

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Panchayat, ULB elections...

other deprived sections. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated progressive farmers, and officials engaged in the conduct of Jhiri Mela. He also visited the stalls put up by the government departments, Agri-entrepreneurs and farmers. The event also featured impressive performances by the artists showcasing the rich art and culture of the region.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, DDC Jammu, Anand Jain, ADGP, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officials, and people from all walks of life were present.

2,268 Revenue cases...

of District Legal Services Authorities Jammu and Samba for settling 1044 & 1085 cases respectively which is more than 94% of the total cases settled in today's Lok Adalat.

Amit Kumar Gupta further informed that this was the 11th Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year and the next special Lok Adalat shall be held on Friday, November 22, 2024 focusing on the settlement of Consumer Cases. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their whole hearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

CS calls for...

jurisdictional overlaps, master plan enforcement, revenue utilisation and operational inefficiencies.

The Chief Secretary suggested interventions to resolve ambiguities regarding overlapping jurisdictions, with subsequent issuing of definitive orders or notifications. He also underscored the necessity of phased development of select tourist destinations.

To enhance administrative efficiency, Chief Secretary called for the establishment of robust, self-sustaining governing bodies for all major tourist destinations. These bodies, he stated, should ensure effective governance, organisation, and long-term sustainability. A framework for their governance was also proposed to be formulated.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Agriculture Production and Forests, Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D Vaidya; Commissioner Secretary GAD, Sanjeev Verma; Commissioner Secretary HUDD, Mandep Kaur; Secretary PW(R&B), Bhupinder Kumar; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, along with officers from NHAI and other concerned officers.

Those dreaming of...

hosting an event titled "This house believes in the independent state of Kashmir" on Thursday, the former chief minister said there are people who want to do such things across the world.

"It is not easy to be independent. On one side, there is Pakistan, a nuclear power, and on the other, there is China, another nuclear power. How is it possible? Where is your economy as you are dependent on everything? Those who are doing this are living abroad and do not know the ground situation. They have wrong thinking because we are part of India and will remain so," Abdullah said.

Responding to another question on the Indian cricket team's refusal to visit Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, he said, "Let them not go...it shows our strained relations with Pakistan."

Asked about his opinion on keeping sports and politics distant, Abdullah said, "Nowadays sports has become politics. It was never kept independent."

"The wrestlers in the country faced cruelty when a BJP member of Parliament was in-charge (of the body). What action was taken against him?" he said, adding, "We are making a lot of noise but how much truth is given out by the media? You too are crumbling under the weight of the government."

He asked the media persons to start revealing the truth without any fear of the government and its agencies. "When you are free, ask me questions."

Jhansi hospital fire...

that the fire broke out around 10.45 pm on Friday in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, possibly due to an electrical short circuit.

The children who were in the outer part of the NICU were rescued, along with some of those who were in the interior part.

"Prima facie there is information of the death of 10 children," the DM said.

Those less critical are admitted in the outer section of the NICU while the more critical patients are kept in the interior part, Kumar said.

Divisional Commissioner Jhansi Bimal Kumar Dubey, who reached the hospital around midnight, told reporters that there were about 30 children in the interior section of the NICU and most of them were rescued.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jhansi Sudha Singh on Saturday said another 16 children who suffered injuries in the episode were undergoing treatment. There were over 50 children admitted in the NICU when the incident took place.

A fire brigade was rushed to the spot while senior officers of the district also reached the medical college, Jhansi police said in a brief statement on social media.

A couple hailing from nearby Mahoba district grieved the demise of their newborn child. The mother told reporters that the child was born on November 13 at 8 am. "My child has been killed in fire," the inconsolable mother told reporters.

Purported visuals from the medical college showed panic-stricken patients and their caretakers being evacuated, even as several police personnel aided rescue and relief measures.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the incident and directed officials of the district administration to ensure proper treatment to the injured, according to a statement issued in Lucknow.

"The death of children in an accident that took place in the NICU of the medical college located in Jhansi district is extremely sad and heartbreaking. District administration and concerned officials have been instructed to conduct relief and rescue operations on a war footing," he posted in Hindi on X.

He also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The chief minister directed the district administration officials and the fire brigade vehicles to reach the spot and expedite the relief work.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, said on X he was en route to Jhansi. He said the incident was extremely sad and heartbreaking.

The state's principal secretary of health was accompanying Pathak on the directions of Adityanath, an official

statement said. Adityanath directed Divisional Commissioner Bimal Kumar Dubey and Deputy Inspector General (Jhansi police range) Kalanidhi Naithani to submit a report on the matter within 12 hours, the statement added.

"I am extremely pained by this incident," Jhansi Lok Sabha MP Anurag Sharma told a news channel, adding that he was out of station at the moment.

Sadar MLA Ravi Sharma also reached the hospital shortly after the incident.

In the early hours of Saturday, SSP Sudha Singh told reporters that the 16 injured children are being treated and efforts are underway to save their lives. All the doctors are available for them, along with adequate medical facilities, she said.

