

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Law enforcement agencies...

at Aquaplex Crown, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the organizers and all the participants. He said the entries from more than 50 countries are a testimony to vibrant, peaceful and prosperous J&K UT under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He called upon filmmakers to utilise their craft to inspire people to follow the right path, serve their art and also give priority to national interest. He observed that cinema is vital element of soft power and global popularity of our film industry has contributed in bonding with different cultures across the world.

"Good Cinema is not just entertainment but also influences the greater cause of service and human values. I believe a good film is one which strikes a balance between entertainment and social concern," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor exhorted film-makers that they possess a powerful medium of change which can play an important role in establishing equality, social justice and help in eradicating social evils.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Film policy of J&K and series of initiatives, including operationalization of Cinema Halls in Kashmir, incentives to film makers, Single Window portal, taken by the government to create a vibrant film ecosystem in Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. He said that Jammu Kashmir will host the International Film Festival next year.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to famous Theatre and Film personality of J&K, Mushtaq Kak and recalled his outstanding contribution to the world of cinema and theatre.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the efforts of 'Vomeds Organization' for promoting cinema in Jammu Kashmir and felicitated various stakeholders associated with the event. Renowned film-maker and actor, Pankaj Khajuria was conferred with the Mushtaq Kak award.

Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Rohit Bhat, President Vomeds and Festival Director of Jammu Film Festival & TIFFS; senior officials, participants of the Film Festival, industry professionals, prominent artists and cinema enthusiasts were present.

CM exhorts agriculture...

the neglect of agriculture in discussions about J&K's development. "In Jammu and Kashmir, we find farmers in every corner, yet when we discuss progress, we focus on factories, tourism, and facilities for pilgrims at religious places. Sadly, the contribution of farmers and the agriculture and allied sectors often goes unnoticed," he said.

He stressed the economic potential of agriculture and allied sectors, stating, "I firmly believe that focusing on these sectors can significantly transform J&K's economy. We rely heavily on imports for many necessities, such as dairy products, meat, and oilseeds. Our efforts should aim to produce these locally through import substitution. If we achieve surplus production, we can sell it outside, leading to a positive shift in J&K's economy."

Omar Abdullah called for efforts to restore farming as a viable and respected livelihood for future generations.

"Our farmers must feel confident that their hard work on the land will generate income. However, it is disheartening that the younger generation is distancing itself from agriculture. Productive agricultural land is increasingly being used for non-agricultural purposes because our children hesitate to connect with agriculture and allied sectors. This mindset needs to change," he lamented.

Speaking about Jammu's agricultural potential, he said, "Multiple-farming, cultivating staple crops, and utilizing land for high-value products hold immense potential. Jammu is already renowned for its RS Pura Basmati, Rajma and Guechi mushrooms from Kishtwar. Products like olives and exotic fruits, which were unheard of just a few years ago, are now becoming common in our homes. There is no scarcity of potential here."

He further emphasized the importance of undertaking research and ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of J&K.

"The practical implementation of research is crucial, and the responsibility lies in ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Farmers must be informed about the advantages of these practices so that agriculture becomes productive and attractive, even for the younger generation."

The Chief Minister also pledged his government's unwavering support to SKUAST, saying, "This four-day program is an excellent initiative for farmers and visitors to learn and benefit from. My government will fully support and assist the university in its endeavors. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you, and you will always find our doors open to help this institution thrive."

During the event, Omar Abdullah released several books on agriculture and research authored by various experts.

He also felicitated progressive farmers from Jammu division for their contributions to the sector.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the National Agriculture Summit & Farmers' Fair-2024 in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu BN Tripathi, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, and other dignitaries.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah laid the foundation stone of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development at the main campus of SKUAST-Jammu and planted saplings of various fruit plants alongside the Deputy CM, Agriculture Minister, MLA, and VC SKUAST-Jammu.

The Chief Minister also inspected stalls set up by agriculture and allied departments, interacting with staff and farmers.

