

# Jammu & Kashmir Update

*!! Why dwell on negative thoughts?*

*When you can think positive !!*

*Lailah Gifty Akita*



CRIMSON CHINAR LEAVES

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## **THE MONTH THAT WAS**

## Thought of the month:

“Love cures people-both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it “

Dr. Karl Menninger

## 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



Mom texts “Hi! Son, what do IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?”

Son texts back “I Dont’s Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later.”

The mom texts him “It’s ok, don’t worry about it. I’ll ask your sister, love you too.”

## Culture/Heritage

### Scholars promote Sufism for unity and brotherhood in Kashmir valley



‘Aetiqad’ or trust on faith was the theme of day-long Islamic conference held in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion, many Islamic scholars and intellectuals talked about Sufism and made the youth aware of the importance of unity and brotherhood. The event was organised by ‘Idara-e-Tehqeeq’ Islam with an aim to promote Sufi values.

Sufism in Kashmir has roots dating back to Hazrat Bulbul Shah, who is believed to have arrived in Kashmir from Turkistan. However, the Sufi saint who had a profound impact on the lives of people in Kashmir and shaped their culture was Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani. The disciples travelled to each part of the state to propagate his mission. Later, as a mark of respect, Sufi shrines were established by the people in their resting or burial places.

The Sufi order has made an important contribution to Kashmiriyat and the cultural consciousness of the Kashmiri people.

If the Kashmir valley is known for its diversity and harmony among people of all faiths, it is largely due to Sufis who developed this spirit among the people.

Some Scholars believe that Sufi culture lost its past glory due to modernization and also due to vested interests.

Qazi Yasir, the organiser, said that in order to maintain popularity of the sufism in the same manner as reported during the life time of famous past saints, deliberations were held in the conference with an endeavour to reach to people who opposed sufi values.

### PM announces Rupees 80,000 crore package for J&K

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, announced a package of rupees 80,000 crore for all round-development of Jammu and Kashmir, where people are still struggling from the after effects of the 2014 floods.

Addressing a public rally in Srinagar, the Prime Minister said that money should be utilised for improving education and health facilities, employment generation and infrastructure.

While reaching out to youth, Modi promised more funds for their better future and added that it was his desire that the amount (Rs. 80,000 crore) be spent on building new Kashmir, an advanced and progressive Kashmir. He called the package just a beginning and added that he wanted to go beyond helping flood victims and promised to create jobs for Kashmiri youth, by improving education and by promoting industries, including tourism and cashmere wool industries. Finding work for the youth of Kashmir and Ladakh is the highest priority for his government, he believed.

In his 40-minute speech, while promising progress for the state, the Prime Minister also expressed confidence that his Kashmir will rise again. While assuring all round support to the flood victims, he had a bit of advice also for them that they should not lose courage and should draw hope from the rebuilding of parts of Gujarat state, soon after its damage in 2001 earthquakes.



### Improved facilities in District Hospital Rajouri bring joy to residents

Healthcare facilities in Jammu and Kashmir, over the years, have witnessed a gradual development with the government setting up various new hospitals. These hospitals are equipped with advanced technologies, which help in providing quality treatment to patients.

To give a further push to the sector, the government has upgraded the facilities at a 200-bed hospital in Rajouri district. The hospital now has a separate OPD block and extra beds. According to Dr Aneese Muhammad, Superintendent of the hospital, the old hospital had a capacity for 100 beds and with the construction of new building at a cost of Rs 36.37 crores, the bed capacity has gone to 200. Almost all specialties like Orthopaedics, ENT, Dermatology, and Ophthalmology are now available here. Besides, the hospital is equipped with facilities like computed tomography scan, Ultrasonography, Magnetic resonance imaging and positron emission tomography, to optimise the medical services.

The hospital covers Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi districts. The important thing about this hospital is that it is located alongside the Mughal road. Further improvements are being carried out in the hospital.

People are by and large extremely satisfied over the government efforts having given flip to health care facilities across the state.



## TOURISM

### Autumn season attracts tourists to Kashmir valley

Tourists are flocking to Jammu and Kashmir to enjoy the autumn season in the valley in the midst of fallen crimson Chinar leaves, as they love to experience sound of fallen leaves when one walks on it.

Dotted with Chinar trees mainly, Kashmir adores a unique look during this season, as the leaves turn red before they fall. Chinar trees look awesome. The colour of Chinar leaves turn green and red as per the season.

The tourism industry is picking up again in the state after last year's floods and traders and residents welcome the tourists as their valued guests.



