

Jammu & Kashmir Update

VOLUME VII, NO. 1 JANUARY, 2015

Believing in negative thoughts is the single greatest obstruction to success

- Charles.F.Glassman



In this issue...

- ▶ **Culture:** Insight into Kashmiri Literature
- Development:**
 - ▶ **UDAAN:**
 - a) Udaan Mega Recruitment Drive in Jammu
 - b) Damaged infrastructure being rebuilt on war footing.
 - c) Cross border trade resumed
 - ▶ **Tourism:**
 - a) New dak bungalow in Bandipora
 - b) Tourists make beeline for Kashmir in winter.
 - ▶ **Youth Corner:**
 - a) J&K Cricket team shines in Ranji Trophy
 - b) Bharat Darshan Tour for Kashmiri children.
 - ▶ **Other activities:**
 - a) Good turnout in Assembly polls
 - b) Recruitment rally in Valley to curb unemployment
 - ▶ **The month that was:**



Thought of the month:

Success will be within your reach only when you start reaching out for-

Stephen Richards

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.

Smile



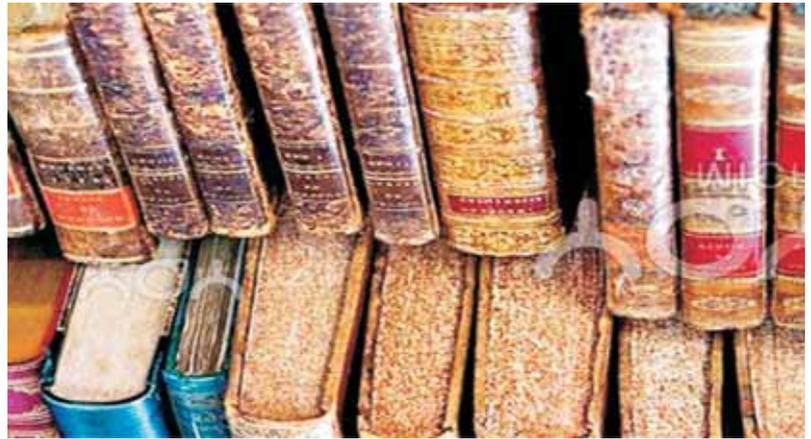
Teacher: Tell me a sentence that starts with letter 'I'

Student: I is the ...

Teacher: Stop. Never put 'is' after 'I'. Always put 'am' after 'I'.

Student: Ok. I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

Culture



Insight into Kashmiri Literature.

Although large part of ancient literature in Kashmir was written in non-Kashmiri languages it, nevertheless bears, a close affinity with Kashmiri Language. Kashmir was the centre of Sanskrit learning and has given to the country great luminaries in the field of Sanskrit literature.

The three illustrious off springs of the literature in the valley were LAL DED, NUND-RESHI AND PARMANAND. Lal ded was saint poetess who wrote 'vaakhs', Nund Reshi wrote 'Shruks' and Parmanand set the Bhakti tradition .

Kashmiri literature of the period beginning with 19th century was, in early stages, dominated by Persian influence. There were several Persian scholars and poets of distinction in Kashmir. Of all the Kashmiri poets in Persian, who lived in rest of India, the name of Sir Mohamad Iqbal stands prominent. Among Kashmiri Hindus who acquired fame as poets in Persian may be mentioned Raj Kaul Arzbegi, among others.

In the period after 1800 AD, apart from Sanskrit and Persian, urdu and English started influencing Kashmiri, paving way for new ideas and style in Kashmiri literature.

Productions in Kashmiri language were prolific from 1819 to 1880 when we had epics, romance, tragedies and numerous ghazals and ballads written in Kashmiri. There was emergence of 'Rov poems' turned to the rhythmic dance of Kashmiri women. Kashmiris also produced Comic –satiric ballad, called 'Lari Shah'.

The beginning of twentieth century found Kashmiri literature in a state of stupor, but attention to mother tongue came back into their minds, and in 1920 ushered in Gh. Ahmad Mehjoor, in new era, in the cultural history of Kashmir, in whose early poems, love predominated. He was followed in his revolutionary ideas by Abdul Ahad Azad. Pandit Zinda Lal Kaul took to writing poems in Kashmiri at a late stage in his life.

The beginning of 20th century also saw emergence of Kashmiri authors who wrote in English. There are Kashmiri writers in Urdu also having received recognition and fame.