He inaugurated the Krishi Mela Rural Sports by blowing a whistle and witnessed a tug-of-war competition among boys and girls of different categories.

The event witnessed the participation of scholars, researchers, scientists, students, and progressive farmers, making it a significant platform for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in agriculture.

Omar Abdullah also visited the stall of Horticulture Department during National Agriculture Summit 2024 at SKUAST, Chatha, Jammu.

Director Horticulture Jammu Chaman Lal Sharma briefed the Chief Minister about Horticultural Activities, especially employment generation schemes presently under implementation in Jammu Division.

Chief Minister interacted with the Horticulture Entrepreneurs at Horticulture stall and appreciated the role of Horticulture Department in encouraging unemployed youth especially women folk in establishing their food processing units by providing training & financial assistance as well as providing them platform for selling their products.

Jharkhand polls peaceful...

voters exercising their franchise. "Approximately 67.71 per cent voter turnout was recorded as per data calculated till 8 pm. Jamtara district topped the chart with 76.16 per cent polling while Bokaro district recorded the lowest at 60.97 per cent," a poll official said.

The overall polling percentage in the state surpassed 63.9 per cent recorded in the 2019 assembly polls, according to the Election Commission.

Polling began at 7 AM in 14,218 booths across 12 districts and continued till 5 PM. However, polling in 31 booths ended at 4 PM.

The ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc is seeking to retain power riding on its welfare schemes, while the BJP-headed National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is trying to wrest it.

Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar said, "The election process was peaceful and remained free of incidents. Two FIRs were lodged for violating secrecy of voting against polling and presiding officers, including one in Gandeey."

IG (Operations) Amol V Homkar said polling was peaceful and the seizures crossed Rs 200 crore, including 163 crore by police.

Homkar said 891 booths in the second phase were in Maoist-affected areas and 6,828 booths in the critical category.

A total of 585 companies of para-military forces were deployed to conduct the elections, besides 60 companies of state armed forces and 26,000 Home Guard and police personnel with specialised forces like Cobra and Jaguar keeping a vigil.

Mumbai based couple...

account number 12107213137 maintained in IDFC First bank branch from the Raj Kumar's account number 0374040100004334 maintained in J&K Bank Branch Panthal and account number 671204010000007 Union Bank of India, Branch Katra.

The FIR further states that the accused Palwinder Singh again approached the complainant Raj Kumar and told him that if he wanted to get the contract of supplying eggs to IRCTC, then he would have to make him as partner in his firm and the accused Divyansh Bamotra also persuaded Raj Kumar to make accused Palwinder Singh as partner in his firm. The accused persons told Raj that if he makes accused Palwinder Singh as partner in his firm, he would get highly beneficial contracts.

As per the FIR, on September 12, 2023, Raj Kumar and Palwinder Singh executed a partnership deed and both became partner in firm namely M/S Jammu Builders. After execution of partnership deed, Palwinder Singh time and again approached Raj Kumar for more money to finalize the contract of supplying eggs to IRCTC.

The accused persons also told Raj Kumar that they would arrange Railways Vendorship License after which the firm would become eligible for supplying materials to the Railways. On this pretext, Raj Kumar paid an amount of Rs. 4,78,900 to the accused Palwinder Singh in his bank accounts. On October 2023, the accused namely Divyansh Bamotra and Palwinder Singh again came to Raj Kumar and told him that one company, namely Wipro Enterprises based in Delhi wanted to set up an Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in J&K and for that purpose, they want to conduct a survey in UT of J&K.

The accused Palwinder Singh told Raj Kumar that he had secured contract of conducting the survey for Raj Kumar's firm. He also gave documents/MOU signed and stamped on behalf of the said company to him.

