

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Forces working in...

respect to our Army bravehearts, he added.
The Lt Governor also honoured the Veer Naris on the occasion.
Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.); Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan (Retd.), Director Sainik Welfare Department, J&K; Brig. Anil Gupta (Retd.) and officials of Sainik Welfare Department J&K were also present.

Army, SFs dealing...

becoming a modern, agile, adaptive, technology-enabled and future-ready force shall continue as part of the transformation roadmap.

"Each member of the 'Olive Green' fraternity is fully committed, with an unwavering resolve, to counter security threats to the nation," he said.

"We continue to maintain a robust posture at the borders and stand prepared to protect our territorial integrity, at all costs," he said in a message aired on All India Radio.

"The Indian Army has a vital role to play in ensuring a stable and secure environment, which is crucial for the nation's progress to continue unabated," he said.

Gen Pande assured the nation that the Indian Army remains "steadfast as a guardian" of India's path to progress.

"Today, the nation is at the cusp of a new era. Collectively, we have envisioned to emerge as a developed nation when we celebrate the centenary milestone. I wish to assure the nation that the Indian Army remains steadfast, as a guardian of the nation's path to progress," he said.

The top General said the Indian Army is well-trained, equipped, combat-hardened and prepared to take on any security threat or challenge that may come the nation's way.

"To prepare ourselves to be future-ready, we had set into motion a holistic transformation process last year. We have made good progress and many milestones have been achieved," he said.

The Army Chief said his force's capability development endeavours stand on the edifice of Atmanirbhartha (self-reliance) to which it is firmly committed.

"The transition towards becoming a modern, agile, adaptive and technology-enabled, future-ready force, shall continue as part of our transformation roadmap," he said.

The Indian Army will be observing the year 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption' -- a theme which underscores our focus and effort to leverage technology, as a catalyst for transformative change, he said.

"The Indian Army has carved a special place for itself in the nation's mind space. The faith and encouragement shown by our countrymen further strengthen our pledge and commitment.

"Our fundamental character, core ethos, professionalism and fabric of discipline, will enable us to live up to the expectations of our citizens.

"We will forever remain steadfast and firm in our resolve to uphold the trust reposed in us, by the nation," he said.

The Army Chief also talked about the Army's commitments to the ex-servicemen.

"Our responsibility towards veterans and Veer Naris remains a sacred commitment. Endeavours to augment welfare initiatives, proactively reach out to them and address their grievances, continue," he said.

The Army Day parade will be held in Lucknow on Monday.

Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year to commemorate the achievements of the first Indian Commander in Chief of the Army, Field Marshal K M Cariappa. Cariappa took over the command of the Indian Army from General Francis Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief, on January 15, 1949.

Northern border stable...

as they did not like the ongoing development work here.

"There was prosperity and improvement in the lives of people in Poonch-Rajouri area. Investments were coming in and people were getting jobs. Our neighbouring country did not like this atmosphere of peace and prosperity. That's why they have been promoting militancy in the area but we have launched counter operations," he said, expressing confidence that they will control militant activities in the coming days.



Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, Northern Army Chief interacting with prominent persons at Srinagar.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the coordination among police, military and local people needs to be improved in the area.

"The number of police stations is being increased while we are carrying out some reorientation as well. This will help us in controlling the situation," he said.

The Army commander said 2023 has been declared as "zero-infiltration year" as no terrorist was able to come in through the Line of Control.

"...But as you said many terrorists are coming. We have taken action.... If you see last year, only 21 terrorists killed were locals, the remaining 55 were foreigners. In 2022, 121 terrorist recruitments took place but in 2023 only 19 have taken place," he told reporters.

He said a lot of positive changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

"A lot of changes have taken place in the past four years. And all the changes have been for good, be it development of infrastructure, tourist arrivals or outside investments. Overall, it is good for the public, and Jammu and Kashmir is playing an important role in nation building," he said.

He was in Srinagar to take part in an Armed Forces Veterans' Day event.

The Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated on January 14 every year as it was on this day in 1953 that the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal K M Cariappa, formally retired from the service.

Forest fire erupts...

in dousing the flames in a short video posted by the Army on X.

Officials will assess the damage caused to the forest infrastructure due to the fire.

'Ek Bharat Shreshtha...

the role of educated citizens, honest businessmen and good crop in nation-building. During Pongal, fresh crop is offered to God which puts Annadata Kisans' at the center of this festive tradition.