### Ahmad Naddaf - a young innovator from Kashmir valley

Ahmad Naddaf, a senior secondary student from Nawakadal in Srinagar, is passionate about inventing machines. His first innovation, when he was a student of fifth standard, was preparing a fan that, according to him, would cure common cold by dispersing vapours of 'vicks' ointment that gives relief from blocked nose.

Ahmad said that in eighth standard, he built an inverter that could work for 30 hours after being charged for only 30 minutes, and believes that one could



achieve anything that he or she wanted, by applying knowledge. The young mastermind emanates volumes of energy while talking about his journey.

Talking about his other innovations, he added, "I invented a centrifugal mixer, which would enable us to check results of blood tests quickly. Whenever we went to a diagnostics lab, we could only get results after a minimum time period of two hours. However, sometimes, like in an emergency, we need the results immediately. So, I invented this machine which could



be charged on solar power. It works for 16 hours after charging it for only four hours. And the machine has also been approved by the National Innovation Foundation in Ahmadabad".

His inventions can contribute to India's success and progress to a great extent as they are cost effective and can be utilised in the everyday lives of the people. He believes that government jobs are a thing of the past and youngsters should choose a career that gives them scope for creative thinking.

### Sports Festival Organized for Girls in the State

Girls from different cities of J&K participated in a five-day sports festival with the aim of fostering ties of friendship and inculcating sportsmanship.

The Girls Sports Festival was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Anita Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, who was one of the organizers said "we have organised this camp for girl students of our state so as to encourage them, promote them and to expose them to different kinds of sports. We have invited coaches from police department and from other sports association to train these girls. This event will help in developing a competitive spirit and a sense of sportsmanship among them, besides providing them an opportunity to interact with each other. Sports festivals like this mark a paradigm shift in the social fabric of Kashmir."



Over 1,500 girls from the state participated in the event. The event was aimed at encouraging girls to take up sports as a career and to discover new talent in the state.

It also was a gateway for girl students from Jammu and Srinagar to compete with each other and build a rapport.

One of the participants, Afsana, was of the opinion that they had been given a chance to come out to play in field in winter months with the girls from other parts of the state, which is good, otherwise they would be sitting in their homes as their was not much activity in Winters.

## Kashmir school children on Bharat Darshan tour

A group of 40 school children, including 20 girls hailing from remote and far flung areas of Kashmir region went on Bharat Darshan Tour organized by BSF and met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

Addressing the young children, the Home Minister of India told them that India is a country of unity in diversity, and advised them to share the beauty and diversified culture of India in helping the country grow in a unified manner and getting stronger each day. He lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for arranging the 'Bharat Darshan tour' for the children from the Kashmir region, to witness the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India. The Union Home Minister advised the children to share their experience and love that they received during the tour with their friends and family after returning home.



Speaking on the occasion, Director General, BSF, D.K. Pathak said that the concept of Bharat Darshan tours started in the year 2000 and it is conducted every year for the children from Jammu & Kashmir. Till date, 1499 children from J&K had participated in BSF-sponsored 52 Bharat Darshan tours.

Shri Pathak added that Bharat Darshan tour has widened their horizon and has given them an opportunity to see the diversities of the nation. These tours also provide them an opportunity to interact with the people of different cultures, religions and languages.

The children shared their experience of visit to different historical places with their close ones and thanked the BSF for organizing tours of this nature.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Electric car expedition flagged off in Kashmir to protect environment

India's first all-electric car expedition was flagged off from Srinagar to spread awareness about climate change and environment protection.

The all-electric car expedition named 'Goodness Drive from Kashmir to Kanyakumari' was flagged off by former Sri Lankan star cricketer Aravinda De Silva.

Three fully-equipped electric cars - Mahindra Reva - would carry out the expedition to cover a distance of over 5,000 kilometres. The cars would cover 52 locations in 30 days, including Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.



Aravinda De Silva said that the rally was a good opportunity to promote green mobility at a time when issues like climate change and global warming have moved to centre stage of public concern across the world.

Arvind Mathew, Chief Executive Officer Mahindra Reva, said that the idea for expedition was to demonstrate

the advantages of electric vehicles in helping in manifestation of a clean and green eco-system. He added that the rally will propagate a zero emission, besides show-casing the full potential of a connected car, and will dispel myths related to range anxiety.

Many global automakers are betting that battery technology will make electric cars the environmental friendly transportation mode of the future amid higher gasoline prices and stricter emission rules.



