

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Chillai Kalan begins...

department.
Minimum temperatures dropped several notches below the freezing point in other parts of the valley as well.

In Srinagar, the temperature came down to minus 8.5 degrees Celsius on Friday night from minus 6.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, the meteorological department said.

It was Srinagar's coldest December night since 1974, when the city recorded a low of minus 10.3 degrees Celsius, and the third coldest since 1891.

Srinagar's lowest-ever minimum temperature in this month was minus 12.8 degrees Celsius on December 13, 1934.

The intense cold led to the freezing of several water bodies, including parts of the famous Dal Lake here, and water supply lines in many areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley.

South Kashmir's tourist resort Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius.

Konibal, a hamlet on the outskirts of Pampore town, was the coldest weather station in the valley with a minimum temperature of minus 10.5 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature settled at minus 8.2 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 7.2 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 5.8 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

This was Kupwara's lowest December temperature since 1998 and the ninth lowest ever in this month.

The meteorological office has forecast mainly dry weather till December 26 with a possibility of light snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley on the intervening night of December 21-22.

Light snow over the higher reaches is also possible from the afternoon of December 27 to the forenoon of December 28. The weather is likely to be mainly dry on December 29-30 while light snowfall is expected in the higher reaches on the New Year's Eve, it said. The weather office said the cold wave at isolated places would continue over the next few days.

Demographic data along...

India's space sector has taken a giant leap forward in last 10 years. He said after 25 years of establishment of NESAC society, the positive aspects of the work being done by it are now visible.

Shah said the NESAC should further expand the scope of its work in these states, and, for this, initiatives should also be taken by the state governments.

He urged the NESAC to take 100 students each with science background from all the states of the Northeast on a visit to the headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) so that they can develop interest in space and related technology.

The home minister asked the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to contribute 60 per cent fund for this project.

He also urged the state governments of the Northeast to start new courses related to space technology in engineering colleges.

The NESAC should focus on forest area development using space science, he said. Shah said for this, necessary steps should be taken by comparing old maps with the latest maps and where there are possibilities, efforts should be made to plant trees in collaboration with the state governments.

JU scripts history...

including the promotion of interdisciplinary research, strengthening academic frameworks, and adopting best practices.

"This recognition by NAAC is not just a milestone but a motivation to further our commitment to quality, innovation, inclusivity, and enhancing societal impact," he emphasized.

Prof. Rai acknowledged the support of the Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, Manoj Sinha; Chief Minister and Pro Vice Chancellor, Omar Abdullah; Higher Education Minister, Sakina Itoo; and Vice Chairman, Higher Education Council Prof. Dinesh Singh. "Their visionary guidance has been instrumental in enabling the University to achieve this remarkable feat," he added.

The Vice Chancellor also thanked the NAAC Peer Team for their rigorous evaluation and insightful recommendations during their visit from December 11-13, 2024.

"This is not the culmination of our journey but the beginning of new aspirations to set higher benchmarks in the field of higher education," Prof. Rai added.

On this occasion, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Director DIQA, gave a detailed overview of the parameters assessed by NAAC and shared insights into the rigorous evaluation process.

The seven-member NAAC Peer Team evaluated the University across various Key Performance Areas i.e Curricular Aspects, Teaching-Learning & Evaluation, Research, Innovations & Extension, Infrastructure & Learning Resources, Student Support & Progression, Governance, Leadership & Management and Institutional Values & Best Practices.

She informed that the University has achieved full scores under the parameters: Infrastructure & Learning Resources, Governance, Leadership and Management & Institutional Values & Best Practice.

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies also shared the recent research initiatives undertaken by the University with thrust on translational and transdisciplinary research.

The Peer Team that had visited the University had appreciated the research output in terms of publications and number of citations.

With this accreditation, the University joins the elite group of A++ institutions in the country(in the fourth Cycle).This A++ grade shall remain valid for a period of seven years.

Among others present included Prof Anju Basin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof Naresh Padha, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Prof Pankaj Kumar Srivastava, Director CD&OE, Prof. Prakash Antahal Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Satya Paul, Ameet Targotra, AD, DIQA and Akanksha Sharma, AR, DIQA. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer JU.

JU's outstanding accomplishment...

reform-driven futuristic vision underscores its commitment to fostering academic excellence, goal oriented research, innovative capacity & holistic development of students to make them enlightened citizens. My best wishes to all for success in your mission".

Army has increased...

stability in the region. He said that new posts have been set up in upper reaches and movement of security forces at night have been increased in a bid to improve security and peace in the region.

"Helicopters, UAVs and several types of sensors are being used as a part of technology to ensure peace", he said. During the visit, Lt Gen Sachdeva praised the synergy between the civilian population and security forces, particularly in the sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Lt Gen Sachdeva commended the Ace of Spades Division for its critical role in fostering trust through welfare programmes and engaging local communities. The Corps Commander also participated in the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony. He emphasised the importance of such events in channelling energy positively and promoting community harmony.

