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CM reaffirms government's...

social workers, and sportspersons, also met with the Chief Minister, presenting their demands and concerns. The Chief Minister assured the delegations of timely redressal of their genuine demands, emphasizing the government's resolve to address public grievances effectively. As part of his visit, the Chief Minister also inaugurated several completed projects in virtual mode of various departments, including PWD, School Education, Animal Husbandry, and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Jammu petrol pumps...

young boys died while another was critically injured after a tragic collision between two vehicles near the Tengpora area in Srinagar. This incident sparked a debate on driving by minors and road safety in the valley. Following another accident in Srinagar last week, in which two teenage boys died and two others were injured after their car rammed into a stationary truck, the DSE issued an order prohibiting minor students from driving motor vehicles, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers, to school. "It has come to notice that some underage students are driving vehicles while going to schools or coaching centres. Such an act has the potential of causing road accidents, endangering public safety, and is also in violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act," the DSE said in a circular issued on Thursday.

The directive further instructed schools and coaching centres to ensure proper sensitisation of students and parents about the dangers and risks involved in underage driving. Awareness programmes on age restrictions and traffic rules should be organised in collaboration with the traffic police, it said. "Parents and guardians should be educated through PTMs (parents-teachers meetings) about the consequences of underage driving and their responsibilities," it stated.

Additionally, schools and coaching centres are required to monitor parking areas and entry points to ensure compliance, it said. "Any instance of a minor driving a vehicle should be immediately reported to the concerned authorities. They should also regularly coordinate with the Traffic Police to enforce strict measures," the circular said.

The directive emphasised activating all road safety and school safety clubs to raise awareness in schools. "All government and private schools & coaching centres must strictly ensure the implementation of the above circular instructions in letter and spirit. Any violation of the instructions shall invite legal action under the Motor Vehicle Act and relevant laws, including the withdrawal of recognition and registration of the institution," it said.

Space, sea should...

said India has "never moved forward with selfishness, expansionist attitude", and it has always been away from harbouring any feeling of seizing resources. The prime minister, who arrived in Guyana on the final leg of his three-nation visit, is the first Indian head of the state to visit the country in more than 50 years. "For the world to move forward, the biggest mantra is 'Democracy First, Humanity First'. The spirit of democracy first teaches us to take everyone along and participate in everyone's development. Humanity First guides our decision-making. When we make Humanity First the basis of our decision-making, the results are also ones which benefit humanity," he said. In his address, Modi also asserted that it is "time for awakening of the Global South", and for its members to come together to create a new global order. "For the world, this is not a time for conflict. It is a time to identify and eliminate the conditions that lead to conflict," he said. "I believe that space and sea should be subjects of universal cooperation, not universal conflict," Modi said. In his remarks, Modi termed the India-Guyana ties of 'mitti' (soil) as full of cordiality, referring to their cultural ties of over a century and a half. He said that "Bharat says, every nation matters" and underlined that India sees island nations not as small countries but as large ocean countries. He said that in the spirit of 'Democracy First, Humanity First', India is also doing its duty as a 'Vishwa Bandhu', acting as first responders in times of crisis.

K Sanjay Murthy...

demitted office on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Murthy was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India by President Droupadi Murmu at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Prior to this, Murthy was Secretary, Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education. He has also served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and CEO, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Murthy was named the new CAG by the Centre on Monday. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, among others, were present at the oath-taking ceremony. Before his tenure at the Centre, Murthy served on important assignments in the state government of Himachal Pradesh. He has wide experience in administrative, social, economic, and infrastructure fields.

JDA demolishes Kashmiri...

