

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund

Armed Forces playing crucial role in combating terrorism in J&K: LG



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha along with Army veterans, office bearers of Sainik Welfare Department, J&K at Raj Bhawan.

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JAMMUGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that Armed Forces are playing a crucial role in combating terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir to create a safe and secure environment for the people. "It is our collective responsibility to look after the families of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country," the Lt Governor said while interacting with Army veterans and office bearers of Sainik

Welfare Department, J&K, invited at Raj Bhawan here for the customary Armed Forces Flag pinning. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on December 7 every year to honour the martyrs and express gratitude to soldiers protecting the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the martyrs and expressed gratitude to the men and women in the uniform, who are valiantly and selflessly fighting to

safeguard the country's honour, integrity and sovereignty. He appealed to all citizens to generously contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for welfare and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and martyrs' families. Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan, Director, Sainik Welfare Department, J&K pinned the Armed Forces Flag on the jacket of the Lt Governor. He briefed the Lt

Governor on the initiatives of the Department including the enhancement of daughter marriage grant, introduction of widow re-

marriage grant and other welfare endeavours for the Veterans, Veer Naris, dependents and serving Armed Forces personnel. Col JS Randhawa (Rtd.); Col BS Sambyal (Rtd.); Col Jitendra Singh (Rtd.); Col Sukhbir Singh (Rtd.); Col JA Mir (Rtd.); Col Manjeet Singh (Rtd.) Subhash Chander and veterans including Bawa Singh; Ashwani Kumar; Ashok Kumar; Janak Singh; Vinod Badkulia and Rajinder Kumar were present.



Take One Titan Hospitality Awards 2023

Govt committed to explore virgin tourism destinations: Div Com



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar along with other dignitaries at Take One Titan Hospitality Awards 2023 function in Jammu on Saturday.

along with, Director Tourism Jammu, Vivek Anand Rai, Ritu Singh Founding Chairperson-FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir Ladakh and Managing Director- Hari Niwas Hotel and Resorts, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, and former Femina Miss India United Continents, Sana Dua as Guests of Honour; said that to ensure tourist cum pilgrim comfort, several initiatives are

underway to further strengthening the infrastructural framework, ensuring seamless connectivity to pilgrimage and adventure tourism sites, improved road networks, modern transportation facilities. "Here comes a crucial role for the private sector; especially those engaged with the hospitality domain, to promote and sustain tourism practices", the Divisional Commissioner said.

The awardees were Ajatshatru Singh, Chairman, Hari Niwas Palace, Mushtaq

Ahmad Chaya, CMD, Grand Mumtaz Group of Hotels & Resorts, Prem N. Devan CMD, Devans Modern Breweries Limited, Amit Chowdhary- Director, KC Hotels Private Limited, Bhupesh Gupta- Managing Partner, Radisson Blu Hotel, Chander Gupta- Managing Director, J&K Heritage Pvt. Ltd., Rattandeep Anand-MD, Trans Asia Hotels Private Limited, Davinder Singh - Owner, Zamindara Dhaba, Ambrish Magotra-MD- The Fern Residency

Katra, Madhurima Mahajan- Director Blu Olive Restaurant, Sanjeev Prabhakar- MD Sanjeev Caterers, Shivang Gupta- MD Star Zone Club, Raj Kumar- Owner Zaika Restaurant, Arun Baru- Owner Machail Resort, Anuradha Bhardwaj and Vijay Kumar Menon- Partners- M/S Aroma Enterprises, Varsha Bansal Director- Grand Plaza Hotels Private Limited, Shriraj Bhardwaj and Raj Kumar Bhardwaj Partners- Vinod Vaishno Dhaba & M/S BMB Enterprises. Earlier, the Executive Director & CEO of Take One Television & Digital Network, Devyani Rana while welcoming the Guests said "We gather here not just as individuals but as architects of an industry that has revolutionized the very landscape of Jammu and Kashmir." She said the hospitality sector, over the past decades, has witnessed an incredible metamorphosis.

