

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! No Govt involvement...

agree. However, I would go a step further and say that such an event should not have been held at any time of the year in a place, given the cultural and social ethos of our region," the Chief Minister said.

He further clarified, "Moreover, I must categorically state that the government had no involvement in this event whatsoever." Providing further information, the Chief Minister stated that the event was privately organized in a private hotel.

"The government was neither approached for permission nor did it provide any financial or logistical support. No government infrastructure was utilized and no government officials were present at the event," he said.

"Despite this, the administration has been instructed to examine whether any legal violations occurred. If any provisions of the law have been breached, the authorities will take appropriate action," he added.

The Chief Minister reiterated, "There was no government involvement in this event. Had the matter been brought to our notice beforehand, we would not have permitted it."

Designers Shivan, Narresh...

Ramadan. Our sole intention was to celebrate creativity and the ski & apres-ski lifestyle, without any desire to offend anyone or any religious sentiments.

"Respect for all cultures and traditions is at our heart, and we acknowledge the concerns raised. We sincerely apologise for any unintended discomfort and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more mindful and respectful," they said in the statement.

Regularisation benefits: SC...

"symbolic cost" did not warrant any interference.

The High Court on December 4, 2024, denied the relief to the union territory against the October 16, 2024 order of the single judge in a contempt plea filed by daily wagers in 2010 saying authorities hadn't complied with the 2007 order.

The counsel for the administration said the single judge ordered the arrest of the officials concerned.

"That's good. The single judge has rightly done so," Justice Surya Kant said.

The bench observed the case was "fit for imposing exemplary costs on the delinquent officers" aside from recommending strong disciplinary action against them.

"However, we presently refrain ourselves from doing so, keeping in view the fact that the contempt proceedings are still pending before the single judge. We, consequently, request the single judge to take up the contempt proceedings on a weekly basis and ensure that majesty and sanctity of law is well maintained," it added.

The high court found the 2007 order was never challenged -- neither a review was filed, nor was it ever objected to on the grounds of violating apex court's judgment -- before a division bench.

"The order passed by the single judge (2007 order) clearly required the appellants to deal with the case of the respondents (daily wagers) in parity with such others who had already got the benefit of SRO 64 and were similarly placed as the respondents herein," the high court said.

SRO 64 of 1994 issued by the Jammu and Kashmir government related to the regularisation criteria for daily-wagers working with the state government.

While imposing Rs 25,000 costs on the UT administration, the high court had given it the liberty to recover the cost from the salary of the officer upon whose advice the present plea (against contempt action) was filed.

A group of daily wagers working in rural development department in 2006 moved the high court seeking regularisation of their jobs on the ground that they have worked between 14 to 19 years and were aggrieved that their services were not regularised in terms of SRO 64 of 1994 despite repeated requests.

They sought their services to be regularised from the dates they were entitled for regularisation aside from payment of wages.

Over 3.70 lakh...

9,884 diploma holders, he said.

Choudhary said the registration of unemployed educated youth is a voluntary process and job-seekers register themselves on the employment portal to access dif-

ferent self-employment schemes provided by various departments and to avail different opportunities.

He said the Munkin Scheme, operational since the financial year 2020-21, focuses on livelihood opportunities in the transport sector. Similarly, the Tejaswini Scheme introduced in 2022-23 aims at empowering young women through various initiatives.

Under the Parvaaz Scheme, launched in the financial year 2022-23, youth are provided opportunities for competitive and recruitment examinations, the minister said. "Other self-employment and startup support programmes include initiatives like Spurring Entrepreneurship the Tourist Village Development Programme and specialised programmes for dental professionals and youth in distress," he added.

Moreover, the government has conducted 246 job fairs over the past three years, resulting in the selection of 4,893 candidates through on-the-spot placements. Around 2,760 companies participated in these fairs and recommended 6,640 individuals for skill training, Choudhary said.

"The establishment of permanent facilitation centres at the district level aims to offer counselling, seminars and skill upgradation sessions tailored to market demands," he said.

Furthermore, the department has initiated widespread skill development training across the UT, witnessing active participation across various sectors, the minister added.

Under the administrative council's approval, Mission Yuva aims to foster entrepreneurial spirit and self-reliance among youth by supporting and empowering potential entrepreneurs through a structured approach, he said.

"The key objectives include the creation of over 1,37,000 new enterprises and generating more than 4,25,000 employment opportunities within five years," Choudhary added.

He said the initiative employs a comprehensive four-pronged approach.

"It includes identification through a baseline survey, utilising tech-enabled tools and deploying investigators to identify potential entrepreneurs and assess existing challenges," he added.

Another key aspect is credit enablement and market support, Choudhary said, adding that this involves providing subsidies and interest subvention to nano entrepreneurs and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) alongside enhancing market linkages to improve business prospects.

"The initiative also focuses on building a technology-driven ecosystem. It leverages AI tools, sector-specific skill training and an online marketplace to enhance connectivity and efficiency for entrepreneurs," he added.

Additionally, the programme emphasises focused engagement and institutional support, the minister added. "It aims for comprehensive coverage of potential entrepreneurs through various self-employment schemes, ensuring better opportunities for skill development and financial assistance," Choudhary said.

