

Jammu & Kashmir Update

“A false friend and a shadow attend only when sun shines”

-Benjamin Franklin



Young Minds Awarded for Innovative Skills



Sports Festival at Anantnag

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Thought of the month:

"You are responsible for your life. You can't keep blaming somebody else for your dysfunction. Life is about moving on"

Oprah Winfrey

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



A visitor from Delhi to Las Vegas wanted to talk to his family, but without disturbing them at odd hour. He picked up the phone and asked Hotel reception "could you tell me the time difference between Delhi and Las Vegas "

Operator- 'Just a minute', sir...

Visitor- 'Thank you', and put the phone down.

Culture/Heritage



A Glimpse into some traditions and Practices in Ladakh

The people of Ladakh, the Buddhist wonderland, profess a faith that teaches compassion, courtesy, kindness, truthfulness, loyalty, politeness, cheerfulness and good humour. The people here are considered to be one of the hardiest races. The women here enjoy complete social liberty.

Giving of feasts is a common practice among Ladakhis and births, marriages and deaths are principle occasions on which these feasts are held and 'Chang' is served. 'Chang' is a beverage made from barley and grim. Though Ladakh gets adequate sunshine, it has dry and cold climate which, it is generally believed, induced Ladakhis to take to 'Chang'. It is usually sour by the time it is drunk. It is not a bad beverage on a warm day, but people here will enjoy it even in sub-zero temperature.

"La-pa-sha" is the indispensable winter outfit for every Ladakhi. The Ladakhi cloak is in use, almost throughout the year, in number of villages beyond the two towns of Leh and Kargil, although the young generation is demonstrating the effort to ring in the new and ring out the old dress after throwing themselves open to outside world.

Lamas (priests) in Ladakh are identified by their dress. Woollen gown or 'Choga' is their dress. The Choga is dyed either red or yellow according to the sect they belong to. Lama has manifold functions. He has to learn to patter charms and to intone the Buddhist scriptures. He does not necessarily live in monasteries known as Gumpas. Some of them live in villages and take part in tilting of fields and other works connected with the daily life of the monastery.

The Buddhist Gumpas are most conspicuous building in Ladakh. They are somewhat apart from houses of the village. Their walls are built of stone masonry and they are raised on steep cliffs. There are prayer cylinders fixed at the entrance of every Gumpa.

DEVELOPMENT

UDAAN'S FLIGHT AND FEEDBACK

NSDC Udaan Recruitment Drives - September, 2015

NSDC and the Ministry of Home Affairs organized recruitment drives in the area of Jammu & Kashmir where over 10 Corporates from across India visited Udhampur, Budgam and Reasi for these recruitment drives, covering various sectors i.e. Securities, Human Resource, Construction, Automation and Information Technology & ITeS. More than 447 selections were made through 3 mega selection drives organized to scout fresh talent in the State.



More than 30 such drives have been organized since November 2014 and many more are planned over the next few months. One more drive in Bhandarwah (Jammu) has been planned for this month.

Jammu and Kashmir delegation's visit to Udaan Training Centre in Delhi and NCR on 15th and 16th September

On 15th and 16th September, National Skill Development Corporation facilitated a delegation visit of Deans, Principals and Assistant Professors of various reputed Universities and Colleges of Jammu & Kashmir to various Udaan training centres in Delhi and NCR to fast track the training and placement process under project Udaan.

In order to evaluate the standard of training provided to the students, during the two day visit, the delegates visited Vivo Healthcare, IMS Health, Ligare and Accenture and met the candidates being trained.

Success Story of Udaan candidate:



SONIA FROM JAMMU

"It was a great opportunity that I got in the form of Udaan. It was just like a dream come true. For me Udaan gives me wings to fly. Before joining training, I had many doubts like what will happen next, how I can manage with other candidates and whether I would be able to stay away from home for so long, but the support from Apollo Technical Education Foundation (ATEF) was good. I learnt so much in training and improved my interview and communication skills. The faculty at ATEF was excellent, friendly in nature and knowledgeable. They taught us various things which are helpful to us now. By getting this opportunity I gained the confidence to prove myself. I wish every student of Jammu and Kashmir could get this opportunity to undergo such an experience".

A direct train from Chennai to Vaishno Devi Katra station

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu extended the service of Chennai Central-Jammu Tawi Andaman Express Train up to Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Station in Jammu and Kashmir.

The flagging off was done by remote control after organising a video conference by Rail Bhawan (New Delhi) with Jammu Tawi Railway Station.

The Railway minister said that Railways is making sincere efforts to provide best connectivity to the places of pilgrimage and, the government was committed to the development of railway infrastructure in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister said he would soon hold a meeting in Jammu to review the progress of various railway projects in the state.