World famous wetlands welcoming lakhs of migratory birds

Nearly 4 lakh guests arrived, more expected: officials



■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of winter, lakhs of migratory birds from Russia, China, Siberia and Eastern Europe have arrived in the Kashmir Valley. More than 22 migratory bird species, including Gadwall, Eurasian, Wigeon, Mallard, Tufted-Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Common Shelduck, Green-winged Teal, Garganey, Common Merganser, Greater White-fronted Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Smew, Great Crested Grebe, Eared Grebe and Great Cormorant flock to the Kashmir wetlands. The sight of these birds flying in perfect formation, flanked by high mountains is breathtaking. According to Wild life Warden around four lakh migratory birds from different countries have visited Kashmir's wetlands so far since October. The migratory birds are keeping their centuries old relationship with Kashmir visit every year and enjoy the temperate climate. Moreover there are

many new birds that have arrived in the wetlands here, official said. Wild life Warden said, many new birds including bar-headed goose that breeds in Central Asia visit Kashmir and were rarely seen in the Valley wetlands before. From October, these birds migrate from Central Asia, China, Philippines, Eastern Europe and Japan to the Valley and stay here for about five months. The Warden said that the department is taking several interventions to make all the wetlands habitable and these initiatives have resulted in massive influx of birds. These wetlands not only serve as natural habitat for several plants and animal species but are kidney of nature that purify nature and absorb the water. Kashmir's wetlands serve as a magnet for "foreign birds" drawn by rich ecological diversity of plant and animal life as well as lush aquatic vegetation. According to officials, every year 5 to 12 lakh migratory birds are seen in Hokersar, Hygam, Prielal, Shallabugh, Wullar and Dal lakes and protected wetlands where they feed and breed. Hygam, Hokersar and Wullar lake have been designated as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and are protected areas. Eared Grebe birds were spotted in Wullar Lake for the first time in March 2023. On January 22, 2023, the rare duck species, called Long Tailed Duck, were spotted at the iconic Wullar Lake after 84 years. The species, last time spotted in Hokersar wetland, was in 1939 by F Ludlow. It is important to mention that during last winter, over 10 lakh migratory birds had arrived in the Valley. According to the Asian Water Bird census conducted every year, a total of 11,18,737 birds visited Kashmir in 2021.

Director Tourism holds interactive session with stakeholders, MTOA participants

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JAMMUGAR: Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism, on Saturday conducted an interactive session with participants from the Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association (MTOA) in Katra, who were on their FAM tour. The four-day Familiarization Tour spanned Bhaderwah, Jai Valley, Guldanda, Patnitop, Katra, Suchetgarh IB, Musical fountain/Aquaplex crown, Bagh-e-Bahu. The tour was flagged off from the Directorate of Tourism Jammu on December 5, 2023. The event was graced by the Officers including Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Deputy Director Tourism, Abdul Jabbar, AD Tourism Jammu, Sugandhi Banotra, AD Tourism NHW Batote Mohd. Arif Lone. Director Tourism, Vivekanand Rai, emphasised the need to give opportunities



Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism speaking at an interactive session.

to the tourists for exploring other tourist destinations of Jammu. Stressing the importance of homestays, he highlighted the indispensable role of tourism stakeholders, calling for a symbiotic relationship and a holistic approach. He encouraged coordination with stakeholders from the film industry for tourism promotion and invited active participation in the New Year to boost tourism in the region. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism empha-

sized the promotion of adventure activities and destinations, she highlighted stakeholders as the driving force behind these initiatives. She urged the participants of FAM tour to extend invitations to other association members from various chapters, encouraging them to explore and experience the richness of the area. The members from Tourism Travel Trade association Bhaderwah, Shabir Ahmed Zargar, Yasin Ahmed and officials of the Department were also present.

'Viksit Bharat Yatra' carries Modi's schemes to every doorstep: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" at Tikri near Udhampur on Saturday.

