

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! No stone pelting...

Delhi, Shah also said the Modi government is cracking down on terror financing, sealing and freezing assets of terrorists and has also outlawed several terrorist organisations.

"There were 2,654 incidents of organised stone pelting in 2010, which has come down to zero in 2023. There were 132 incidents of organised strikes in 2010 but not a single incident took place in 2023," he said.

Shah said 112 civilians died in stone pelting in 2010 but not a single civilian died in 2023. In 2010, the number of civilians injured in stone pelting was 6,235 but no one was injured in such an incident last year.

He said due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new era of peace and security has started in Jammu and Kashmir.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a 70 per cent decline in total terrorism-related incidents, an 81 per cent reduction in civilian deaths, and a 48 per cent decline in the death of security forces. This shows that a new era of happiness and peace has begun in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He credited Modi's leadership for transforming Jammu and Kashmir, which was "known for terrorism", into a tourism hub.

Shah also virtually distributed more than 1,000 appointment letters to Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) and police officers, and compassionate appointees.

The Centre revoked Article 370, which accorded a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019. The government also divided Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Shah said terror financing has also been curbed in Jammu and Kashmir. "Properties are being sealed and attached. A lot of terror organisations have been banned to curb their activities," he said.

Praising Modi, he said the prime minister has transformed Jammu and Kashmir, which was "known for terrorism", into a tourism hub.

When Article 370 was scrapped, several leaders who had been taking advantage of it and had made democracy a joke said it would not have any effect on Jammu and Kashmir. But there has been a huge change, the home minister said.

"The era of bomb blasts, firings, stone-pelting and shutdowns has been replaced by education, schools, colleges, medical colleges, management institutions, industries and infrastructure. This is a big change that Jammu and Kashmir is going through," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir received investments worth Rs 297 crore in 2019-20 and this increased to Rs 2,153 crore in 2022-23, he said.

"Nearly Rs 6,000 crore of investments are in the pipeline. This shows progress," he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has increased from Rs 1 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 2,27,927 crore in 2022-23.

Shah further appealed to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to enrol themselves as

voters and become part of the democratic setup of the country.

"The youth of Jammu and Kashmir who carry computers in their hands instead of stones are connected and contributing to the progress of Jammu and Kashmir. Over 7 lakh youths have taken part in sports and this is a big thing," he said.

Jammu is getting 100 e-buses and these will ensure a reliable, comfortable, economical and durable public transport facility for the people of the district, the home minister said.

These buses will also ply from Jammu to Katra, Kathua, Udhampur and on inter-nal routes of Jammu.

"These buses will not only resolve commuting problems of the people in the coming days but will also be very useful from the environmental point of view," Shah said.

Referring to those who received their appointment letters, Shah said the new recruits include 96 JKAS officers, 63 Account Gazette Service officers and 50 Police Service officers.

These officers have got these jobs on the basis of merit, he said, adding that during Modi's tenure, jobs are provided on the basis of examination papers and not recommendation slips.

Earlier it was impossible to get a job without a political recommendation or corruption, he said.

## India's ancient wisdom...

the world. "India is moving ahead with confidence," the President said.

The country's GDP growth rate, she said, "has remained highest among major economies in recent years, and we have all reasons to believe that this extraordinary performance will continue in the year 2024 and beyond".

The President said particularly noteworthy is the far-sighted planning of the government that fuels the economy while giving a push to the welfare drive to make the development inclusive in every sense of the term.

She also said the government has increased the scope of welfare schemes to provide free food to the weaker sections of society during the pandemic days and continued the measures to extend a helping hand to the vulnerable population to come out of the crisis.

Expanding the scope of that initiative, the government has decided to provide free food grains to over 81 crore people for five years, she said, adding "this may be the biggest welfare initiative of its kind in history".

The government, she said, has not only expanded and enhanced the welfare schemes, but it has redefined the idea of welfare itself.

"It will be a proud day for all of us when India becomes one of those few countries where homelessness is a rarity," the President said.

Further, Murmu said the government has taken a number of mission mode schemes to increase the ease of living for all citizens. Matters like the availability of safe and adequate drinking water at home are basic minimum requirements and not privileges, she said and added that these matters are beyond any political or economic ideology and must be seen from a humanitarian perspective.

## 885 compassionate appointments...

entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities provided to 94,680 youth in a single day on 24th January has scripted a golden chapter in the history of J&K. Merit based and transparent recruitment has enabled the talented youth of J&K to shape their own destiny. After August 2019, 31,830 appointments were made and recruitments for 12,264 posts are under process, the Lt Governor further added.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, we are making earnest efforts to realise the potential and dreams of the people of J&K, the Lt Governor said.