DEVELOPMENT

Udaan Mega Recruitment Drive in Jammu

Udaan, a special initiative for Jammu & Kashmir conducted its Mega recruitment drive under the scheme in Jammu on 15-16 December, 2014. The two day recruitment drive under Udaan turned out to be a success with over 1100 youth from Jammu appearing for selection. 24 corporates representing a wide range of sectors like IT, ITES, Consulting, Banking and Security Services conducted nearly 1100 interviews over two days in Jammu. Some of India's largest corporations participated in this recruitment drive, including Manpower, IL&FS Education and Technology Services Ltd. (IETS), CGI, Reliance HR Services, Accenture, Mount Talent, CMC Ltd and others. Post selection, the recruits will be trained by

the respective corporates over three to six months, after which job offers will be made for placements across the country.

Following successful conduct of a similar drive in Kashmir valley last month, where more than 2000 youth were recruited for training and subsequent final placement, NSDC has brought 24 Corporates offering variety of jobs to Jammu youth in different sectors, including Auto, Retail, Banking, Finance, Hospitality, Education, IT/ITES and Security Sectors etc. The two-day drive began at Hotel Jhelum Resorts near Bahu Plaza Complex, Jammu, where number of educated unemployed youth appeared for the eligibility tests, including written tests, group discussion and then final interview. (Picture attached).



Authorities rebuild flood damaged infrastructure on war-footing

Civic authorities in Srinagar are working tirelessly to restore road infrastructure damaged by floods in September 2014. The state's Public Works (Roads and Buildings) department has set a deadline to restore all pathways and roads in the city before snowfall. Residents in the valley are happy with the speedy development initiatives taking place in the city.

A resident Majeed Ahamad was of the opinion that the government was doing the work efficiently, but it needed to be finished soon as snowfall will make it difficult for pedestrians to walk, if foot paths were not restored quickly.

The state and central authorities are effectively working to bring life back to normal in flood-affected Jammu and Kashmir.



Cross border trade in J&K resumed after devastating flood

Cross-border trade between Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) has picked up after the recent flash flood damaged several bridges. The cross border trade at Chakan-da-Bagh was

India, on the other hand, exports bananas, cumin seeds, ginger and chillies etc.

Ashraf Chowdery, Custodian of Cross LoC Trade at Chakan-da-Bagh, Poonch, said that a maximum of 25 consignments are exchanged between the neighbours in a single day. According to Chowdery, the limit to exchange 25 assignments a day was fixed, keeping in mind the administrative admissibility, feasibility and the existing infrastructure. He added that there is immense potential for bilateral trade to grow.

Trader Shaha Zareen Liaqat is very happy as cross border trade not only allows him to earn a living, but also helps him meet his relatives, living on the other side, who come to deliver consignments.

It may be recalled that this cross-border trade was started on 21.10.2008 and is based on barter system and not on currency exchange system.



suspended in September due to the damage of the Time-Domain Reflectometer (TDR) cause way bridge on the Line of Control (LoC). This is the only link which connects Poonch in J&K with Rawalkot in PoK. The cross-border trade was resumed after almost three weeks in October.

A happy trader Ab. Aziz, expressed happiness over resumption of cross-border trade and said that the trade with Pakistan was going very well as apple and dry fruit, very much liked in India, are currently being imported from Pakistan. Other products that are being imported from Pakistan include raisins, herbs and almonds, he added.



TOURISM

New Dak Bungalow in Bandipora a boon for tourists

Located in North of Jammu & Kashmir, Bandipora district has some awesome tourist spots including Gurez Valley, Tulail Valley and Razdhan Top. A double storey dak bungalow, being constructed here by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department at a cost of Rs 5 crores, will soon start facilitating tourists visiting the scenic holiday spot. The dak bungalow shall have 18 rooms and 4 suites.

The construction work of dak bungalow building is almost complete and it is expected to be opened for the visitors soon. The locals are happy with the facility as it will boost tourism in the area, as the District was lacking a facility to accommodate tourists.



Tourists make a beeline for valley during winter

The Kashmir Valley is an all-time favourite holiday destination. To enjoy its cold weather, especially the snowfall in higher reaches, both domestic and foreign tourists throng Srinagar city. Snowfall is a boon for northern states in high altitudes as the inflow of tourist's increases during this period, which is a boost for the tourism industry.

