

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT

Jammu and Kashmir, a region of historical and strategic significance in India, has seen significant developments in recent years aimed at fostering peace, development, and integration with the rest of the country.

Post-abrogation, there has been a focus on restoring normalcy and democratic processes in the region. Local body elections have been conducted to empower grassroots democracy and strengthen local governance structures.

Efforts to maintain peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir have been a priority. The government has undertaken various initiatives to combat terrorism, ensure law and order, and protect the rights of civilians.

Significant investments have been made in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other sectors to boost socio-economic development in the region. Special emphasis has been placed on connectivity projects to improve accessibility and promote tourism.

Jammu and Kashmir, known for its natural beauty and cultural heritage, has been actively promoted as a tourist destination. Initiatives such as the promotion of local crafts, heritage sites, and adventure tourism have been undertaken to boost the tourism sector.

World Day for International Justice

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Be peaceful, be courteous, obey the law & be responsive are the benchmarks of providing justice to people in the world. "Justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create" is an old axiom. On July 17, the world every year observes World Day for International Justice to mark the occasion the emergence of a modern system of justice against international criminal acts. The International Criminal Court -ICC was formally established on July following the adoption of the Rome Statute. The goal of this day is to bring together everyone who wants to support justice and victims' rights .Its function is to help in the prevention of crimes and those that endanger the world's peace ,security and well-being .Several organizational groups drew people's attention to specific issues such as violence against women ,genocide ,and so on. World Day for International Justice ,also called as Day of international criminal justice or International Justice Day ,is an international day celebrated annually throughout the world on July 17 as part of an effort to recognize the emerging system. World Day for international Justice is celebrated on 17 July because this is the anniversary of the Rome Statute in 1998. It was with the help of this treaty that the International Criminal Court was established. So every year on July 17 ,World Day for International Justice is observed all around the world. The aim is to promote international criminal justice and as a way of supporting the work of the ICC. ICC stands for the International Criminal Court. It came into being when 120 states adopted a statute in Rome .It was known as the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court {the Rome Statute} All the countries that agreed to adopt the statute were accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC, with regard to the prosecution of every serious crime. The idea was not for the ICC to replace national courts. It is only able to intervene when a country can't or won't carry out investigations and prosecute perpetrators.

The aim of this day is to unite everyone who wants to support justice as well as promote victims' rights. It is to help prevent serious crimes and those that put the peace, security and well-being of the world at risk. There are a number of different ways you can play a part. Why not write an article or a blog to highlight the need for justice where you live ? You could send a communication to your local elected representative and voice your opinion. Speak to members of your government. Or take part in one of the many events that will be held in cities around the world. In fact International Day for Justice commemorates the historic adoption of the Rome statute on July 17,1998, and marks the importance of continuing the fight against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. 'Since when you do have to agree with the people to defend them from injustice ?If it were not for justice, men would not know justice. It is a denial of justice not to stretch out a helping hand to the fallen, that is common right of humanity.'

'World Day of Social Justice2024 is centered around the theme-Bridging Gaps ,Building Alliances . This year's theme is "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing opportunities for social Justice" which focuses on the recommendations of the United Nations to strengthen global solidarity and rebuild trust in governments .World Day for International Justice 2024 is dedicated to promoting criminal justice and supporting the work of the ICC in ensuring accountability for serious crimes such as genocide ,war crimes, and crimes against humanity .This day marks the importance of bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. World Day for International Justice marks an emerging modern system of justice against international acts. It is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day .The day is important as it unites people who not only wish to support justice and promote the rights of the victims but also help to prevent crimes that pose a challenge to the peace ,security and well being of the world .World Day for international Justice celebrates the virtues of justice established by modern courts in different parts of the world. The idea of justice covers many areas including social, political, and economic justice. The day marks the anniversary of the Rome Statute on 17th July 1998, the founding treaty of the international Criminal Court -ICC.

