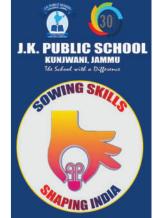


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Buyers of apartments in J&K with hard saved money helplessly look for day when regular RERA becomes functional

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Life & Influence of Yashpal **Sharma: A Tribute**

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Seniority of SIs in JKP be prepared as common seniority only prospectively: CAT

Contribution of armed revolution in India's freedom struggle not given due recognition: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: The fire of patriotism ignited by armed revolution helped Congress-run freedom movement succeed but these efforts were unfortunately not given due recognition in history books, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

Shah was speaking at the launch of "Revolutionaries: The other story of how India won its freedom", a book by Sanieev Sanval, a member of the Economy Advisory Council to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"There are people like me who believe that it was because of the fire of patriotism ignited by the armed revolution that helped the Congress-run freedom movement succeed. I believe this and I can even prove this, that if it weren't for the parallel stream of the armed movement it would have taken a few more decades to attain independence," he said. "It is unfortunate that these efforts, these contributions of the armed revolution have not been given due credit by histo-

The book tells the stories of freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar V DAzad. Savarkar. Aurobindo Ghosh. Rashbehari Bose, Bagha Jatin, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Subhas Chandra Bose in a collective manner.

rians," he added.

Talking about the freedom struggle, Shah said India's independence was the result of efforts put in by a wide

"If we analyse India's freedom movement, we see a great number of people, a great number of ideologies and organisations were putting in efforts to reach the same destination. It is the result of their collective efforts," the senior BJP leader said.

However, he added, only one type of narrative of nonviolent movement has been "forced through education, history

lent movement had no contribution in India's freedom, or it is not a part of the history. The non-violent movement played a great part, it had

to say that nobody else had any contribution," Shah said. He blamed those "who were responsible to tell the history from India's perspective" for having made mistakes.

major contribution to inde-

pendence. But it is not correct

"Those who were responsible to tell the story of India's freedom struggle from an Indian perspective, I believe they made some mistakes. The British went away but they left behind 'angrejiyat'. And the history was written through those glasses of 'angrejiyat', which ultimately created this entire confusion. Shah said. He also called upon the younger generation, academicians and historians to "read history more closely and take its true message to

Man apprehended with over Rs 57 lakh cash in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday apprehended a man in Kupwara district after seizing more than Rs 57 lakh in cash from him.

Syed Irfan Abdullah was held in the presence of a magistrate following the recovery of Rs 57.43 lakh in cash, which was concealed in a geyser, at Laribal in Kupwara, spokesperson said.

Police have registered a case and initiated investigation, the spokesperson said.

Over 1.6 lakh get employment in 6 years by KVIB in J&K.

sav officials

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: More than 1.6 lakh youths were provided employment in the last six years with establishment of 20,772 units by the Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

"In the previous six years, KVIB has been successful

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Top BJP leader asks J&K unit to switch to election mode

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Chugh terms party leaders as Commanders for big win



BJP National General Secretary (Org.) B L Santhosh addressing senior party leaders in Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday conducted a meeting of senior party leaders addressed by party's national leaders at A4 resorts, Purmandal road in Jammu. BJP National General

(Org.) Secretary Santhosh, BJP National Secretary & General Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, J&KBJPPresident Ravinder Raina, J&K BJP

General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh, J&K BJP Seh-Prabhari Ashish Sood, MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma and others addressed the meeting. J&K BJP State Office

Bearers, Morcha Presidents, Prabharis. Presidents. Convenors, Seh-Prabharis, whole timers of Lok Sabha, Districts and Assembly participated in the meeting. BL Santhosh, while addressing the meeting, laid

"A leader is born when he selflessly works for the win of others and the organization. So you all must devote your

those areas.

emphasis on strengthening

all the party units putting

strenuous stress on the

Booth management and

Assembly Constituency lev-

els. He asked the party

Prabharis to concentrate on

winning the election in their

allocated areas ensuring

their extended Pravas in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kharge invites 21 like-minded parties to join concluding function of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the yatra's message of truth, compassion and non-violence.