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister for Heavy Industries; Jugal Kishore Sharma and Er. Gulam Ali Khatana - Members of Parliament; Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Union Home Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, senior officials of Government of India and UT Administration were present, in person and through virtual mode.



LG Manoj Sinha distributing appointment letters for Jammu & Kashmir Combined Examination and compassionate appointment during an event in Jammu.

## Train engine catches fire at railway station in Anantnag, no casualty

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A train engine caught fire at a railway station in Anantnag district on Thursday, officials said. No loss of life or injury was reported in the incident and all passengers are safe, the officials added. A train engine caught fire at Qazigund railway station, along Banihal-Baramulla railway line, in the south Kashmir district, the officials said. The fire has been brought under control, they said, adding that the cause of the blaze is being ascertained.

## 4 JKP officers honoured with Shaurya Chakra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Four Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel have been honoured with prestigious Shaurya Chakra for their gallant acts by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

The awardees include DySP Mohan Sharma, Sub Inspector Feroz Ahmed Dar, ASI Amit Raina and Constable Varun Singh.

The Director General of Police J&K R.R Swain has felicitated the awardees for bringing laurels and setting an example for the whole force by their exemplary valour and courage, observing that the honour bestowed on them will surely be morale boosting for the entire J&K Police Personnel.

## Ghulam Dar, Romalo Ram selected for Padma Shri Award

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Eminent personalities of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Dar and Romalo Ram have been conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri Award for promoting their Art in the UT. The Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. The award is given for distinguished service in any field including service rendered by the Government servants.

## Two ACB Officers awarded Meritorious Services Medal on R-Day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dalip Kumar, SSP ACB Jammu has been awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Services for his consistent and professional performance towards the line of duty while Inspector Ashwani Kumar Angotra of ACB Hqrs has been awarded with Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for meritorious Services for his contribution and performance in the innovations related to Information Technology in Anti Corruption Bureau.



Dalip Kumar, SSP ACB Jammu and Insp Ashwani Kumar Angotra

## GDC Khour organises awareness campaign on National Voters Day



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: NSS unit of the Govt. Degree College Khour under the banner of Viksit Bharat @2047 and in collaboration with the Electoral Literacy Club organised an awareness programme on National Voters Day to encourage students to actively participate in elections.

The event started with the lecture of Prof.( Dr.) Rashmi Sharma, Convener, Electoral Literacy Club. She sensitized the students regarding the important role of voting in democratic society by which the elected representative can be held more

accountable. Prof. (Dr.) Seema Sudan, HOD Hindi urged students to cast their votes for a responsible, ethical and honest person and participate in development of the country. Prof.( Dr.) T. K Sharma, Principal of the college, emphasized on the importance of National Voters Day and exhorted that every single vote holds immense significance in electoral process of our country, which is the largest democracy in the world.

The whole event was organized and managed by Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS Program Officer, GDC Khour.

## Kishtwar Administration organises grand celebration for 14th National Voters' Day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: The Auditorium at GDC Kishtwar came alive with patriotic fervor as the District Administration Kishtwar orchestrated a remarkable event dedicated to voters, themed 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure.' This theme marked the celebration of the 14th National Voters' Day.

Led by the District Election Officer Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the impressive program was a collaborative effort with GDC Kishtwar, supervised by Dy DEO Kishtwar Sunil Bhutyal and guided closely by Nodal Officer NVD (State Tax Officer,Circle Kishtwar) Maneet Sharma.

A diverse audience comprising students, staff from educational institutions, Election Cell, and GDC, including Govt Polytechnic College Kishtwar, participated in this enlightening event.



DEO Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and others during the event.

The Chief Guest, DEO Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav IAS, and Guest of Honour, Principal GDC Kishtwar Dr. Jyoti Parihar, graced the occasion.

Among other dignitaries included ADC Kishtwar Inderjeet Singh Parihar, ACR Kishtwar Varunjeet Singh Charak besides others officers.

The ceremonial proceedings commenced with the lighting of the lamp and the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a warm

welcome from Dy DEO Sunil Bhutyal. He emphasized the theme of the 14th National Voters' Day, encouraging eligible youth to enroll as voters and actively engage in the election process.

A special arrangement featured the playing of the patriotic song 'Main Bharat Hoon' during the event. ACD Kishtwar, Manoj Kumar, administered the Voters' Day Pledge, urging participants to uphold the dignity of elections and vote without fear or influence.

