

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Full implementation of...

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) into practice. He said that 100 percent training of investigating officers regarding the provisions of the new laws should be ensured, at the earliest.

Amit Shah said that decisions on provisions related to terrorism and organised crime should be taken only after thorough scrutiny at the level of Superintendent of Police. He added that strict monitoring is required to ensure that these provisions under the new laws are not misused.

The Union Home Minister said that the Jammu and Kashmir administration and government have done satisfactory work towards the implementation of the new criminal laws despite difficult circumstances. He said that the progress of implementation of the three new laws in Jammu and Kashmir should be reviewed on a monthly, fortnightly and weekly basis at the level of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, respectively.

55 Cr devotees...

over 38 per cent of the country's people have participated in the holy dip, it said.

On a global scale, according to Pew Research 2024, an estimated 120 crore (1.2 billion) people worldwide follow Sanatan Dharma, meaning that over 45 per cent of Sanatanis worldwide have immersed themselves in the Sangam, it said.

The confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati has witnessed a remarkable surge in the number of saints, devotees, the statement said.

Ahead of the Maha Kumbh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had predicted that this grand event would break records in the number of devotees, forecasting an initial count of 45 crore people.

By February 14, the number had exceeded 50 crore and reached 55 crore on Tuesday, the statement said.

The highest turnout occurred on Mauni Amavasya, with nearly eight crore devotees participating in the holy dip and on Makar Sankranti, around 3.5 crore devotees took a bath during the Amrit Snan.

Additionally, over two crore devotees took a dip on February 1 and January 30, while 1.7 crore participated in Paus Purnima.

On Basant Panchami, 2.57 crore devotees took the dip in the Triveni Sangam, and more than two crore devotees followed suit on Magh Purnima, the statement added.

Ammunition, explosive substance...

under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Indian Arms Act, and Explosive Substances Act has been registered at the Samba police station and investigation is underway to arrest the anti-national elements.

SFs neutralise 2...

was rushed to the spot which neutralised the IED, thereby preventing any damage. Police also detected a suspicious IED kept in a pressure cooker on the road side at Pinglish in Tral area of Pulwama, the officials said.

They said a bomb disposal squad reached the spot and destroyed the IED.

The officials said the timely detection of the IEDs averted any possible harm to civilians or security forces in the area.

Application of 3...

so far, the implementation of the new laws has been by and large successful except a few instances. These issues will be addressed," Abdullah said.

The chief minister added that while the implementation of the new laws was "not the responsibility" of the elected government, but it was important that people were made aware about their contents and proceedings as these are new laws.

We will have to make efforts for making people aware about these three criminal laws, be it colleges, universities or other places, he said.

Abdullah said there was no discussion on the law and order issue in the UT, adding that this done when he met Shah at the Parliament recently.

"This meeting was different from the security review meeting," he said.

Asked as to why he was not present in the two security review meetings for Jammu and Kashmir held recently, Abdullah said, "If a decision is taken that the elected government will not be called for the security review meeting, what can we do. That is ok." Asked about Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's disagreement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired meeting to appoint a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Abdullah said that "dissent was his (Gandhi's) right and he exercised it". "Where is it stipulated that the Leader of Opposition has to agree with what the government does? It is for the government to agree to it or not," he said.

CB arrests 5...

non-existing employees and managed together personal loans, cash credit loans and car loans etc. by posing themselves as government employees. Accused also managed to open fraudulent government accounts at Branch office Mendhar and Branch office Bus stand Mendhar.

They firstly deposited money through different banks/branches in the A/Cs of Water Shed Committee and the fake accounts opened by them, issued fake authority letters instructing the branches to disburse/credit the salary in individual accounts of the accused. Thus the accused managed to fraudulently obtain loans amounting to Rs 5 Crore approximately from the different branches of J&K Bank thereby causing huge wrongful loss to the bank.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh confirmed that while conducting investigation of case FIR No. 86/2023, under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC r/w 7, 13 PC Act in professional manner, CB succeeded in arresting five more accused wanted in the case and investigation is in progress.

Kashmir may see...

images of dried up water bodies with Aecharal springs in south Kashmir having dried up completely.

The river bed of Jhelum is visible at many places, especially upstream in south Kashmir areas while the water level downstream in north Kashmir is alarming-ly low. The situation is similar in other major streams of the valley.

The lack of enough snowfall has forced authorities to postpone the fifth edition of Khelo India Winter Games which were scheduled to begin from February 22.

While most of the Gulmarg bowl is bereft of snow, the higher reaches of the famous skiing destination does not have enough snow for safe conduct of sports activities.

Mission YUVA accomplishes...

to unregistered enterprises and 88 to registered enterprises.

