

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! AC approves J&K...

of a film shall be Rs.50 lacs and it must be screened on minimum 3 screens. The in-eligible categories for subsidy have also been notified in the policy. The policy will have positive impact on the economy in terms of generating employment and growth of film tourism. The policy will be valid for 05 years.

The AC has also approved extension of Amnesty Scheme-2022 upto 31-3-2025 in favour of Domestic Consumers of electricity.

The scheme provides for waving off 100% interest/surcharge on outstanding principal amount. In UT of J&K, the domestic consumer category comprises over 86% of JKPPDD consumers and around 50% of total energy consumption in the UT is from the said category of the consumers.

However almost 30 per cent of these Domestic consumers (Approx.5.50 lakh) in the said sector are either making staggered payments or have not made any payment towards their electricity bills primarily due to huge accumulation of outstanding power dues including late payment surcharges/interest which is leading to high commercial losses to JKPPDD/ Discoms.

The Amnesty Scheme has resulted into the recovery of Rs. 235.58 crore from domestic consumers.The Domestic consumers shall be benefited by waving off the surcharge amount and payments of principal amount in affordable installments (EMIs).

The Government/DISCOMS shall be able to recover the outstanding principal amount which shall result in decreasing the ARR/ACS gap and shall have a positive effect on lowering of AT&C losses too.

The Administrative Council also accorded administrative approval for installation of vertical lift from Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project to Mubarak Mandi Heritage complex at an estimated cost of Rs 25.07 Cr.

The vertical lift comprises two lifts, each with a capacity of 13 passengers, ensuring efficient transportation between Peerkho Station and Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The project includes foot over bridge for connectivity and safety measures for the passengers.

The installation of this lift will have no adverse structural impact on Mubarak Mandi Complex. The project has been conceptualised with technical vetting from IIT Jammu.

It is an initiative aimed to seamlessly integrate key tourist attractions, thus fostering tourism and cultural exploration of the region. The area is famous for ancient temples and has scenic advantage due to upcoming Tawi river front project.

The Administrative Council (AC) approved transfer of 22 Kanals and 2 Marlas of land situated in Estate Devipora, tehsil Tulmulla, district Ganderbal in favour of Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) for establishment of Dairy Plant.

The Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL) shall be implementing agency for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme, National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) which shall be contributing 90% of the funding under the central sector component, and remaining 10% will be JKMPCL's share, for execution of the project. The project shall provide employment and reduce agro-farm wastages and also enhance nutritional value of the produce. With this decision, approximately 1.50 lacks milk producers will be benefitted in the area and employment opportunities for approximately 400 to 500 people will be created.

Four of family...

Dr Devansh Yadav also visited the hospital and directed police for thorough probe into the accident. "The vehicle met with accident at a tough terrain due to which it got compressed and totally damaged, resulting into the serious injuries to the onboard passengers, due to which we lost four lives" said DC Kishtwar.

The deceased have been identified as Ambulance Driver Yasir Hussain Butt, son of Abdul Gani Butt, his wife Shahzada Begum and their two children namely Ilaf and Artash, resident of Kishtwar. The injured child has been identified as four months old Arsh. It is pertinent to mention here that the deceased Yasir Hussain is an employee of the health department and presently posted at district hospital kishtwar as incharge of control room of district hospital kishtwar.

Ex-bureaucrats Gyanesh...

on March 8. The poll panel is headed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. Kumar and Sandhu, both 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, belonged to the Kerala and Uttarakhand cadres, respectively, and are likely to assume office on Friday.

The 2024 general elections for the Lok Sabha, along with four state assemblies, are expected in April-May amid indications that the EC may announce these polls as early as this Friday.

Earlier in the day, at the selection panel meeting chaired by the prime minister, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury gave a dissent note, raising questions over the procedure adopted to choose the election commissioners.

The selection committee has one Union minister -- Home Minister Amit Shah -- as nominated by the government and the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha as members.

During his tenure in the home ministry, Kumar oversaw the abrogation of the Constitution's Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2014, as the resident commissioner of Kerala in Delhi, he was deputed by the state government to evacuate 46 nurses stuck in Erbil in war-torn Iraq. The operation was successful with the evacuation of 183 Indians, 70 from Kerala, from Iraq. Kumar, an IIT-Kanpur graduate, is a postgraduate in economics from Harvard University.