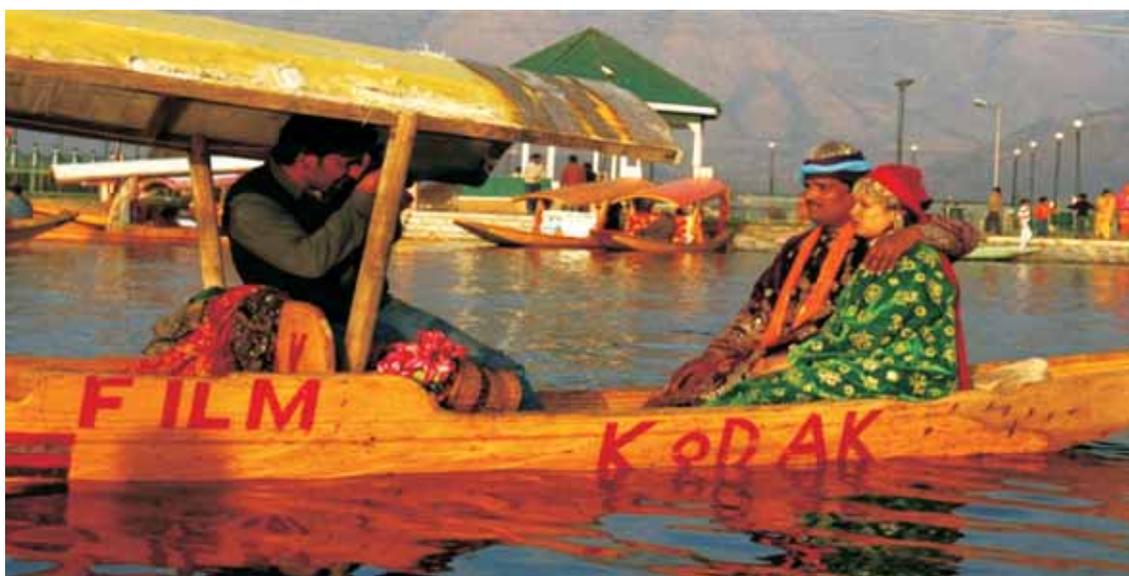
During winters, holidaying crowd from the country and other parts of the world, prefer to spend their time in Jammu and Kashmir to experience snowfall and the cold weather.

Jammu and Kashmir is a well known tourist destination for winter activities such as snowboarding, skating, sledge rides, gondola jaunts, cable car rides and snow skiing, making tourism one of the mainstay of the state's economy. It is called a Mecca for climbers, skiers, honeymooners and filmmakers, who derive pleasure from the state's soaring peaks, fruit orchards, timber houseboats and boating on Dal Lake in Srinagar.

Suraya, a tourist from South Africa, said that she found the beauty of the valley on her first visit mind blowing. She added "We are enjoying a lot. We were actually told that it was going to be very cold this morning but fortunately the weather is lovely. It is our first visit here. We found the people very friendly, very helpful and yes I think we are going to enjoy our stay here,"

Juhi Nanda, a domestic tourist, said that despite being so cold, the early morning weather was beautiful. She praised the residents for being polite and helpful.

Meanwhile, tour operator Rouf Tramboos said that with the onset of winter, a large number of tourists were expected to arrive in Srinagar and they were ready to receive them and, all activities with regard to winter tourism were in place and being upgraded.



J&K cricket team shines in Ranji Trophy

The Jammu and Kashmir cricket team performed superbly during the Ranji Trophy Group `A' League by beating 40-time tournament champions Mumbai by four wickets in a historic match at Wankhede Stadium. It was a first-time clash between the two teams in the 80-year-old national championship. The star batsman Shubham Khajuria made 107 and 78 for his team to achieve glory and make it a historic day.

The team's effort is highly appreciable because they performed well despite torrential rains in September having devastated nearly entire Kashmir region, where state cricket team's preparation had come to a standstill.

Captain Parvez Rasool, the first cricketer from the state to have represented India, felt it great to beat Mumbai team in Mumbai. He said that Shubham was fantastic



with the bat and Hardeep Singh brought his vast experience to his advantage during the crunch moments.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the state cricket team for its historic win over Mumbai. "Well done the J&K cricket team, beating Mumbai team at the Wankhede stadium," Omar wrote on twitter.

Bharat Darshan Tour for Kashmiri children

The Border Security Force has been organising annual Bharat Darshan Tours for Children hailing from J&K from the year 2000 onwards. The aim of these tours is to bring the children of young and impressionable age, residing in militancy- affected areas, within the National mainstream, by exposing them to cultural, industrial and technological advancements made by the country.

Two groups of Kashmiri children (1st group- 20 girls and 2nd group- 25 boys), hailing from poor families of remote areas of Kashmir valley (J&K), in the age group of 10-16 years, were selected by BSF in liaison with Village heads, school teachers and local contacts, in order to expose them to the rich historical, cultural and social profile of the country, to the progress made in Industrial, technological and scientific fields, and also to inculcate in them a sense of pride for the country.