In a letter to the presidents of the parties, he said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participation of every likeminded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi. MPs of several political par-

J&K: Snow in higher reaches. rains in plains push minimum temperature above freezing point STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir and rains in plains pushed the night temperature above the freezing point across the valley barring Pahalgam and Gulmarg, officials said on Wednesday. Sonmarg, Gulmarg, Tangdhar (in Kupwara) and

other higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, the officials said. They said the plains of

north and central Kashmir received light rain. The MeT Office has said

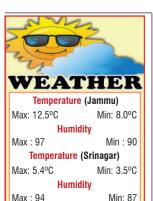
there would be a gradual increase in intensity and distribution of snow or rains as the day progresses with the main activity towards evening or night.

Some places, mainly the higher reaches, may receive heavy snowfall, the MeT Office said.

It said there is a possibility of widespread light to moderate snow or rain in the plains of Jammu on Thursday.

On Friday, light snow or rain at a few places in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 17:45 Hours

Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

ties have joined it at different

stages. "I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge

mit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of truth, compassion and

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the aftermath of

the 2nd Chief Secretaries

Conference chaired by Prime

Minister recently the Chief

Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar

Mehta on Wednesday took a

detailed review of way for-

ward for achieving different

objectives set out during the

The meeting was attended

by all the Administrative

Secretaries, DG Budget,

Directors of Finance of dif-

conference.

number of individuals and organisations

and legends".

the next generations".

ETT Institutes Permission Scam in J&K

Court directs Crime Branch to investigate role of Education Ministers, Secretaries, Chairmen JKBOSE

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an unprecedented scam in field of education in J&K, called ETT Colleges Scam, Special Anti Corruption Court Jammu has directed Crime Branch, Jammu for further investigation in the case. In his findings, the Special

Budget 2023-24 to incorporate ideals of Viksit

J&K, women empowerment, RCB, Skill Dev: CS

other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta stressed on

including all themes men-

tioned by the Prime Minister

Judge Anti Corruption Court Jammu, Tahir Khurshid "At this event, we will com-Raina has passed strictures against Investigation Officer of the case and the then SSP Crime, who was acting as SHO Police Station Crime ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Branch Jammu, under whose supervision this sham and shoddy investigation was done, court observed. Even directions of High

Court at Srinagar, passed in the PIL relating to investigation of this case, have been violated with impunity by the crime branch, observed the Court. While directing further investigation, Court observed that investigate roles of successive Ministers of Education after 2000, including Secretaries Education & Chairmen JKBOSE and further Investigation be done by an

maintained that all of these

form the guiding principles

for us to be earnestly fol-

Horticulture

lowed and achieved in a

IPS officer not below rank of SSP and status report be filed before the court fortnightly and investigation should be completed within two months.

This scam became subject matter of investigation on the communication of the then Chairman JKBOSE in 2013, which resulted into registration of two FIRs 36/2013 at Police Station Crime branch Jammu and FIR 27/ 2013 at Police Station Crime Branch, Srinagar under sections 420, 468, 471, 120-B of

Patrolling, troops deployment along LoC strengthened ahead of Republic Day: BSF

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Patrolling and deployment of troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir have been strengthened ahead of Republic Day, a senior BSF officer said on Wednesday.

"Terror outfits always try to carry out violence but iawans are alert on the border. Our endeavour is not to allow infiltration by terrorists. Such attempts are on from across the border but we prevent them

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

RPC read with 5(2) PC Act and investigation started.

The main charge-sheet was filed in Special Anti-Corruption court, Jammu in 2015 against Bashir Ahmed Dar , the then Director Academics, JKBOSE in 2002- 04 and five other accused who were beneficiaries (promoters/owners of institutes). Simultaneously Crime branch Jammu filed few more supplementary charge sheets based on academic

sessions 2005- 07. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IMF sees India as 'bright spot' in global economy, says Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) sees India as a "bright spot" in the global economy and according to the World Bank, India is in a better position to deal with the global headwinds than many other countries.

This is because of India's strong "macroeconomic fundamentals", Modi said while virtually addressing the inaugural function of the 7th edition of "Invest Madhya Pradesh-Global Investors Summit" in Indore.

The theme of the two-day



summit is 'Madhya Pradesh-The Future Ready State'.

Modi said the optimism for India is driven by its strong democracy, young demography and political stability. Due to these, India is taking decisions that boost the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three soldiers martyred during search ops in Machil sector Salute to courage of bravehearts: LG Sinha

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), were martyred after they slipped into a deep gorge during patrolling along the Line of Control in Kupwara district, the Army said on Wednesday.