Thereafter, Raj Kumar incurred expenditure to the tune of Rs. 24,00,000 for completion of said survey. The accused Palwinder Singh told Raj Kumar to not contact any member of the company directly. On this, Raj Kumar got suspicious. Thereafter, he sent an email on the email address provided on the MOU executed on behalf of said company which was given to him by accused Palwinder Singh before starting the survey, but the email address was found to be fake.

Later, Raj Kumar found that the above said MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was also fake.

Thereafter, he went to Delhi and after inquiry, he came to know that the accused Palwinder Singh and accused Kritika had sold the data collected by him to some other company. Raj also came to know that accused Palwinder Singh is a fraudster and he and the other accused persons run a gang who dupe people of their hard earned money. That the accused persons in connivance with one another have cheated him and duped an amount of Rs.77,64,000 (rupees Seventy Seven Lakh Sixty Four Thousand).

The preliminary verification revealed that the accused, by hatching criminal conspiracy, committed cheating and forgery, thereby causing loss to complainant Raj Kumar and wrongful gain to themselves, an FIR under sections 420, 465, 468, 120-B IPC has been registered against Divyansh Bamotra, Palwinder Singh, his wife Aman Preet Kour, Jatinder Nishad and others for in-depth investigation.

NIA arrests key...

case linked with a conspiracy of the banned Pakistan-based terrorist organisations to procure and sell narcotic drugs to raise funds for promoting terrorism," the statement said. NIA, which re-registered the case on June 23, 2020, has filed a series of chargesheets so far against 15 accused.

The federal agency said its investigations to dismantle the narco-terror network and destroy the root of the terror funding is continuing.

Northern Army Commander...

as an "agile, lean and mean technology-enabled force" to address prevailing operational challenges and efficiently tackle those likely to emerge in the future.

The Lt General reiterated that all Rashtriya Rifles commanders and troops must continue operating "for the people and with the people" as a counter-terrorism force deeply embedded in the geography and demography of JK.

"As emissaries of the Indian Army, in grassroots contact with the populace, the Rashtriya Rifles are well poised to contribute to both community and nation-building. This larger aim must define all our lines of effort," he said.

Lt Gen Kumar congratulated all ranks of the Rashtriya Rifles for their steadfast commitment and sacrifice in successfully prosecuting the counter-terrorism effort in JK. The conference, attended by Major General Anupam Bhagi, Additional Director General Rashtriya Rifles; General Officers Commanding counter-insurgency forces, Rashtriya Rifles formation battalion commanders and senior officers of the Army headquarters and Northern Command discussed various issues, including the security situation, operational preparedness, training, deployments and counter-insurgency operations.

Rainawari fire victims...

affected families received Rs 20,000 assistance in cash on Tuesday. "Additionally, through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), each household will receive Rs 1.30 lakh, as well as tents, utensils, blankets and other essential items," he said.

The chief minister said each family will receive Rs one lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, along with three months worth of ration, stoves and gas cylinders by this evening.

"MLA Tanvir Sadiq will also provide assistance from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to support those affected. Together, we are committed to providing swift and comprehensive support to those in need during this challenging time," he said.

Talking to reporters after his visit to the affected area, the advisor to chief minister said the houses have been completed during the blaze and the government's effort will be to give a shelter to the victims before the onset of winter.

"There is already a policy for rehabilitation of Dal Lake dwellers. These families can be provided land as per norms at other places where they can build their houses," he said.

Pending divorce plea...

compared the status, standard of life, income source, properties, its possession, rights and liabilities of the husband and found that the wife cannot be denied the privileges as enjoyed by the husband.

"Consequently, we allow the appeal of the appellant wife and set aside the order of the Madras High Court dated December 1, 2022 and restore the order of the family court. The respondent husband is directed to pay a sum of Rs 1,75,000 per month as interim maintenance as per the order of the family court dated June 14, 2022," it said in its order of Tuesday.

The bench said the documents produced by the husband and evidence of both parties in this regard clearly reflect the fact that he is a renowned expert in cardiology and has a number of "worthful properties" and is the only legal heir to his father who has passed away.

