

Inaugurates Kumaon Literary Festival Dedicated efforts to revive, promote J&K's culture, art, cinema: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Kumaon Literary Festival at the Kashmir International Convention Centre, here today.

The Lt Governor said that the festival brings together celebrated authors, poets, thinkers of the country to celebrate art, culture & literature and provides an opportunity to

peace, co-existence and brotherhood," he added.

Termining culture as a way of life and a mirror that reflects people's aspiration and socio-economic transformation, the Lt Governor said efforts are being made to involve local artists and people as stakeholders in maintenance and promotion of art, heritage sites etc.

Recalling the contribution of famous writers and thinkers from Jammu Kashmir, he said the cultural ethos of our great nation is deeply connected with the Jammu Kashmir UT since time immemorial. From storytelling to Classical Indian Music, Jammu Kashmir is the land of various creative mediums, he added.



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at Kumaon Literary Festival in Srinagar on Wednesday.

the people to explore new ideas and perspectives.

"J&K is home to rich literary tradition, dating back to many millennia and our quest for knowledge continues," he observed.

Sinha said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dedicated efforts are being made since last two years to revive and promote J&K's culture, art, literature, cinema and music.

"The nation is witnessing economic, cultural and scientific renaissances under the leadership of the PM. Our ancient literary culture and values are rich and diverse and always guided us on the path of

reversed writers from Jammu Kashmir, who have enriched the cultural history of India. I believe that the past was prosperous and, I am sure that the new generation of writers will take it to greater heights," he added.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the efforts to promote local languages including Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Dogri and Punjabi.

The UT Government is committed to provide the right platform to harness the potential of talented young writers of Jammu Kashmir, said the Lt Governor.

Referring to the Jammu & Kashmir's Film Policy launched last

year, Sinha observed that the policy has facilitated the shooting of films in the picturesque locations across UT and the Bollywood's golden era of 70s-80s is making a comeback.

The administration has started cinema halls in Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and efforts are afoot to start cinema halls in every district. Record 1.60 crore tourists had come to Jammu and Kashmir till September this year, which in itself is testament of a vibrant Jammu Kashmir, added the Lt Governor.

Dr Bibek Debroy, author, and Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, spoke on

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

the literary, cultural and historical legacy of Kashmir. He also threw light on the Kashmir and the Sharda Peeth connection.

Rahul Rawail, veteran filmmaker expressed his happiness to witness the glorious days of film making back in Kashmir.

Asha Batra, co-founder Kumaon Literary Festival, said "we are delighted to organise the Kashmir edition of the Kumaon Literary Festival." She also expressed gratitude to the UT Government for its support to the festival.

Arhan Bagati, founder, Kashmir's Yumberzal Applied Research Institute (KYARI), in his welcome address highlighted the objectives and vision behind the fest.

P K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, DC Srinagar; besides eminent personalities of literary field & film world, litterateurs, thinkers, writers, artists from across the country and UT were present.



MoS Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh during inauguration of Water Supply Scheme at Rajouri.

MoS Tribal Affairs visits Rajouri for public outreach

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 19: As a part of special public outreach initiative to J&K UT, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh today said that Government has launched multiple initiatives for the welfare of tribal community which is evident from the fact that 434 villages of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir have been covered under PM 'Adi Adarsh Gram Vikas Yojana'.

During her address, the Minister highlighted the significance of the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission, saying that providing tap water connections to all the households of the country is the priority of the Govt. and persistent efforts are being made in this connection.

Stating that the Central Govt has taken a number of measures for the all round development of the J&K UT, the Minister said that inclusive, holistic and substantial development of the Jammu and Kashmir UT is the major goal of the Union Govt. and much emphasis is being laid on every sector to take the UT to newer heights and new levels of prosperity.

The Minister said, the objective

of the visit is to disseminate the information about the importance of the government policies with regard to the overall development of J&K and its people along with steps taken in this direction.

Reiterating the Centre's commitment, its strong resolve and special concern for the overall development of J&K UT, she said that numerous initiatives are being taken to bring transformation in every sector to help the UT march towards a golden future.

The Minister also said that Govt is working with a vision for a prosperous tribal community and multiple key initiatives have been launched for welfare of tribal population.

The Minister further said that after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards a new era of development. She also said that J&K is moving forward on the path of integrated equitable development with the establishment of the three tier system of Panchayat Raj.

Among the others who accompanied the Minister during her visit were DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kunal; SSP, Mohammad Aslam; Director Tribal Affairs Jammu, Musheer Ahmed; ADDC, Pawan Kumar; BDC Qila Darhal, Khalid Firdoz; PO ICDS, Kartar Singh; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACD, Vijay Kumar; Dy Director Tribal Affairs, Dr Abdul Khabir; SE Hydraulics, JP Singh and others senior officers from the District Administration.

