

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Khelo India Winter...

campaigns, establishment of joint control rooms, deputation of Nodal officers, smooth flow of traffic, parking spaces, lodging, transportation, uninterrupted power and water supply, medical facilities, public utility and other amenities. The Lt Governor directed the concerned departments for effective coordination for the smooth conduct of the games.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dullo Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; senior officers of Police and Civil administration attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

### Firing on New...

the arrested accused as Sandeep Khajuria and Akbar Ali of Bantalab and Suresh Kumar of Talab Tillo. Some more arrests are likely in the case as the investigation progresses, he said.

### Arms recovered near...

on Tuesday. The police said a person has also been picked up for questioning. Based on a specific input, the arms and narcotics were recovered from Keran Payeen near Cobra Post view point along River Kishanganga, a police official said. He said an AK-47 rifle, two AK magazines and packets of narcotics-like substance were recovered from the spot.

The official said a person identified as Mohammad Amin Lone, resident of Naga Mandiyan, has been picked up for questioning. Further details were awaited.

### Dir H&H designated...

copperware and has introduced hologram-based labeling to authenticate products. 291 Copperware labels were issued in the first three quarters of 2022-23. Additionally, a priority is placed on bringing handmade copperware under the protection of the Geographical Indication Act.

Furthermore, the department has recently included copperware, along with 20 other crafts, in the category of 'Notified Crafts' to support local artisans. This inclusion facilitated the registration of copperware artisans, granting them access to various government support programs.

Describing the measure as a significant undertaking, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, emphasized that the department's overarching goal is to champion genuine handmade copperware. He assured that the identification of deceptive artisans and manufacturers of copperware by the Quality Control Division will be given top priority.

This directive serves as a modification to the Prohibition of Manufacture of Specified Copper Utensils (by Machine) Act, 2006, (Act No. XIII of 2006) and mandates the department to take action against unlawfully operating units and conduct the confiscation of machine-made copper items.

The public is urged to purchase copper items labeled with QR codes, as this supports authentic artisans.

### Three LeT offshoot...

with the intention to wage war against the Government of India. Malik was an active commander of Pakistan-based TRF," the spokesperson said.

The official said Malik was engaged in motivating vulnerable Kashmiri youth to join the TRF and LeT for carrying out terrorist activities in J-K.

The spokesperson alleged that Malik had radicalised Hilal and Musiab, both of whom had started working as Over Ground Workers (OGWs) for him.

On Malik's directions, the two OWGs had collected and transported funds and weapons among his other OWGs to facilitate and support terror attacks in J-K, the agency said.

"The entire conspiracy was found to be part of the bigger plans of the banned terrorist outfits to commit acts of terror and violence by indoctrinating local youth and mobilising overground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in J-K," the spokesperson said.

With the various banned terrorist organisations floating new outfits to carry out their terror-related activities in J-K, the NIA has stepped up its crackdown and investigations in the region in recent months.

Under the NIA scanner are outfits such as TRF, United Liberation Front Jammu and Kashmir; Mujahideen Gazwat-ul-Hind, Jammu & Kashmir Freedom Fighters, Kashmir Tigers, PAAF and others.

These outfits are affiliated with Laskhar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr and Al-Qaeda, the spokesperson said.

### Unless China comes...

in Bangladesh. China has encircled us. There are no two things about it," he said. Highlighting India's efforts for resolution through dialogue, Abdullah said, "India is making efforts to resolve issues through talks. Unless China comes forward with a positive response, nothing can be done."

Expressing hope for restoring the camaraderie between India and China, he said, "India and China were friends at the time of formulation of Panchsheel during the

period of Jawaharlal Nehru. But there was a wedge after the 1962 war. We hope the Hindi-Chini bhai environment is rebuild again."

When asked about the controversy surrounding the Maldives, Abdullah said, "I have never been to the Maldives, so I don't know much about it. But India has always helped Maldives. I don't know the reason behind this controversy. Is this controversy a result of the Hindu-Muslim divide being created in India? I believe our foreign ministry will be able to explain this controversy."

