

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! PM has assured...

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of J&K. "I am happy today J&K stands proudly on national stage, tall, self-reliant, and full of self-confidence. A strong foundation has been laid for speedy development in all the sectors. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we have fulfilled the aspirations of the people," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted the progressive policies and reforms and the unprecedented growth registered across the sectors in J&K.

"Our economic fundamentals are strong. Peace, stability, rule of law and time-tested democratic values make J&K UT an attractive investment destination. The confidence of investors in Jammu Kashmir is reflected in the highest ever inflows of investment in the past 4 years, he said, reiterating his commitment for the extension of the new industrial development scheme in J&K.

Referring to the achievements registered in the banking sector, the Lt Governor highlighted that the J&K Bank is one of the greatest turnaround success stories of the UT.

In 2019-20, the bank has reported loss of Rs.1139 Cr. It reported a profit of Rs. 1700 Cr in the year 2023-24. In current FY, J&K Bank clocked Rs. 991 Cr in profit, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon the people to remain united, identify and isolate anti-national elements and those disrupting the peace.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the important role and contribution of Panchayati Raj Institutions, ULBs, and elected representatives in J&K's development. He expressed hope that the Panchayati Raj elections would be held soon in J&K.

"My dream is to see that every family is prosperous. My dream is to see Faster development of the infrastructure, industries and fruits of growth reach the last person in the queue," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, beneficiaries under different government schemes shared their success stories.

The event also featured impressive performances by the artists celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Jammu Kashmir. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament; B R Sharma, Election Commissioner J&K; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration, and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

### Highlights...

destination. The confidence of investors in Jammu Kashmir is reflected in the inflows of investment in the past 4 years.

J&K Bank is one of the greatest turnaround success stories of UT. In 2019-20, the bank had reported loss of Rs.1139 Cr. In FY 2023-24, it reported a profit of Rs. 1700 Cr. In current FY, J&K Bank clocked Rs. 991 Cr in profit.

### BJP MLA Devender...

The demise of Devender Singh Rana is widely being mourned. The BJP has condoled the death, and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. Senior leaders have conveyed heartfelt condolences to his elder brother Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in PMO.

### Can't compromise on...

"In the name of diplomacy" by the enemy but he, as then Gujarat chief minister, had raised his voice against such attempts, Modi said. His government believes in the strength of the army to defend the country and does not depend on the words of the country's enemies, Modi further said.

Notably, Indian and Chinese troops earlier this week completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh following an agreement between the two countries to end an over four-year-old stand-off along the Line of Actual Control.

The prime minister, meanwhile, also said that we see the Army, Navy and Air Force as different entities, "but their strength will increase manifold when they come together."

The creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was a step in this direction, and the government is now working on creating Integrated Theatre Command, which will bring in better coordination between the army, air force and the navy, the PM said. Development of infrastructure in border areas was a "top priority," he added.

The PM said the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence, has so far built 80,000 kilometres of roads, including strategically important ones.

Modi said his government is working on providing latest equipment to the armed forces and turning them into one of the most advanced militaries in the world.

"This is the era of new-age warfare. Drone technology is an example of that. Countries at war at present are using drones for different purposes. We are buying Predator drones for all the three wings of the armed forces," he said.

Simultaneously, many Indian firms are building drones as well, the PM pointed out.

As the country is moving fast towards the goal of developed India, "you all are protectors of this dream," Modi told the soldiers. He also said Kutch has immense tourism potential, and border tourism is an aspect related to national security which is not discussed much. "We are focussing on growing mangroves here. After a mangrove forest comes up, it will attract tourists. Just like Dhordo Rann Utsav (White Rann) is attracting tourists from all over the world, I am confident this area will turn into a paradise for tourists in the near future," said Modi.

## Bhalla, Ravinder visit Purkhoo migrant camp to assist fire victims

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and Working President of JKPC, Ravinder Sharma, along with PCC Migrant Cell Chairman Hira Lal Pandita, visited the Purkhoo migrant camp to meet with victims of a recent fire incident and assess the damage incurred.

The Congress leaders took the opportunity to listen to the concerns of the victims and other residents living in severely inadequate conditions within old and unpaired structures. A fire incident that occurred a couple of days ago completely destroyed twelve sheds and shelters, along with all belongings of the affected inhabitants. Although the administration provided some financial assistance from the Red Cross, many families continue to struggle without proper shelter, relying on the kindness of neighbors and relatives.

Following the directives of PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, the Congress team evaluated the situation and consulted with the relief commissioner on-site. They urged for the immediate relocation of the affected families to unoccupied quarters in Jagti or other suitable locations while reconstruction efforts for the damaged shelters commence on a war footing.

During the visit, Bhalla communicated with Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo via telephone to convey the dire circumstances faced by the affected families, advocating for prompt relief and rehabilitation measures. He also invited the Chief Secretary to visit the camp personally to evaluate the situation firsthand.