affected families that new shops would be constructed for them in the area. "These shops were on JDA land. The relief organisation has floated tenders for constructing a shopping complex in Muthi Camp Phase II. Ten shops will be constructed soon and allotted to these shopkeepers," he said. Political parties, including the BJP, PDP and Apni Party, and several Kashmiri Pandit organisations condemned the JDA's action and called for the construction of new shops for the displaced community to help them sustain their livelihood. Pointing to his demolished shop, its owner Kuldeep Kisroo said, "Instead of helping us survive by providing better facilities and financial support, this government has snatched our bread and butter by bulldozing our shops." Jav Lal Bhat, another shopkeeper who set up his shop in a tin shed in 1991, said, "How can we feed our families when we are solely dependent on the earnings from these shops? We urge the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister to intervene and give us justice." Another shopkeeper, Jawahir Lal, described the demolition as "sheer hooliganism". He said, "No notices were served to us for the demolition." President of the Muthi migrant camp Anil Bhan criticised the timing of the demolition. "It should have waited for another month as the relief department is already constructing shops for them within the camp. This unfortunate incident could have been avoided," he said. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti shared a clip of the affected shopkeepers on X and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue with compassion and urgency. "Heartbreaking scenes emerge as Kashmiri Pandit shopkeepers stand helplessly by the rubble of their demolished shops, reportedly brought down by the JDA without prior notice. This act further deepens their sense of alienation and loss," she said on X. BJP Spokesperson G L Raina, who visited the site and met the affected families, said, "This visibly seems to be a revenge action soon after the return of the NC-Congress government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah." "JDA should have provided alternatives to these families. The government must stop targeting this hapless community," he said. Apni Party General Secretary and former legislator Vijay Bakaya expressed dismay and questioned the intentions of the JDA. "Many shops being run by Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Muthi for nearly 30 years have been demolished. If these shops had to be removed for any legitimate reason, notice should have been given and alternative locations provided. This high-handed action by the authorities is most condemnable," he said.

Drive carried out...

of JDA that some of the illegal occupants had rented out these kiosks and Doms (One Room tenements) and were charging rents from poor public. On this patch of land, the JDA had floated the tender for construction of 208 EWS flats. However, the earmarked land was found having 12 dome quarters (abandoned/vacant) and 22 kiosks under illegal possession of those who were already rehabilitated at various locations such as Purkhoo, Muthi and Jagti and some have rented out to some outsiders/locals on monthly rental basis. These structures were to be cleared for making the land available for the purpose of EWS Flats," the JDA said. It further stated that due procedure was adopted for eviction of illegal possession of its property by serving notice under Section 4 of the J&K Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1988 on 20-01-2024 and the shopkeepers were requested and apprised about the project contemplated on the land for which LoI was already issued.

Elaborating further, the JDA said that after the notice, these shopkeepers represented for giving them one-month time so that they shall remove their belongings to alternate places. "Some of the shopkeepers left the place for setting up their shops elsewhere, knowing fully well that due to illegitimate possession of the property they shall have to vacate the premises sooner or later. Some of the shopkeepers/dome quarters have themselves submitted affidavits stating that they shall vacate the JDA land by 5th of February 2024" it added. After giving enough time (10 months) of notice, the demolition drive was carried out on 20-11-2024 after following due procedure. All the illegal occupants were informed to vacate the possession and JDA facilitated them in safely removing all their belongings (found in only 5 to 6 shops rest were without any belongings) so as to free the earmarked land of all encumbrances for construction of flatted accommodation.

These kiosks and Domes (One Room Tenement) were under illegal possession of a mix of encroachers from different communities including non-domicile of J&K and the JDA carried out demolition without considering caste/community-based action. Even some labourers were accommodated on monthly rental basis in some Domes by these encroachers whereas other were left abandoned, it added further.

The JDA reiterated that it will continue to carry out such demolition drives against encroachers in near future so that land is made available for building infrastructure for the Government as well as for needy public. energy demands in other parts of the country. Khattar arrived in Leh on Thursday morning on a three-day visit to the Union Territory (UT). "A survey of all homeless people will be conducted in the Union Territory so that they can avail the benefits of PM Awas Yojana. The ministry will ensure that no person remains homeless in Ladakh," Khattar, who also holds the housing and urban affairs portfolio, told reporters in Leh. He also said that financial assistance has been provided to all the street vendors under the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, and all efforts will be made to ensure that no one is left out. In Leh, the minister received a comprehensive overview of the operations of the power and housing departments, including their achievements. Expressing satisfaction with their performance, he assured all possible support to overcome the challenges posed by the region's tough terrain.

Khattar announces to...

Nearly 50 vehicles were travelling in the convoy from Parachinar to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when gunmen opened fire, police said. KPK Government spokesperson had earlier said that there were nearly 200 vehicles in the convoy.

President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the attack, terming it a "cowardly and inhumane act." He said that those responsible for the incident should be punished. He urged that timely medical aid be provided to the injured.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the attack and ordered that the best medical facilities be provided to the injured people.

Nearly 50 killed...