He further said that India has come to rescue the Maldives at difficult times. "India has always supported Maldives. When some rogues had invaded it, the Indian Army went to that country, removed them, and saved the country. They came back after fulfilling the task. I don't know why this controversy happened," he added.

On the Ram temple opening and invitations being extended, Abdullah said, "Bhagwan Ram is among everyone in this world. Parooq Abdullah cannot say anything, who is to be invited or not. Everybody should go to the temple."

He also urged leaders of all parties to refrain from politicising religious matters. "It is a religious matter. There should be no politics over it. It should not be connected to politics," he said. Responding to a question about his potential invitation to the grand event, Abdullah said, "I am a small fly."

### Jatin Kishore assumes...

The Director called upon the officers for timely dissemination of accurate information to the public, fostering transparency and enhancing communication channels between the government and the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Director took round of the office complex and interacted with the employees. Meanwhile, the officers and officials of DIPR also accorded an affectionate farewell to outgoing Director Minga Sherpa, who has been posted as Deputy Commissioner Baramulla.



Director Information Jatin Kishore chairing an introductory meeting in Jammu on Tuesday.

### CS sensitizes Adm...

The Chief Secretary called these targets very ambitious and highly transformative that is going to change the style of governance for betterment of the common people. He made out that frequent reviews of these goals should be taken by each Administrative Secretary besides he himself desired to take periodical review of these targets each month.

While elucidating the Chief Secretary highlighted several areas on which the Prime Minister laid emphasis upon. He enumerated that the areas like provision of quality drinking water by resorting to testing by the consumers themselves. Further the focus on micro irrigation, millet promotion, natural farming, creation of farmer database in agriculture sector was also underscored in the Conference, the CS revealed.

Dullo also shared that in Health sector the Fir India Movement, Har Ghar Yoga, enhancing Health & Wellness Centre capacities were laid emphasis upon. It was given out by the CS that it is also among the deliverables of the conference to frame export plan for each district, promotion of e-commerce and implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme in industrial sector.

Moreover it was said that equal focus should be laid on the development of clean energy including solarization, energy storage, e-vehicle promotion in transport sector. Enhancing the number and strengthening of SHGs in rural livelihoods mission, creation of multipurpose PACS in cooperative sector, enhancing Disaster Management capacities, iconography of historical monuments were few other points the Chief Secretary pointed out among the major takeaways from this recent Conference.

The three day Conference also held special sessions on Cyber Security: Emerging Challenges; Perspectives on AI, Stories from the Ground: Aspirational Block & District Programme; Role of States: Rationalisation of Schemes & Autonomous entities and Enhancing Capital Expenditure; AI in Governance: Challenges & Opportunities besides a discussion on best practices evolved in central ministries and other States and UTs across the country.

### National Sports Awards...

they won their maiden Asian Games gold -- a first for India in badminton --, while also clinching the Asian Championships title and the Indonesia Open Super 1000 title.

The duo is currently playing in Malaysia Open Super 1000 and therefore skipped the function.

The awards ceremony, usually held on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, was deferred because of the Hangzhou Asian Games from September 23 till October 8 last year.

An atmosphere of gaiety pervaded the Rashtrapati Bhawan as 26 athletes and para-athletes were finalised for the Arjuna Awards this year, with teenager pistol ace Esha Singh the only one to miss the ceremony.

The 19-year-old Esha is competing in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Jakarta and, on Monday, had qualified for the Paris Olympics after winning the individual and team gold in 10m air pistol.

The imprint of the Asian Games last year, and India's record haul of 107 medals there, was evident in the ceremony as a majority of the athletes, who walked to the dais, were medal winners in Hangzhou.

Murmu then walked down the podium to present the Arjuna to wheelchair-bound para-canoeist Prachi Yadav, winner of gold in Hangzhou, once again drawing a huge round of applause.