2 NC MLAs...

the watch and ward staff to marshal him out along with NC MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, who supported him in raising the issue.

"I was trying to raise very important issues regarding the three youths who have been missing from the Devsar area for a month. They had gone to a marriage party, but their mobile phones were switched off in the Mir Bazar area. Since then, their whereabouts are unknown," Shah told reporters outside the House.

He said that families have filed missing complaints and that the police are working hard to locate the trio. "I attempted to raise the issue, but I was not allowed to do so and was subsequently removed from the House," he added.

Earlier, after a brief question hour, chaos erupted when MLA Sheikh Khursheed, who sought condemnation of all killings, was also marshalled out of the House for creating a noisy scene.

12 IPS officers...

Sameer Rekhi, IPS (AGMUT: 2012), Jatinder Singh Johar, IPS (AGMUT: 2012), Swarn Singh Kotwal, IPS (AGMUT: 2012), Zahid Nasim Manhas, IPS (AGMUT: 2012), and Koshal Kumar Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2012).

Ruckus in Assembly...

the Question Hour in the House. "The killings of civilians in Billawar have raised concerns. It should not be politicised. Instead, measures should be taken to elimi-

nate those involved in the act," Billawar MLA Satesh Sharma said.

Bodies of three civilians, who had gone missing on March 5 while they were returning home after attending a wedding in Billawar, were recovered near a waterbody in the upper reaches of Billawar in Kathua on Saturday.

Congress MLA Irfan Hafiz said was a grave human rights violation to kill a child.

There were noisy scenes and verbal duels between members of NC-Congress, PDP, and BJP for over 25 minutes.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather tried several times to bring the House to order, stating that he would give time to members after the Question Hour, but disruptions continued.

Later, the Speaker informed the House that he had received two adjournment motions from members: Congress's Nizamuddin Bhat and NC MLA Rameshwar Singh over the issues of civilian killings and the attack on Bani MLA Rameshwar Singh.

He said that as per Rule 59, debates cannot be held in the House when a probe is ordered. Since the Lieutenant Governor has ordered a probe, it cannot be debated in the House.

Similarly, concerning the Gulmarg fashion show, an inquiry has been ordered by the chief minister, therefore, it cannot be discussed in the House, he said.

Regarding the attack on Singh, Rather said "We condemn the issue. Entire House condemns it."

The Bani MLA was assaulted by a group of protesters while he had gone to meet the family members of the deceased at a local hospital in Billawar late Saturday night.

BJP's Satesh Sharma accused the MLA of politicising the issue in his constituency.

"This House should set an example by paying homage to the victims. There was even a small child," he said.

The speaker reiterated that no debate could be held on this.

Chief Minister Abdullah intervened and said that if Leader of Opposition can be allowed to go to meet the families of victims in Kathua, why the Deputy chief minister was not allowed to meet families citing the security situation.

After a brief Question Hour, rucks was against witnessed with MLA Sheikh Khursheed, who sought condemnations of all the killings, being marshalled out from the House for creating noisy scenes.

Minister Sakina Itoo stated outside the assembly that a probe had been ordered by the chief minister, considering the seriousness of the Gulmarg incident.

365 MOs appointed...

Assembly. The Minister said that, at present, the District Hospital Kishtwar is functioning as 100 bedded Hospital and an additional 100 bedded Hospital building is under construction adjoining to the existing IPD Block of the DH Kishtwar.

While speaking on Traumatic Centre facility in DH Kashmir, the Minister said that a Designated Trauma Care Centre nearest to Kishtwar is situated at Thathri at a distance of 30 Km.

She informed that all the trauma cases are being handled by the Emergency Room of DH Kishtwar where all specialist Doctors like Surgeons, Ortho, Anaesthetists and Physician and ample number of Medical Officers and Para-medics are posted for handling the emergencies 24X7.

The Minister further informed the house that currently DH Kishtwar has 11 consultants, 8 medical officers and 2 dental surgeons for the patients besides other paramedical staff.

The Minister remarked that the department has fast tracked the recruitment process of doctor and medical professionals.

She highlighted that in the month of November 2024, 365 selectees were appointed as Medical Officers (MOs) in the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Services, who have been posted in the far-flung/peripheral healthcare facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level. She also informed that the department is also in the process of operating a waitlist in respect of 91 selected Medical Officers, whose services will also be utilized in the under-served areas across the UT of J&K.

Moreover, the Minister informed that 181 posts of Medical Officers are still to be received from Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission and upon receiving these selections, the selected doctors will be posted in the health institutions experiencing staff shortages.

JKHCBA Jammu honours Mahant Rohit Shastri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHCBAJ) organized a special ceremony to honour Mahant Rohit Shastri (State Awardee), President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur Thather, Bantalah, in the presence of JKHCBAJ President Advocate Nirmal Kotwal, Vice President Advocate Baldev Singh, General Secretary Advocate Pradeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Advocate Anshu Mahajan, and Treasurer Advocate Rahul Aggarwal.