The Minister also inaugurated two Water Supply schemes at Nowshera town and Pukhrai built at an estimated cost of Rs 36.14 lacs and 40.49 lacs respectively.

Work on Maitra Bridge in full swing, to be completed shortly

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: The work on bailey suspension bridge over River Chenab near Maitra is on full swing and will be completed shortly to provide respite to the operators of light motor vehicles and people of old and new Ramban Town.

"Launching of panels started on new 40R bailey suspension bridge over River Chenab. This shall be followed by laying of wooden decking. GRSE Kolkata Team and 52 RCC (GREF) are on the job", read the tweet by Deputy Commissioner Ramban.

The old bridge had to be de-launched after it was declared unsafe by the BRO. The bridge provides connectivity between old and new Ramban Town and helps the people in reaching the District Headquarters in the shortest possible time.

The bridge on old alignment of National Highway also becomes very useful when stretch of new High Court gets blocked due to landslides.



ADGP Mukesh Singh taking salute during rehearsal of Police Commemoration Day Parade in Jammu on Wednesday.

Full dress rehearsal for Police Commemoration Day held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: Ahead of National Police Day popularly known as Police Commemoration Day, various contingents of Police and CAPFs participated in a full dress rehearsal of National Police Day at Police Martyrs Memorial Rail Head and Gulshan Ground near Police Auditorium here this morning.

During the rehearsal Mukesh Singh, Additional Director General (ADG) of Police Jammu Zone took the salute of Commemoration Day Parade.

Lays foundation of new airbase near Pak border Maritime security has emerged global priority, says PM

*Earlier, we used to release pigeons, now we release cheetahs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid emphasis on the importance of maritime security and space technology. He added that the maritime security has emerged as a global priority.

India will also have to increase its preparations looking at the future opportunities in the space sector, he said after inaugurating the Defence Expo 2022, which is aimed at showcasing the country's defence manufacturing capabilities.

On the issue of maritime security, Modi talked about his vision of the 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR). India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region is inclusive.

"Today, from international security to global trade, maritime security has emerged as a global priority. The role of the merchant navy has also expanded in the era of globalisation," he said.

At the event, Modi also laid the foundation stone for a new airbase at Deesa in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat near the India-Pakistan border and said it will emerge as an effective centre for the country's security.

"The country has come a long way as earlier we used to release pigeons and now we release cheetahs," he said.

He added that the world's expectations from India have increased, and "I assure the world community that India will fulfil them. Therefore, this Defence Expo is also a symbol of global trust towards India".

"The world is trusting Indian technology because the our armed forces have proved their capabilities. We are exporting defence materials and equipment to more than 75 countries," the PM said.

He added that decision of the Indian defence forces to buy a majority of the equipment made in the country shows the capacity of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

India has made its place despite the monopoly of a few manufacturing companies in the defence sector globally, he said.

This also symbolises the rising confidence on defence materials made in India.

The defence exports from India reached about Rs 13,000 crore in 2021-22 and "we have set a target to reach Rs 40,000 crore in the coming times," he said.

Modi also talked about India's relationship with Africa and said it is based on the "time-tested trust which is further deepening and touching new dimensions with the passage of time."

Dwelling upon the old ties between Africa and Gujarat, he recalled that the first railway line in Africa had the participation of people from Kutch.

Modi said the defence forces will release a list of 101 more items that can only be procured in India. With this, 411 defence-related goods can only be procured locally, he said.

"This will give a major boost to the Indian defence industry," he said, adding that these decisions also show the potential of a self-reliant India.

He said the exports of Indian Defence products have increased eight times in the last few years.

"Our policies, reforms and the ease of doing business have played a big role in reaching this point. India has earmarked 68 per cent of its defence budget for



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at the inauguration of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. (UNI)

Indian companies. It's a big decision, and has been made possible because of the progressive leadership of the Indian Armed Forces," he said.

The PM said the decision of the Indian Defence forces to buy a majority of the equipment made in the country shows "the capacity of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and also symbolises the rising confidence on defence materials made in India."

"There will be more than 400 equipment which will be bought only under Make in India (initiative). Imagine such a huge budget will strengthen the pillars of Indian companies," Modi said.

Talking about the future opportunities in space, Modi said India will have to increase its preparations.

"Our defence forces will have to find new innovation opportunities," he said, adding that space technology is also setting up a new definition of India's generous thinking by sharing the benefits with other countries.