"His mother is running at the age of 93. He is accruing all the incomes from the properties owned by his mother and himself and is also found to have been in possession of a school, though it is stated to be running in losses. However, the respondent did not come forward with any proof to this effect," the bench noted.

It added that the high court, on the other hand, while allowing the appeal of the husband, modified the order of the family court, noting that the hospital in Kerala had agreed to pay a sum of Rs 1.25 lakh per month as salary to him in 2017.

"We find that the high court has erred in reducing the quantum of maintenance to Rs 80,000 per month. The high court has considered only two sources of income for the respondent.

"Firstly, the sum of Rs 1.25 lakh that he earns from working as a cardiologist at the hospital. Secondly, the rent amount he and his mother receive from a property, of which the high court has stated that he receives half the amount only," it said.

The bench said the high court has not dealt with the findings of the family court, according to which the husband is said to own a number of worthwhile properties and the fact that he is the only legal heir of his father.

"The family court found that the respondent is accruing all the incomes from the properties owned by his mother. The high court has not dealt with the aspect of the number of properties owned by the respondent and looked at the rental income from one property," it noted.

The estranged couple's marriage was solemnised on September 15, 2008 according to Christian customs. The husband had one son from his previous marriage and there are no issues from the second marriage.

India, China DMs...

greater trust and confidence building between the two sides through de-escalation. Both sides agreed to work together towards a roadmap for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding," it said.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galvan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Indian and Chinese militaries completed the disengagement exercise in Demchok and Dopsang late last month after the two sides reached an agreement on October 21 following a series of negotiations to resolve the festering border row.

They also resumed patrolling activities in the two areas after a gap of almost four-and-a-half years.

Two days after the pact on patrolling and disengagement was sealed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in the Russian city of Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS summit.

CBSE Class 10...

subjects. The datesheet has been prepared by keeping in mind at least 40,000 subject combinations to ensure that no two subjects opted by a student fall on the same date," CBSE Exam Controller, Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

GDC Nowshera organises cleanliness drive, beautification initiative in college premises

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEWSHERA: National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers at GDC Nowshera Organizes Comprehensive Cleanliness Drive and Beautification Initiative in college premises.

In a remarkable display of community spirit and environmental stewardship, the NSS volunteers at Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera launched a campus-wide Cleanliness Drive. This initiative aimed to promote cleanliness, sustainability, and a sense of responsibility among the college community, fostering a culture of environmental consciousness and collective action.



NSS volunteers along with faculty members carrying out cleanliness drive.

The event commenced with a heartfelt prayer session, where NSS volunteers reflected on the significance of unity, responsibility, and respect for the environment. This solemn moment set the tone for the day's activities, encouraging mindfulness, gratitude, and a deep appreciation for the natural world.

Dr. Mohd. Zeeshan, NSS Program Officer, led the volunteers in taking a collective pledge to maintain a clean and healthy environment both on and off-campus. This pledge emphasized the importance of reducing waste, avoiding littering, and actively participating in efforts to make the campus a model of sustainability. By taking this pledge, the volunteers committed themselves to being responsible stewards of the environment and promoters of sustainable practices.

Following the pledge, the volunteers enthusiastically participated in a comprehensive cleaning drive, focusing on the college premises, lawn, and garden. This initiative included whitewashing the lawn and garden to beautify and enhance their aesthetic appeal, creating a welcoming and serene environment for students, faculty, and staff.

Under the guidance and supervision of Principal Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad, the event demonstrated the college's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. The Cleanliness Drive and beautification initiative served as a testament to the power of collective action and the importance of preserving our environment for future generations. The NSS volunteers showcased their dedication to creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable college premises, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

FCIK delegation meets CEO & MD, J&K Bank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the General Council members of the Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) met with the CEO and MD of Jammu & Kashmir Bank today to discuss critical issues faced by the business community.