Sandhu, a former chief secretary of Uttarakhand, is learnt to have overseen the ideation for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in the state. He is an MBBS from the Amritsar Medical College and also has a master's degree in history. He was also closely involved in the reconstruction efforts of the Kedarnath temple premises. Sandhu retired as the chief secretary of Uttarakhand in January, after a six-month extension in service. He was appointed to the post in 2021, after Pushkar Singh Dhami was appointed the chief minister of the state ahead of the 2022 assembly elections.

Last month, Sandhu was appointed as secretary, Lokpal, with a tenure of one year. He has served as the chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and additional secretary in the higher education of the central government. Sandhu did his MBBS from the Government Medical College, Amritsar, and also has a master's degree in history from the Amritsar-based Guru Nanak Dev University. He has published papers on 'Urban Reforms' and 'Municipal Management and Capacity Building'. He was conferred the President's Medal in recognition of his services as commissioner, Ludhiana Municipal Corporation, Punjab.

CJ releases first...

renowned Law Publishers. The legal community celebrated a significant milestone today with release of this first ever and only monthly journal.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Advocate General D.C. Raina, Senior Advocates U.K.Jalali, Ved Raj Wazir, R.K.Jain, Editor of JKLLJ Monish Chopra, President Young Lawyers Association Rohit Sharma and office bearers, large number of members of J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu grace the occasion with their presence.

The Function was anchored and hosted by Advocate Monish Chopra Editor of JKLLJ who gave brief Introduction about the Journal. He stated that this first monthly journal of its kind in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh combines timely case insights with practical skill-building content. We aim to empower the legal community with a comprehensive resource that informs, educates, and inspires, he added. Our journal is committed towards erating and disseminating valuable content, including case laws of Jammu & Kashmir, local laws, legal news, insightful articles and highlights from the Supreme Court. He informed that a special and unique chapter titled "Band and Robe" has also been added in Journal, dedicated to enhancing legal skills and professional development among legal practitioners, aspiring lawyers and law students within the region. We hope that JKLLJ will serve as an invaluable resource, enriching the knowledge and skills of the legal fraternity while fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence, he added.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Justice praised the publishers for this courageous step towards publication and specially mentioned the importance of Physical Published Journals in spite of the heavy usage of Digital technology at large. He gave distinct vision, illuminating ideas and insights and hoped that the New Journal will serve the Legal Fraternity both Judiciary and Bar members. He was happy to learn that the Journal is priced in very competitive, reasonable and affordable rates which will be of immense benefit for the budding and young Lawyers.

While speaking on the occasion, the Advocate General congratulated the team of JKLLJ and its Editor With his vast experience he made enlightening discussions and gave invaluable insights into the legal landscape.

PM completed all...

performed ground breaking in the last five years, 91 per cent have been completed. This is BJP's work culture," Shah said in his virtual address from Delhi.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, the BJP's poll manifesto featured several unfinished works that were pending for nearly 50 years or more, the Union Home Minister pointed out.

"The opposition used to laugh at us on our promise to build a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya. But now, the PM opened the doors of the temple for people after performing 'pran pratishtha' of the deity recently. Be it One Rank One Pension or removing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, our PM has completed all such impossible-looking tasks during his tenure," said Shah.

Other major achievements of the Modi government include free ration to 80 crore citizens, building 12 crore toilets for the poor; allotment of houses to four crore citizens, providing gas connection to 10 crore households and tap water connection to 14 crore citizens, he said.

"The PM made the entire country safe and prosperous. Wherever I go, I can clearly see that Modi will become PM for the third time," Shah asserted.

Some of the major works launched by Shah during the event include development of 9-km stretch of Sabarnati Riverfront, an overbridge at busy Panjrapole Junction in Ahmedabad and beautification of Chandola lake in Dani Linda area of the city.

IASOWA J&K visits...

Sinha, AnuJangid, Geetanjali Singla, Jayshree Kundal, and Divya Yadav.

On the occasion the President, IASOWA J&K in her remarks made out that today's world has advanced a lot and brought in lot of betterments for our children with special needs. She mentioned that be it Sports, Art, Entrepreneurship, Administration, Business or running other affairs of life such persons had made a mark.

She further advised the students to adopt yoga and other healthy lifestyle activities including the Nutritious diet for overall development of their bodies. She encouraged the students enrolled in these twin schoolsto chase their dreams without any break. She advised them that sky is the limit for realising their ambitions as the world has made much progress to let them lay back and stumble.

Dr Monika took this occasion to impress upon these students that the talent depicted here through their different performances like singing are no less than that of other talented children out there. She praised them for such a good performance made impromptu on stage. She advised them to further fine-tune their skills and be the best in their fields of interest. She gave them the example of national icons like Ravindra Jain to follow who made world to acknowledge his talent despite being disabled for life.