It was with the help of this treaty that the International Criminal Court was established. The day marks the importance of bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The day helps to raise awareness among people for protection against serious crimes and also warns those individuals who try to disturb the peace, security and well-being of the humanity. With the invention of digital labor platforms providing vast income -generating possibilities and other advantages, there is also the added risk of criminal acts resorting to digital means. Thus, this day also includes spreading awareness over criminal justice on a digital platform. On this day individuals who are working to advocate the fundamental human rights of victims affected by criminal acts are honoured. Various events across the world are organized to promote this day and also to support the International Criminal Court -ICC. Various news channels, newspapers and radio promote this day and bring the focus of people on serious issues like violence against women, genocide etc. ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court. ICC investigates and tries people charged with serious and grave crimes such as genocide ,crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crimes of aggression.ICC is the court of last resort .To conclude it can be opined that the world Justice Day is celebrated to mark the importance to promote justice and prosecute those people who commit serious crimes against humanity. The importance of this day cannot be exaggerated and it attracts the attention of the people towards promoting justice in the world and to minimize serious crimes against women, humanity and war crimes. .Let on this day we resolve to fight war crimes, crimes against women and serious crimes against humanity so that people of the world live in a secured and peaceful environment.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF



Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with a unique climateperfect for lavender farming as it has been traditionally known for its saffronproduction worldwide. However, with the introduction of the Aroma Mission in 2016, there has beena shift toward lavender farming. Lavender farming requires very little investment, and the returns are prettyhigh. One can quickly start with a small piece of land and a few plants.Lavender cultivation, which was introduced as an experiment to help farmers switch to more profitable crops, is now showing revolutionary results.

These initiatives, along with the enthusiasm of farmers, have fueled lavender plantings a growth coined the "Purple Revolution." There are currently over 200 acres of land devoted to Lavender cultivation in the region, which is projected to double by the end of the year.

Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all twenty districts in Jammu and Kashmir; while Kashmir has recently taken over this prestigious crop, Particular districts that have made substantial progress in this area include Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Srinagar, Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam and Baramulla.

Farmers in Jammu and Kashmir traditionally grew grains such as corn, rice and millet, which did not provide much profit, but with the cultivation of lavender, their profits have multiplied several times.Lavender cultivation has emerged as a profitable and sustainable alternative for the farmers in Kashmir; enabling them to improve their economic prospects and enhance their livelihoods with fewer agricultural inputs.

The lavender farming is seen as more profitable as compared to the traditional crops and the agriculture department has been conducting awareness campaigns for farmers to inform them about the profitability of this plant. Besides, free-of-cost lavender plants were distributed among the farmers interested in lavender farming by the agriculture department. They were also apprised about the know-how of the crop and its yield.

Lavender farming in Jammu and Kashmir is an excellent way to earn profits whileenjoying the stunning views of the snow-capped mountains. The state has beenpromoting lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission, and the results have been veryencouraging. Lavender farming requires very little

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

It is the cause, not death that makes the martyr: Martyrdom, the act of suffering or dying for one's beliefs, has been a potent symbol throughout history, inspiring and often polarizing societies. Martyrs are remembered for their unwavering commitment to their principles, often in the face of extreme adversity.

Saluting martyrs is more than a ceremonial act; it is a profound acknowledgment of the selflessness and heroism that underpin our freedoms and values. Martyrs often possess an intense belief in their cause, viewing their sacrifice as a necessary act for a greater good.

This unwavering commitment can inspire others, creating a sense of shared purpose and unity. Saluting martyrs is a profound expression of respect and gratitude towards those who have laid down their lives in service to their country. Martyrs embody the highest form of sacrifice, giving up their own lives for the freedom, safety, and future of their fellow citizens. Honoring martyrs is a significant way to remember and appreciate the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in service to their country or cause.

Martyrs hold a special place in the collective memory of a nation. Their sacrifices serve as a reminder of the cost of freedom and the values that underpin a society.

By honoring martyrs, we acknowledge the ultimate price they paid to protect our way of life. This recognition fosters a sense of

Veteran journalist Lala Gopal Sachar: A Tribute

■ RAVI ROHMETRA

Dugar is the land of warriors, writers, poets, scholars, intellectuals, journalists and many of her illustrious sons and daughters have brought laurels to their motherland and raised her glory to Himalayan heights. One among them was Lala Gopal Sachar:

Lala Gopal Sachar, a veteran and Legendary Journalist, representative of Hind Samachar Group of Papers in Jammu and proprietor of "The Sachar News", Jammu was born on 17th July 1927 at Bhalwal Brahamana in Jammu.

