

Jammu & Kashmir Update

VOLUME VI, NO. 7, JULY, 2014

"Great minds have purpose ; others have wishes"

– Washington Irving

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Thought of the Month:

Our attitude, not our aptitude,
determines Our altitude-

Zig Ziglar

From Editors desk

JAMMU and Kashmir Update is a unique initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs to showcase the positive developments taking place in the State. The ambit of the magazine covers all the three regions of the state with focus on the achievements of people.

To make it participatory, the magazine invites success stories/ unique achievements, along with photographs in the field of sports, adventure sports, studies, business, art, culture, positive welfare initiatives, social change, religious harmony, education including pieces of art like drawings, cartoons, poems, short stories (not more than 150 words) or jokes on post Box No. 30, New Delhi, GPO, New Delhi- 110001. Selected ones will be published in J&K Update.

Smile



- A- Who has seen maximum ups and downs ("Uttaar chadaav") in life?
- B- Can't say.
- A- A lift (elevator) attendant

Heritage Artists pay tribute to Sufi singers at Srinagar musical event



The Kashmir Music Club (KMC) in collaboration with Radio Kashmir recently organised a musical event in Srinagar to pay tribute to legendary Sufi musicians.

The event honoured great Kashmiri Sufi artists like Ghulam Ahmad Sofi, Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, Ghulam Qadir Langoo, Vijay Kumar Malla and Padma Shri awardee Gulam Ahmad Saznawaz. These artists were instrumental in promoting Sufi music in Kashmir.

Several Kashmiri artists, including poets, writers and singers entertained the audience and educated them about Sufi music.

"The programme has been organised to pay tribute to legendary Sufi musicians. It is a very good step to promote culture of music to the new generations," said singer and event organiser Waheed Jeelani.

The artists performed light, folk, classical and Sufi music and left audience mesmerised. People said they enjoyed the evening of soothing music.

"The response from the people has been good. Kashmiri music & respect for all is part of our culture. So, naturally the people here are always interested in such events" said singer Manzoor Ishbari.

UDAAN'S FLIGHT AND FEEDBACK

Based on the recommendation of expert group on job plan for J&K, constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. C Rangarajan, the Scheme Special Industry initiative for J&K "UDAAN" has been launched with the target to improve skill and enhance employability of 40,000 graduates from the State of J&K. The Scheme is being implemented in PPP Mode. Implementing agency is National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

Status of Implementation

UDAAN MILESTONES	Cumulative programme
Corporates successfully partnered with Udaan	49
Commitment for 5 years	62,183
Youth have joined Udaan training programmes	4,607
Candidate completed Training	1957
Candidate offered Job	1151
Candidates undergoing Udaan training programmes	2,396

As on June 15, 2014

Feedback from UDAAN Trainees



Qaiser Naaz from Kashmir feels that his memorable journey "YES UDAAN" started on Jan 14, 2013 which changed his personality, knowledge and working skills and gave him everything that he required to be a professional banker. According to him, the programme design coupled with on the job training is really great.



Gurpreet Singh from Ladakh feels that training under UDAAN has been a fantastic experience and he learnt several interesting concepts. According to him, the board and lodging arrangements during training are excellent. He sends the message to the youth of J&K to undergo such an experience.



Ms Sonia from Jammu says she learnt so much in training under UDAAN and improved her communication skills. She gained confidence to prove herself and desired that every student in J&K should get the opportunity to undergo such an experience.

Selection Drive Schedule for Udaan Project in July, 2014

Udaan Partners Shristi, Rooman, ONGC, Apollo Skills, Renault Nissan, 247, Accenture, Srei-e-Sehej, CMC and Learning Links intend to visit J&K in the month of July. For more details please visit www.nsdcudaan.com

PISCI CULTURE

Attractive incentives provide boost to trout farming in valley

THE Kashmir Valley is famous for its natural beauty. Its water springs and streams not only reflect the splendour of the region, but also provide jobs to many.

Trout fish farming is fast emerging as a popular means of employment generation for locals with the provision of subsidies and sound advice from the state authorities. At present, some 400 trout fish farms are functional in Srinagar, Anantnag and the newly formed Ganderbal District. Assistant Director (Fisheries), Gulam Jeelani, said trout farms are fast



becoming a profitable, and hence, a popular means of livelihood.

“This is a hundred percent subsidy venture, though a detailed committee discusses the feasibility of this (trout farming). We only sanction it (trout farming) when we (trout farming committee) find it to be a feasible option. We have seen positive results in each and every district which is very encouraging. We have also seen that this has become a means to generate employment,” said Jeelani.

The Department of Fisheries is providing all types of incentives to farmers under the centrally-sponsored schemes, including the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Rashtriya Kissan Vikas Yojna (RKVY).

Farm experts regularly visit trout farms and provide guidance to farmers. Under the centrally-sponsored schemes, a farmer gets Rs. 3 lakh to construct a trout farm. After one year of his farm’s success, the farmer gets other incentives like free nets and feed for the fish.