He underlined the rural, crop and farmer connection of every festival of India.

Recalling one of his speeches that dwelt on the connection between millets and Tamil traditions, he expressed happiness that there is a 'new awareness' about the 'superfood Shri Anna' (millets) and many youth have taken up startup ventures on millets.

He informed that more than three crore farmers doing millet farming are directly getting benefitted from millet promotion.

He concluded with a call for 're-dedicating ourselves' to the resolution of strengthening the unity of the nation on the occasion of Pongal.

'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', a Central government initiative, stands for unity and aims at enhancing interaction between people living in various states/UTs and promoting mutual understanding. The harvest festival of Pongal will be celebrated on January 15.

Govt calls for...

categories across 13 domains - physics, chemistry, biological sciences, mathematics and computer science, earth science, medicine, engineering sciences, agricultural science, environmental science, technology & innovation, atomic energy, space science and technology.

A maximum of three Vigyan Ratna (VR) awards will be bestowed to recognise lifetime achievements and contributions made in the given field of science and technology.

A maximum of 25 Vigyan Shri (VS) will be given to recognise the distinguished contributions in the given field of science and technology.

The Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) award will be given to a maximum of 25 recipients to recognise and encourage young scientists who made an exceptional contribution in the given field of science and technology.

The Vigyan Team (VT) award will be given to a maximum of three teams comprising three or more scientists, researchers or innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in a given field of science and technology.

"The RVP shall be one of the highest recognition in the field of science, technology and innovation in India. Scientists/technologists/innovators working in government, private sector organisations or individuals working outside any organisation, who have made distinguished contributions in terms of path-breaking research or innovation or discovery in any fields of science, technology or technology-ed innovation shall be eligible for the awards," the notification of the awards said.

The awards will not be conferred posthumously, except in "highly deserving cases".

Mann, Kejriwal's corruption...

situation of the thief cousin. Punjab's resources are being looted extensively", he added.

Questioning the functioning of the government, Chugh said that the AAP government promised to raise Rs 20,000 crore from sand mining but has shown revenue of only Rs 75 crore and now it should tell where the rest of the money has gone.

He said, "News of illegal mining is coming to light every day in Punjab.

The Chief Minister and the Aam Aadmi Party themselves are in collusion with the mafia. Liquor mafia, mining mafia, transport mafia are looting the resources of

Punjab today, it is clear from the lack of transparency by the government that the government is also complicit in this".

Taking dig at Bhagwant Mann, Chugh said that Punjab Chief Minister gives certificate of honesty and transparency to Kejriwal, while Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal is currently running away from investigation in corruption case and his Delhi government ministers and MPs are in jail in corruption cases.

SC asks Centre...

compensation of Rs 184.60 lakh was disbursed," the bench said in its January 12 order.

"If we compare the number of hit-and-run road accidents reported and the number of cases registered for seeking compensation, what stares at the face is that negligible number of victims have taken advantage of the said scheme," it said.

The bench noted that one of the reasons may be that victims were not made aware of the existence of the compensation scheme.

"The value of money diminishes with time. We direct the central government to consider whether the compensation amounts can be gradually enhanced annually. The central government shall take an appropriate decision on this issue within eight weeks from today," the apex court said.

The bench passed its order after hearing submissions on the issue of effective implementation of the provisions of the MV Act relating to grant of compensation in case of hit-and-run accident cases. The top court is seized of a plea seeking enforcement of road safety norms.

In its order, the apex court noted that in terms of sub-section (3) of section 161 of the MV Act, the Compensation of Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022 has been brought into force with effect from April 1, 2022 and it superseded the Solatium Scheme, 1989.

The bench noted the scheme provides for setting up of standing committee and district level committees.

It further noted that standing committee is at the central level and its primary duty is to periodically review the working of the scheme.

"The standing committee must look into the causes of non-implementation of the scheme and direct corrective measures to be taken to ensure that every claimant who is entitled to the benefit of the scheme is encouraged to take benefit thereof. If the scheme cannot be effectively implemented without making amendments, the standing committee must recommend amendments to the scheme," the bench said.

It directed that the standing committee shall issue elaborate directions for developing public awareness and for sensitisation of public about the scheme.

