

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Redefining learning, making...

and entrepreneurship is being lauded across the country and it has achieved prestigious 4-star ranking by Union Ministry of Education, he added.

The Lt Governor called upon the youth to explore cutting-edge, transformative technologies and harness the power of innovation to benefit society, empower marginalised communities, and promote inclusive and equitable growth for a brighter future.

He further impressed on the teaching community and educational institutions to nurture and promote creativity, innovation, new technology, entrepreneurship, with focus on capacity building, skill development and lifelong learning to empower the youth and make them key partners in nation's socio-economic development.

The Lt Governor also underscored the importance of skill census which will help in identifying areas for improvement and creating better employment opportunities.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated the Tech Expo-2024 at IUST and distributed financial assistance under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.

He also felicitated teachers and meritorious students, and released several publications including Design Your Degree Programme (DYDP): concept progress and institutionalisation, and J&K and Ladakh Research Consortium ByLaws.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romishoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, presented the University report and highlighted the achievements of the University.

Series of programmes like Academic-Industry Conclave, Tech-Exhibition, Lit-Fest, and other activities, dedicated to youth empowerment, were organised as a part of Foundation Day celebrations.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganje, Director, SKIMS; Prof Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST, senior officials, heads of various educational institutions, faculty members and students were present.

CM calls on...

allows only limited use of water for run-of-the-river projects but does not permit storage of water in respect of three important river systems - Indus, Chenab and Jhelum, flowing in the river-rich Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister yesterday participated actively in all technical sessions, presenting the perspective and concerns of the Jammu and Kashmir government before the national forum.

Forces alert to...

laced with modern weapons and adequate manpower. No attempt of infiltration will be allowed and the borders will be kept fully safe," the IG BSF said.

Asked about the possibility of increased infiltration attempts with the onset of the winter and foggy conditions, he said it was nothing new.

"There is no challenge as winter comes every year and also foggy conditions. All our forces (deployed on the border and in the hinterland) are fully alert to counter any threat. Every year, the situation is reviewed and, accordingly, measures taken so it is not a new thing which is happening for the first time," Boora said.

Asked about the use of drones by Pakistan to smuggle weapons and narcotics, he said adequate measures have already been taken in this regard.

Answering another question about the number of terrorists suspected to be waiting for an opportunity to cross into this side, he said, "We do not go for head counting but our endeavour remains that nobody is able to infiltrate into this side.

"Whether there are 10 or 20, it does not mean anything to us. Our principle is that nobody is able to cross the border and ensure zero infiltration," he said.

"Even if the terrorists manage to infiltrate from anywhere, there are measures in place to neutralise them before they reach the hinterland. There is coordination among all the forces and intelligence agencies and we are fully geared up to meet any challenge," the BSF officer said.

Asked about the installation of high-tech cameras in the forward areas, he refused to divulge any information.

"You stay relaxed and be assured that all measures are in place. Government has made available all resources and a close watch will be kept so that there is no infiltration," he said.

Earlier, the ADG BSF said the force has organised the 'Bharat Darshan' tour for the children of remote and far-flung border villages in accordance with the central government's initiative.

Cong 'Shehzada' conspiring...

reduced to half and if the trend remains unchecked, it will change the identity of the state".

"The JMM-led coalition government in Jharkhand allowed infiltrators to become permanent citizens here... It is playing with the security of Jharkhand's 'beti, maati, roti' (daughter, mother, bread)," he alleged.

Exuding confidence the BJP's win would be spectacular in the assembly elections, the prime minister said that those making permutations and combinations sitting in air-conditioned rooms should see the massive crowd that has been attending rallies.

Modi said he would attend the oath ceremony of the BJP-led NDA government here.

Addressing another rally at Godda, he alleged that infiltration has assumed an alarming proportion in Jharkhand and hit out at the ruling JMM-led coalition for "patronising" infiltrators.

He also termed the ruling dispensation's 'Abua Awas' housing scheme in place of PM Awas Yojana as a 'farzi' (fake) scheme for 'cut money and commission.'

"The JMM-led coalition is patronising infiltrators. It is facilitating infiltrators to occupy land, forest and water of tribals, making their population decline," the PM alleged while addressing a poll rally at Godda.

He also alleged that the ruling alliance not only indulged in "mafia raj and question paper leak" but also stalled development and forced people to migrate, remain unemployed and suffer because they were devoid of connectivity.

"I promise you that I will bring out the culprits who played with your children's future even if they are hiding in 'Paatal'," the PM said.

NIA attaches property...

residents of Amritsar city of Punjab, from point-blank range.

