

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! J&K Admin working...

Governor congratulated the awardees and called upon them to work towards transforming the youth into enlightened citizens. He observed that, in the current era of unprecedented technological advancement, where AI is reshaping our work environment, we need to prepare human resource capable of driving the change.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "In our journey of Viksit J&K, we need support of valiant soldiers, leaders from social sectors, farmers, entrepreneurs, youth and women. We need to identify those sections of the population who have got left behind due to discriminatory laws and keep working for their upliftment.

"We need to build a J&K where the rural and urban divide is completely bridged. A J&K where there is social equity and which runs on the principles of rule of law and equal opportunity. A J&K where tourism, handicraft, agriculture, horticulture, industry and service sector work together", he added.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the J&K Administration is working for inclusive growth with sincerity and commitment.

"I can proudly say that in the past four and half years we have ensured development of social sectors to complement our economic growth to achieve the ultimate goal of social equity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has implemented a framework of policies and programmes for the benefit of the underprivileged and those discriminated and the saturation of benefits should be ensured.

"I also want great personalities and intelligentsia to act as a monitoring system for the proper implementation of programmes and policies designed for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society.

This goal can be achieved with the collective effort of the administration, civil society organizations like Women Club Meri Pehchan and the leaders like you. Your active participation in fact, holds the key to the success of all the projects for socio-economic change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh and recalled his visionary policies and reforms dedicated to public welfare.

He emphasised that every person will have to discharge his duties and responsibilities to bring a positive change in the society.

The Indian Army veterans, martyrs and gallant heroes who are decorated with Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Sena Medal including Lt Gen Anup Singh Jamwal (Retd); Maj Gen Sumita Kapoor (Retd), Col. Rajinder Kumar Sharma (Retd); Captain MV Pranjali; Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar PVC; Naib Subedar Chuni Lal; Lance Naik Nazir Ahmed Wani and Subedar Sansar Chand MVC, were conferred with the Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra Samman Award 2025.

Ravinder Singh Vicky, General Secretary, Shaheed Sainik Parivar Suraksha Parishad, Punjab; Jatinder Singh Gurjar, Security Guard and Supriya Hoon, Social activist were also honoured with the prestigious award.

Sandhya Gupta, Founder, Women Club Meri Pehchan; army veterans and their family members, senior officials, members of Women Club Meri Pehchan and various other social organizations were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

human resource capable of driving change.
In our journey of Viksit J&K, we need support of valiant soldiers, leaders from social sectors, farmers, entrepreneurs, youth and women.

We need to identify those sections of the population who have got left behind due to discriminatory laws and keep working for their upliftment.

We need to build J&K where rural and urban divide is completely bridged. A J&K where there is social equity and which runs on the principles of Rule of Law and equal opportunity. A J&K where Tourism, Handicraft, Agriculture, Horticulture, Industry and Service Sector works together:

I can proudly say that in past four and half years we have ensured development of social sectors to complement our economic growth to achieve the ultimate goal of social equity.

Under guidance of PM Narendra Modi, we have implemented framework of policies and programmes for benefit of underprivileged and those discriminated and saturation of benefits should be ensured.

I also want great personalities and intelligentsia to act as monitoring system for proper implementation of programmes and policies designed for the upliftment of weaker sections of society.

This goal can be achieved with the collective effort of administration, civil society organizations like Women Club Meri Pehchan and leaders like you. Your active participation in fact, holds key to success of all projects for socio-economic change.

Two dead amid...

the Jammu-Poonch National Highway in the evening, resulting in the death of the driver, the officials said.

They said a 14-year-old boy drowned while attempting to cross a swollen stream near his home at Sangore-Tuli in Reasi district.

A traffic department official said all types of vehicular movement were stopped at 7 pm from both ends on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in view of continuous heavy rain and shooting stones at many places between Nashri and Banihal in Ramban district.

Avalanches hit Beighpura-Kamsui village in the Inderwal area and Pinjari near Dachhan in Kishtwar district but there was no report of any damage, the officials said, adding that the higher reaches of Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda districts experienced moderate snowfall.