Most parts of... Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius, a slight increase from the previous night's minus 0.7 degree Celsius, the weather office said. However, the night temperature was still 1.1 degrees Celsius below the normal for this time of the season. Qazigum recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Pahalgam settled at minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, the coldest in the Valley. The Gulmarg ski resort registered a low of 0 degree Celsius, while Kupwara shivered at minus 0.9 degree Celsius. At Kokernag, the minimum settled above the freezing point at 0.7 degree Celsius, officials said. The Met department said the weather conditions would continue till November 23. On November 24, the weather would likely be cloudy with a possibility of light rain/snow at scattered places of Kashmir, especially in the higher reaches.

raft report ready... a consensus," he said, a possibility highly unlikely due to opposition members' relentless objections to a host of the bill's proposals, with the proposed law seen by them as part of the BJP-led government's political agenda. Sources, however, did not rule out the possibility of a short extension to the committee, noting that it may be required even to complete the formalities of preparing its voluminous report and before it is discussed in the meeting.

MPs from the Congress, TMC, DMK, Aam Aadmi Party and the AIMM have repeatedly questioned Pal's choice of stakeholders, and have even complained to the Speaker over his unilateral conduct and alleged implementation of the government's agenda. Pal, a seasoned parliamentarian from the BJP, has dismissed the charges, asserting that he has allowed every stakeholder and all opposition MPs to record their views. He said if opposition MPs wanted to meet Birla, it is their right. The Speaker had constituted the committee, and whatever he decides will be acceptable to all, he added.

The Minority Affairs ministry has deposited before the committee for nearly 29 hours through five days, and nearly 1,000 slides covering the members' views and the ministry's replies and stand have been prepared, Pal said, rebutting the opposition's charge of inadequate deliberations. The panel has held 25 sittings and travelled many states, he added. A BJP member of the committee said around 146 organisations deposited before the committee which received over 95.86 lakh suggestions through various means, including e-mail.

Rahul, Cong tried...

keeping the focus on Gandhi's allegations against the prime minister and the BJP government at the Centre. Patra also pointed out that four states -- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu -- where government functionaries were allegedly paid bribes of over USD 250 million to secure favourable deals, were ruled by non-BJP parties during the period mentioned in the indictment. While the Congress and its ally were in power in Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, the YSR Congress and the BJD, two regional parties unaffiliated to either the ruling or the opposition alliance nationally, ruled Andhra Pradesh and Odisha then, respectively. The BJP spokesperson cited investments of tens of thousands of crores of rupees by the Adani group, the ports-to-energy conglomerate, in states ruled by the Congress and its allies to question Rahul Gandhi over his party's dealings with the behemoth when he calls its boss Gautam Adani "corrupt". Patra claimed that Gandhi's allegations on Thursday fitted the pattern of his, his mother Sonia Gandhi and the Congress trying to tarnish Modi's image since 2002, a reference to the communal riots in Gujarat when the BJP leader was the state's chief minister, but in vain.

Rahul Gandhi alleged corruption in the Rafale deal in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and had also gone after the Central government over the Covid vaccines issue, he said, noting the Supreme Court had dismissed the bribery charges in the procurement of the fighter jet. Instead of levelling allegations in press conferences, Gandhi should move courts and lodge cases if he believes that there was any wrongdoing, Patra said. He noted the BJP had repeatedly moved courts and received favourable judgments in its demand for an investigation into the charges of corruption against the previous Congress-led UPA government.

The prime minister received the highest civilian award in a foreign country on a day the opposition party was attacking him, the BJP leader said.

Gandhi had claimed in his press conference that the opposition had been successful in destroying Modi's credibility over his alleged proximity to the business tycoon. Citing the Adani group's investment in various states ruled by the Congress and its allies, Patra noted that it invested Rs 25,000 crore and Rs 65,000 crore in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan when Bhupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot were at the helm there, respectively.

The conglomerate invested Rs 45,000 crore in the DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu and had recently given Rs 100 crore donation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a skill development foundation, he added.

If Adani is "corrupt", then why are the Congress governments seeking investment from his company, the BJP leader asked.

The billionaire industrialist and his nephew are among those charged by US prosecutors for allegedly paying bribes to Indian officials and duping investors.

This was conceded from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged. US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets. The Adani group, however, has denied the charges.

Judge recommends sending...

2017 terror-funding case. Both the cases filed by the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others.

Based on the NIA FIR, the ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons. The NIA lodged the FIR against the accused persons for "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

Missing woman traced, re-united with family

DODA: Police on Thursday traced a missing woman and reunited her with family at Doda. In a statement issued by Doda Police that one woman resident of upper Dandi Bhaderwah was running missing since Sept 22, 2024 and her missing report was entered in Police Station Bhaderwah. Soon after getting information regarding her missing, Police team was constituted from Police Station Bhaderwah in the search of missing lady besides input/information was also generated by utilizing available sources to track her and ultimately after strenuous efforts of Police party, the missing lady was traced out and re-united with her family and the missing file was closed accordingly.