"Many small African countries are benefiting from this. There are more than 60 developing countries with which India is sharing its space science," he said.

By next year, India will share real-time access of Indian satellite data with 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries. "Even developed European and American countries are using our satellite data," he said.

India's youth will realise the possibilities related to the space sector in a timely manner and with better quality taking inspiration from (late space scientist) Dr Vikram Sarabhai. The youth will give a new energy to our commitment, he said.

He said Gujarat's identity as a developed state and its industrial capabilities will brighten with the DefExpo being held here.

SI paper leak scam Court grants 10 days police remand of Medical Officer

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Jammu Amarjeet Singh Langeh today granted 10 days police remand of Dr Karnail Singh, Medical Officer, BSF who was arrested by the CBI in the much publicized SI paper leak scam.

The accused was produced in custody by Investigating Officer, DySP Prashant Sharma of CBI, ACB, Jammu and party in connection with FIR for offences under Section 120-B read with Section 420 of IPC with a prayer for grant of 15 days of police remand in respect of accused.

After perusal of file, CJM observed, "accused seems to have been arrested on 18.10.2022 in FIR in question. Investigation is at initial stage in so far as it pertains to accused. In order to pin-down the role of accused in the FIR in question, prayer of investigating agency to seek police remand in respect of accused, on facts and for reasons outlined in application, therefore seems to be validly tenable and is therefore granted".

Accordingly, the accused was remanded to police custody for a period of 10 days.

Light rains, snow bring down mercury to below normal

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 19 : Light rains lashed plains and snowfall in parts of hills, bringing mercury down to below normal in Kashmir today.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 2.3mm of rainfall, Pahalgam 9.4mm, Qazigund 0.9mm, Gulmarg 2.6mm and Kupwara 0.4mm and Affarwat in Gulmarg and other upper reaches received light snowfall.

The MeT official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.0°C against 7.0°C the previous night. The temperature was 0.1°C below normal for the place.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2°C against 6.0°C the previous night. The temperature was 1.2°C below normal for the place.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 0.6°C against 4.5°C the previous night and it was 1.2°C below normal for the resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 3.7°C against 6.1°C the previous night and it was 2.2°C below nor-

mal for the place. Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.4°C against 2.2°C the previous night and it was 3.3°C below normal for the skiing resort.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 3.5°C against 5.6°C the previous night. It was 1.0°C below normal for the north Kashmir place.

The weatherman has forecast light to moderate rain over plains and light snowfall over high reaches at scattered to fairly widespread places of Jammu and Kashmir this evening to morning of October 20.

"Widespread light to moderate rain/snow over Kashmir division and scattered light to moderate rain/snow/Ts over Jammu division," reads the forecast for next 24 hours.

He said there will be gradual improvement in weather from October 20th late afternoon. However, he said "there's no forecast of any major snowfall for the next one week to 10 days in J&K and Ladakh."



NC vice president Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting of party leaders at party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

Omar chairs block committee meet of Dooru

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah today presided over a block committee meeting of Dooru at party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

The meeting was marked by the threadbare discussions on organizational issues and prevailing political situation in the constituency. The block committee members also raised a number of other issues concerning the people in the constituency. Issues like unemployment, farm distress, plight of the horticulture sector, development deficit and administrative inertia also figured in the

discussions. Among others, general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, treasurer Shammii Oberoi, chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, district president Anantag Altarf Ahmad Wani, provincial vice president Syed Tauqeer Ahmed Shah and deputy political secretary to vice president Mudassar Shahmiri were also present on the occasion.

Omar Abdullah, in his address to the functionaries, reiterated that the only way by which the local youth can stop the onslaught of anti J&K forces is to first register themselves as a voter and then vote whenever the elections are held.



Office bearers of SC, ST & OBC Welfare Committee of AAP during their maiden meeting in Jammu.

SC, ST & OBC Welfare Committee of AAP holds maiden meet in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: State Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) Welfare Committee of Aam Aadmi Party today held its maiden meet after formation with representatives vowed to work for upliftment and welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs in real sense.

The maiden meeting of the Committee was held in Party office in Jammu and was chaired by the Committee chairman Yashpal Kunal. All the office bearers and members of the Committee were

2 officers transferred to GAD

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: Government today ordered transfer of two officers to the General Administration Department, with immediate effect.

As per the order, Akshay Rajan, Deputy Director, Motor Garages Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary in the General Administration Department while Irfan Manzoor, BDO (Hqr) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary in GAD.

present in the meeting. During the meeting, threadbare discussion was held on issues faced by SCs, STs and OBCs in J&K and participants underlined need to have a vibrant policy for welfare. The members further expressed their gratitude towards the Party for constituting SCs, STs and OBCs' Welfare Committee and said that move of the Party clearly exhibits its concern towards SCs, STs and OBCs in J&K.