While Singh was killed, Masih was rushed to SMHS hospital here where he succumbed a day later.

Situation in West...

including technology, energy, renewable energy including green hydrogen, connectivity, health and education," he said.

Al Saud is on a two-day visit to India.

On the situation in Gaza, Jaishankar said any response must take into account the international humanitarian law.

"The situation in West Asia is a matter of deep concern, particularly the conflict in Gaza. India's position in this regard has been principled and consistent," he said.

"While we condemn acts of terrorism and hostage taking, we are deeply pained by the continuing death of innocent civilians. Any response must take into account the international humanitarian law. We support an early ceasefire," Jaishankar said.

"India has consistently stood for resolution of the Palestinian issue through a two-State solution. We have also contributed to the building of Palestinian institutions and capacities," he added.

Delving into India-Saudi ties, the external affairs minister said both sides maintained a good tempo of high level engagements and coordination across multilateral fora.

"Our defence partnership has witnessed several 'firsts' over the past few years including the first ever land forces joint exercise 2024; and two editions of our joint naval exercises," he said.

"We had regular exchanges on training and capacity building. And our cooperation has now expanded in the field of defence industry and exports as well," he said.

Jaishankar also noted steady growth of security cooperation between the two sides.

"We are collaborating in counter-terrorism, combating extremism, terror financing, and drug trafficking," he said.

Cop arrested for...

in Jammu, police initiated a search operation on Tuesday, the official said.

They intercepted Mukhtiyar with his motorcycle near the hospital mortuary and recovered the heroin-like substance and Rs 9,000 in cash from him, he added.

A case has been registered against him at Bakshi Nagar Police Station and he has been suspended from service.

The official stated that Mukhtiyar is believed to be part of a drug syndicate active in Jammu, responsible for selling drugs to innocent youth for illicit profit. This syndicate is suspected of being involved in drug overdose deaths in the area.

"SP City North, Brijesh Sharma, is personally supervising the investigation to uncover the connections of these drug peddlers and dismantle the entire drug ecosystem established by this syndicate," he said.

"Their financial investigation is also ongoing to identify properties acquired through narcotics proceeds, to attach these illegitimate assets," he added.

In a similar incident on November 7, constable Parwaiz Khan was arrested along with his two wives during a raid on their house. Heroin and more than Rs 2.5 lakh in cash were seized from them.

Congress should clarify...

people of J&K are focused on development and progress, actively supporting various schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the NC-Congress alliance is instead promoting a divisive agenda that risks fueling separatism and terrorism.

Chugh condemned their "heinous objectives" aimed at compromising India's integrity, emphasizing that such actions would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He also noted that recent assembly sessions have been unproductive, with continuous disruptions preventing meaningful discussion on development issues.

"Omar Abdullah should prioritize the development of Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, he is misleading the people and neglecting his fundamental responsibilities as a leader. The nation is watching the National Conference's unconstitutional efforts closely," Chugh remarked, critiquing Abdullah's leadership.

Chugh further underscored the BJP's unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's unity and fostering development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. He called on the National Conference and Congress to abandon divisive tactics and work toward the region's progress.

"The BJP remains resolute in its mission to protect our nation's unity and integrity. We will not allow any attempts to undermine India's sovereignty and will continue to advocate for the rights and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Chugh affirmed.

Chugh was accompanied by State President Sat Sharma, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, Dr. Devendra Maniyal, Vibodh Gupta, Ashok Kaul, Dr. Nirmal Singh, Kavinder Gupta, Priya Sethi, as well as state office bearers, Morcha Presidents, Morcha General Secretaries, Morcha Prabharies, and District Presidents, along with all 28 BJP MLAs of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

CS chairs UT...



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at in Jammu on Wednesday.

need for improved outreach, Chief Secretary Dulloo expressed concern over the reduction of banking touchpoints by some Public Sector Banks and called for the use of Business Correspondents to extend essential banking services to Gram Panchayats across the UT. "For Jammu & Kashmir to make progress, banks have to achieve PSL targets. Banks must ensure that pre-sanction and pre-disbursement formalities align with RBI and NABARD guidelines, facilitating hassle-free credit access for potential borrowers, especially aspiring entrepreneurs," he said, urging banks and sponsoring departments to work together to bolster PSL in both urban and rural areas.

Earlier, in his welcome address, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, expressed optimism about the credit growth scenario in the UT, saying, "With the invaluable support from the UT Government, RBI, and NABARD, we have every reason to believe that the banking credit scenario in Jammu & Kashmir will experience new beginning, and be a key enabler for the region's inclusive development." He further assured that J&K Bank, along with other financial institutions, would provide full support in implementing schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, employment and poverty alleviation.