"If the particulars of the vehicle involved in the accident are not available at the time of registration of the report regarding the accident by the jurisdictional police station and if, after making reasonable efforts, the particulars of the vehicle involved in the accident could not be ascertained by the police within a period of one month from the date of registration of accident report, the officer-in-charge of the police station shall inform in writing to the injured or the legal representatives of the deceased, as the case may be, that compensation can be claimed under the scheme," the bench said. It said contact details of the jurisdictional claims enquiry officer shall be provided by the police to the injured or the legal representatives of the deceased.

Jammu reels under...

Celsius and a minimum of 3.9 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Bhaderwah in Doda district recorded a high of 18.4 degrees Celsius and a low of minus 1.1 degree Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4 degrees while Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded minus 1.2 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.2 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

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 and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December while there has been no precipitation in most parts of the valley in the first fortnight of January.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amount of snow. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather till January 21. '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).

Jugal, Yudhvir start cleanliness campaign 'Swachhta Sankalp'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Responding to the call given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate cleanliness campaigns at temples, pilgrimage centers, and various religious sites nationwide specifically in connection with the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi initiated the "Swachhta Sankalp" campaign today at Mahavir Ji Temple Purani Mandi and Shiv Temple at village Chak largan Bajalta in the Jammu East constituency.

The call given by PM Modi, aiming to instigate nationwide cleanliness initiatives at religious landmarks, underscores the importance of collective efforts in maintaining cleanliness at revered sites. MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and Yudhvir Sethi took up the initiative, starting the cleanliness drive at Purani Mandi Temple and chak largan Bajalta aligning with the broader national objective.

Speaking to the media persons, Member of Parliament



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma carrying out cleanliness drive.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said, "The call from Prime Minister Modi, particularly in connection with the Ram Temple consecration, reflects the significance of cleanliness as an integral part of our cultural and spiritual ethos."

Jugal Sharma emphasized that the call to action is not just a symbolic gesture but a poignant reminder of the role cleanliness plays in shaping our cultural ethos. He stated, "The call from Prime Minister Modi holds profound significance, resonating with the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual ethos of our nation. It is not merely about physical cleanliness; it is about fostering an environment that is spiritually

uplifting and culturally rich." Furthermore, the Member Parliament stressed the collective responsibility to ensure that religious sites across the nation are not only places of spiritual solace but also maintain a physical pristine quality. He remarked, "As a society, it is our collective responsibility to uphold the sanctity of our religious sites. Ensuring they are not just spiritually elevating but also physically pristine is a commitment we owe to our cultural heritage."

Jugal Kishore urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in such cleanliness initiatives, considering them not just as isolated events

but as a continuous and collective effort to preserve the sanctity of our revered religious spaces.

Jugal Kishore also listened the problems and grievances of the public. He also inaugurated development works constructed under MPLADS at village Chak largan Bajalta.

Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, added, "By commencing the Swachhta Sankalp at Purani Mandi Temple, we are not just cleaning a physical space but contributing to a larger movement that resonates with the cultural and spiritual heritage of our nation. It is an honor to take part in this initiative."

Sethi further said, "Initiating the Swachhta Sankalp at Purani Mandi Temple goes beyond the immediate task of cleaning a physical space. It is a meaningful contribution to a larger movement that echoes the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual ethos of our country, an initiative spearheaded by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Being part of this initiative is

not just a responsibility but an honor, as we actively engage in preserving and promoting the invaluable heritage that defines our nation."

Yudhvir Sethi urged people of Jammu East constituency to embrace the spirit of the Swachhta Sankalp, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness not just during specific occasions but as an ongoing commitment to our cultural heritage.

The event saw the active participation of local residents, BJP members, and volunteers who joined hands to clean and beautify the surroundings of Purani Mandi Temple.

Among those who participated in the cleanliness drive include Mandal President Parveen Kerni, Anuradha Sharma, Sudhir Anand, Rajinder Gupta, Ashok ji, Suresh Kumar Bittu, Jagdish Raj, Lamberdar Rajinder, Rampaul, Sham Lal, Yuva Ishant Mahajan, Ankush Sharma, Amit Sharma, Ricky Sharma, Gourav Khajuria and others were also present.