Shami, who is currently recovering from an ankle injury, was there to receive the honours and the crowd duly acknowledged his achievements by giving him and his art the pride of place with an ovation.

The pace bowler took 24 wickets in seven World Cup games last year. "My aim is to keep myself fit as far as possible, as the next two tournaments and series are big. I will focus on fitness," he told PTI at a sports ministry reception last night.

Also receiving a huge round of applause was the newly-crowned chess Grandmaster R. Vaishali, the elder sister of precocious chess talent R. Praggnanandhaa.

Vaishali was honoured for becoming the third woman from the country after Koneru Humpy and Dronavalli Harika to turn GM.

Other sporting bigwigs who were chosen for the Arjuna award this year were wrestler Antim Panghal, a former junior world champion and bronze-winner at the senior event last year, boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin (bronze-winner at last year's world championship), and athlete Parul Chaudhary.

Among the notable Dronacharya awardees this year is chess coach RB Ramesh, who has groomed Praggnanandhaa.

While the Khel Ratna comes with a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, the Arjuna and Dronacharya awards include a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

The recipients (2023 awards): Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023: Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton). Arjuna Awards: Sheetal Devi (para archery), Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreesankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohammad Hussamuddin (boxing), R Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chamu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim Panghal (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

Dronacharya Award (regular category) for outstanding coaches: Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukkhar (malkahamb).

Dronacharya Award (life-time category) for outstanding coaches: Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement: Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (overall winner university); Lovely Professional University, Punjab (1st runner -up); Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (2nd runner-up).

### Cold wave conditions...

of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra -- recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 5.3 degrees, they said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag settled at minus 1.2 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4.5 degrees.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water supply lines in several parts of the Valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell with a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall being recorded for December. There has been no precipitation in the first week of January.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir while the upper reaches of the Valley have received less snow than usual. The Met office has forecast mainly dry weather till January 12.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurud' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

## DG, BSF, KPS delegation, ex-Legislator call on Lt Governor

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nitin Agrawal, Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

A delegation of Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The delegation led by its President K K Khosa expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Government for taking several welfare initiatives for the Kashmiri Pandit Community. They also submitted a memorandum of demands highlighting various



Nitin Agrawal, DG, BSF; Devender Singh Rana, senior BJP leader calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

concerning issues of the community. Manzoor Ahmad Khan, General Secretary BJP, J&K Kissan Moreha also called on the Lt Governor.

Meanwhile, Er. Abdul Ghani Kohli, former minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and apprised him of various issues of tribal community. Devender Singh Rana, former Legislator and senior BJP leader also called on the Lt Governor.

## Children on innovation, creativity spree in Natrang Theatre Workshop

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu children are exploring altogether a new world of creativity and innovation at Natrang's winter theatre workshop.

Conceptualized and devised by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, a new methodology of children theatre is being implemented in an intense theatre workshop which is going on these days at Natrang Studio Theatre in Jammu.

In Natrang's Winter Theatre workshop-2023 children are working on various aspects of the art of storytelling and play-making.



Children at the theatre workshop.

The training module of Natrang's Children theatre has been exclusively devised by Balwant Thakur himself, who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the country and outside to many nations. In winter Theatre workshop-2024 a play by Balwant Thakur is also being devised under the direction of Neeraj

Kant. The workshop is being assisted by Kanan Kaur and coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen. Sumeet Sharma is the visiting faculty of the workshop. The children who extremely lucky to be a part of this unique initiative are Aarjav Jain, Aarya Mahajan, Adeesha Singh, Advik Sharma, Anaadi Abrol, Araiya Shan, Daivik Gupta, Dushna Jain, Mehak Chib, Eva Saini, Eyaana Sawhney, Hriday Vashishth, Jayaditya Singh, Niddha Mahajan, Nitaara Sawhney, Noor Abrol, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Ruhaan Chandan, Samrat Sharma, Shrantya Jandial, Shriyan Jandial and Trivid Mahajan.