He was born in such a remote and backward village that he had to study in three different schools before he could pass matric. He then joined Prince of Wales College Jammu but could not complete his graduation due to the unfortunate partition of the country and subsequent invasion by Pakistan, rendering him homeless. In 1949, after the arrest of Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, the RSS Leader he started an underground news bulletin in Urdu, titled "Akashbani" for this publication, he was arrested and beaten severely, resulting in fracture of his right leg. He started working with local Urdu weekly "Gulab" but with the start of agitation for integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India in 1952.

He once again started underground news bulletins titled "Akashbani" and "Lok Bani" in Hindi and Urdu respectively, warranting his

YOUR COLUMN
Poor, inadequate, contaminated and erratic supply of water in Channi Himmat Housing Colony

Dear Editor;

I wish to bring to Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra's notice the water supply scenario in Channi Himmat Housing Colony where the officials and operating staff of PHE have created havoc due to poor, inadequate, contaminated and erratic supply of an essential commodity like water despite written assurance given to High Court of Jammu and Kashmir by one of your predecessors on a PIL filed against your department by this association, which is a registered body. For the last so many weeks the supply has



investment, and the returns are prettyhigh. One can quickly start with a small piece of land and a few plants.

The climate in Jammu and Kashmir is perfect for lavender cultivation, and the flowersgrow very well in this region. The best time to harvest Lavender is from June to August.The flowers are dried and used to make essential oils, highly prized in the perfumeindustry. Lavender oil has many therapeutic properties and is used in aromatherapy.

People usually associate lavender with two specific traits: its fragrance and its color. But you may not know that the lavender flower and the oil derived from it have long histories in herbal medicine.

The word lavender comes from the Latin root "lavare," which literally means "to wash." The earliest recorded use of lavender dates back to ancient Egypt. There, lavender oil played a role in the mummification process.During later times, lavender became a bath additive in several regions, including ancient Persia, Greece, and Rome. These cultures believed that lavender helped purify the body and mind.

Lavenders are small evergreen shrubs with gray-green hoary linear leaves. The purple flowers are sparsely arranged on spikes at the tips of long bare stalks and produce small nutlet fruits. The fragrance of the plant is caused by shining oil glands imbedded among tiny star-shaped trichomes (plant hairs) that cover the flowers, leaves, and stems. The plants in cultivation do not usually produce seed, and propagation is accomplished by cuttings or by dividing the roots.

Lavender oil, or lavender flower oil, is obtained by distillation

national pride and unity, as citizens come together to pay tribute to their heroes. In remembering martyrs, we also reinforce the importance of standing up against oppression and injustice, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain. The legacy of martyrs transcends their own lifetimes, continuing to inspire and shape society long after their sacrifices have been made. Martyrs also play a crucial role in fostering a sense of responsibility among citizens. Their sacrifices remind us that freedom and justice are not guaranteed but must be actively defended and preserved. This awareness encourages civic engagement and a commitment to contributing positively to society. Furthermore, saluting martyrs serves as an educational tool for future generations. "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him" - G.K. Chesterton. Their stories of courage and dedication become a part of the national narrative, influencing cultural identity and values. In times of crisis or conflict, the example set by martyrs can serve as a powerful motivator for individuals and communities. Their bravery in the face of adversity provides a source of strength and resolve, helping people to endure and overcome challenges. It imparts lessons of bravery, selflessness, and patriotism, inspiring young people to value and uphold the principles for which these heroes fought. Martyrs are indeed remembered in various contexts, where individuals are celebrated or commemorated for their sacrifices or contributions.

of the flowers and is used chiefly in fine perfumes and cosmetics. It is a colourless or yellow liquid, the fragrant constituents of which are linalyl acetate, linalool, pinene, limonene, geraniol, and cineole. Lavender water, a solution of the essential oil in alcohol with other added scents, is used in a variety of toilette preparations.

The 'Aroma Mission' or 'Purple Revolution,' initiated by the central government in 2016 through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission, has played a transformative role in the lives of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir. The mission aims to support the domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by shifting from imported aromatic oils to locally grown varieties.

Thousands of Jammu and Kashmir farmers are switching to lavender cultivation, which has been very profitable for them. According to the statistics, 5,000 entrepreneurs/farmers are growing lavender on more than 200 acres of land, which has led to a 4-5 times increase in their economy.

