

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG urges youth...

Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Sh Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary GAD; Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; teachers, students and their parents were present.

PM to launch...

to again apply for a new card and complete their eKYC again," the source said. Senior citizens aged 70 and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years).

All other senior citizens of the age 70 years and above will get a cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year on a family basis.

Senior citizens aged 70 years and above, who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme, will be eligible to avail benefits under the scheme, officials had said earlier.

However, those already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

The scheme has covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, including 49 per cent women beneficiaries. The public has benefited to the extent of over Rs 1 lakh crore under the scheme, the health ministry had said earlier.

The AB PM-JAY scheme has witnessed continuous expansion of the beneficiary base, it said, adding that initially, 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families comprising the bottom 40 per cent of India's population were covered under the scheme.

In January 2022, the Centre revised the beneficiary base from 10.74 crore to 12 crore families considering India's decadal population growth of 11.7 per cent over the 2011 population.

The scheme was further expanded to cover 37 lakh ASHAs/AWWs/AWHs working across the country and their families for free healthcare benefits.

Elaborate security in...

of several major terror attacks, especially in Kashmir where two soldiers were among 12 people killed in the past week, Jain said all measures had been taken to ensure a peaceful Diwali and other festivals.

More than 100 motorcyclists, mostly from the police department, took part in the rally as part of a programme to honour the bravery and dedication of the fallen personnel.

Jain flagged off the rally to spread awareness about "patriotism and the importance of service to the nation".

The event was designed to foster unity, with both police and civilian participants joining in a shared tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, a police spokesperson said.

The official said the overwhelming support of the police, local biking groups and NGOs added to the event's success, underscoring the department's commitment to honouring its martyrs and strengthening its relationship with the public.

Earlier in the day, the police organised a marathon in the city that witnessed more than 250 citizens from all age groups taking part in a "run for unity" to pay tribute to the police martyrs.

The event was flagged off by Deputy Inspector General of Police (Jammu-Kathua-Samba range) Shiv Kumar Sharma at Hari Niwas.

School students also took part, contributing to the event with musical performances, the spokesperson said.

LG reviews preparations...

age groups to celebrate the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and senior police and administrative officials to put in place all the arrangements for the grand celebration of J&K UT Foundation Day in Jammu and Srinagar.

In view of the festive season, the Lt Governor instructed the officials to take all possible measures to ensure uninterrupted power & water supply, proper cleanliness and sanitation measures and make elaborate arrangements with regard to security and Law & Order.

Need for deeper...

have a problem with India because of Manipur are a political agenda and anti-national agenda. It is not right to damage India's image in the name of Manipur," the EAM said.

Speaking on Bangladeshi infiltrators, Jaishankar said the last decade saw a transformation in the border fencing which has been strengthened.

"The ease (with which illegal migrants used to enter India) and the number of infiltration has reduced. The Modi government is absolutely clear on what needs to be done to secure borders.

Not just Bangladesh, Myanmar is also taken care of. We reviewed the open border policy. Border security is being tightened, the EAM said.

He said the election in Jammu and Kashmir which saw more than 60 per cent voter turnout is a big statement about democracy.

"India won on that day. It reflects people's faith in the scrapping of Article 370 and the hold of separatist politics was broken," he said, underlining the need for deeper integration of Kashmir with India to counter the cross-border terrorism support.

"The integration was, however, opposed due to political reasons," he claimed.

Recounting his recent visit to Pakistan for an SCO conclave, Jaishankar said he wanted to make it clear that he was not putting the terrorism issue on the side.

Getting into election mode, Jaishankar said Maharashtra needs a government that is on the same page as the Centre, refuting allegations on the flight of investments from Maharashtra to Gujarat.

He said Maharashtra is a leading state in industry technology and infrastructure, and "Viksit Maharashtra is important for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat".

The western state is going to polls on November 20.

Targeting the Opposition, Jaishankar said India is the place where the world is interested in investing.