The delegation was led by Mohammad Ashraf Mir, member of the FCIK Advisory Committee, and included the Presidents of IGC Lassispora, Shaltang, and Rangreth industrial estates.

During the meeting, which lasted over an hour, the delegation engaged in a detailed discussion on various bank-related matters impacting the region's industrial and SME sectors. Special emphasis was laid on NPA-related issues and the need for categorizing of accounts to ensure appropriate and tailored treatment based on the financial and operational viability of each account.

Specific grievances raised by FCIK members were also addressed on the spot. The CEO of J&K Bank assured the delegation of a positive change in the bank's approach towards its clients, emphasizing a more empathetic and case-specific handling of issues.

This assurance was well-received by the FCIK representatives, who expressed hope for the bank's proactive role in supporting businesses and fostering a client-friendly financial environment.

The meeting reflects the ongoing commitment of both FCIK and J&K Bank to strengthen cooperation and address the challenges faced by the business community in Jammu & Kashmir.

Chairman AJKTWA meets DC Jammu, Transport Commissioner to discuss sector reforms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Karan Singh Wazir, the newly elected Chairman of the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), held a meeting with District Commissioner

(DC) Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, and the Transport Commissioner Bhawani Rakwal to address pressing issues in the transport sector. The discussions focused on operational reforms, legal challenges, and welfare measures, signaling a collaborative approach to modernize the region's transport infrastructure.



Chairman AJKTWA Karan Singh Wazir meeting DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

DC Jammu assured full administrative support to address operational challenges faced by transporters. He directed unions to operate solely from their registered offices, emphasizing the importance of maintaining order and transparency within the sector. Karan Singh Wazir highlighted various transport-related cases pending in courts. He assured that these issues would be resolved in accordance with legal frameworks to ensure the smooth functioning of transport operations. The Transport Commissioner introduced plans to implement advanced German technology for automatic licensing and vehicle inspections. This initiative is expected to streamline processes, reduce human intervention, and enhance transparency. The association proposed an auto-approval mechanism for goods carriage permits to minimize bureaucratic delays. The administration acknowledged the importance of this reform in improving operational efficiency for transporters.

Wazir raised concerns over unpaid dues for transport services provided during the "Viksit Bharat Rally" and two other events. DC Jammu assured prompt follow-up to ensure timely payment. Discussions included introducing subsidies for the replacement of old buses and mini-buses under a salvage vehicle scheme. This proposal aims to encourage fleet modernization and reduce financial stress on operators. DC Jammu emphasized the need for collaboration between the administration and transport unions to establish a robust and sustainable transport ecosystem. Transparency, public safety, and operational efficiency were identified as key pillars of future reforms.

60 per cent polling in Maharashtra assembly elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: An estimated 60 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the Maharashtra assembly elections on Wednesday, where the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is making a determined bid to retain power and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition is hoping to continue its good showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The figures are provisional, election officials said, adding 61.74 per cent polling was recorded in the 2019 assembly elections in the state.

The Naxal-affected Gadchiroli district recorded a turnout of 69.63 per cent on Wednesday, while Mumbai, the financial capital, saw a turnout of 51.41 per cent. In the 2019 polls, Mumbai's polling figure stood at 50.67 per cent.

Several Bollywood celebrities, including actors Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Ranbir Kapoor, cast their votes adding a touch of glamour to the festival of democracy.

The voting for the 288 assembly seats began at 7 am and people sealed the fate of over 4,100 contesting candidates across 1,00,186 booths, an increase from 96,654 in the 2019 elections. In the Mahayuti alliance, the BJP is contested 149 seats, Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP fielded candidates in 59 constituencies.

In the opposition's MVA combine, the Congress fielded 101 candidates, Shiv Sena (UBT) 95, and NCP (SP) put up 86 candidates. Parties like Bahujan Samaj Party and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), also contested, with BSP fielding 237 candidates and AIMIM putting up 17 candidates.