Besides Prabhu, Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, Jitender Singh, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister, Nirmal Kumar Singh, and senior railway officials were also present on the event at Rail Bhavan in New Delhi.

SPORTS

15-day long sports festival in Anantnag focuses on extra-curricular activities

With an aim to promote the sports culture in valley, the fifteen-day long South Kashmir Sports Festival 2015 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayed at the Government Degree College for Boys in Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir. The festival was to conclude on September 27.

While inaugurating the sports festival, Mufti Mohamad Sayed said that sports should be encouraged in the state and the initiative taken by Jammu and Kashmir government should be taken forward. The state Government will provide the required funds. He added that the youth in the state had



been blessed with immense potential and educational institutions should make use of it by providing their talent a platform.

Participants from Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts were to compete with each other in various sports, including cricket, soccer, volleyball, badminton and kho kho (traditional Indian team sport) in this sports festival

The event emphasised upon the importance of sports in the overall personality development of the youth.

The festival has been organised by Jammu and Kashmir police in collaboration with Department of youth sports and services for promotion of sports culture in the state.

Cricket League held to promote young players from J&K

A cricket tournament called the Downtown Championship League (DCL) 2015, which has been based on the pattern of Indian Premier League (IPL), was held in Srinagar city recently. The cricket league was organised with the aim of recognising and financially supporting budding cricket players of Jammu and Kashmir. Last year's tournament was aborted due to devastating floods.

The tournament had 16 contending teams, which are franchises owned by corporate entities from the state, who had bid for over 350 players. The matches, based on T-20 format, were played at two different venues in Srinagar, the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium and the Kashmir University.

The Chief Organiser of the tournament, Naseer Ahmad, said that the aim was to train budding cricketers from the state to make them eligible among them to compete outside the state. "To give the

participants a chance of playing with the experienced players, the organisers had included one international player in the tournament this year", he added



Soccer fever grips Kashmir Valley as women play football tournament

Girls in the Kashmir Valley are proving their mettle in sports and football is turning out to be their favourite game. Recently, an all-women tournament in the valley attracted at least 112 participants. A FIFA-certified Argentinean football coach, Juan Marcos Troia, had been training youth of Kashmir since 2007.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JKFA), the tournament saw participation from 12 teams from the women's colleges and schools.

JKFA plans to select senior level state women team, along with under-15 and under-18 categories at the women's football tournament.

The organiser and the coach said that the participation from girls saw a spike this year as compared to the last two years. Around 40 to 50 girls attended the coaching, and efforts are on to attract more girls towards football.



YOUTH CORNER

Over 300 youth get employment at a job fair in Srinagar

Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayed handed over placement orders to 300 ITI trained youth in a mega tech festival — HOPE (Huge Opportunities for Proper Employment), which was organised by the Technical Education Department at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. The Chief Minister stressed the need for public-private partnership to overcome the problem of unemployment. He also called for concerted efforts to bridge the gap between skills and jobs.



While addressing the unemployed youth at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre, the Chief Minister said "There is a need to end the mismatch between what is taught in our institutions and what is the actual requirement of the job markets. We



have made a new beginning".

Jammu and Kashmir's IT Minister Imran Ansari said, "There are many such avenues, where we require skilled manpower. Globally, there is a demand of skilled people. This is just a beginning and not the end. We will try our best to resolve the problem of unemployment from the state."

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has planned job fairs in every three months to provide more opportunities to the youth.

Entrepreneurship workshop held for students in Srinagar

An entrepreneurship workshop at Kashmir University drew students to learn more about trade, business and employment opportunities in the region. The two-day workshop was held under the aegis of the business department of the university. Students from the department and across the varsity attended the workshop.

Entrepreneurs from banks and businesses in the Kashmir valley were invited to tell their success stories to the students and give them tips for their very own start-ups.

Mohd. Farooq, a faculty member of the Business School Kashmir University and an organiser of the event, said that unemployment figure was rising at an alarming rate and the need of the hour was to tap the right kind of entrepreneurs. In this connection they had called some leading entrepreneurs of the valley to the function.



Students said the workshop helped them understand business better and that they were eager for more such opportunities.