Art 370 abrogation...

employment opportunities besides establishing peace and paving the way for unfurling the tricolour," Athawale said.

Earlier, people were afraid of visiting J&K but the situation changed after Article 370 was revoked and more than 2.5 million tourists visited the union territory last year, he said.

"The increase in tourism means more development for the region. It was a very good decision to revoke Article 370. Now the people want us to give the status of a state to J&K. When (Home Minister) Amit Shah announced the removal of Article 370, he also announced that J&K's statehood would be restored at an appropriate time. Jammu and Kashmir will get the status of a state soon and all of people's problems will be resolved," he added.

The minister lauded the highest voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir in the assembly elections held last year.

"Though the alliance of the National Conference and the Congress came to power, it hardly matters to us as we are with the people and want the region's development," he said.

Asked about the rape of a 26-year-old woman in a bus at the busy Swargate depot in Pune, Athawale said such incidents are condemnable and heart-wrenching.

"We demand that the culprits behind such incidents be hanged," he said.
Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has already directed police to speed up the investigation and bring the culprit to book, he said.

"Society needs to come forward to counter such incidents which are increasing. The people behind such incidents should be boycotted as we are seeing atrocities being committed on even three to four-year-old children. It is the responsibility of parents and families to ensure that their children get a good education," he said.

On the opposition to the "imposition" of Hindi in Tamil Nadu, Athawale said the introduction of Hindi in the southern state should not be opposed as it will harm the country's unity and integrity.

"Hindi is... spoken by almost 90 to 100 crore people while state-level languages are restricted to particular areas. So there is no harm in introducing Hindi anywhere," he said.

Athawale was on a visit to review the progress of centrally-sponsored schemes meant for the development of the union territory.

He expressed satisfaction over the implementation of government schemes for the welfare of various sections.

OBC Commission submits...

Classes Commission submitted its final recommendations to the Chief Secretary, J&K, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday.

The report, presented in presence of Secretary RDD&PR, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad, is expected to highlight the objectives laid down at the time of its constitution.

Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal; Secretary in OBC Commission, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; Deputy Secretary in OBC Commission, Mohinder Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

The Commission, headed by Justice (Retired) Janak Raj Kotwal, a former Judge of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, with former IAS Officer, RK Bhagat and former Dean of SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Mohinder Singh Badwal as members, was constituted with determining OBC reservation quotas. The Commission's term officially ended on December 31, 2024, however, its tenure was extended till February 28, 2025 for accomplishment of the complete work.

Pertinent to mention that the Commission was constituted for the purpose of conducting empirical studies on OBC representation, engaging with stakeholders and recommending proportional reservations in urban and rural local bodies. Accordingly, during its tenure, the Commission analyzed records, surveys and census data to determine the OBC population share and their representation in the local bodies governance structure.

Kaith Music Factory releases Bhajan on Guru Gyagi



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Kaith Music Factory at a brief function held its studio at Bhagwati Nagar here today, released a devotional song on Guru Gyagi.

The devotional song was sung by renowned singer Gandherb Motan and the song is a soulful obeisance to Guru Gyagi, with music by Late Surinder Singh Manhas.

Speaking at the launch,

R.L.Kaith stressed the need to preserve cultural heritage and promote spiritual awareness among the younger generation.

Kaith urged the parents to impart spiritual knowledge to children from an early age. Singer Gandherb Motan in his address, expressed gratitude to Music Director Vicky Kaith for his unwavering support in promoting his song.

Prominent among those

who were present on the occasion included Messers Music Director Vicky Kaith, RTI India News Chairman Sansar Singh Motan, JK News Journalist S Harmeet Singh, Journalist Tejinder Singh, photo Journalist Nishan Singh, Reporter Rajveer, Reporter Ankush Thakur, BJP Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Des Raj Kaith, Tilak Raj Bassa, Jagdish Raj Kaith and Vicky Dogra.

Two Courses inaugurated at SKPA Udhampur on Ethics, Soft Skills, Gender Sensitization and Forensics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Two specialized training courses have been inaugurated at Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) Udhampur to enhance the professional competencies of police personnel from Jammu and Kashmir.