“This is a very good platform that we have been provided with. We have made money in a good way by working hard on the fishery farm and through the encouragement of the committee. They even come and visit us ten to fifteen times a month,” said, a farmer, Nazir Ahmed.

TRAVEL

Scenic Dal Lake set for facelift to lure tourists

Dal Lake is Srinagar’s jewel, a sight high on tourists’ itineraries. Covering an area of 18 square kilometers, the lake is part of a natural wetland, which includes floating gardens. The floating gardens, known as ‘Rad’ in Kashmiri language, are famous for the lotus flowers that blossom during the months of July and August.

Dal Lake is lined by gardens and parks built in the Mughal era .

As the massive snowfall and rainfall in the winter season had caused damage to many jetties this year where tourists usually hang out for a pleasing and peaceful time, the authorities are restoring many picturesque view points of the Dal Lake.

“The condition of a jetty had deteriorated and was in a state of disrepair. Since this is a prominent viewpoint at the lake, people were demanding that it should be renovated. So, we decided to renovate it. We have



done similar restoration in other places as well” said Rupin Kumar, executive engineer of the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority.

The boat rowers have also welcomed the restoration of the jetty in the lake as it would attract a larger number of tourists to the state. “Yes, the work in progress is correct. Tourists come here and enjoy and take pictures at this point. Even the boat rowers earn a lot from these points. They were badly damaged. It is a nice initiative undertaken by the government to renovate them,” said a boat rower, Mohammad Yusuf.

Jammu and Kashmir is considered as one of the best tourism destination in the country with the hospitality of the Valley well-known that adds to the popularity of the tourism sector.

Kashmir, once dubbed the Switzerland of the east was heaven for skiers, honeymooners and film-makers, who were drawn to its soaring peaks, fruit orchards and timber houseboats on the Dal Lake in Srinagar.

DEVELOPMENT

First tunnel for Kishanganga Hydroelectric Power Project completed

History was recently made with the successful completion of the first tunnel, constructed by Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), in Himalayan terrain for the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir.

The work for the 14.75 km tunnel was completed well ahead of schedule. The Government of India has cleared the Rs. 2726 crore project from the Indus Waters Treaty. The 330 MW Kishanganga Hydroelectric Power Project is located on the River Kishanganga, a tributary of the River Jhelum in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora District.



Executive Director (Projects), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), J. K. Sharma, said the maiden drilling operation had exceeded everyone's expectations. "TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) has never been used in the Himalayas. It was used in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. We have made progress beyond our set targets. Our aim was to drill 300 metres in a month. However, we averaged 400 metres a month. We have even set the record at 815 metres of drilling in a month, the longest in India," said Sharma. The success of the TBM tunneling has given confidence to the concerned authorities for future infrastructure projects in the state

The project is being executed by Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) in a joint venture with a



German company for NHPC. The project has a 23.65-km-long head race tunnel to carry the water from the dam to the powerhouse.

"We are working with 330 megawatts and three machines. We are excavating at a very fast pace and I would like to congratulate all the people who are involved in this project," added Sharma.

Indian Railways complete Udhampur-Katra rail link

Senior officials of the Northern Railways conducted a trial run on the newly constructed Udhampur-Katra railway line. Built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,050 crore, the route consists of seven tunnels and 30 small and big bridges. The 53-km-long Jammu-Udhampur railway line was already operational and once the 25-km stretch between Udhampur and Katra becomes operational, it will enable pilgrims to the Vaishno Devi shrine to travel directly to the base camp at Katra.



An estimated 10 million devotees pay obeisance at the Vaishno Devi shrine every year.

"By facilitating lakhs of pilgrims who intend to pay obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, the direct train service will be the biggest-ever achievement of the Northern Railway," said Pradeep Kumar, Northern Railway General Manager.



The construction of Udhampur-Katra railway line was an extremely challenging project. The tallest bridge on the way is 85m high and the longest tunnel is 3.15km-long. To begin with, two trains – Delhi-Katra Express and Kalka-Katra Express – will run on the section.

Football catches the fancy of youth in Jammu and Kashmir

THE Jammu and Kashmir Government is committed to promoting sports and sporting activities among youth of the state. Several initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen sports infrastructure in the region, so that talented youth have all facilities required to hone their skills to compete with the best at the national and international level.

Many major sports events and competitive tournaments have also been organized to provide them with greater exposure. In an effort to encourage young soccer players, the J&K Football Association (JKFA) recently held the Kashmir Invitational Football Cup tournament at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. The aim was to encourage youth of the Valley to play the sport and instill a spirit of competition in them. A large number of soccer lovers thronged the Bakshi Stadium to watch the matches.

A total of six teams participated in this year's tournament, out of which three were from Jammu & Kashmir. The teams that came from outside the

valley included the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Air India and State Bank of Travancore. The tournament was organised by Jammu



and Kashmir Football Association in collaboration with the State Sports Council.