Namo Bharat train...

"Every new user will receive Rs 50, which is equivalent to 500 loyalty points, upon downloading the app. They can earn an additional 500 loyalty points by referring the RRTS Connect app to other users. Both the referrer and the referee will receive Rs 50, equivalent to 500 loyalty points each, which will be credited to their respective accounts," the statement said.

All accrued loyalty points will remain valid for one year from the date of credit, encouraging frequent, sustainable travel and ongoing app engagement.

The 'RRTS Connect' app is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store, it added.

Namo Bharat Times will be freely available for download on all digital platforms of NCRTC, such as nerte.in, rrtts.co.in, and the 'RRTS Connect' app, the statement said.

The newsletter will keep Nam0 Bharat commuters informed about new initiatives and recent developments, enhancing their connection with the service and providing valuable updates.

The newsletter serves as a comprehensive source of information, highlight-

ing commuter-focused activities, travel needs, available station facilities, and stories that celebrate the individuals who make the RRTS system thrive. It also provides opportunities for commuters of all ages to be featured and recognizes their participation in various events organized by NCRTC, it said.

India has potential...

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, expressed happiness about the presence of Indians from diverse corners of the country in the gulf nation and called it a "mini-Hindustan."

India's StartUps, FinTech, smart technology and green technology can develop cutting-edge solutions for every need of Kuwait, he said.

"India is well-equipped to meet the world's demand for skilled talent ... India also has the potential to become the skill capital of the world," Modi emphasised and underlined that for many decades to come, India will remain the youngest country in the world.

Highlighting India's strong commitment to supporting Indian workers in Kuwait and across the Gulf, Modi discussed technology-driven initiatives implemented by the government, including the e-Migrate portal.

Thanking the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his gracious invitation, Modi stated that it was after 43 years that an Indian Prime Minister was visiting Kuwait to strengthen and solidify the age-old friendship.

"The relationship between India and Kuwait is one of civilisation, the sea, affection, trade, and commerce. India and Kuwait are located on two shores of the Arabian Sea. It's not just diplomacy that connects us, but also the bonds of the heart," the prime minister said to a loud cheer from the gathering.

"Today, personally, this moment is very special for me. For you all, coming to India takes four hours, but for the prime minister of India, it took four decades," he told the Indian gathering.

Modi further recalled the centuries old strong trade ties between the two countries. "Our elders in Gujarat still recall how Kuwaiti traders learnt Gujarati, wrote books in it and traded their world-famous pearls in our markets. We took supplies of horses and many other items. There has been a long-lasting relationship between India and Kuwait," he said.

He also reminded the diaspora that till about 60-65 years ago, Indian rupees were accepted in Kuwait.

The PM said that in the coming decades, India and Kuwait will become significant partners in prosperity.

"While the people of Kuwait are dedicated to building a 'New Kuwait', the people of India are striving to create a developed India by 2047 ... Kuwait, through trade and innovation, wants to be a dynamic economy. India is also focusing on innovation and strengthening its economy," Modi said. "India has the skill, technology, innovation and manpower that 'New Kuwait' needs."

Reminding the diaspora gathering about India's heritage and legacy, Modi said the world is celebrating the first 'Meditation Day' on December 21 and added, "This day is dedicated to India's thousands of years of meditation tradition."

The Prime Minister extended an invitation to diaspora members to participate in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Maha Kumbh to be held in India in January 2025.

He then listed all the festivals to be celebrated across India in coming weeks and invited the diaspora to India for participating in those festivities and then "witness the Republic Day celebrations before returning."

"There was a time when the legendary actor Dilip Kumar inaugurated the first Indian restaurant here. But the true essence of Indian cuisines can only be experienced by visiting the country. So bring your Kuwaiti friends along!"

During his two-day visit to Kuwait, Modi is set to meet the Emir, the Crown Prince, and the Prime Minister of Kuwait on Sunday.

India can never...

much learning to be gained from India's heritage. But the world will only know when the countrymen take pride in it, he said.

In an age of globalisation, technology and tradition must march together, said Jaishankar.

"Bharat will inevitably progress but it must do so without losing its Bharatiyata. Only then can we truly emerge as a leading power in a multi-polar world," he said.

Jaishankar was conferred the 27th SIES Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati National Eminence Award. The awards are given in four fields - Public Leadership, Community Leadership, Human endeavour, Science and Technology and Social Leadership - with primacy on spiritualism. The awards are named after the late 68th Seer of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi.

The foreign minister did not attend the event but sent his video message.

"Independence should never be confused with neutrality. We will do whatever is right in our national interest and for global good without being intimidated to conform. Bharat can never permit others to have a veto on its choices," he said.