Earlier, J&K Bank's General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool presented the financial achievements of banks for the first half of FY 2024-25, revealing that banks in J&K had disbursed over Rs. 35018.94 crore to 9.27 lakh beneficiaries, achieving 68% of the Annual Credit Plan in financial terms and 36% in physical terms. Furthermore, loans amounting to Rs. 860.95 crore were sanctioned for 18,102 beneficiaries under major employment generation schemes.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks presented by the General Manager, J&K UTLBC.

Demolition of properties...

their hands, should be made accountable for such high-handed actions," the bench said.

The top court said when it is considering the issue with regard to 'rule of law' and 'separation of powers', it will also have to take into effect the matters where the Executive transgresses its power; acts as a judge and demolishes the structures of persons without following the procedure prescribed by law.

"Though the doctrine of public trust has been largely applied by this court in environmental matters, it cannot be disputed that the executive exercises its powers as a 'trustee' of the citizens. Therefore, the executive actions must be consistent with maintaining public trust," it said.

The bench said conversely, when the Executive acts in breach of the principles of 'rule of law' and 'separation of powers', the doctrine of public trust and accountability would come into play.

It noted that even in cases consisting of imposition of a death sentence, it is always a discretion available to the courts as to whether to award such an extreme punishment or not.

It said there is even an institutional safeguard in the cases of such punishment to the effect that the trial court's decision imposing death penalty cannot be executed unless it is confirmed by the high court.

The bench said even in the cases of convicts for the commission of most extreme and heinous offences, the punishment cannot be imposed without following the mandatory requirements under the statute.

"In that light, can it be said that a person who is only accused of committing some crime or even convicted can be inflicted the punishment of demolition of his property/properties? The answer is an emphatic 'No'," it said.

The top court said the principle that "an accused is not guilty unless proven so in a court of law" is foundational to any legal system.

It said this principle ensures that individuals are not unfairly punished or stigmatised based solely on accusations or suspicions.

The bench said the right to a fair trial is essential in upholding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties and it ensures that principles of natural justice and fair process are being strictly followed.

"It is thus required that the trial must be fair and open, but not prejudiced by public clamour. The precepts of natural justice are to ensure that the legal order will be impartially and regularly maintained," it said.

The top court delivered its verdict on pleas seeking framing of guidelines on demolition of properties in the country.

Maj Gen Mukherjee...

also known as 25 Infantry division which has its headquarters in Rajouri town, from Maj Gen Gaurav Rishi, the officials said. In a post on X, Jammu-based White Knight Corps said Maj Gen Mukherjee, after taking over the charge, urged all ranks to "pursue operational excellence and maintain combat readiness for any contingency".

Girl dies after being hit by boulder during road construction in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU: A seven-year-old girl died after being hit by a boulder during construction of a link road in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said.

Zahara Choudhary was returning home from her school in Salwah village when the incident took place during construction of a link road, the officials said.

They said the minor girl was hit by a boulder which was being removed by an earth-mover.

"The girl had suffered a major injury in the lumbar and pelvic area and died of internal bleeding," Block Medical Officer, sub-division hospital Mendhar, Dr Ashfaq Choudhary told PTI.

He said the girl was brought dead to the hospital and later her body was handed over to police after completion of autopsy.

The angry villagers demanded action against the construction company for alleged negligence.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation is on, the officials said. Meanwhile, the body of a 38-year-old man was found in his village at Cheek Balole in Poonch district on Wednesday, the officials said.

They said the post-mortem was conducted at the Sub-district hospital Mendhar and later the body was handed over to his relatives for last rites. Police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the cause of his death, the officials said.

Govt to ensure seamless, timely transfer of Toshkhana assets

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Hospitality and Protocol Department has strongly countered and corrected several misinterpretations regarding the transfer of Toshkhana assets, saying efforts are being undertaken by the Department, alongside other governmental bodies, to ensure a seamless and timely transfer of these invaluable assets.

According to a communication issued here, the claim of "inordinate delay and lack of coordination" fails to consider the intricate and multi-layered nature of the process. It reads "Toshkhana assets include historically significant artifacts, precious metals and antiques of immense cultural value. The inventory and handover of such items require careful, exacting documentation, as well as collaboration across multiple agencies.

Due to the historical and irreplaceable nature of these items, it is essential to account for each piece precisely and securely. Moreover, certain items are housed in locations protected by multiple security layers, making access to them logistically challenging and understandably time-intensive".