She elaborated that these questions were aimed at capturing demographic details like age, employment status, sector, activity etc. It simultaneously recorded financial, market and skill details of each individual/enterprises as the case may be. Lastly, it delved into determining the challenges faced by the individuals and enterprises in starting their enterprises or challenges faced by the existing units to flourish their business.

Secretary, L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, in his presentation highlighted the methodology and outcomes of the baseline survey. He also explained the working of Mission YUVA app in creation of successful enterprises together with capacity building of these entrepreneurs.

He said that among the key pillars of this mission is formulation of scheme for creating mass awareness and institutional mechanism to support this whole process to ensure that the set objectives are accomplished in a time bound manner. He further apprised the meeting that survey dataset is organised and structured to enable data analysis as each respondent had been assigned a unique ID with metadata saved and GIS location/time stamps preserved to verify each set of data anytime later.

He divulged that a comprehensive report is going to be compiled in next 2 months and will be put in public domain for academic purpose and informed decision making by the policymakers.

Giving insights into the observations made after analysing this data, Director Employment and MD, Mission YUVA, Shahzad Alam made out that around 64.86 lakh individuals in the age group of 18-60 years were surveyed finding around 8.27 lakh potential entrepreneurs as per the operational guidelines.

Regarding dynamics of the data, he illustrated that the above number when filtered using certain criterion like age group of 18-39 years came down to 7.038 lakh and got further reduced to 5.52 lakh when filtered as per education standard of 'Secondary & above' and 5.13 lakh when aspirants pursuing higher education were excluded to be identified as Potential Entrepreneurs.

About the key insights made after this baseline survey, it was revealed that 16.7% of individuals in unregistered activity have reported to have avail loans

less than Rs 5 lakh. The major challenge, they enumerated, in availing loans is high interest rates and collaterals.

Similarly, it was given out that 70% entrepreneurs prefer business investment and financial support in the range of Rs 2-10 lakh only. Most of them termed financial constraints (50%) a biggest hurdle in starting a business while half of the aspiring Entrepreneurs prioritise funding or loans to start their own business.

The survey also pointed out that majority (25%) of unregistered enterprises are concentrated in wholesale and retail business only. Moreover, 83% unregistered enterprises are nano enterprises with initial investment just under Rs 5 Lakh. In addition, 68% of the potential entrepreneurs are male, while 32% are females thereby highlighting gender disparity.

The survey also assessed the health of existing enterprises checking their profile, background, business characteristics, operations, investments, financial aspects, business performance over the years, profitability, market expansion along with risks and challenges they face while doing their business.

About the Mission YUVA app, the meeting was informed that the same was developed with the active support of BISAG-N. The key feature of this app is that it brings multiple services together over a single platform. The app/portal is going to assist the applicants in registering themselves, checking eligible schemes, generating project reports, getting requisite NoCs, receive counselling, connect with market, learn soft skills, create/edit AI based CV to apply for jobs, know about success stories and give their feedback either.

Additionally, they would be provided the necessary handholding by the government designated YUVA Doots, who would be responsible to assist them in going through each process right at their doorsteps. They would be given respective panchayats and list of PEs for extending real time assistance and mentorship of these people. The most attractive feature of this scheme is the simplified loan application form with less than 25 fields to be filled over the YUVA app/portal that had to be decided within a span of 25 days by the Bank. Only cluster head of banks can reject any application.

It was informed that the JK bank would devise a mechanism for reviewing performance of branch manager who rejects more than 50% applications. Applications will reflect to Motivators/YUVA DOOT and BHD login as soon as the applicant initiates the process. They had been enabled to edit and complete the application thereby making credit accessible to each motivated applicant to start a sustainable enterprise in future.

Two sisters abducted...

her village in Gandoh area of Doda district on January 14 was traced from Punjab. The girl was rescued from Pathankot on Monday and later reunited with her family, the police said.

Dir JKEDI asks officers to strengthen loan recovery process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Rajinder Sharma on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of all district centres of the institute here at Bari Brahmana.

During the review meeting, the Director reviewed the overall functioning of the district centres and different program verticals of the institute, especially the progress made regarding recovery of loans under different self-employment schemes and the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) conducted in various districts of for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Range Officers, District Nodal Officers of JKEDI, In-charges of the concerned sections and program verticals.

The Director gave a thorough analysis of the recovery of loans granted to beneficiaries under different self-employment schemes and highlighted the progress achieved in all the districts of J&K. He said the overall review of the recovery and repayment status underscores the institute's dedication to transparency, accountability and sustainable growth.