"To implement the Centre's decisions on the ground you need a government which is on the same page as the Central government, trusted by the people of the country and the world," Jaishankar added.

He said the state government should have a track record of delivering on development. "Hence we want to ensure that the double-engine growth seen elsewhere is also seen in Maharashtra," he added.

Jaishankar said the Centre was taking steps to make talent employable in the global workplace.

"In our third term, we strongly focused on employment, economy, and development. Security is also an essential prerequisite for development and we are working on it," he said.

PM Modi is working to improve the image of brand India on the international stage but when it comes to investments state governments have to work on it, he said.

Jaishankar said not all projects have come to the BJP-ruled states in the last 10 years. "You can't blame the Centre but also have to check your own merit," he said, targeting the opposition MVA. He said Viksit Maharashtra is important to achieve 'Viksit Bharat' goal.

"State governments need to be positive, genuine, and effective partners in development. The more the state government is aligned with the Centre, the more will be the investor confidence," the BJP MP added. (PTI)

Srinagar receives 'Award...'

public spaces like Srinagar Square (Lal Chowk) and the Jhelum Riverfront, which now boast vibrant plazas, cafes, and promenades. In a further push towards eco-friendly transport, SSCL has launched a Public Bicycle System featuring 1,000 bicycles and 200 electric bikes distributed across 180 stations. This initiative encourages sustainable transportation, contributing to a more livable and accessible Srinagar, reflected in increased foot traffic and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The comprehensive mobility strategy adopted by SSCL emphasizes walkability, environmental quality, and social cohesion, establishing Srinagar as a benchmark for sustainable urban development. This recognition from UMI reaffirms SSCL's ongoing commitment to creating a future-ready, people-centered urban transport system, enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents.

Delhi court to...

and Kashmir, had earlier deferred the order on his regular bail application.

The judge had extended Rashid's interim bail till October 28 on the grounds of his father's health. The NIA had said it had verified the documents and it was not opposing the bail application of the accused due to the health condition of his father.

Rashid had been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror funding case. Elections to the 90-member J-K Assembly were held in three phases from September 18 to October 1. The results were declared on October 8 in which the National Conference-Congress alliance attained a clear majority with 48 seats.

Terrorist associate arrested...

a police spokesperson said.

He said the arrested person was identified as Ishfaq Majeed Dar, a resident of Latti Shart in the Sopore area. During search, incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one pistol, two magazines, 12 rounds and one mobile phone were recovered from his possession, the spokesperson said. A case has been registered at Handwara police station and investigation initiated, police said.

Army organises 'Chai Pe Charcha' with Panchayat representatives



Army officials along with locals after the meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI : Army organized a successful "Chai Pe Charcha" program at Government High School in Sarsoti, Rajouri district. This initiative aimed to connect with local villagers, discussed critical issues, and enhanced relations between the Indian Army and the community. The event saw enthusiastic participation from all Sarpanchs, Panchs, and locals, who actively engaged in discussions on community development, socio-economic growth, village progress, and local governance. Key issues addressed included infrastructure development, healthcare services, mental

hygiene, education, and sustainable community initiatives. This meaningful interaction strengthened ties between the Indian Army and local leaders, fostering a collaborative environment for development and security. The attendees included a total of 45 villagers, expressed gratitude for the Indian Army's ongoing support and guidance in improving their social and economic well-being. The "Chai Pe Charcha" initiative demonstrates the Indian Army's commitment to community engagement and empowerment, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of Rajouri district's residents.

IEI -JKSC concludes All-India Seminar on 'Integrating Risk-informed Planning for Sustainable Development'

STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: The Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre (IEI -JKSC), on Sunday concluded a comprehensive two-day seminar on 'Integrating Risk-Informed Planning for Sustainable Development' held at the Auditorium of the Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre located at Church Lane, Sonwarbagh, Srinagar.

