Jammu & Kashmir Update

Two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

Mark Twain

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The month that was
Thought of the month:
You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of shore.

Christopher Columbus

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 achievements of the 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, GPO, New Delhi-110001. Selected ones will be published in J&K update.

Culture
Glimpse of Gojri folk music in J & K

The Gujjar tribes in J&K, mostly in Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu division and in other districts of Kashmir valley, play musical instruments which are part of their nomadic practice. In their musical practices they have their unique traditions. They hold distinct composition and tunes, which separate the Gojri music from Kashmiri, Dogri and Punjabi music in the state. The tradition of music and singing has been continuing for long among the Gujjars of the state.

The main folk instruments used by Gujjars are mainly made from wood, animal skin, clay metal or other material. Their main musical instrument is called Banjli or flute.

On occasions of festivity, marriages and Melas, singers and flute players are generally asked by elders to display their skills, while ‘bait bazi’ (reciting poetry) continues for hours. Banjli is known to be perhaps the only permanent companion of lonely herdsman grazing his flocks. Its melodious tune not only keeps the player engrossed, but also converts the entire surroundings on meadows and pastures infatuating and romantic.

Besides Banjli, they have other musical instruments such as Alghojo, Yaktaro, and Dhool—all made of wood, Bisili and Ghodoli, both made of clay, Chhung (made of iron), Sharnai (known as wind instrument), Chimtoo (kitchen tool) and Saargi (made of wood and animal skin).

Smile

Doctor-Why are you trying so hard to wake up the patient who is fast asleep?
Patient’s father- Because otherwise, the right time for the dose will be missed. I have to give him a sleeping tablet.
**DEVELOPMENT**

**UDAAN’S FLIGHT AND FEEDBACK**

**NSDC Recruitment Drives in districts of Jammu and Kashmir in May, 2015.**

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the Ministry of Home Affairs undertook a special recruitment drive in areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Over 10 corporate from across India visited district Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam etc. for recruitment drives in May, 2015. The corporate from various sectors including Finance, Human Resource, Construction, Automation and Information Technology & IT Enabled Services recruited fresh talent from these districts of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 700 selections were made over a period of twelve days.

These drives are a part of series of mega selection drives being conducted in the State to scout fresh talent from the State. Eighteen drives have already been conducted in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir which has shown tremendous response from the students.

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<td>Srinagar</td>
<td>11th – 12th May</td>
<td>Amar Singh College, Srinagar</td>
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<td>Anantnag</td>
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<td>Baramulla</td>
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<td>Kulgam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Pulwama</td>
<td>27th – 28th May</td>
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**Feedback**

1. I was selected as Brand Ambassador of Bajaj GIC Ltd, winning Face of BAGIC contest.
2. Qualified in “Young Leaders Programme”. I consider myself fortunate enough to be one among three candidates selected across India wherein the participants are having an all round development and hands on experience in different departments, and are personally mentored by the CEO to perform challenging tasks.
3. I became a part of elite advisory panel involved in new product development initiatives.

Credit goes to ‘‘ Udaan Project “ for giving me a platform to work and get associated with esteemed Bajaj Allianz GIC Ltd. It has altogether been a journey full of learning and a life changing experience.
People in Kulgam district got advanced medical facilities

People in Kulgam district are now availing advanced medical facilities at the district hospital. The new building of the hospital is equipped with MRI, X-ray and blood testing facilities.

With the help from the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the state government is trying hard to give a boost to the health sector in the districts. Infrastructure of District Hospital has improved under this mission, making access to critical treatments easier. The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Muhammad Shafi, said that patients now need not go to different hospitals for treatment and different surgeries, including kidney surgery, were now performed in the District Hospital. Last year, hair transplantation was also carried out here. Tertiary treatments and neurological diagnosis are also carried out in this hospital.