## Rajeshwar's new collection of Hindi poetry 'Chalte-Chalte' released by Notion Press Chennai

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Chalte-Chalte' a collection of Hindi poetry written by eminent English, Dogri and Hindi writer Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' released by Notion Press, Chennai.

The book carries 57 poems predominantly free verse poetry written on varied subjects in a simple language so that the readers should connect with the thought therein with an ease.

The poet has covered almost all the subjects in this collection like man-woman relations, spirituality, exploitation, social evils, love, conspiracies etc.

He is of the opinions that many a times a concept can be expressed in a verse in a better way as it has so many dimensions.

He says that every poetry lover understands any poem

in his or her own way which is the beauty of poetry as well. Just like as reading poetry is an everlasting experience, for a poet the creative process involved therein also offers a pleasant feel. He advocates that reading culture should flourish in our region also which will inspire the writers to put in more effort to serve good literature to literature lovers.

The cover page of the book that carries 115 pages is designed by Minalini Singh which is quite attractive and creative too. The poet hoped that the book will be well received by readers and critics.

It is pertinent to add here that Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' has been writing in Hindi, Dogri and English languages for the last 32 years and this is his 24th book and first this year.

About 1000 articles written by him in English, Hindi & Dogri languages have been published in different leading national and regional newspapers and magazines. He has also written 15 theatre plays which have been staged by prominent theatre groups.

About 30 plays and 05 serials written by him have been broadcast from Aakashwani Jammu and about 20 plays, 15 serials and more than 100 Documentaries telecast from DD KISAAN, DDK Jammu, DDK Srinagar and DD Kashmir.

He has 23 books to his credit that include 08 in his mother tongue Dogri and 12 are in Hindi and 03 in English. Out of these 23 books, 05 are on poetry, 07 are on short stories, one on essays on social topics, 10 are on Art and Culture and one translation work in Dogri language.

### Power shutdown

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Laxmi Puram, Rajinder Nagar, Swarn Vihar, Bharat Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Keran, Radio Station, BSNL, CRPE, Ayush Hospital, Janipur Police Station, Bhalwal, Kangarnorh, IRP, Hospital Bhalwal, Kote, Thater, Nardani, Pooja Colony, Upper Roop Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Chinor, Durga Nagar, Buta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 12 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Devik, Jakheni, Cherry Sial, Chenani, Battal Ballian, IID Industrial Estate Udhampur; Phangyal and Ballian will remain affected on January 12 from 9 am to 11 am. Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Koulpur and its adjoining areas will remain affected from January 12 and 14 from 10 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Jerda and its adjoining areas will remain affected from January 11, 14 and 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Baba Channblyal and its adjoining areas will remain affected from January 10, 12 and 14 from 10 am to 2 pm.

**Aijaz Asad assumes charge as Secy Planning, Civil Aviation**

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday took over charge as Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring besides assumed the charge of Administrative Secretary Civil Aviation and Commissioner Civil Aviation. Aijaz Asad was recently transferred after serving for three years as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

## BJP holds 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' meeting



BJP State President Ravinder Raina chairing the meeting in Jammu on Tuesday.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party State President Ravinder Raina, former MP Shamsheer Singh Manhas, General Secretary (organization) Ashok Kaul and State vice-president Pawan Khajuria, addressed a meeting of party's 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' programme at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Raina said that this is a nationwide programme of the party, wherein the B-JP

leaders have to spend 24 hours in a village, interact with the local people and share government schemes with them. He said that the 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' programme will surely bring people closer to the party and get their support during polls. Shamsheer said that the exercise under 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' will prove to be of great boon for the people as well as the party.

Ashok Kaul said that 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' has the potential of strength-

ening the trust of the people in BJP and convince them that B-JP is the only political party which is genuinely concerned for a common citizen, irrespective of region, gender or class. Pawan Khajuria, also the Incharge of 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' said that the programme will also mobilize the party activists at village level and they will get opportunity to locally have direct interaction with the people and also develop leadership at local level.