SPPND GDC Samba signs MoU with JKEDI to make students industry ready

SAMBHA: In a landmark initiative to promote innovation and self reliance among students, SPPND GDC Samba signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute. The collaboration aims to nurture entrepreneurship skills and provide students with the resources and mentorship needed to transform their ideas into successful startups. The MoU was signed in formal ceremony attended by key officials from both the institutes. The signatories included Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college and Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Director JKEDI. The Principal, in her welcome address applauded the partnership as a significant stride to help the student community in getting exposure and experiential learning. She impressed upon the students to materialise their potential and achieve maximum through startup initiatives undertaken by JKEDI in J&K UT. She further exhorted that this association will build confidence among students and prepare them to have a smooth transition from academic to working career. Director, JKEDI delivered an insightful lecture on the role of JKEDI in entrepreneurship development and startups in J&K. He emphasized the role of JKEDI in training the young students in emerging technology in order to bridge the skill gap and make them industry ready. They were further made aware about various challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them. The students were also briefed about the successful startups of Jammu for e.g., Nanhya Foods with an annual turnover of Rs. 40 Crore. Earlier Dr. Pooja, HOD Commerce highlighted that this joint venture will enhance opportunities for students in innovation culture. This collaboration was an initiative of the Career Counseling Cell of the college. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Shaveta Choudhary, HOD Political Science and formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Banpreet Kour, Convener IQAC.



SMVD Narayana Hospital holds Health Camp for Pensioners

JAMMU: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital on Thursday held a one day Free Health Check-Up Camp at their Gandhi Nagar OPD in collaboration with the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA). The President, CGPWA, Kuldeep Khoda, former CVC & DGP inaugu-



Kuldeep Khoda speaking after inaugurating Free Health Check-up Camp SMVD Narayana Hospital at Gandhi Nagar OPD.

rated the camp. The Chairman of the Governing Body of SMVD Narayana Hospital & Life Member of CGPWA, Dr Ashok Bhan, former DGP, Dr. M M Mathavan, Facility Director, Narayana Hospital, Vice President, CGPWA, Dr. Sudarshan Kumar & General Secretary K B Jandial and a large number of CGPWA members & other senior citizens were present. Welcoming the pensioners, Dr Mathavan said the Narayana Hospital is pleased to work with the CGPWA to provide best health facilities to pensioners & senior citizens and would hold more such camps on regular basis. After interaction with the CGPWA office bearers, he said that the Hospital is prepared to hold preventive healthcare camps for pensioners at CGHS Wellness Centres every month. He also announced starting of morning OPD at Gandhi Nagar to meet growing demand of the people of Jammu.

At present, the OPD facility is available only in the evening. He also agreed to consider the request of CGPWA to advance the timing of home collection of blood samples from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at a nominal fee of Rs 100.

Kuldeep Khoda complimented Narayana Hospital management for organising a health check-up camp for pensioners and improving their health care facilities which are better than many other corporate hospitals in the country.

He said that the CGPWA would continue to work with the Hospital management to improve health care facilities for the pensioners. He appreciated Hospital's offer to institutionalize preventive healthcare initiative at CGHS Wellness Centre and assured Dr Mathavan Association's full support for it.

Dr Ashok Bhan said that since he belonged to both these institutions, it has been his endeavors to push things which are largely in the interest of the patients. He said that facilities at OPD have also been upgraded to the needs of the patients. He said that he has been associated with the Narayana Hospital since 2014 and aware of the difficult journey it had but due to the sincere efforts of management, doctors and staff and support from the Lt Governor and blessing of Mata Vaishno Devi, today the Hospital is in a much stable situation to serve the people in best possible manner. The facilities have been upgraded and a Medical College is coming up fast. The General Secretary CGPWA K B Jandial said that the Camp was successful with nearly one hundred pensioners and the senior citizens taking benefits. He assured full support in the Hospital's initiative for preventive health care camps in Wellness Centre. The Cardiologist, Dr Shushant Kumar, Urologist Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma and Dietician Dr. Roopali Sharma provided consultation to patients. The tests available at the camp included ECHO, ECG, Uroflow, Thyroid, Sugar fasting & HbA1c, PSA.