Tourism and travel delegates from various states attended the Travel Mart held in the state for the first time since 1988. Representatives of several state tourism departments said they are collaborating with Jammu and Kashmir tourism department to offer new packages to tourists and travellers.

Senior tourism officer from Gujarat Tourism, K. L. Anthony said that one achievement of such forums will be that several international buyers and sellers will come here, which will boosts tourism. Many stalls, displaying traditional art and handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir state, attracted the visitors on the occasion.

Cultural activities to revive tourism in valley

The valley is turning out to be a hub for cultural activities. A cultural programme ‘Jashne Hamidi’, a tribute to the legendary Urdu litterateur Hamid Kashmiri, was organized by Radio Kashmir in

TOURISM

Travel mart promotes tourism in J&Ks

With an aim to promote tourism, a three-day-long Travel Mart was organized in Srinagar city. The event was inaugurated by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. The officials at the event hoped that a forum like this would throw up new ideas to tap the State’s potential as a travel destination.
Kashmir invites tourists to ‘paradise’

The Department of Tourism of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) held a conclave to chalk out strategies to attract more tourists to the state. Around 1500 tour operators, hoteliers and members of IATO participated in the conclave held in Srinagar. IATO is hopeful of reviving business in the Kashmir Valley.

YOUTH CORNER

Mural paintings by youth revive culture in Kashmir

A group of youngsters have been drawing mural paintings on walls along the streets of Srinagar in an attempt to revive the rich culture and tradition of Kashmir.

The project, commissioned by Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), aims to ‘beautify the city and to give the present generation an insight into Kashmir.’

A group of five young people was chosen for this project by the famous Kashmiri artist Masood Hussain, who also suggested the theme of the paintings. The group has so far completed two paintings in 11 days in a street on the way to Srinagar International Airport. The location was chosen in order to give the paintings maximum visibility from locals and tourists, who pass by the street on their way to the airport.

Each one of the artists works individually on these murals, but have an overarching narrative that makes the work collaborative. These paintings not only beautify the streets of Srinagar but also reveal the scope of fine arts for young students. The paintings have received good response from the locals who are getting to see such art work for the first time. The art has also caught the eye of tourists passing by the street.

A student artist, Saqib Bhat, felt the paintings gave a glimpse of the talent in Kashmir and the potential of work that can be done here.

Artists, locals and tourists alike commended the authorities for the initiative. They agree that such projects must continue to keep the history and culture of Kashmir alive.

collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar.

The cultural event included performances by renowned artists such as Munir Ahmad Mir, Kaiser Nizami etc. The art and culture of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the major tourist attractions. The revival of activities after the devastated floods boosts the morale of the people in the valley.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Children get free health check-up under National Health Mission scheme in Kathua

Over 3,000 children recently attended a health fair and underwent medical check-ups in Kathua District. The three-day Heritage and Health Mela (fair) was arranged by National Health Mission in the Jammu wing of Basoli town of the district Kathua.

The camp was part of Centre’s National Children’s Healthcare Programme. As per the Director of the National Health Mission, Jammu, Dr. Yash Paul, around 1.35 million children had been screened across the state, out of which 350,000 were identified with diseases and deficiencies, among whom about 200 had already been sent for treatment inside Jammu and Kashmir and other states.

“We aimed at treating 3,000 children in this camp, giving each child individual attention so that no child with disease or deficiency goes unnoticed. There is a lot of rush of school going as well as other children coming for treatment, and if need be, we will extend the duration of the camp for the benefit of the children” said Dr. Paul.

More than 100 doctors, including specialists, super specialists, pediatricians and neurologists had volunteered for the camp.

“ We don’t get a chance to go all the way to Jammu, since it is far away. This camp is a very good opportunity for us to get the children treated. We hope that similar camps are

Valley students take up PM Modi’s cleanliness campaign

Taking forward Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ambitious ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ (Clean India Mission), school students in Srinagar took out a cleanliness rally. As a part of the rally, students raised slogans, swept roads, collected garbage littered on the roadside and dumped it in dustbins.