He pressed upon all the District Nodal Officers to follow a dynamic approach to deal with the defaulters and realise the government money disbursed as soft loans under different schemes, and follow the due process especially the issuance of demand notices well in advance.

"Recovery of the public money is paramount. All district officers and their staff must strengthen the efforts to recover the money from the wilful defaulters and follow a due process in doing so," the Director told the officers.

The DNOs were briefed about the importance of the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) and the conduct of the same in Government Degree Colleges (GDCs), ITIs and the Polytechnic colleges across the UT so that mass awareness is created regarding the initiatives of the government towards entrepreneurship development in J&K.

The Director applauded the top performing district teams and pressed upon the others to enhance their efforts and complete the recovery targets in designated time. He highlighted the importance of a unified approach among JKEDI employees to guide youth towards establishing successful ventures as envisioned in the institute's mandate.

Dir AH reviews progress under CAPEX, HADP, NABARD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To review the progress of the projects taken up under capital expenditure (capex), HADP and NABARD for current financial year, the Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Davinder Kumar on Tuesday chaired a meeting here at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo. The meeting was attended by senior level officials of the Animal Husbandry and Public Works Department (R&B).

Emphasizing on the utilization of allocated funds in a time bound manner, the Director underlined the importance of creation of quality assets to boost the rural development and farmers' income.

The Director took district-wise review of the expenditures made under various projects and urged the officers to work towards ensuring efficiency at ground level so that the benefits of Government schemes/projects reach intended beneficiaries.

The Director further discussed the progress of works assigned to other departments and stressed on proper coordination amongst Animal Husbandry and other involved departments for hassle free and timely completion of works.

During the meeting the chair was apprised that works are going on at brisk pace in each district and most of the targets are expected to be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

CEO- Livestock Development Board Jammu, Dy. Director (central), District officers, Planning & Statistics officer, officers from division-level HADP cell, officers from PWD(R&B), Extension officer besides officials from technical section were also present in the meeting.

JMC Com interacts with Swachhata Ambassadors, Champions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav on Tuesday met with the Swachhata Ambassadors, Influencers, Champions & Volunteers here in the Conference Hall of the Corporation.

During a the interaction, the Commissioner sought their support in promoting the initiatives of Jammu Municipal Corporation for maintaining sanitation in the city and reaching to the public through social media handles.

The Commissioner welcomed their feedback and views on further improving the sanitation conditions and promoting Swachhata campaign.

The JMC Commissioner informed them about Swachh Survekshan 2025 launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Development & Urban Affairs, Government of India, which is scheduled to start shortly in the Jammu .

He also mentioned about initiatives launched by JMC to redress the grievances pertaining to sanitation in a time bound manner. "Recently an initiative viz "Garbage Hotspot Challenge" has been introduced by the Jammu Municipal Corporation wherein the citizens have to spot the garbage vulnerable area and report it on <http://myjammu.in>. The grievances shall be disposed of within 24 hours of the report," he said. The Ambassadors, Influencers, Champions & Volunteers were asked to provide their comments / views regarding the unique initiative of JMC and share on their social media handles such as X account, Instagram & Facebook for wider publicity of the initiative among the public.

They were also asked to share the feedback link <https://sbmmrban.org/feedback> among their followers for maximum participation by the public in the feedback component of the Swachh Survekshan 2024. Certificates of appreciation were also distributed among the winners of UT Level Painting competition held on waste segregation on the eve of Republic Day 2025.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner (H&S) Abdul Star, Health officer Dr. Vinod Sharma and other officials of JMC.

Com STD directs GST enforcement officials to chase tax evasion, monitor e-way bills

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner, State Taxes Department (STD), P K Bhat, on Tuesday directed enforcement officers of GST to focus on real evasion of taxes, identify fake firm and constant monitoring of e-way bills for movement of goods.

The Commissioner made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the functioning of the department here today.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division attended the meeting while as all outstation DC's attended meeting through virtual mode.

Addressing the officers, the Commissioner emphasized on the importance of finely balancing enforcement actions with the ease of doing business. Bhat called for enforcement teams to focus on identifying fake registrations, beneficiaries of fake input tax credit (ITC) and track-down fake e-waybills. He called for strict action against such entities to ensure that these steps create the necessary deterrence effect among the tax evaders.

The Commissioner also emphasized on the need for enforcement agencies to stay ahead of the evaders so that the sanctity of the GST system is preserved. He advised the enforcement officers to constitute special units for round the clock monitoring of different analytical tolls in the system and e-way bills from the backend. He asked them to flag any possible evasion case with concerned field unit for its interception.

The Commissioner also underscored that tax officials must be continuously connected with trade and business in the field reducing the need for intrusive enforcement action and enabling proactive compliance.