"The Hospitality and Protocol Department initiated immediate action following the Administrative Council's decision on August 13, 2022, as formalized by Government Order No.11-JK(H&P) on August 30,2022, which sanctioned the closure of Toshkhana Organization. In line with this directive, the department promptly initiated measures for asset transfer, issuing necessary instructions to relevant departments. However, the preservation and management of the assets require a collaborative and structured approach. Recognizing this, the government of J&K proactively constituted specialized committees under General Administration Department Order No.992-JK(GAD) dated August 21, 2023", read the document.

These committees are being led by the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar and comprise of experienced, high-ranking officials including the Senior Superintendents of Police, Director Hospitality and Protocol Department and the Director of Archives, Archaeology and Museums. The committees have a critical role in coordinating across departments, ensuring that each piece within the Toshkhana is carefully cataloged and systematically transferred according to established protocols.

The communication further read "The Deputy Commissioners in both Jammu and Srinagar are at the helm of these efforts and are fully conscious of the urgency of this issue and have adopted a proactive approach. Under their guidance every efforts being made to expedite the transfer while prioritizing the security and preservation of the Toshkhana items. The committees are implementing streamlined protocols and addressing any procedural delays as they arise. They remain steadfast in coordinating across different administrative branches, ensuring all elements of the inventorying and transfer process are managed with the utmost efficiency and adherence to legal and procedural norms".

The committees are working on a collaborative, "All-of-government" approach, recognizing the importance of each department's role in achieving a common objective. This approach underscores the government's dedication towards preserving these assets and managing the transfer with precision.

The process is progressing as efficiently as possible given the logistical challenges, procedural safeguards, and preservation standards necessary for transferring such valuable items. Far from neglecting their responsibility, the involved departments and committee members have been working tirelessly to meet the intricate requirements of this undertaking.

"The government is fully committed towards completing this transfer responsibly and expeditiously. We urge recognition of the complexity of this task and of the dedicated, ongoing efforts by the committees led by the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar, who are managing this process with diligence care, and accountability", read the official communication.

AJPSA constitutes Block Arnia body

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ARNIA: All J&K Panchayat Secretary Association (AJPSA) on Wednesday constituted its body for Block Arnia.

As per the handout of association, Abhishek Sharma was unanimously elected as President of the newly constituted body while Chottu Ram as Vice President, Bharat Malhotra as Joint Secretary and Cashier. The election was held under the chairmanship of Davinder Padha and presence of others members of the district body. The election which were held under the overall supervision of Block Development Officer Arnia, Dr Viplove Sudan. All the other members of Block actively took part in the election.



CVPPPL observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 (VAW-2024) was observed at CVPPPL Corporate Office and all its projects. The theme of VAW-2024 was "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity".



In the projects, citizen empowerment program regarding vigilance was conducted to promote integrity and culture of honesty among the local villagers.

The participants participated in all these programs with full zeal and enthusiasm. Managing Director-CVPPPL encouraged employees to embrace honesty and integrity in their daily lives to become responsible citizens.

APS Damana hosts two-day Capacity Building Program on "Joyful Mathematics"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army Public School (APS) Damana, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence (CoE), Chandigarh, hosted a two-day Capacity Building Program on "Joyful Mathematics (PRP)".

The event, held at the school's Multipurpose Hall, concluded on Wednesday with a focus on making Mathematics more engaging and enjoyable for both educators and students.

The program commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by insightful sessions led by two experienced Resource Persons: Charan Singh Lalotra,



TGT Mathematics at APS Janglot, and Bandana Manhas, TGT Mathematics at Jammu Sanskriti School. Manhas, a certified Resource Person for CBSE, is known for her expertise in integrating innovative teaching methods to make Mathematics enjoyable. A total of 34 educators from various reputable CBSE institutions participated in the program, which aimed to enhance teaching strategies and foster a positive learning environment. The workshop emphasized innovative pedagogical approaches, including connecting Mathematics to real-life applications, using technology in teaching, and creating assessments for joyful learning. Manhas led a session on Self-Learning Materials (SLM) and common errors in GeoGebra, while also exploring the historical significance of the concept of zero. These sessions broke traditional views of Mathematics as a difficult subject, promoting its creative and engaging aspects. In her address, Principal Pushpinder Kaur highlighted the importance of making Mathematics relevant and captivating in today's educational environment. She also expressed gratitude to the resource persons and participants for their contribution to the success of the event. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Surabhi Rajput and Radhika Sharma and was followed by refreshments, marking the event's success.