While delving on the mandate of the association, she introduced that the association is prioritising the works for upliftment of the poorer sections of the society. She also noted that the association would take forward social works like poverty alleviation, women empowerment, environmental awareness, community services, popularization of yoga with a renewed vigour and energy.

The Commissioner Secretary, I&P, Dr Rashmi Singh remarked that by coming close to you here today has connected us more with your ambitions and aspirations. She further articulated that it has kindled a drive in us to play our roles more passionately for furthering your cause.

She inspired the students to become aware about different government schemes and programmes for the upliftment of persons with special needs. She encouraged them to come forth and avail the benefits of reservation in jobs and other enterprises and be successful in their lives quite like their counterparts.

Another Association Member, Geetanjali Singla gave introduction of the association to the audience present there. She threw light on different social, philanthropic and ecological initiatives taken in hand by the association. She exemplified that IASOWA is doing its bit in development of the society from years now and is going to take this cause further under the leadership of Dr Monika now.

The President along with others also took part in plantation drive there as part of 'Save Environment Campaign'. They also distributed sports gear, Braille items, common utility items and other material required by such persons among the students. Later on they took round of both the residential schools meant for visually impaired boys and girls. They applauded the administration and teachers of both the schools for playing a pivotal role in shaping the lives of these special children. They assured them that the association will do everything possible for them to make the education of such children easy and accessible here in the UT.

DGRC recommends fine...

insurance program. The meeting also addressed and sought to resolve other issues related to the health insurance scheme. Present at the meeting were committee members, including the Chief Medical Officer, the Assistant Commissioner Development, the District Grievances Nodal Officer and other concerned officers.

Drugs trade emerging...

in Jammu, said the narco-trade has to be properly addressed. "We have deal with it strongly. We need to dig the tunnel from both ends," he said. The police will crack down on dealers and suppliers by seizing property under the UAPA. There is also a need to address the issue of demand, Swain said.

According to the police chief, "The way we dealt with the terror ecosystem by taking action against those providing shelter, transporting terrorists and providing other logistics, a similar strategy is needed for those involved in the narcotics business." Swain also claimed that huge consignments of drugs such as heroin and brown sugar are being pushed into the Union Territory from Pakistan.

The only challenge was of homegrown drugs till recently, he said. "Now, the involvement is greater as heroin and brown sugar are being pushed into this side (of the border) in large quantities. This was the case with Punjab and now it is growing here as well. But we will not allow Jammu and Kashmir to become Punjab," Swain said. He also called for coordination with Punjab on tackling the menace. Referring to the drug de-addiction infrastructure, Swain said the police are operating 10 such centres and a few private players are also involved. The police will assess the infrastructure in 2025, he added.

Govt forms tribunal...

The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on February 28, 2019. While extending the ban for five more years, the home ministry said the Jel has been indulging in activities which are prejudicial to internal security and public order and have the potential to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country.

The home ministry has listed 47 cases registered against the Jel and that include an NIA case for collection of funds and used to encourage violent and secessionist activities. The funds were also used by the active cadres and members of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist organisations through a well-established network of their cadres to organise violent protests, create public unrest and communal disharmony, thus creating a sense of fear and insecurity in Jammu and Kashmir and all over the country, the home ministry said.

Govt committed to provide...

not merely a means of livelihood for youth but a potent instrument to fulfill their aspirations and dreams. J&K Government is committed to provide support for skill development and entrepreneurship opportunity to empower the future of the youth," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon the youth, especially the girls of the displaced and migrant communities to come forward and avail the benefits of self-employment schemes of the government. He also commended the J&K Bank for 'Seva Se Swabhimaan', a dedicated initiative for the economic empowerment of Kashmiri Migrants and displaced families of PoJK and West Pakistan Refugees.

Officials of various departments were also felicitated for their important contribution to the self-employment initiative.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Baldev Prakash, MD and CEO J&K Bank; Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), senior officers, prominent citizens and beneficiaries were present.

ACB arrests PDD...

servant. The team laid a successful trap and arrested PDD official red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 6500 from the complainant. Further investigation into the case is going on.

Petrol, diesel prices cut by Rs 2 each

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were cut by Rs 2 per litre each as state-owned oil companies ended a nearly two-year-long hiatus in rate revision, just hours before the general election schedule was announced.

The revised price will be applicable from 6 am on Friday, March 15, the oil ministry said on Thursday evening: Petrol in the national capital will now cost Rs 94.72 a litre compared to Rs 96.72 per litre currently, and diesel will come for Rs 87.62 against Rs 89.62 at present.