Both Bhalla and Sharma expressed regret that, following the initiatives taken by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for Kashmiri migrants including relief, rehabilitation, financial support, and employment packages- no substantial measures have been implemented by the current BJP government.

They highlighted that 108 families residing in the Purkhoo camp are living in unhygienic and dilapidated conditions, calling for urgent actions to improve their living standards. The Congress leaders emphasized the necessity for immediate steps to ensure the welfare and upliftment of the Kashmiri migrant community, stressing that it was only during Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure that adequate attention was given to their needs.

## MD HADP reviews status of Competitiveness, improvement of Agriculture, allied sectors project



MD HADP/JKICP, Rahul Yadav chairing a meeting.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting regarding the priming and review of the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Mission Director HADP/JKICP, Rahul Yadav here in the conference hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including the Director of Horticulture Jammu, Director of Animal Husbandry, Director of Sheep Husbandry, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension/SLUB), and officers from agriculture and allied departments. The Director of Agriculture Kashmir and heads of allied departments participated via video conferencing.

During the meeting, Mission Director Rahul Yadav emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan to develop a curriculum for training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of trainers, which will ultimately benefit farmers. He urged participants to focus on developing the horticulture sector in districts that are not currently recognized for it, leveraging their unique strengths in this field.

The Mission Director suggested involving farmers and private stakeholders in forming Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to

promote niche crops, with active credit linkage and support from financial institutions in the Union Territory. He highlighted that the primary objective of the JKICP is enhancing the competitiveness and climate resilience of farmers through various initiatives, including production support, value addition, and marketing of high-value niche crops produced across the UT.

The project encompasses several key verticals, including Agri Niche Crop Production, Horticulture Crop Promotion under climate-smart and market-led production initiatives, Agri-Business Ecosystem Development-which involves enterprise promotion, market promotion, and incubation, and startups- support for vulnerable communities engaged in various sectors of farming, and Project Management to ensure effective implementation.

Mission Director's insights aim to foster a robust agricultural framework that not only enhances productivity but also strengthens the overall economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Rajouri Admin conducts online Vigilance Awareness Program to foster transparency in governance



ADC Rajiv Khajuria and others during the programme.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, the District Administration of Rajouri organised an Online Vigilance Awareness Programme in the Conference Hall DC Office aimed to promote transparent governance and

strengthen accountability among government officials. The programme was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajiv Khajuria, who addressed the participants on the importance of integrity and transparency in their daily functions. ADC Khajuria encouraged officers to

uphold ethical standards in their responsibilities, ensuring a transparent and efficient system for the public. The session was attended by officers and officials from the Revenue and Custodian Departments, who engaged actively in the discussions. The event included an interactive question-and-answer session, allowing participants to gain clarity on various vigilance-related procedures and policies. Additionally, members of civil society participated in the programme, reflecting the administration's commitment to engaging the community in its efforts to create a corruption-free environment.

The programme was part of a series of initiatives by the Rajouri administration to promote vigilance awareness and foster accountability across departments.

## Sakina inspects construction site of GMC Handwara, assesses progress of ongoing works

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Minister of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, School Education and Higher Education, Sakeena Masood on Thursday visited the construction site of Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara and took detailed appraisal of the construction site as well as progress of ongoing works.

During the visit, the Minister took detailed round of the construction site and took first-hand assessment of the ongoing works.

She held detailed deliberations with the engineers of the project executing agency and sought details from them about the present status of the project as well as issues pertaining to its smooth execution.

While interacting with the officers of executing agency, Sakeena Masood highlighted that purpose of her visit was to check the construction site and its feasibility, so that the project can be taken to its logical end.

At the construction site of GMC Handwara, the Minister was apprised by the Executive Engineer R&B that the under-construction GMC project costs Rs.325



Health Minister Sakeena Masood during visit to GMC Handwara on Thursday.

crore and has 251 kanals of land in possession. 17 buildings are to be constructed for GMC and work is in progress on 11 buildings while as work is in progress on 200-bedded hospital building in the premises of District Hospital at Handwara.

ADC Handwara, Aziz Ahmed Rather; Director Coordination New Medical Colleges, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather; Principal GMC, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, officers of Sub-District Administration, Handwara and Engineers accompanied the Minister during visit.

Later, the Minister also inspected the makeshift building of GMC Handwara and reviewed the function-

ing of institution. She held a brief meeting with the Principal GMC Handwara, faculty of the institution, officers of Sub-district administration and other concerned officers and took detailed appraisal from them about the functioning of the institution.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister directed them to fill vacant posts immediately so that that best medical care facilities are provided here. She added that this college caters to vast population of rural areas and therefore you need to ensure that this health facility operates with highest potential.

During the meeting, Principal GMC also gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of institution.