Utkarsh Bank and Institute of Professional Banking jointly launches Banking PO Programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) and Institute of Professional Banking proudly announce their collaboration on an innovative Probationary Officer (PO) Program at Baddi University, Baddi. This initiative is aimed to on-board young talents aspiring for a career in Banking, transforming them into successful Bankers Collaborating with the Institute of Professional Banking, the goal is to shape the careers of aspiring individuals in the Banking sector, providing them with a comprehensive program that encompasses knowledge and skills in Branch Operations, Banking Products, Sales, Credit, Customer Service, and other relevant day-to-day banking tasks. Successful candidates completing the program will be awarded a Post Graduate Diploma, along with a full-time employment opportunity with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited.



Govind Singh, MD & CEO, USFBL and others launching Banking PO programme.

Commenting on the collaboration, Govind Singh, MD & CEO, USFBL said, "The Utkarsh Probationary Officer Program is an initiative to on-board young talents keen to pursue a career in Banking. Our collaboration with the Institute of Professional Banking is a testament to our commitment to shape dynamic bankers and contribute to the growth of the banking sector in India."

Present on the occasion, Gursimran Singh Oberoi, Founder, Institute of Professional Banking said, "Collaborating with Utkarsh Small Finance

Bank to build a talent pool in the banking sector is a significant step towards empowering the youth. The one-year Post Graduate Diploma, combined with full-time employment opportunities, ensures a holistic approach to education and career development." Job training, and online weekend classes in banking and finance. Successful candidates will join Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited as Probationary Officers, with the bank reserving the rights for role, grade, location, and department allocations.

Spirited India beat NZ 3-1 to keep alive Paris Olympics hopes

STATE TIMES NEWS

RANCHI: India on Sunday rose from the ashes to tame New Zealand 3-1 with a spirited performance in their second pool match of the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier to keep alive their hopes of securing a ticket to Paris Games.

The Indians, who dropped a rung to seventh in the world rankings released on Saturday, did not have the best of starts in the tournament, losing to lower-ranked United States 0-1 in their opening Pool B match.

In contrast, New Zealand registered an easy 3-0 win over Italy on Saturday.

But it was complete turnover from the

Indians on Sunday.

Leaving behind the USA disappointment, the Indians produced all-round hockey on Sunday and used every corner of the turf to build their attacks with short and crisp passes.

This was what India's chief coach Janneke Schopman pointed after USA match and the girls seemed to have attentively listened to the Dutch, which was evident from the team's much-improved performance on Sunday.

Salima Tete had a brilliant game and was involved in most of the Indian attacks with her quick runs and dribbling abilities.

India took the lead with their first

attack within 41 seconds of the match through a field effort.

Sangita scored from close range after she was set up by Salima Tete, who broke through New Zealand defence from the right flank with a brilliant run.

Stunned by the goal, the Black Sticks responded instantly and secured a penalty corner two minutes later but wasted the chance.

India earned their first PC in the 8th minute but Deepika's hit was blocked by a New Zealand defender. The ball fell in front of Baljeet Kaur's stick standing near the goal but she failed to get past Black Sticks goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon.

The Indians' ploy to fall back a bit after the early lead backfired as New Zealand secured another penalty corner soon and Hull this time converted the chance with a grounded shot to draw level. But New Zealand's leveller seemed to have woken up the home team who pressed hard and secured back-to-back penalty corners, the second of which was perfectly slammed into the net by Neha in the 12th minute.

The Indians continued their attacking intent and earned their fourth penalty corner soon but failed to capitalise on the opportunity. But a minute from the first quarter, India tripled their lead through Neha. It was Jyoti who set up

the goal, cutting inside the circle from the right side to pass it on to Neha, who did the rest. The Indians kept up the tempo and earned their fifth penalty corner seconds into the second quarter but Navneet Kaur's attempt went wide.

Uditva was then guilty of conceding an unnecessary penalty corner, New Zealand's third, soon but India defended stoutly to keep their lead intact at half-time.

Barring a few blips, the Indian defence too was upto the mark on Sunday as it thwarted relentless pressure from the Black Sticks after the change of ends.

New Zealand secured their fourth penalty corner in the 40th minute but

failed to break the resolute Indian defence. Lalremsiami soon secured India's sixth penalty corner with a fine run from the right corner but Uditva's shot couldn't breach O'Hanlon.

The fourth quarter was all about New Zealand's constant pressure on the Indian defence, which stood tall to deny any inroads to their opponents.

In between, the Indians also made a few circle penetrations but lacked in execution. The Indians conceded another penalty corner two minutes from the final hooter but New Zealand erred in execution. USA are atop Pool B with two wins from as many games with India climbing to the second spot.