One of the rally organizers’, Harpreet, said that the rally aimed at encouraging children to keep their surroundings clean. 100 children took part in this campaign and were motivated.

A participating student, Tabiya, said that through the rally they wanted to convey the message that we should keep our surroundings clean, including roads, schools, homes for the over all cleanliness in Srinagar city.
organised in future also so that we are aware of the ailments of our children and can take better care of them,” said a school teacher, Kuldeep. Children availed free treatment along with medicines.

Kashmir valley becomes favourite destination for Bollywood film promotion

The state government has launched a rigorous promotion campaign of upcoming Kashmir valley becomes favourite destination for Bollywood film promotion

The state government has launched a rigorous promotion campaign of upcoming Bollywood movies and shootings in the state to woo tourists. Chief Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed had recently urged Bollywood to help promote Kashmir to attract tourists.

The crew of upcoming Bollywood movie ‘Welcome 2 Karachi’ launched its promotional campaign from the sprawling lawns of the Government Guest House, Hari Niwas. The movie crew, including its lead stars Jacky Bhagnani and Lauren Godlike, besides producer Vasu Bhagnani, promoted the film.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Shailendra Kumar said that such events helped in “perception management” about Kashmir. He added that government had created a single window system for shooting clearances in Kashmir, and cleared that government was not providing any incentives to the movie producers for shooting in the state, but only facilitated smooth conduct of shootings. The shooting of Salman Khan Starrer ‘Bajrangi Bhaijaan’ has resumed from Sonamarg.

Cultural festival in Pahalgam to woo tourists.

The Indian Army organised a cultural get-together in picturesque Pahalgam as part of its outreach programme to people. The programme was well received by the people, who felt that such events would help establish a formidable relationship between the people and the Indian Army.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Strategic Chinar Corps, Subrata Shah, said the involvement of locals in such programmes would send a right signal ahead of the tourist season. Various cultural performances, including local dances and folk music, were the highlight of the occasion.

According to Subrata Shah, Army is organising different events at different places, like sports tournaments, to inspire youngsters positively.
**Fund sanctioned for ‘Anantnag Bypass Road’**

In a major decision aimed at decongesting Anantnag, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed sanctioned Rs. 9.51 crore for the construction of a bypass from Mehndi kadal to Ashaipora. He set a deadline of December-end for the completion of the 2.1 km-long road project. He also gave directions to the Public Works Minister to immediately macadamize roads in the main town, schools and college.

**‘Social security schemes’ launched**

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Najma Heptullah and J-K Finance Minister Dr Haseeb A Drabu launched three social security schemes (SSS) namely the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bheema Yojana (PMJJBY), the Pradhan Mantri Surakhsha Bheema Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana in Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, Heptullah said the schemes would add a new dimension to the whole concept of social security in the country, as they are aimed at providing affordable socio-economic security to people in general and the underprivileged in particular.

**Orientation programme held for Hajj pilgrimage**

The Jammu and Kashmir State Hajj Committee conducted an orientation camp for pilgrims from Srinagar District with the objective of enlightening them on issues concerning rituals to be observed at both Mecca and Medina.

**Sangwali to be developed as model village in Samba District of Jammu Province**

In order to strengthen and upgrade rural infrastructure and to provide better facilities to rural folk, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh, recently visited Sangwali Village in Samba District to review village development plans. The village was adopted by the minister under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY). Dr Singh said it was his priority to develop Sangwali as model village under the SAGY.

**Historic Mughal Road draws tourists after reopening**

The historic Mughal Road, situated in the Baliaz area of Poonch District has been reopened. The 84-km-long road was opened to traffic on 3rd May with the onset of summer. The Mughal Road connects the districts of Rajouri and Poonch and serves as a lifeline for border villages.

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**Do you know?**

**Africa** is the continent which currently has the youngest population among all the continents in the world.