## Rajouri admin discusses action plan to enhance security protocols at BRO worksites

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Randeep Kumar, on Thursday chaired a meeting of senior functionaries across varied departments and stakeholders to discuss measures to enforce transparency and strengthen security at the construction sites of major infrastructure projects.

The officials from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and district administration attended the meeting which focused on comprehensive security measures, particularly concerning the identification of laborers and enhanced surveillance at critical work locations across the

district. In light of its current construction activities, DC Rajouri directed BRO officials to undertake a thorough identification of labor deployed across various work sites, specifically noting workers who may be residents from outside the state or country. The BRO was instructed to compile and submit a detailed report listing all personnel, ensuring accountability and compliance with regulatory standards.

To bolster security around sensitive areas, such as tunnel and bridge construction sites, the BRO was asked to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the worksites and near the temporary accommodations housing the laborers. This

measure aims to monitor and address any potential security challenges while supporting a safe work environment for all personnel.

Moreover, DC Sharma and SSP Kumar emphasized the importance of rotating the guards assigned to laborer security as per a defined roster, to enhance vigilance and security protocol. The periodic rotation of security personnel is expected to improve oversight and prevent any lapses in the protection of those on-site.

Present at the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria; Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Pradyot Gupta; Tourist Officer, a representative of BRO, and other district officials.

## DIPR bids adieu to Dewan Chand

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), bid a warm farewell to Dewan Chand, chauffeur who attained superannuation on Thursday.



Director Information and Public Relations, J&K, Jatin Kishore extended his best wishes to the official for a happy and prosperous post-retirement life.

Other officers and colleagues also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the contribution of the retiring official in the department. The officers and officials of DIPR also appreciated the retiring official for his dedicated service career in the department and congratulated him on superannuation.

## SMVDU Tech Community conducts Microsoft Ideathon Workshop



Faculty members and students after the workshop.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Tech Community successfully Organized a Microsoft Ideathon Regional Workshop on 'Getting Started with Technology for 1st and 2nd year students and Placement Scenario for 3rd and 4th year Students' drawing over 400 students from various engineering disciplines and academic years.

The Ideathon encouraged

students to identify real-world problems and propose innovative solutions, promoting a hands-on approach to learning. Students actively applied their skills and critical thinking to tackle current tech challenges, making the event both engaging and educational. Prominent industry speakers, including Sarthak Jain, Head of Community at IDSNXT, and Dibyasom Puhan, Head of AI and Innovation, shared their

expertise and insights, inspired participants to deepen their knowledge and passion for technology and innovation.

The sessions covered essential topics such as Git and GitHub, Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA), and various coding languages, along with a special segment on placement preparation for 3rd and 4th year students. This gave attendees valuable insights and tools to navigate their future careers

successfully. The event was organized by student coordinators Anshul Upadhyay and Prem Aayush, along with faculty coordinators Swastik Gupta and Shashi Bhushan Kotwal. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, congratulated the team for the successful conduct of the program, acknowledging the importance of such initiatives in fostering a culture of innovation and learning at SMVDU.

## Lt Governor Mishra, First Lady celebrate Diwali with staff of Raj Niwas & LG Secretariat

### STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (DR) BD Mishra (Retd) along with First Lady, Neelam Mishra celebrated Diwali with the staff of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat and Raj Niwas at the LG Secretariat. Commissioner/Secretary to the LG, Dr L Franklin, IAS, was also present during the Diwali celebrations.

Wishing everyone on the occasion of Diwali and the 6th UT Foundation Day, the HLG expressed his joy at the opportunity to meet and interact with Raj Niwas and LG Secretariat staff. He highlighted initiatives taken by the UT Administration to empower Ladakhi youth, including the performance of 12 students from Leh and Kargil for the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at



Rashtrapati Bhawan on the Foundation Day of UT Ladakh, in which the students got the opportunity to meet the Hon'ble President and perform for her. The HLG stated that it is a huge moment for students and a big encouragement for them. The LG highlighted the need to work sincerely and dedicatedly for the progress

and prosperity of UT Ladakh. He shared the efforts made by the Administration to open the Directorate of Animal/Sheep Husbandry for UT Ladakh, the installation of the Pashmina Dehairing Plant to make it functional so that the local entrepreneurs and women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) get pashmina wool

at a cheaper rate, etc. He also highlighted his efforts to develop 1,000 Lakhpati Didi in Ladakh to make them self-sufficient and enable them to take care of their families. He also informed the staff about the vision of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to make India a developed nation by 2047 and his fondness for the people of Ladakh.

The LG and the First Lady distributed gifts among the staff of Raj Niwas and the LG Secretariat. First Lady Neelam Mishra, wishing everyone on Diwali, highlighted the importance of maintaining cleanliness and minimal use of single-use plastics, wrappers, tetra packs, etc. Commissioner/Secretary, Dr L Franklin, wished everyone on the occasion of Diwali and UT Foundation Day.