An Army official said the JCO and two other rank soldiers were on a routine patrol in Macchil sector when the trio slipped into the gorge on



"During a regular op task in forward area, a party of 01 $\rm JCO$ and 02 OR slipped into a deep gorge, when snow on #bravehearts have been retrieved," the Srinagarbased Chinar Corps

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over Rs 15 cr embezzled from J&K Bank; loans advanced on fictitious salary slips Bhatindi based businessman, ex-Govt employee surface in J&K Bank's internal probe

JAMMU: In a sensational fraud case, a Bhatindi based businessman, running nationally renowned salons chain in Jammu and Srinagar cities, along with a terminated clerk of J&K integrated Watershed Development Project took the J&K Bank's management to ride by embezzling crores of rupees using fictitious documents.

Million dollar question arises why J&K Bank management is hesitant to report this embezzlement case to any investigating agency---Crime Branch (CB) or the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI)-- as the loss to bank runs in multi crore rupees. Speculations are rife that the same modus operandi might have been adopted many times.

Insiders say there are two reasons why the bank is delaying to lodge FIR and initiate probe by its Supervision and Control Division (SCD) also called J&K Bank's Vigilance Cell. One apparent reason is alleged to be the involvement of a long list of senior officers of the bank. The modus operandi adopted in the instant case has shocked the

No fraud is possible without internal support, say ex J&K Bank employees and analysing the quantum of fraud

of luxury cars, have been sanctioned by

which may be bigger than their imagi-So far, around 100 cases of loan, majority of these advances for purchase

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a review

meeting in Jammu on Wednesday

the various branches in the Jammu City besides Rajouri and Mendhar. STATE TIMES in its edition dated December 19, 2022 exclusively exposed the racket under caption "Over Rs 15 cr embezzled from J&K Bank; car loans on fictitious salary slips...'National

Mission' account opened on-email at Mendhar branch. After publication of the report, even the bank staffers are wondering why the bank management is hesitant in lodging FIR for thorough investigation of the fraud case. They blame the banks management for adopting delay tactics by initiating internal audits and con-

Internal sources alleged that the bank management is in know of the accused

ducting inquiries as an eye-wash.

involved, directly or indirectly, in this scam. Once the case is given to CBI, the facts will automatically come to fore,

According to sources the Bank's Vigilance Cell has sounded alert after few car loans linked to one major account, defunct. The luxu-



EXCLUSIVE

ry cars like Audi and BMWs have been purchased by

An account in the name of National Horticulture Mission was opened through an e-mail last year in Mendhar Branch of the J&K Bank as a government account, which started operating with deposits of lakhs of rupees purportedly from the government.

Consequently, around 40 more individual bank accounts of the employees were opened and the salaries from the main accounts were transferred to the

few months, the employees, though fictitious, used their salary slips and bank statements, applied for car loans from various J&K Bank branches at Mendhar, Rajouri, Jammu University Campus and Shalamar Road in Jammu.

The loans were approved and luxury cars were purchased by the so-called employees. An Audi car purchased on loan from Jammu landed in probe as one of loanees stopped paying installments after two months and subsequently on initial inquiry the loanee's address also turned out to be fictitious. On initial probe, other loanees' addresses too were found to be fake.

This raised eyebrows of J&K Bank's management which started probing the matter and found that the main account was also fictitious. There is no such organisation under name and style "National Horticulture Mission," being run by the UT or central government.

As J&K Bank is mute over Mendhar fraud worth Crores, staffers fear hushing-up of case.

Talking to STATE TIMES, several employees said that the first reaction of the management should have been to file an FIR with the concerned police station and press for a probe, ideally by the Central Bureau of Investigation. As such an action has not been taken yet. the motive is evident that the Bank does not want to pursue the matter for the sake of its credibility. This will be 'suicidal' as the fraudsters and the exec utives may get emboldened and motivated to carry on their sinister scams. "Had any such lapse been committed

by 'non-influential' officers or staffers they would have been held responsible for the NPA and delivered exemplary punishments", a staffer told STATE TIMES on the condition of anonymity He said the Mendhar fraud is extraordinary and nobody knows how deep it has spread its tentacles in the peripheral areas and even in the other districts Only a fair and independent probe will unveil the facts as to how the Bank was taken for a ride by opening an account on e-mail by a bogus organisation, projected as a public sector institution, he added.