## International symposium on the “Rishi-Sufi Traditions of Kashmir”

Governor N.N. Vohra inaugurated “Hami Ast”, a 3 day internal symposium on the “Rishi-Sufi traditions of Kashmir” at University of Kashmir from 25-27 October 2015, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and the J&K Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages. About 20 scholars from abroad and across the country participated in the symposium. Mr. Naeem Akhter, Minister of Education, Govt. of J&K was also present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Governor N.N. Vohra highlighted the evolution of ‘Kashmiriyat’ and how Kashmir has become the cradle which fostered the birth of invaluable spiritual philosophies and traditions, which symbolizes the rishi-sufi way of life, and how these shared traditions have proven to be crucial for promoting lasting connectivities and close understandings across the communities. The Governor also stated that he hoped the discussions in the symposium will send out a clear message to revive the forgotten Rishi-Sufi creeds and traditions.

The Governor and DG, ICCR also made tentative planning with regard to future programmes for the exposition of J&K’s art, culture and tradition to encourage and enable various local cultural and educational organizations to showcase their talent to the outside world.

## Srinagar hosts International Film Festival

People in Kashmir valley were in for a treat when Bollywood celebrities attended the International Film Festival in Tagore Hall Srinagar, which was jam packed with prominent writers, poets, actors and intellectuals from the valley who were seen enjoying the festival.

Titled “Kashmir Moving Images Festival”, the event presented a collection of films from different countries with a special focus on the Middle Eastern cinema.

The noted Film Director, Madhur Bandarkar, said that he would like to encourage the Bollywood actors to come to the state for shooting films and attending festivals, as it would, according to him, give boost to tourism in the state and generate employment opportunities.



Rumi Jaffery, a writer, said "This is indeed a great initiative. The entertainment industry is a unique forum through which one can send across their message to the people and help them experience the beauty of a place. Through the festival, the people would get an opportunity to visit Kashmir, which is considered a heaven on earth. This is the best platform for exchange of ideas and cultures. Such festivals should take place regularly in the Kashmir Valley".

Zameer Ashai, a filmmaker added, "I think that it is great that this film festival is being held in Jammu and Kashmir and films from different parts of the world are being shown here. It would inspire the local artists and help them learn about international cinema. It is also a good way for learning about the culture of other countries".

## MONTH THAT WAS...

### Direct copter service to Pahalgam and Gulmarg launched

Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed flagged off the first-ever helicopter service to the tourist-cum-health resorts of Pahalgam and Gulmarg from Srinagar Airport. The Chief Minister interacted with the first group of tourists before the chopper undertook its maiden sortie, to signal a new phase in tourism promotion. He hoped the service would have a multiplier effect with more and more upmarket travellers preferring chopper travel directly from the airport to places like Gulmarg and Pahalgam to save on time.

### Plantation drive in Pahalgam

To preserve the forests of the Lidder Valley, which lie along the route to the holy Amarnath Cave, the State Forest Department recently launched a plantation drive of fruit trees like sweet chestnuts, shrubs and other medicinal plants that can yield a good income for people living in the forest areas. The State Forest Department wants to make people, living in close proximity of the forests, equal partners in eco-restoration drives of the government, as they are seen as vital stakeholders.

### 'Inspire science' camp held to attract youth towards Science

In an effort to lure youth towards science, NIT Srinagar in collaboration with NIT Delhi recently organised a five-day-long 'Inspire Science' Camp in

Srinagar. The camp was attended by a large number of youth from across the valley. Prominent scientists from across the country delivered lectures during the camp. The main aim was to develop science as a concept for use among the youth. Besides lectures, live demonstrations by eminent scientists were also given at the camp.

### IMUC held hijab campaign in valley

In a bid to maintain the sanctity of the Hijab (Veil) among women in Kashmir, the International Muslim Unity Council (IMUC) held a Hijab campaign at Srinagar's M.A. Road. The campaign which laid stress on the practice of wearing the Hijab drew the attention of people of all faiths in general, and Muslims in particular. This was a first of kind initiative to inspire women to maintain the sanctity of the Hijab. The IMUC outlined that Kashmir is the valley of saints and the essence of Hijab is in the blood of its people. It also said that Islamic culture is the heritage of the region.

### Darbar Move: J&K offices reopen in Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir government started functioning from Jammu for the next six months after shifting from summer capital Srinagar as part of the pre-independence biannual 'Darbar Move' practice. The 'Darbar Move' is more than century-old practice under which the government functions six months in Jammu and six months in Srinagar.

## Do you know?

'Pangolin' is a Malaysian word for "rolling up into a ball", which the pangolin does to protect itself from the enemies. Pangolin has a tongue which can be extended about 25 cm and has no teeth.

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