The first program, a two-day course on "Ethics and Soft Skills", is being attended by 20 officers from J&K Police, focusing on professional integrity, communication skills, and ethical decision-making.

The second program, a three-day course on "Gender Sensitization and Forensic Training", has 20 officers/officials participating from various districts of the Union Territory, emphasizing gender sensitivity and forensic investigation



techniques. Both courses were inaugurated by Rajinder Kumar Gupta, SSP, Deputy Director (Indoor/ Trainings), SKPA Udhampur.

In his inaugural address, Gupta emphasized the importance of ethics, effective communication, gender awareness, and forensic expertise in modern policing.

He highlighted how these

training programs align with evolving law enforcement challenges and stressed the need for police personnel to adopt a people-centric approach while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

Gupta encouraged participants to actively engage in the sessions and apply the knowledge gained to enhance their investigative

and interpersonal skills. He also acknowledged the efforts of the trainers and faculty members in curating a comprehensive curriculum designed to strengthen the capabilities of J&K Police.

The training programs include interactive sessions, case studies, and practical exercises, ensuring that participants gain hands-on experience in ethical deci-

The panel sought data inputs from the government departments, institutions and experts; held consultations with researchers and conducted field visits across J&K to ensure a comprehensive assessment before submitting its report to the government.

The J&K Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission was established on June 11, 2023, in compliance with Supreme Court Ruling in the K. Krishnamurthy Vs Union of India (2010) and Vikas Krishna Rao Gawli v. Maharashtra (2021) case.

Currently, Municipal Bodies, Panchayats and Block Development Councils in J&K are without elected representatives for a period of more than a year. The term of Municipalities ended in October-November 2023, while Panchayats and Block Development Councils completed their five year term on January 9, 2024.

In the recent electoral history of J&K, the three phases of panchayat elections including the Halqa Panchayat Elections (November 2018), Block Development Council Elections (October 2019) and District Development Council Elections (November-December 2020) were successfully conducted leading to significant devolution of Power in terms of Funds, Functions and Functionaries strengthening the grassroots democracy.

Speaker commits impartial...

building for effective proceedings and productivity of the house. He urged upon the representatives of all parties to contribute actively in discussions and debates as MLAs are vital for highlighting issues of public welfare during the session of house.

"The Budget Session is a crucial time for policy deliberations and financial planning. I urge all of you and your members to engage in meaningful debates, uphold house decorum and work towards the collective good of our people as well as entire Jammu and Kashmir," maintained the Speaker.

Highlighting the significance of Question Hour, Speaker Rather encouraged the legislators to make the most of this opportunity to hold the government accountable.

"Question Hour is a key tool that ensures government accountability. Legislators must utilize this time effectively to raise public concerns and seek concrete responses," emphasized the Speaker.

The Speaker further called upon all the political parties for effective coordination during the entire session of the house. He underlined that productivity of house is possible only after there is coordination between opposition and the government in highlighting peoples issues and addressing them respectively.

Speaking during the meeting, LoP, Sunil Sharma, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly session which is possible only when no disruptions occur. He highlighted that credibility of MLAs is at stake during the proceedings of house and members need to be responsive towards public issues and make government accountable on that rather than indulging in disruptions. He assured the Speaker that the legislators of his party will ensure smooth business of the house. In his remarks during the meeting, Ghulam Ahmad Mir of INC said that question hour being an important tool for making government accountable, should not be disrupted. CPI (M) Legislator, M.Y Tarigami, underlined that accountability of the government is possible only through smooth conduct of house proceedings. He also called for coordination between government and the opposition to make house proceedings productive and fruitful.

During the meeting, NC Legislator, Mubarak Gul, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly proceedings as legislators are face of the people during session of house.

Waheed ur Rehman Parra of PDP and Independent Legislator, Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan sought proportionate time for all MLAs while raising public issues during the business of house.

The Speaker assured all parties that their concerns and suggestions would be duly considered for fair and impartial proceedings of the house. He highlighted that the road for productive budget session has been laid with this fruitful meeting.