"You already know that today's generation always wants something new. This is our effort to show Kashmiri youth how football is played outside the province. This is why we have called teams from outside so that the youth can show their enthusiasm towards the sport and the spirit of competition can be instilled in them," said president, District Football Association, Fayaz Ahmad.

The players from outside the state were mesmerised with Valley's beauty and believed that Kashmir requires a professional team of its own so that more matches could be held in the state. "Besides the infrastructure, it is important for Kashmir to have a professional team. That way, players and academies from outside the state will come here. The young generation will be motivated to play the game as they try to emulate the popular players they watch," said a player, Anees Ahmad.

The budding players from Jammu and Kashmir have an opportunity to hone their skills in Football and register a place in the national and international team.



YOUTH CORNER

THE educated, but unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir are adopting innovative ways to be self-reliant.

In Srinagar, many have joined the bandwagon of the new ventures that promote the popular art and craft of the state through online entrepreneurship. Numerous businesses have opened shop, especially those dealing with the unique art and craft of the region that promote their products through information technology and e-governance.

An entrepreneur, Zahoor Ahmad, said that the new ventures not only generate employment, but also brand the exquisite art and craft of the Valley. "Besides giving the job opportunities to lots of young people, entrepreneurship ventures will also brand our Jammu & Kashmir. So far we have been pursuing only MBBS, engineering and government jobs," said Ahmad.

Pashmina Shawls, embroidered woolen suits, dry fruits, saffron and beauty and health



products – the specialty of Valley is now available online.

Youth in the region believe that entrepreneurship is more profitable and a safer option since the public sector is now saturated and job opportunities rarely open up.

Burgeoning entrepreneurs like Muheet Mehraj feel that for this field to grow, infrastructure needs immense improvement and that can happen only when the government pitches in.

"I think institutions like EDI (Entrepreneurship Development Institute) and Department of Industry & Commerce are doing a good job because a lot of entrepreneurs have come up in the recent past. If government helps in some subsidized schemes, helping with some seed capital to some initial investors and also the entrepreneurs, then we would have many more initiatives and success stories," said Mehraj



DO YOU KNOW

- The country where golf was first played is Scotland.
- The colour of a Star indicates its temperature.
- Cricketer Wasim Jaffer did surpass Amol Muzumdar to become highest run scorer in Ranji Trophy

THE MONTH GONE BY

J&K youth continue to shine in civil services examination

THE representation of Jammu and Kashmir in the Union Civil Services appears to be increasing as ten candidates from the state cracked the prestigious examination this year. Six candidates from Jammu region and four from the Valley figure in the list of successful candidates. Thirty-three-year-old Abid Sadiq Bhat, a resident of Srinagar city, is the highest-ranked qualifier from the state, standing 27th. The UPSC has attracted a large number of youth from the state after Shah Faisal, hailing from remote Kupwara District, became the first from the state to top the examination in 2009.

Defence minister reviews security situation in J&K

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley reviewed the security situation in the state with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, senior army officers, the police and the bureaucracy in the wake of cease-fire violations from across the border. During his two-day visit to Srinagar, Jaitley said security personnel are capable enough to repudiate any attempt by inimical forces which intend to foment trouble on Indian soil. Jaitley also discussed matters relating to the development of Jammu and Kashmir with the Chief Minister.

Pervez becomes first J&K cricketer to represent India

Off-spinner Parvez Rasool became the first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to represent India in a one-day international when he took the field against Bangladesh in the series opener in Mirpur. The 25-year-old, who hails from the town of Bijbehara in Anantnag District, was first selected for the Indian team for the 2013 tour of Zimbabwe, but could not make the playing XI on that trip. He was also the first cricketer from the

state to get an IPL contract when he signed up for the now defunct Pune Warriors. He turned out for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 7.

Financial literacy camps held

With a view to making people more aware about banking services and basic financial management, the J&K Bank conducted various financial literacy camps in Poonch, Budgam and Kupwara Districts. In Poonch, the bank's FLCC Center organized a camp at village Bhatadurian of Block Balakote that witnessed the participation of a cross section of society. Another such camp was conducted at Government Higher Secondary Institute (Boys), Surankote, which was presided over by the Principal of the school and was attended by the students and staff of the school.

J&K bank opens business unit, ATMs

Reaching out to the people living in far off rural areas with world class banking services, the J&K Bank opened a business unit at village Imoh in Anantnag District. The people of the area now avail various deposit and loan schemes, tailored for farmers, apple growers, unemployed educated youth and people engaged in different business activities of trade and services. Meanwhile, the bank commissioned five more ATMs, four in Anantnag District and one in Shopian.

Mughal Road reopens for vehicular traffic

Daily commuters and businessmen rejoiced as the Mughal Road reopened for vehicular traffic, increasing revenues for shopkeepers and roadside hawkers. The road, which connects Poonch District with Srinagar city passes through mountainous terrain and remains shut for over six months due to heavy snowfall. The Mughal Road reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar connecting small towns and villages of Poonch Districts.

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