He further said, "For too long we were schooled to visualise progress and modernity as a rejection of our heritage and traditions."

Perhaps this came from an affinity for imported models, or perhaps it was a discomfort with its own practices. But now as the deepening of democracy has thrown up more authentic voices, the country is rediscovering itself and finding again its own persona, the minister said.

Jaishankar said India is an exceptional nation because it is a civilisation state. Such a country will only exercise influence when it fully leverages its cultural strengths in the global arena, he said.

"To that it is essential that we ourselves, the younger generation, are fully aware of the value and significance of our heritage. This can be articulated at various levels, but most importantly it should have an impact at the societal level," he said.

Jaishankar said India is poised today at a crucial juncture. On the one hand, the last decade has demonstrated that it has the capabilities, confidence and, most importantly, the commitment to advance development across broad fronts.

It has shown that the age-old problems of poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities can be indeed addressed. On the global stage, it has established itself as an independent power but one committed to global good, especially the well-being of the global south, he said.

"At the same time, however, the constraints and limitations that have long been our bane still remain in place. There are viewpoints and ideologies which are more pessimistic and even denigrating of ourselves," added Jaishankar.

Irony: Modi's India...

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after genocide of Bengalis, mostly Hindus. An article in Time magazine, dated 2 August 1971, stated "The Hindus, who account for three-fourths of the refugees and a majority of the dead, have borne the brunt of the Muslim military hatred". Pakistan army eastern command headquarters officials in Dhaka made clear the government's policy on East Bengal. After the elimination or exile of Hindus, their property was going to be shared among middle class Muslims. According to Colonel Naim, Hindus "undermined the Muslim masses." He said Bengali culture to a great extent was Hindu culture, and "We have to sort them out to restore the land to the people." In April 1971 at Comilla, Major Rathore said to Anthony Mascarenhas, regarding Hindus: "Now under the cover of fighting we have an excellent opportunity of finishing them off. [...] Of course [...], we are only killing the Hindu men. We are soldiers, not cowards like the rebels."

Though the symbols of Pakistan were routed out by the Indian Army in 1971 but the radicalised mindset could not be wiped out. It remained dormant for decades but burst like a volcano immediately after the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Hindu hate is more pronounced now than in 1971, which has turned so venomous and ferocious that the future of entire community seems to be very bleak in the country that India liberated. Will the prevailing scenario call for a repeat of 1971? Will Narendra Modi feel compelled to follow the footsteps of Indira Gandhi? If the answer to these two options is in affirmative, the question will arise whether India can go ahead with hot pursuit at a time when the nation is divided between nationalist BJP and left-liberal motivated INDI Alliance. The INDI Alliance is subtly messaging, rather provoking, hot-pursuit to deal with the crisis in the immediate neighbourhood, not for the love or sake of Hindus in Bangladesh but to put the Modi government in tight spot, leading to an anarchical situation to overthrow the present dispensation as per George Soros Plan. Of course, Indian democracy and its strength is not that feeble as the INDI alliance perceives but the prospect of creating civil unrest is for real. It is not 1971 when Jan Sangh, the then avatar of the present BJP had stood like a rock behind Indira Gandhi; it is 2024 with the scenario quite opposite. This realization might be weighing high on the policy planners. Otherwise the grim scenario in Bangladesh calls for a repeat of 1971-this time to liberate the nation in India's backyards from Jihadi mindset.

Earlier governments neglected Kishtwar, even stopped ongoing projects: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: While addressing a meeting of BJP workers here today, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh accused the earlier governments of neglecting Kishtwar to the extent of even stopping the ongoing projects like the 850 MW Ratle hydroelectric power project.

Dr Singh said, instructions had been issued for expediting the speed of ongoing hydel power projects, saying that upon the completion of all of these, the electricity produced by these plants will touch around 8000 MW. He said with this mammoth power generation capacity, Kishtwar will catapult into becoming a major power hub of India and possibly the biggest in North India.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra hailed the BJP's leadership and its cadre. He commended the workers for their relentless hard work, enthusiasm, and efforts in connecting with the people of Kishtwar, especially in challenging circumstances. He expressed gratitude to the workers for their commitment to strengthening the party's presence in the region.

Dr Jitendra Singh praised the Kishtwar Unit of BJP for delivering a stupendous showing during both Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He said, the party's current generation is tasting the fruits of its success due to the sacrifices and hard work of its previous three generations of leaders and workers.