AAP liquor policy...

e-tenders. "It clearly demonstrates that AAP wants Punjab to become a liquor consuming state and there would be no transparency in the entire system. The Bhagwant Mann government has no agenda for education and health, but for liquor the government is ready to tie with the mafias", Chugh added.

The AAP government's target to earn Rs 11020 crores from liquor is an alarming call for the state.

At a time when the AAP government has failed to curb drugs in the state, its new excise policy to promote liquor consumption would be a blot on Punjab, Chugh added. He said the fact the quota for country made liquor has been increased by three percent was a clear indication that the AAP government is increasing the spread of spurious liquor. Moreover, the state government's decision to allow for new bottling plants to be set up in the state clearly demonstrates the Kejriwal-Bahgwant Mann clique with liquor barons, Chug added.

Firing on Army vehicle, anti-terrorist operation continues in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday extended the cordon and search operation to new areas near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district to flush out terrorists who opened fire on an Army vehicle the previous day, officials said.

A fresh operation was also launched in Dayalachak near the International Border in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua district after security forces intercepted a suspicious frequency wireless set, the officials said.

An Army vehicle came under fire from suspected terrorists hiding in a forest area near Phal village in the Sunderbani sector on Wednesday, prompting a massive search operation by the Army and police.

The search operation continues in Phal and was extended to new areas this morning to flush out the hiding terrorists, the officials said, adding there was no contact with the terrorists so far. They said the security forces are using latest technology, drones and sniffer dogs to hunt down the terrorists in the dense forests.

In a post on X on Thursday, the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said, "Terrorists opened fire at an Indian Army convoy in Sunderbani, Akhnour, yesterday (Wednesday). The firing was ineffective and our own troops responded swiftly.

"Some social media handles are falsely claiming casualties to own troops. This is false and deliberate disinformation. Search operations are presently underway to neutralise the perpetrators," it posted. An anti-terrorist operation was also launched in Gurah Baldara and adjoining villages in Dayalachak in the Hiranagar sector after a suspicious frequency wireless set was intercepted by security forces.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua Shobhit Saksena and senior officers of the Army and Border Security Force held a joint meeting at police station Hiranagar after the wireless interception.

A search operation is underway, while special checking parties have been established on various routes, officials said.

J&K Police nabs terrorist in covert Delhi operation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's counter intelligence wing on Thursday arrested a suspected terrorist, allegedly involved in terror funding, during a covert operation in Delhi. The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), in a covert operation, arrested a terrorist from Delhi who was involved in terror funding and had links with terrorists of proscribed terror organisation(s) across the Line of Control (LoC), an official said.

The case is connected to providing logistics support to terrorists of proscribed terror organisation(s) active in Jammu and Kashmir by a variety of means, including providing or passing on funds for conducting terror activities, he added.

"This money was being routed through various means from across the LoC, then pushed into India through their couriers, which included arrested accused Parvez Ahmad Khan alias PK alias Sheikh Tajamul Islam alias Khalid, a resident of Bemina, Srinagar," the official said.

Khan was arrested in Delhi by a CIK investigating team in collaboration with the Delhi Police. The operation was planned at the CIK headquarters a few days ago and the accused put under surveillance, the official said. Khan had been evading arrest and planned to abscond from Delhi, he added.

"The arrest was made in compliance with a warrant of arrest issued by a competent court in Srinagar.

The arrested terrorist will be produced before a competent court in Srinagar after his transit from Delhi to Srinagar for which transit remand has been obtained from a Delhi court," the official said. Further arrests are expected in the case, he added.

Temple dome damaged by lightning strike in Vijaypur area, 1 injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: The dome of a Shiv temple was damaged after being struck by lightning in Samba district on Thursday, officials said.

One person suffered minor injuries in the incident after being hit by a fallen stone, the officials added.

A group of devotees had assembled for the "langar" service in connection with Mahashivratri when the lightning struck the temple at Goramoh in the Vijaypur area, the officials said.

A "Kalash" on the top of the temple was uprooted in the incident, the officials added.