DC stresses timely canal repairs, close check on encroachments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Irrigation & Flood Control Department functionaries to review the state of canal infrastructure and ensure timely maintenance.

Officers from various Irrigation Divisions were present, while Sub-Division Magistrates and Block Development Officers joined the discussions virtually.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of proactive ground presence by Irrigation Department staff. He directed officers to expedite the repair and desilting of canals, ensuring that water reaches the tail end of irrigation channels efficiently.

He also instructed officers to assign their subordinate staff, including Patwaris and Zilledars, the task of closely monitoring the situation on the ground. They were urged to remain vigilant and take swift action against any encroachments along the canals.

The DC reiterated the need for strict supervision and timely interventions to maintain the functionality of irrigation channels, ensuring sufficient water supply to agricultural lands.

JU organises Gender sensitisation workshop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu (JU) organized Gender Sensitization workshop for the PG Students of the Department of Political Science, University of Jammu.

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies was the resource person. She began the session by elaborating on different gender roles and social expectation. Further she delved into various gender-related issues and explained the secondary position of women in the society which is due to the patriarchal mindset and need to be changed.

She also stressed that a person's mindset shapes their perception of gender through a complex interplay of innate tendencies, learned behaviors, cultural norms, personal experiences and by understanding these influences can help individuals to challenge stereotypes and foster a greater acceptance of gender diversity.

She gave a deep insight on the Indian society wherein she spoke on the issues related to dowry, domestic violence and how all these has been justified in the name of tradition of giving gifts and how it has a negative impact on both the gender.

Further she also elaborated different legal provisions dealing with these social problems and how we as society can help in implementations of these laws for achieving the gender equality in the society.

A large number of faculty members and students very enthusiastically participated in the workshop and asked various questions which were answered to their satisfaction. Kunzang Angmo conducted and coordinated the program and Dr. Saranjit Kaur presented the formal vote of thanks, both faculty members from Centre for Women's Studies.

IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu organizes admission awareness camp for police personnel

Last date for admission extended till Feb 28, 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Regional Centre Jammu today organized an admission awareness/promotional camp at Jammu and Kashmir Police HQ, DPL, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU RC Jammu and Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director were the resource persons from the Regional Centre Jammu. Sh. Irshad Hussain Rather, SP, HQ, Jammu and Sh. Rajinder Singh, Dy. SP, DAR, DPL, Jammu and a number of Police personnel of the rank of SP, Dy.SP, Inspector, Sub-Inspector, ASI, SGCT, Head Constable and Constable attended the awareness programme in person.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta apprised the gathering about the special skill oriented programmes that IGNOU is offering in the current admission cycle in the field of Disaster Management, Information Security, Cyber Security, Anti Human Trafficking, Human Rights and many others programmes relevant to the belt force.

The police personnel were sensitized about the flexibility that IGNOU offers to the students with regard to eligibility criteria, easy mode of applying for admission online, attending counselling/practical sessions online, submission of assignments online, applying for exams online, opting Examination Centre as per their choice and place of posting, prompt response to student grievances, etc.

Many of the police personnel expressed their willingness to seek admission in certain selective programmes through IGNOU through the distance mode alongside their regular duties which will be beneficial for them for their future prospects and will not hinder their line of duty.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta also informed that the University has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the ongoing January 2025 admission cycle till 28th of February, 2025 in respect of all notified programmes offered in ODL as well as Online modes and that the desirous learners who wish to seek admission must avail this opportunity of extended date and apply online well before the last date.

Yoga Session on Exam Stress Management held at GMS Channi Himmat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an effort to support students during exam season, a registered non-governmental organization THE - SARA under Mission Mental Health Support successfully conducted a Yoga Session focused on Exam Stress Management. The event, which took place at Government Middle School Channi Himmat Jammu, brought together students and teachers to learn techniques for reducing stress and promoting mental well-being during the high-pressure exam period.

The yoga session, led by field volunteer at 'THE - SARA' Anita Solanki, a certified Yoga teacher and evaluator, mental health wellness instructor from the Ministry of Ayush, who emphasized the importance of mindfulness, deep breathing, and yoga as effective tools for managing stress. The participants were guided through various poses and relaxation techniques designed to calm the mind, release physical tension, and improve focus, helping students navigate the emotional and mental challenges that come with exams.

Headmistress of GMS Channi Himmat Neeru Rajput expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to learn stress-reducing techniques that will help students stay focused and calm throughout their exams.

It is pertinent to mention that THE - SARA remains committed to promoting mental health awareness and providing resources that empower individuals, particularly students, to live balanced and healthy lives. This event marks just one of many initiatives by the organization to address the growing concerns around mental well-being in education.