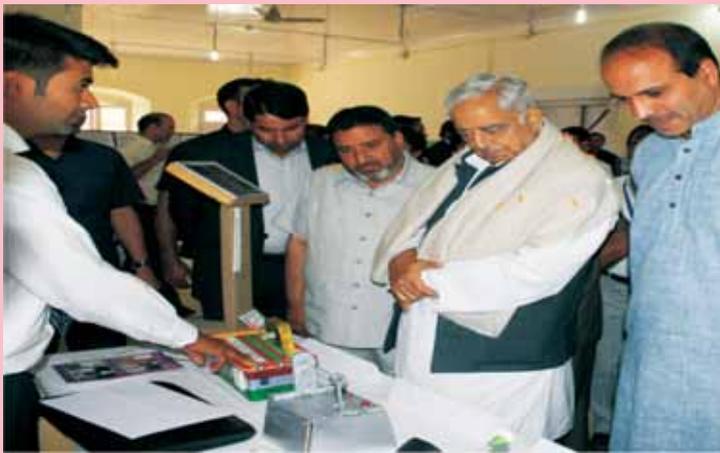
A student and an aspiring entrepreneur, Fariya Jaan said “students living in Kashmir should get opportunities like these and more workshops like these should be organised. We learnt a lot about how we can start our business as an entrepreneur. We are very satisfied from today’s workshop”

Young minds display their innovative skills at an exhibition in Srinagar

School students displayed their innovative skills at ‘Innovators’ Exhibition’ organised at S.P.College in Srinagar. The expo was part of several initiatives undertaken by state authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGO) to recognise and channelize young budding minds.

Initiatives like these are seen as an attempt to help Kashmiri youth by motivating and channelizing their talents in a positive direction.

The exhibition saw class 9 and class 10 students displaying products like unique micro mixer, solar charger, water purifier bottle and self-made radio transmitters.



Event organizer, Irfan Ahmad, said “exhibitions like these tremendously boost the self-confidence of the students. Their efforts get appreciated which further compels them to excel. They explore their talent through exhibitions as these. Unless and until they are given an opportunity to showcase their talent, their skills will remain unexplored. When they get encouragement and appreciation, they become famous as well”. Paintings by college students were also displayed at the exhibition.

A state based NGO, Jammu and Kashmir Innovators Forum (JKIF), also hosted the ‘JKIF Youth Icon Awards 2015’. Participants from diverse fields such as medicine, law, engineering and entrepreneurship

were awarded, based on an online voting round, held in July.

Tanvi Raina becomes youngest woman commercial pilot from J&K

Tanvi Raina, a 18 year old Kashmiri Pandit girl, daughter of Capt Kapil Raina, originally from Karan Nagar Srinagar, now residing in Delhi, is the first and youngest woman from J&K to become a commercial pilot after completion of flying training from the Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Karnal. She is now aiming to join Air India to fly world’s largest aircraft, Airbus, for which she will train in Madrid.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

NGO Freemasons helps revive flood-hit school in Srinagar

The Freemasons of India NGO, in association with the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India, has come forward to help the State Government in restoring the educational establishments, which were left devastated post September 2014 floods. The NGO adopted two government schools that were completely damaged in Chattabal area of Srinagar city. It had restored one school earlier and recently helped in reopening the Government Boys High School Chattabal. The NGO constructed a new block in the school and is providing facilities like, computer room, midday meal hall and, also renovated class rooms.



The NGO coordinator GD Rao promised to give 100 % support to these adopted schools in every way.

The students and the school staff, while expressing their joy and happiness, felt that education will get a new fillip in the area with the reopening of the school. More than 100 boys and girls are presently enrolled in this school and the school management hopes that the number will increase with the now upgraded infrastructure.



MONTH THAT WAS...

Ladakh festival attracts large visitors

With an aim to extend the tourism season in Ladakh, Secretary of Tourism, Farooq Ahmad Shah, inaugurated the seven-day long Ladakh festival in Leh. Terming J&K as the best tourist destination in the country, Shah said that people of all three regions of the state had to play their role in promotion of tourism and preservation of their culture, traditions and heritage. Ladakh Festival, which attracts large number of tourists, is being organised to showcase the rich culture of this region and provides a platform for cultural exchange.

Volley ball cup tournament held in Leh

A 3-day Inter District Girls under-17 Volleyball cup Tournament was held in Indoor Stadium, Leh. The event was held under the aegis of Youth Services and Sports department in which 14 teams(girls) from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh participated. The cup was lifted by the girls team from Udhampur district.

The Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Leh, Rigzin Spalbar, who was the chief guest on the closing ceremony, congratulated the teams for participating in the tournament at Leh and said that the purpose of sports is to develop unity, teamwork, brotherhood and most importantly to make sportspersons mentally tough.

J&K Bank presents Rs. 54.13 crore dividend cheque

Highlighting the role of J&K Bank in growth and development of the state, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayed reiterated his confidence in the Bank's focus on inward business strategy, which stresses on enhanced lending within the state. While receiving two dividend cheques for an amount of Rs.54.13 crore for the year 2014-15, the Chief Minister credited the J&K Bank for setting high standards of professionalism and, appreciated the role it has played in state's socio-economic development. Speaking on the occasion, J&K Bank Chairman thanked the Chief Minister for his support and apprised him of the Bank's performance.

Do you know?

Chess originated in India where its early form in 6th century was 'Chaturanga'. The name was changed to 'Shatranj' In Persia around 600 AD.

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