On the cause of the incident, the SSP reiterated the DM's remarks, saying prima facie the fire appears to have been triggered by a short circuit.

"However, a detailed investigation has been launched to ascertain under what conditions or due to whose laxity this happened," Singh said.

The district police chief said while 10 children died and others were either rescued or found injured, there were also inputs that some parents took their kids home after the fire erupted in the NICU.

She said the police were making efforts to verify the tally of the children who were in the NICU and their current status.

"The medical college has informed that 52 to 54 children were admitted at the time of the incident. 10 of them have died, 16 are undergoing treatment while verification for others is ongoing," Singh said.

The rescue operation in the NICU has been completed, she said around 1 am.

The state-run medical college started services in 1968 and is one of the largest government hospitals in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.

NHRC notice to...

contents of the reports are "indeed disturbing and indicate negligence" resulting in a "grave violation" of the human rights of the victims as they were in the care of a government institution.

In a statement, the NHRC said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that at least 10 newborns died in the fire that broke out in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmibai Medical College on Friday night. Sixteen babies suffered injuries in the incident, while 37 were rescued safely. Reportedly, police authorities have confirmed that the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit and the babies who lost their lives were in incubators, it said. Accordingly, the rights panel said, notices were issued to the chief secretary and the Director General of Police of the state, seeking a detailed report within one week.

The report should include the status of the FIR registered in the matter, action taken against officials responsible, the medical treatment being provided to the injured and compensation, if any, paid to the aggrieved families, it said.

The commission said it would also like to know about the steps taken or proposed by the authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur. The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday formed a four-member committee to probe the fire incident.

Rahul makes promises...

is voted to power in Jharkhand, the party will make it the most prosperous state in the country in five years.

India will become the third-largest economy in the world before December 2027, he asserted.

Snowfall in Gulmarg...

rainfall, they said. The meteorological department said the weather is expected to improve by the afternoon.

According to the Met office, the weather will remain generally dry from November 17 to 23 and on November 24, light rain or light snow is likely at isolated places in the higher reaches.

Engagement as disengagement...

about America. It tells us that many of the concerns and priorities that won Donald Trump a first term have become more intense, not gone away," he said.

CJI expresses concern...

Khanna said a concerning trend is being witnessed where bright young legal minds are increasingly gravitating towards corporate law firms or quitting law altogether to pursue managerial roles.

"While corporate practice or house roles certainly come with their own merit, we must ask ourselves -- are we, the torch-bearers of the legal community, somehow failing to guide young lawyers towards public interest work? Who will represent the common citizens in the future?" he said.

Khanna commended the Bar Council of India's recent recommendation for paying a stipend or remuneration to young lawyers in urban and rural areas.

"This would hopefully give early exposures to the young lawyers in the courtroom practice so that they can make informed career choices rather than defaulting towards the corporate path," he said.

Director CBC urges users to exercise caution in order to avoid online fraud

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: During a cybersecurity awareness program, Director of the Central Bureau of Communication for J&K and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas emphasized the importance of preventing cybercrime by controlling unnecessary clicking and excessive browsing on social networking sites.

He advised the audience to stay vigilant while using online portals for their needs and requirements. He was addressing an awareness programme on cyber Shiksha and Cyber Shurksha at DBN Higher Secondary School, Tillab Tillo.

The awareness programme was organized by Quick Heal Foundation in collaboration with Krishan Kala Kendra and DBN Higher Secondary Amarvilla.

On the occasion, Mohammad Shabir a cybercrime police representative discussed financial cybercrime and social media-related cybercrime. He also addressed various questions from students regarding cybercrimes.

Principal of the host school, Ranju Malhotra, urged users to exercise caution while browsing the internet and using mobile devices. She expressed gratitude to the



Director CBC J&K and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas and others during the event.

Hall Tickets/Admit Cards for December 2024 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU released

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The IGNOU TEE December 2024 admit cards have been released by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on its official website at www.ignou.ac.in. The Hall Tickets can directly be downloaded following the online link https://hallticket.ignou.ac.in/hall1224/ignouhallticketDEC2024.aspx as well. The learners are advised to download their respective Hall Tickets and reach the allotted Examination Centre with a print of the same along with the Identity Card issued by IGNOU.

Under the Jammu Region,

35 Examination Centres have been established including four Examination Centres in District Jail Ambphalla, District Jail Udhampur, District Jail Kathua and Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu exclusively for Jail inmates and also one Examination Centre in Northern Command Udhampur exclusively for Army personnel.

The examinations will start on December 2, 2024 and conclude on January 9, 2025. The examinations are being conducted in two sessions every working day. The morning session would be from 10AM till 1PM and evening session would be

from 2PM to 5PM. There would be no examination on Sundays and Govt. gazetted holidays.