Addressing the meeting, Yashpal Kunal said that these communities are facing a number of issues in J&K and granting of 27% reservation to OBCs is a main demand which however has been ignored by successive governments.

He further said that although a number of schemes are being run for welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs but proper implementation of these schemes is still a distant dream and the Government needs to have a concern towards it.

Kunal also said that AAP is dedicated towards upliftment and welfare of these sections of society in a real sense and the Party will take all necessary steps in this manner after coming into power in J&K.

He added that SC, ST and OBC Welfare Committee has already started its working across J&K so as to increase public contact efforts.

Secretary Health reviews dengue status, containment initiatives

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 19: Secretary Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Bhupinder Kumar, today conducted detailed review regarding dengue status and containment initiatives being taken up in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of this viral fever.

A detailed presentation on prevailing position of dengue and containment initiatives was displayed by Epidemiologist/State Malariologist, J&K. He informed that as on date 3446 cases of dengue have been confirmed against 11909 suspect cases.

Pertinently, Health and Medical Education Department is working hard towards containment of the disease by ensuring quality care services for dengue positive cases being treated at home as well as in health institutions.

It was informed that Fever clinics are being run in GMC Jammu and other Hospitals for diagnoses and treatment of suspected dengue cases. In addition, regular spraying and fogging is being carried out in all the dengue positive houses in Jammu division. Besides, regular calling of Dengue positive patients is being done by 104 Call Center (Health Help Line) being run by National Health Mission, J&K.

Secretary asked the officers to ensure cleanliness in the residential areas which is of utmost most importance to check the menace of mosquito breeding.

Municipal Commissioner Jammu informed about various interventions being made to check the mosquito breeding. The teams are being deployed for thermal fogging in all the municipal wards on rotation basis. Also, autos deployed by municipality for garbage collection are being asked to play Jingles/audio messages

Mehbooba demands investigation into recent killings

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 19: The former Chief Minister and president of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti, today demanded an investigation into recent killings.

Mehbooba said that the deteriorating situation will allow BJP to play the Hindu-Muslim game.

"An investigation should be conducted in order to determine

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

who is killing whom. We are also concerned that as the Himachal Pradesh elections draw closer, the situation will deteriorate further, allowing the BJP to take advantage of it and keep playing the Hindu-Muslim game," she said.

She also demanded investigation into the killing of Ganaie. "The situation is getting worse every day, whether it be the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit who had remained in the Valley under

regarding dengue awareness.

Secretary directed that these autos must do miking at least three times a day in all the urban areas with focus on hotspot areas including Rehari, Sarwal, Janipur and Paloura. He appealed the public in general to ensure no collection of water in unattended containers lying on the roof tops like tins, plastic bottles, tyres, bird pots, coolers, water tanks without lids etc.

He issued directions to the Director Health Services Jammu for intensifying the awareness campaign and containment measures to mitigate the dengue spread. It was decided that RBSK teams/ School Health teams will be deployed in the hotspot areas of Jammu Urban for imparting preventive measures and Health Education in collaboration with Community Medicine Department of GMC Jammu. In view of the mounting trend of Dengue Positive patients, he directed CMO Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur to make available sufficient number of functional beds and all essential medicines and consumables available for dengue cases.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Shashi Soodan, Principal Medical College GMC, Jammu, Ayushi Sudan, Mission Director NHM J&K, Pankaj Gupta, Managing Director, JKMSCL J&K, Dr. Saleem Ur Rehman, Director Health Services, Jammu, Rahul Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Shazia Wafai, Senior Regional Director, MoHFW J&K, Dr. Sanjay Turki Assistant Director, Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Malariologist, J&K, Dr. Mahesh Koushik, Entomologist NVBDCP, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi and Udhampur.

trying circumstances and decided to live here, coupled with the killing of two UP laborers. Even worse, we were informed that Imran Ganie was killed by militants while under security after being detained in the name of a hybrid militant," she said.

"If a militant can kill someone in police custody, imagine what the situation is like for the average person. We demand a probe into the death of Imran Ganaie while he was in detention and condemn the killings of two laborers and a Kashmiri pandit," she added.

"We want to know what happened and whether a militant could sneak into police custody and kill someone, or if the catch-and-kill policy—where people are allegedly being apprehended and killed while in detention—is being used in Kashmir. It would be similar to Punjab, where there are claims that people have been killed while being in detention under the same policy," she said.