Held in a hybrid format, the event held on October 26th and 27th brought together national and international participants and speakers, drawing a diverse audience from various sectors, including former Chief Engineers, academicians, policymakers, students, and Corporate/Executive Committee

Members of IEI besides students from SSM College of Engineering and the University of Kashmir, among others.

The day ist of the seminar featured distinguished speakers, including Er. Tavqir Shafi (AMIE), Corporate Member of IEI J&K State Centre, Srinagar, who presented virtually from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Other notable speakers were Er. Shabir Alamgir, Er. Mohammad Amin Bhat, and Er. Sajad Rafiq from the Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

They presented comprehensive work of Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery which can become the foundation for Risk-Informed Planning & Development

in the state.

The highlights of the day two included an engaging lineup of expert speakers viz.

Saleem Beg, State Convener of INTACH; Er. Rafiq Ahmad Rafiq, Former Chief Engineer (Civil); Dr. Pervez Ahmad, Head, Department of Geography & Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, who delivered the keynote address and Er. Iftikhar Ahmad Hakim (FIE), formerly Chief Town Planner, Kashmir, and Chairman of IEI J&K State Centre, Srinagar.

The seminar's chief guest, Er. Syed Raza Shah Madni, former Secretary to the Government of J&K, highlighted the importance of adopting a proactive approach to risk manage-

ment within development projects, especially in a world where unpredictable environmental and social challenges have become the norm.

Under the patronage of Er. Iftikhar Ahmad Hakim (FIE), Chairman of IEI J&K State Centre, and coordinated by Dr. Jahangeer Ali (MIE), Honorary Secretary of IEI J&K State Centre, the seminar aimed to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to anticipate and manage risks.

Presentations delved into advanced methodologies such as big data analytics, machine learning, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which can become the foundation for Risk-Informed Planning &

Development.

With a focus on practical application, the seminar included case studies that demonstrated the benefits of multi-stakeholder collaboration to build resilient, adaptable communities.

Discussions also explored the alignment of national regulatory frameworks with global standards like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscoring the importance of policy in fostering resilience.

This seminar marks a significant step forward in empowering engineers, planners, and policymakers to lead sustainable and risk-informed development efforts across the country.

DC Rajouri inspects blacktopping work at Bela Bus Stand

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In a commitment to ensure quality infrastructure development, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing blacktopping work at Bela Bus Stand. During the visit, he reviewed the progress and assessed the quality of materials and construction techniques being employed.

The DC Rajouri directed the concerned engineering team to adhere strictly to quality standards and ensure that the blacktopping work meets all specifications. Emphasizing timely completion without compromising on quality, he stated, "Projects like these are crucial for enhancing connectivity and accessibility for the public. It is essential that we maintain high standards to ensure durability."

Later in the day, DC Abhishek Sharma visited Shaheedgarh Memorial at Qila Darhal, where he paid homage to the martyrs of Qila Darhal. The memorial



DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma inspecting road work.

visit was a solemn moment

to honor the sacrifices made by the valiant soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. DC Rajouri placed a floral tribute at the memorial, reaffirming the district administration's commitment to recognizing and remembering the courage and dedication of

its heroes.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "The martyrs of Qila Darhal hold a place of honor in our hearts and history. Their bravery serves as a lasting inspiration to all of us. We are committed to keeping their legacy alive and supporting the welfare of their families."

NSS GCW Parade launches "Diwali with MYBharat" programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the aegis of the NSS Regional Directorate Delhi, the NSS unit of GCW Parade is organizing a three-day programme titled "Diwali with MYBharat" from October 28 to 30. This initiative aims to instil civic responsibility and enhance city facilities during the festive season. During the campaign, 120 volunteers from GCW Parade, GGM Science College, GDC Paloura, GCW Bhagwati Nagar, GCW Gandhi Nagar, and MAM College will participate in various community service activities.

The activities planned for this programme include Hospital Volunteering: Volunteers will assist patients at GMC Jammu in

accessing medical services at the OPD and Emergency departments.