Team of scientists from SKUAST-J visits Raipur Jagir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A team of scientists from SKUAST-J visited Village Raipur Jagir in Block Marh to provide guidance on tree plantations, particularly Poplar and Eucalyptus, and to improve agroforestry prospects in the region.



SKUAST-J team during visit to Raipur Jagir.

The team suggested various measures to enhance agroforestry, including practices for popular and eucalyptus cultivation to transform barren lands into productive agroforestry areas.

The farmers expressed their gratitude towards Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, for initiating such initiatives, and also thanked the Head of KVK Jammu for logistical support. This collaborative effort between scientists and farmers aims to improve agricultural practices and increase productivity in the region.

Suspended Congress MP Preet Kaur joins BJP, praises PM Modi's leadership

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha MP and suspended Congress leader Preet Kaur joined the BJP here on Thursday, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership



Senior BJP leaders welcoming Preet Kaur into partyfold.

and the work done by his government in the last 10 years.

Kaur, a four-time MP from Punjab's Patiala and a former Union minister, was suspended by the Congress for alleged anti-party activities in February last year soon after her husband, former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, joined the BJP, quitting the grand old party.

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, president of the Congress' Punjab unit, had sent a complaint to the party high command, accusing Kaur of indulging in anti-party activities to help the BJP.

Addressing a joint press conference with BJP leaders at the party headquarters here, Kaur expressed her happiness over joining the party.

She also thanked Prime Minister Modi, BJP chief JP Nadda and the "entire BJP family" for giving her an opportunity to work with the party.

Praising Modi's leadership, Kaur said she decided to join the BJP looking at his policies and the work done by his government in the last 10 years.

"I am fully confident that our children's future and our country will remain secure under his (Modi's) leadership and policies," she told reporters.

Kaur said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, initiatives such as 'Viksit Bharat' are shaping India's future, and ensuring its security and advancement."

"The time has come when all should come together" for the progress of the country, she added.

Kaur joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders, including its national general secretaries Arun Singh, Vinod Tawde and Tarun Chugh and chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, who is a Rajya Sabha member.

BJP in-charge for Punjab and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani and BJP's Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar were also present on the occasion.

Welcoming Kaur to the BJP, Tawde said she has proved her "potential" with the work she has done in various capacities so far.

Her joining will strengthen the BJP in Punjab and help in taking the state on the path of progress under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, he added.

"She has joined the BJP today. We welcome her," Tawde told reporters. "Punjab will (now) be more strong and the BJP too."

Training Programme under Karkhandar Scheme concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The first batch of the six-month training programme under the Karkhandar scheme, launched by the Department of Handicraft Ramban in September, 2023, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-UI-Haq



Organisers along with trainees during the event.

Chaudhary and supervision of Assistant Director Handicraft, Ramban, Ravinder Anand, concluded successfully with 10 trainees completing the course.

During the closing ceremony, Trainer Shahida Parveen encouraged the trainees to utilize the skills acquired during the training for their socio-economic betterment. She emphasized the abundant opportunities available in the handicraft sector for employment generation, particularly for unemployed youth and females. She highlighted the market demand for crochet and related products, underscoring the potential for trainees to register with the Handicraft Department and establish themselves in the industry.

Expressing gratitude to the Handicraft Department for providing this valuable opportunity, the Trainer commended the trainees for their dedication and enthusiasm towards learning and earning for themselves.

Trainees also had the opportunity to share their training experiences with dignitaries, reflecting on the value gained from the programme and their aspirations for the future.

The successful completion of the first batch under the supervision of Handicraft Training Officer, Tuab Mujtaba Rashid underscores the effectiveness of the Karkhandar scheme in empowering individuals through skill development and fostering economic independence.

Mamata suffers major injury on forehead; discharged after treatment at hospital

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday evening suffered a major injury on her forehead, the Trinamool Congress said.

The TMC supreme underwent a few stitches and medical tests in a government-run hospital before doctors found her stable to be discharged. She was then taken back home. The 69-year-old leader had a fall inside her Kalighat home in south Kolkata after she returned after attending a programme, her family said.

"Our chairperson @MamataOfficial sustained a major injury. Please keep her in your prayers," the party posted on X along with pictures of Banerjee bleeding from her forehead. TMC national general secretary and Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee got her admitted to the hospital, according to party sources.

"She fell somewhere inside the home and was immediately shifted to the hospital. She was bleeding from the forehead and stitches were required," her brother Kartik Banerjee told a Bengali news channel.