Hon'ble Mos (Home), GOI, Kiren Rijiju



spoke to these children on 16 Dec 2014 during their visit to Delhi. He briefed them about the rich cultural heritage of this country and wished them a bright future ahead. Children were presented set of books as gifts by the Hon'ble MoS (Home)

During the tour they were given an opportunity to ride metro train, visit historical monuments, like Taj Mahal, India Gate and places in Rajasthan & Bangaluru. Such exposure helped them in inculcating a sense of pride and a sense of belongingness to the nation.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Good turnout in J&K Assembly polls

A large number of people cast their votes in five phases of the Assembly elections. In J&K, unprecedented number of first time voters came to polling booths saying they were voting for 'change'. Declaring their support for democracy, the enthusiasm was high among them.



The youth have expectations of jobs from the new Government. The unemployment made them to come out fearlessly and vote. Some of them are depressed, as narrated by few, for being jobless after having completed post graduation.

The average turnout was 71 per cent in the first two phases and 59 per cent in the third phase. Despite severe cold, a huge voter turnout was recorded during the fourth and fifth phase of polling. Many say they have voted for the development in the state.

For some voters, the development was all the more necessary because of the havoc created by recent floods in the state, and these voters are hopeful that they will get a leadership after elections that will bring development.

Divya Sharma, a first time voter in Jammu said, "You can see a lot of energy in the people. Everyone wants a good government and that is the reason the youth is motivated to vote."



Many in the state assert that higher voter turnout reflects developmental aspirations of a region where local institutions and the economy have been ravaged in the decades of conflict.

Recruitment rally in the valley to curb unemployment

Several Kashmiri youth are getting attracted to join the Indian Army. They come in large numbers to be part of the army recruitment drive for better career prospects. In an army recruitment rally held in Budgam District, around 9,000 youth participated from across Jammu and Kashmir. They underwent rigorous physical and medical tests and only 540 qualified for written examination. Army will soon organize recruitment in Districts like Anantnag, Baramulla, Srinagar, Kupwara, Pulwama, Bandipora, Kulgam and Shopian.

MONTH THAT WAS...

Sprinkler Micro Irrigation System inaugurated

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Peerzada Mushtaq Ahmad, inaugurated the Corm Multiplication Farm in Shopian. The sprinkler system will provide irrigation facilities to 28 hectares of farm land which has already been brought under saffron corm multiplication by the Agriculture Department, aiming to bring additional land under saffron cultivation. Peerzada hoped that the facility will go a long way in enhancing the corm multiplication of saffron corms, as the system will ensure the irrigation facility for the crop at critical stages.

Progress of Jan Dhan Yojana reviewed in Baramulla

In order to review the progress made under Jan Dhan Yojana scheme, a meeting of concerned officers and bankers was held under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Lone. The meeting discussed various components with regard to the implementations of the scheme which ensures access to financial services by all, and timely adequate credit to the excluded sections, i.e. weaker sections and lower income groups. It was informed that about 48,296 accounts have been opened under this scheme and the four major banks involved in the process are JKB, JKGB, SBI and PNB, which have allotted all the SSA's and wards, all over the District.

'Each One, Teach One Day' programme launched

With an aim to spread internet literacy, 'Each One, Teach One Day' programme was launched in Jammu. The event was organised by Bharti Airtel, J&K, in collaboration with State Social Welfare Board. Chief Operating Officer Bharti Airtel J&K, Dharmender Khajuria, highlighted the importance of 'Each One, Teach One Day' programme and said that a team of more than 700 Airtel representatives stepped in to spearhead this internet literacy drive across Jammu and Kashmir. Secretary J&K Social Welfare Board, Amir Ali, expressed gratitude to the company and said that more corporates would join hands with government organizations to increase their outreach.

Symposium on eradication of corruption

A symposium was organised by Bandipora District Administration in collaboration with Transparency International India (TI) to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9. The symposium was facilitated by Vice Chairman TI India, Omkar Razdan, who gave a brief account of various anti-corruption tools like Integrity Pact, RTI and Right to Services Act. He suggested that groups of villages may be shortlisted to prepare mini District level master plans to ensure planned development and corruption-free execution.

DO YOU KNOW

The number of people who have walked on surface of moon, till date, is **twelve**.

RNI Regn. No. DELMUL/2010/35730

Printed by: Chandu Press, D-97 Shakarpur New Delhi-92

Editor : Sulekha

Request for free copy of Jammu & Kashmir Update newsletter indicating the language preferred (English/Urdu/Hindi) or suggestions/feedback, if any, may be emailed to : jammuandkashmirupdate@gmail.com

Jammu & Kashmir Update is also available on the web at jammuandkashmirupdate.com and mha.nic.in

Published by : Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India