## 14th National Voters Day pledge ceremony held

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In connection with observance of 14th National Voters Day, a pledge ceremony was held at RPHQ Rajouri. DIG RP Range, Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal administered the pledge to the staff.

The theme of this year's National Voter Day is "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" is dedicated to voters which conveys individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through power of their vote. All participants took pledge i.e

"We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of



National Voters Day celebrations at RPHQ Rajouri.

free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religious, race, caste, community, language or any inducement".

About 60 officers/officials participated in the ceremony including

Pervaiz Alam Dy.SP Staff officer, Sunil Dhar Dy.SP (S) Pvt. Secretary to DIG, Insp Naseer Ahmed, Insp Ashfaq Mughal and other officer/official of RPHQ Rajouri. The event culminated with re-assuring ourselves with faith in democracy & democratic process.

## 10 Prisons' officials get DG Prison Medal on Republic Day

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In recognition of consistent and outstanding performance, 10 officers and officials of Prisons Department have got Director General's Prison Medal on the eve of Republic Day, 2024.

The awardees included Abdul Ahad Magray, I/c Assistant Superintendent Jail, Central Jail Srinagar; Mukhtar Hussain, I/c Head Warder, District Jail Rajouri; Balbir Kumar, I/c Head Warder, Prison Headquarters, J&K; Dev Raj Sharma, I/c Head Warder, District Jail Kathua; Rubya Parveen, Junior Assistant, Central Jail Srinagar; Mohammad Ashraf Daing, SG Warder, District Jail Udhampur; Bhadur Singh, SG Warder, District Jail Jammu; Mohammad Arif Beig, Warder, District Jail Baramulla; Kuldeep Kumar, Nursing Orderly, District Jail Jammu and William Massih, Safaiwalla, Central Jail Jammu, Kothhalwal. While congratulating the awardees, Director General of Police, Prisons, J&K, Deepak Kumar, expressed hope that they would continue to work with the same zeal and enthusiasm to serve people of the Union Territory.

## Tourism Deptt to register, train 100 female tourist guides

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative to promote gender inclusiveness in tourism activities, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir has decided to register more female tourist guides and impart professional training to them to upscale their

skills. In the first instance a batch of 100 females would be chosen who shall be imparted professional training in guiding after registering them with the Department. According to Director, Tourism Kashmir; Raja Yaqoob, the idea is to further improve gender parity in the

tourism sector and instill a sense of confidence among the female tourists who roughly constitute around fifty per cent of the tourist footfall to Kashmir Valley. This, he said, would further improve and professionalise the service delivery system in the tourism sector in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Tourism Kashmir celebrates National Tourism Day on Thursday across various tourist destinations of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Yousmarg etc. with the intent to highlight nature conservation and sustainable Tourism.

## GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises series of events to commemorate Road Safety Week

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of observance of the Road Safety week, a documentary based on the precautions to be taken for the maintenance of appropriate traffic rules to be followed by the vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians was showcased to the students and staff members of GDW Bhagwati Nagar. An interactive session was carried out after the screening of the documentary. The students and staff members also took a pledge to abide by the traffic rules and be responsible students. The entire programme was organized under the mentorship of the principal of the college Dr. Meeru Abrol. Speaking on the occasion



Faculty and students taking pledge.

Principal of the College said that Human life is precious and it is indeed disheartening to know thousands of lives are lost in these road accidents due to negligence of drivers. She called upon the students to be aware of all the traffic rules and

spread awareness among other members of the society.

The programme was organized by Prof. Poonam, from the Department of Dogri, Prof. Anju Bala and Dr.Pavanjeet Bali from the department of English.

## National Loktantrik Party State office inaugurated at Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a political development, State Office of National Loktantrik Party was Thursday inaugurated at Khayam, Srinagar near AL Huda School.

The National General Secretary Rubina Akther was the eminent guest on the occasion along with the State Youth President Mohd Yaqoob Dunoo, J&K General Secretary and All Morecha Incharge Lucky Ali, Youth General secretary Sukhdav Kumar Sangral, Youth Secretary Hazik Fayaz, Amir; Shahnaz, Santosh Kumari and Lateefa of National Loktantrik Party. A large number of people from different walks of life were present especially youth from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The leadership of National Loktantrik vowed to work for the progress and prisoerity of Jammu and Kashmir; and participate with full zeal and zest in upcoming elections. It was vowed to make the State office of National Loktantrik Party a hub of pro-people activities.