Market Cleaning: In collaboration with the All India Traders Association, a Swachhata drive will be conducted to clean local markets.

Traffic Volunteering: In partnership with the Motor Vehicle Department and Traffic Police Jammu, NSS volunteers will help manage traffic at choke points throughout the city.

The program is an initiative of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India to conduct intensive volunteering activities in 500 locations across the country under theme "Ye Diwali My Bharat Wall" through NSS and NYKS

under the banner of My Bharat.

As a prelude, an orientation session was held at GCW Parade, led by Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, who emphasized the significance of the program in the context of the upcoming Diwali celebrations. Nodal Officer Dr. Gurpreet Kour and NSS Program Officers Dr. Atiya Syed and Prof. Anuradha Kalsi provided guidance and assigned responsibilities to the volunteers.

Through these initiatives, the NSS volunteers aim to foster a sense of community and responsibility among citizens, ensuring a cleaner and more harmonious environment during the festive season.

Heritage walk organized in old Jammu City



Participants during heritage walk in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A heritage walk was organised on Sunday in the Old Jammu City by Kushagra Anand and Aanchal Aggarwal under the umbrella of Jammu Heritage.

The walk was aimed at dissemination of knowledge of various Heritage assets of Jammu City viz a viz Purani Mandi, Ram Temple, Radha Krishan Temple, Ziarat Pir Mitha Sahib, Kanak Mandi, Khateeka Talab, Rajinder Bazaar and finally culminating at the Panchvaktra Mahadev Temple Complex.

The walk was graced by some noteworthy citizens of Jammu i.e Retd. M.D (J&K Housing Board) Arvind Kotwal, Retd. Chief Architect J&K Government Harinder Arora, Senior Architect Vishal Abrol (Architects Organisation), Senior Architect Harbinder Pal Singh, Senior Architect

Archana Razdan Chib, Senior Architect and Urban Designer Sandeep Dhar Gupta, Senior Faculty Manu Rajput (Government Polytechnic, Jammu), Architect Paras Sharma, Architect Jai Aggarwal, Geologist Kabir Sharma along with students of Polytechnic and activists from Climate Front Jammu (around 25 in total).

The guided walk was designed to instill a sense of culture and belonging to our city as citizens. The event concluded with an informal baithak at the Panchvaktra Temple on the further course of action. The refreshments were provided by the Panchvaktra management. We wholeheartedly thank Suresh Sharma, Retd. Judge, Caretaker of Panchvaktra Temple for providing us with a supportive environment.

Lt Governor Mishra meets Union Minister of Education

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) met the Union Minister of Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, at his residence in New Delhi.

The HLG discussed several education-related issues concerning the students and staff of schools and colleges of Ladakh. He requested the Union Minister of Education's intervention to resolve the issue of retrospective recognition of students holding BED and BPED degrees.

The Minister of Education, GoI, Dharmendra Pradhan assured to look into the issues and take necessary steps.



LG Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) meeting Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at his residence in New Delhi.

UCO Bank starts Home and Car Loan camp

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: This festive season the Garhi Branch of UCO Bank kick-started a month long Home and Car Loan Camp.

Main theme of this programme is "Yeh Tyohar Laye Khushiyan Apaar". Taking forward the initiative of Government of India's (GOI) for affordable housing to all; a month long Home and Car loan camp- an outreach programme to facilitate primarily housing and car loan by the bank branch has been organized where general public, business establishments were briefed about the schemes and other benefits like concession/waiver of processing and documentation charges during the camp period.

Talking on Corporate Call Branch Head, Vikrant Sharma urged the people to make most of the camp while stating that such events will be conducted in near future to make more people avail the real benefits of the initiative.

Those who were present on the occasion were Daniyal Tariq Raina (Staff), Davinder Kumar (Staff), Tajinder Singh, Sumit Sharma, Amit Sharma, Gurpreet Singh, Aakriti Sharma and Kuldeep Verma.