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UDHAMPUR: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said, "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" (VBSY) carries Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes to every doorstep, reaching out to the remotest Panchayat and village, and in fact the last man in the queue without any discrimination. Dr. Jitendra said this dur-

ing interaction with the beneficiaries of various schemes under Viksit Bharat Sankalp Cards, Distribution of Vehicles under Mumkin Schemes. Dr. Jitendra reiterated that it is first time in the history of independent India that the development has reached the remotest corners of the country that too without discrimination of caste, religion, creed or sex. Earlier during the programme, Dr. Jitendra distributed bicycles among girls under Khleo India and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, distribution of Kisan Credit

'Udhampur among India's top 3 districts in PMGSY roads'

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday laid foundation of various important road projects in Udhampur being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). On the occasion, he said that under PMGSY the road connectivity in Udhampur district is among the top three districts of the country. During the program, the e-foundation was laid for the up gradation of road from T-01 Padraaka to Chattari in block Kulwantha in district Udhampur with an approximate cost of Rs. 693.80 lakh having length of 4.6000 kms serving thousands of residents. Another e-foundation was laid for the upcoming gradation of road from T-16 Chopra Shop to Sunari Kambal Danga in block Udhampur; district Udhampur with an approximate cost of Rs. 1751.23 lacs having a length of 12.925 kms. The Minister also laid an e-foundation for the upgradation of road from T-02 Tikri to Charyee via Sukha Talab in block Tikri, district Udhampur with an approximate cost of Rs.1269.25 lakh having length of 9.650 kms.

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Cards, Distribution of Vehicles under Mumkin Schemes.

IGP Jammu reviews security scenario, law & order

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMUGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, reviewed the crime position and over all functioning of District Police Kishtwar with all supervisory officers including SHOs, investigating officers at DPL Kishtwar here on Saturday. IGP Jammu Zone Anand Jain was accompanied by DIG Doda-Kishtwar Range Dr. Sunil Gupta. On reaching the DPL Kishtwar IGP Jammu was received by SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal and his team of officers and Guard of Honour was presented. IGP Jammu Zone emphasised upon that in NDPS cases, special efforts need to be put in by supervisory officers and SHOs to review cases of Heroin (Chitta) and forward/backward links to be ascertain in these cases so that menace of drug could be rooted out.

The Station House Officers were instructed to identify few cases in their jurisdiction which should be taken up on priority in which the SHOs shall make personal efforts for attendance of witnesses during trial. Moreover, the most important system was inaugurated by IGP Jammu during meeting an "AI based Facial Recognition System" in which all criminals, Terrorists, OGWs, surrendered/released terrorists, drug peddlers and those evading arrests shall be traced/monitored. The sys-



IGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting.

Checks vehicles plying en-route from Batote to Kishtwar

JAMMUGAR: In a significant effort to tighten noose against violation of traffic rules and to moderate the traffic mishaps in DKR Range, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, accessed the road safety / security measures and checked passengers vehicles, Model Police Naka points while en-route from Batote to Kishtwar district this morning. IGP Jammu Zone was accompanied by DIG DKR Dr. Sunil Gupta, SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom and SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal. They travelled by road from Batote to Kishtwar and inspected many vehicles plying on roads and checked road stretches prone to accidents on various counts. IGP Jammu directed all concerned to take stern action against overloading, over speeding and rash and negligent driving.

tem is fully functional with technical tools with J&K Police which is based upon big data analysis, identifies those criminals who are evading arrests and need surveillance.

As per the directions of DGP J&K RR Swain, Kishtwar Police took a pioneer step in developing an App to digitalize data of various beats of Police Stations through Beat Book application. The App and its functionality has been formally inaugurated by IGP Jammu Zone, Jammu.

The meeting was followed by a Public darbar in which

prominent persons, religious heads, Trade Unions, PRIs and members of various NGOs etc participated. During meeting, various issues were raised by the participants for which the participants were assured for immediate redressal of their grievances.

Later, IGP Jammu Zone held a joint security review meeting with officers of Army/CAPF & various sister agencies at GO's Mess DPL Kishtwar in which a threadbare discussion regarding present security scenario of the district was reviewed.



Glimpses of 'Mahotsav 2023' being organized by Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. (Details on page 1)