The examinations are being conducted by the University in Pen and Paper as well as CBT mode. Question Papers of the courses PCO-01, BSHP-101, FST-01, BLI-011, BLI-012, BLI-013, BLI-014, BEVAE181 and BSSS183 will be of Objective type (Multiple Choice Questions pattern) and conducted on OMR sheets only.

Regional Director, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, informed that the local administration has always been kind

and cooperative to deploy security personnel at the Examination Centres for maintaining law and order and the Postal authorities always cooperate by way of accepting the sealed parcels from our Examination Centres beyond the working hours.

He expressed confidence to conduct the fair and smooth Term End Examinations across the region with the cooperation of administration, Higher Education Department, management and staff of RC, Centre Superintendents and other stakeholders and field functionaries in the region.

KCPS quiz team qualify for national level INTACH Quiz 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Public School emerged victorious in the UT of J&K round of the INTACH 2024 quiz held in the online mode.

The quiz was organized by the UT of J&K Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

The State/UT level quiz consisted of five rounds based upon general heritage of the India which included man-made, natural, living and material heritage sites. Another of these five rounds was based on the local heritage of the UT of J&K. There were audio and visual rounds too and the final round was based on all the 5 major topics.

The team from KC Public School comprising of Nirnay Raina and Vandita Raina displayed exceptional knowledge and understanding of the Indian heritage, culture, and history. Their brilliant performance carried the day and earned them the top spot.



School Managing Director Arti Chowdhary and Principal AK Mishra along with winner students Nirnay Raina and Vandita Raina.

They will now represent the UT of J&K in the national finals scheduled to be held at New Delhi shortly.

School Managing Director Arti Chowdhary and Principal AK Mishra

congratulated Vandita and Nirnay and their mentor Saira Banu (PGT English) for their outstanding performance at the UT level quiz and wished them great success at the national level.

Pushp Vatika celebrates Annual Day-cum-Prize Distribution function



Tiny tots performing a dance item during the event.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pushp Vatika, a Pre-Primary School at Jeevan Nagar, celebrated its Annual Day cum Prize Distribution Function at Police Auditorium, Gandhi Nagar on Saturday, 16th November 2024, under the theme "Hamari Sanskriti". The event witnessed grand enthusiasm, vibrancy, and elation.

The Chief Guest of the event was Sh. Sat Sharma, President of BJP, while the Guests of Honour included Baldev Raj Sharma (MLA, BJP Katra), Romalo Ram (Padma Shree Awardee - Dogri Folk Singer), Mohan Singh Slathia (Padma Shri Awardee - Dogri Author),

Ajay Sharma (SP, South Jammu), Vikram Singh Chib (President, Yuva Rajput Sabha), Sonali Dogra (Professional Singer), Pawan Singh (Ex-Corporator and BJP Member), and Pankaj Khajuria (Chief Correspondent, Greater Jammu).

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, accompanied by other dignitaries. Little toddlers added charm to the occasion with vibrant cultural performances, including dedications to Shankar Ji and Ganesh Ji, and captivating acts like Butterfly Dance and folk presentations from various

states. The Principal, Headmistress, Director of RMPS, and staff of Pushp Vatika were also present, ensuring the seamless execution of the program. In his address, Sat Sharma, BJP President, lauded the school administration and teachers for their dedication and efforts in nurturing young minds. He highlighted how their tireless work had brought the institution to such great heights of success.

Baldev Raj Sharma commended the platform provided by the school to showcase the students' talents and recognized the staff's efforts. Romalo Ram remarked that

annual functions are milestones for progress, helping to imbue qualities like leadership and confidence in students.

Mohan Singh Slathia emphasized the importance of preserving one's mother tongue, calling it a reflection of cultural identity and co-existence. The Director, Rishiek Mengi, presented the school's annual report, showcasing its achievements during the academic session 2024-25.

The event concluded with the distribution of awards by the Chief Guest to meritorious students for their academic excellence and extracurricular achievements.

Sushma Sharma, Headmistress, extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, staff, and parents for their unwavering support. The Principal also appreciated the staff for their relentless efforts in uplifting the institution.

The program concluded with the National Anthem, marking the end of a successful and memorable day.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday celebrated at UIPS



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Unique International Public School marked the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday with immense devotion and fervour. The day commenced with the sacred recitation of Gurbani and hymns, creating an atmosphere of spirituality and reverence across the campus.

The highlight of the event was the special blessings bestowed upon the school community by the esteemed Chairperson,

Jasbir Singh. In his address, he emphasized the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, including the principles of equality, compassion, and selfless service.

"Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of universal brotherhood and humility is more relevant than ever. Let us strive to embody these values in our daily lives and inspire the younger generation to follow this path of righteousness," he remarked.

Students actively participated in a series of cultur-

al and spiritual activities, including a soulful Shabad Kirtan and an inspiring skit highlighting Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life and teachings. The event also featured a Langar (community meal), where staff, students, and parents came together to embrace the spirit of unity and selfless service.

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer for peace, harmony, and prosperity, leaving everyone inspired to lead a life guided by Guru Nanak Dev Ji's profound teachings.