rich in an enzyme called myrosinase, which can help increase metabolic rate and enhance calorie burning. Additionally, mustard seeds are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a great addition to a weight loss diet.

7. Cardamom

Cardamom is known to have thermogenic properties that can help boost metabolism and enhance fat burning.



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