The Minister said that the road infrastructure of Kishtwar has significantly improved, and the party aims to support the ongoing developmental initiatives. He maintained that the government has increased connectivity to previously inaccessible areas. Singh also expressed his confidence that the continued dedi-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing BJP workers' meeting at Kishtwar on Saturday.

cation of the Kishtwar district party workers would lead to further success and strengthen the party's position in the upcoming elections.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the importance of grass-roots participation, urging the workers to maintain their momentum, as their collective efforts are crucial in achieving the party's mission. He reaffirmed the central leadership's commitment to the district, emphasizing that the party is focused on delivering more developmental projects for the people of Kishtwar and addressing their needs and aspirations.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the BJP's Kishtwar Unit Chief, Chuni Lal Sharma, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, and BJP MLA representing Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar. Earlier, upon his arrival in the District office, he was warmly welcomed by the party workers. Later while chairing the District Development

Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) and here with the entire district administration led by Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Kumar Shavan, and attended by local MLA and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon the National Hydro Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) to undertake capacity building of local unskilled labour to increase their employability for projects

requiring specific skills and specialised training.

Reviewing the status of projects aimed at boosting connectivity in the district, Dr. Jitendra, in particular, called for expediting the construction of a full-fledged airstrip in the town under Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN).

Dr Singh instructed that the District Administration must follow a Standard Operating Procedure for sharing of information with the PRIs during field visits conducted by officials. He added that inputs of PRI representatives should be taken by the officials for effective implementation of the schemes. The Minister informed that a saffron park will come up in Kishtwar soon. He said, work on exploration of the world's finest sapphire (Neelam) mines of Paddar area has been started and will yield additional revenue and creation of more employment opportunities for the local youth.

Today's DISHA meeting held in the Mini Secretariat, Kishtwar was attended by MLA, Paddar Nagseni and Leader of the Opposition, Sunil Sharma, DDC, Chairperson, Pooja Thakur, MLA, Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, SSP, Kishtwar, Javed Iqbal, DDC members, nominated members of the DISHA committee besides District and Sectoral officers of different departments.

92-year-old medical Icon chooses Narayana Hospital for hip replacement

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a significant testament to the rising standard of healthcare in Jammu, Dr. R.N. Sharma, a 92-year-old medical pioneer, recently underwent a successful hip replacement surgery at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Katra. Dr. Sharma, the Founder and Head of the Department of Surgery at GMC Jammu, as well as a former Professor and Chairman of Urology at SKIMS, Srinagar, has had an illustrious career, contributing extensively to the medical field. The surgery was carried out by Dr. Vikas Padha, Senior Consultant Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon, renowned for handling complex orthopaedic cases with precision. Dr. Sharma, who spent many years in the UK, shared his experience, stating, "When I needed treatment, I was initially uncertain. However, my colleagues in the medical fraternity unanimously recommended Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital, highlighting its trustworthiness among doctors. My experience



exceeded expectations, with care surpassing even leading hospitals in India, the UK, and the US." The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital has quickly become a symbol of healthcare excellence in the region, thanks to the visionary support of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. This collaboration has enabled the hospital to offer cutting-edge medical services, earning it the trust of both local residents and visiting pilgrims. Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, remarked, "Dr. Sharma's decision to undergo treatment here underscores the growing trust in our healthcare capabilities." Similarly, Dr.

Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director of SMVDIME, added, "In just eight years, our hospital has become a beacon of excellence, with Dr. Sharma's trust reinforcing our commitment to high standards." Dr. Vikas Padha, who led the surgery, expressed his pride in treating such a respected figure, emphasizing, "Dr. Sharma's trust is a badge of honor for me and our entire team, reaffirming our dedication to excellence in patient care." Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital continues to set new benchmarks in healthcare, ensuring that it remains a trusted name for all in the region.

CB produces Challan against Bengaluru man for impersonating J&K High Court's FB Page

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough, Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE) of Crime Branch J&K, investigated and produced a challan in an impersonation case involving a fake Facebook page created in the name of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

The case, registered as FIR No. 43/2021 under various sections of the IPC and IT Act, pertained to a fake Facebook page that had garnered over 10,000 followers and was posting controversial content, including a post about the PDD Employees Strike, giving the impression that it was the official view of the Jammu and Kashmir

High Court. Through meticulous investigation, the CICE J&K team, led by Insp Jagdeep Singh under the supervision of SSP SCW Jammu Sh. Sanjay Parihar (looking after the charge of CICE J&K as well), was able to trace the creator of the fake page to one Sahil Sideeq Bhat, a resident of Khrew, Pampore, who was currently staying in Bengaluru.

The accused was found to have created the fake page by impersonation, committing forgery of electronic records, and posting controversial content. After completing all legal formalities, the challan was presented before the Hon'ble Court of Sub Registrar, Jammu on

December 21, 2024. This achievement demonstrates the CICE Crime Branch J&K's commitment in combating cybercrime and protecting the public from online fraud and misinformation.

NOTICE

I, Ashok Gupta, S/o Shri Ashok Kumar Mahajan, R/o H.No.116/P, Sector-5, Upper Roop Nagar, Jammu-180013, have changed my name from Pankaj Gupta to Pankaj Mahajan in all the records. I do hereby assume my name as Pankaj Mahajan from this date.