The agro-climatic conditions of Kashmir provide the perfect environment for lavender cultivation, as it thrives in mild summers, bright sunshine, and even marginal soils. As land holdings and natural resources are shrinking, lavender cultivation requires fewer inputs, less irrigation, and can thrive in stress conditions, making it a promising future crop.

In addition to the economic benefits, lavender cultivation has also created livelihood opportunities for local women. With rising demand due to its medicinal values and the prospect of better returns, growing lavender has become a preferred choice for many farmers in the area, which is considered as the most fertile belt in Kashmir.

Lavender is a signature crop which is a buzz word today because of its varied uses in the industry, which includes cosmetics, toiletries, fragrances, therapeutics, etc, as the weather of Jammu and Kashmir is conducive for the crop.Also, the lavender plant is antimicrobial, anti-fungal and anti-bacterial and even anxiolytic, and these inherent characteristics help farmers save cost.

Today, lavender is more than just a fragrant plant. As it turns out, this herb is also commonly used for medicinal and therapeutic benefits. Everyday stresses can take a toll on your mental health. The greater your anxiety level, the higher the risk for headaches, depression, and low energy.

Aromatic crop startups can be encouraged under initiatives like 'Startup India' through government incentives and incubation support.Additionally, large-scale campaigns are vital to raise awareness among farmers on the immense benefits of adopting lavender and other aromatic crops over traditional options. This multifaceted approach can ensure the aromatic farming mission brings transformative and inclusive rural development in the future.

The remembrance of martyrs often involves rituals, memorials, or holidays dedicated to honoring their memory and the principles they stood for. Governments often have official policies and approaches towards martyrs and these approaches typically include: Official commemorations and support for families, national recognition, legal protection, monuments and memorials and through symbolic gestures of remembrances, using these commemorations to reinforce national identity, values, and unity.

When we talk of the role of civil society towards martyrs, especially towards their families, we can contribute by way of emotional support: offering counseling services or creating support groups to help families cope with their loss. Advocacy: Advocating for policies that benefit martyrs' families, such as educational benefits for their children or employment opportunities for spouses. Public recognition: Holding ceremonies or events to honor the sacrifices made by martyrs and to ensure their contributions are remembered. Community engagement: Encouraging community involvement and awareness about the sacrifices made by martyrs and their families. Overall, civil society plays a vital role in fostering solidarity and support for martyrs' families, ensuring they receive the respect and assistance they deserve. These acts serve to keep the memory of martyrs alive and to acknowledge their sacrifices in the collective consciousness of a community or nation.

throughout the career. Lala Sachar veteran Journalist passed away at November 14, 2022 at his residence Gandhi Nagar. He was 95 years. His death is as major loss to Journalism. Sachar Sahib, a veteran journalist and one of the founding Bureau Chiefs of Hind Samachar Group at Jammu. Jammu and Kashmir has lost a brave and courageous voice of Patriotism who never feared any Government or separatist elements. He reported Jammu and Kashmir extensively for national newspapers.

Gopal Sachar was a thorough Professional , self respecting and great human being. It is an end of an era. He was active and sending news and analysis till few months - 14th Nov, 2022 was the sad day when Jammu lost a great visionary, veteran Journalist in the shape of Lala Gopal Sachar.

Lala Gopal Sachar Sahib will always be remembered as a gentlemen who endeared himself to large number of people due to his simplicity affable manners and lively and futuristic outlook dominating the Journalism horizon of Jammu Region for nearly six decade with magnanimity and grace. His contributions would remain an inspiration for all of us for many decades. No doubt Sachar Sahib is not with us but due to his selfless service to mankind his name will always live in our hearts.

(The writer is social worker & writer).

May we know the reason for such lapses. The steps taken by you and your subordinate officers to resume normal supply of water as also the reason of not communicating erratic and irregular supply and the period of its continuance through media channels (print & electronic).

We urge you to please respond to this request with immediate instructions to the erring staff and communicate urgently to us so that the residents are informed accordingly. I further make a fervent appeal to your good self to direct the high officials of your department to establish an urgent contact with us, listen to our genuine grievances and make necessary mends in their system to restore and improve water supplies in our area.

Thanking your good self and hoping an urgent response in the matter.

Advocate V K Grover
President, Channi Himmat Residents Association (Regd).