The primary objective of this felicitation ceremony was to recognize Mahant Rohit Shastri's exemplary contribution towards the preservation and promotion of Devvani Sanskrit Language and Indian Culture.

Mahant Rohit Shastri has made continuous efforts to promote the Sanskrit language and uphold Indian traditions, inspiring the younger generation to connect with their cultural roots.

Advocate Nirmal Kotwal stated that Mahant Rohit Shastri's work towards pro-

moting Sanskrit is commendable. He emphasized that Sanskrit is not merely a language but the soul of Indian

During the ceremony, Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed his gratitude to all the office bearers and stated



culture and civilization, which needs to be preserved and enriched.

Vice President Advocate Baldev Singh praised Mahant Rohit Shastri's efforts to popularize the Sanskrit language, calling them remarkable. General Secretary Advocate Pradeep Majotra stated that the promotion of Sanskrit will give the new generation an opportunity to connect with their cultural heritage.

Joint Secretary Advocate Anshu Mahajan also appreciated Mahant Rohit Shastri's work and said that his contribution has increased interest and respect for Sanskrit in the region.

that he remains committed to the upliftment of Sanskrit and Indian culture in the future. He remarked that promoting Sanskrit strengthens the values and traditions of Indian culture.

Finally, Advocate Nirmal Kotwal thanked all the members and guests present at the ceremony and stated that the Association will continue to support such initiatives for the promotion of Sanskrit and Indian culture in the future.

On occasion Advocate Pawan Khajuria, Advocate Ravinder Chib, Advocate Nittin Gupta, Advocate Aditya Abhiraj Sharma and other dignitaries were also present.

5-day Young Painters Camp inaugurated at Kala Kendra



A section of dignitaries during the camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A five-day Young Painters Camp was inaugurated on Monday at Kala Kendra, Jammu. The event is being jointly organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Kala Kendra Society, Jammu, and Amar Mahal Museum and Library, in alignment with the ongoing Tawi Festival 2025.

Harvinder Kour, Secretary of JKAACL, Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Society, ; Jyotsna Singh, Director of Amar Mahal Museum and Library, and Dr. Lalit Gupta, eminent art historian, shared the pre-

sidium.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Javid Rahi highlighted the primary objective of the camp, stating that it aims to provide a platform for the new generation of artists to exchange ideas and create paintings that reflect modern artistic expressions.

In her presidential address, Harvinder Kour emphasized the strong tradition of visual arts in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the region has produced many eminent artists who have brought pride to the country. She further stated that the Academy is committed to organizing a series of events to promote both modern and indigenous

art forms.

Dr. Lalit Gupta remarked that this camp will serve as a launching pad for emerging artists, particularly those who have recently completed their degrees in art. He congratulated the JKAACL, Kala Kendra, and Amar Mahal Museum for their collaborative efforts in organizing this meaningful initiative.

Jyotsna Singh underscored the importance of regular artistic activities to nurture and promote visual arts in the region. She also expressed her willingness to support and facilitate similar events on a more frequent basis.

Dr. Milan Sharma stated that as a part of the camp the students, artists, and teachers from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), Jammu, will present their work at Kala Kendra. Additionally, on March 12, 13, and 14, eminent artists such as Rajinder Tikku and Suman Gupta will deliver illustrated lectures on their art and working methods, also at Kala Kendra.

Two gangsters arrested with pistol, 'heroin like substance'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Samba Police has arrested two gangsters in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered one 32 bore desi pistol, seven live rounds, sharp edged weapon (Tolkka) and 8.13 grams approximately heroin like substance from their possession.

"An information was received through reliable resources at Police Station Ramgarh that two gangsters namely Pritam Singh @ Sethi, son of Mohan Singh, resident of Tehsil Ramgarh district Samba and Narayan Sharma @ Shumna, son of Brita Lal, resident of Thalori Vijaypur with criminal intention and having illegal weapons, fire arms are present in the house of one Anoop Singh @ Makhan, son of Balvinder Singh, resident of Ramgarh and are planning to commit heinous offence", according to a statement.

Acting over the information, a Police team headed by SHO PS Ramgarh under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba arrested both the gangsters from the house of Anoop Singh @ Makhan. The vehicle THAR, bearing registration No. JK21J-0024, was also seized.

A case FIR No. 17/2025 U/S 111 BNS, 3/4/25 Arms Act, 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Ramgarh and further investigation is going on.



41 Poonch players represent J&K in Hockey



Hockey players, coaches and officials, who represented district Poonch at the National level posing for a group photograph at Sports Stadium, Poonch on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a groundbreaking achievement, 41 players from Sham Lal Hockey Club and Power House Hockey Club Poonch, including 24 girls and 17 boys, represented J&K UT at the National level Hockey events in 2024-25 sports season.

A total of 29 talented players, including 19 girls and 10 boys, showcased their

prowess in the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories for boys and girls at the 68th School National Games, leaving an indelible mark on the National stage.

Three boys as player and one such individual as Coach participated in the 14th Hockey India Men Senior National Championship, while two players represented the UT in the 14th Hockey India Junior Men

National Championship.

Additionally, one player participated in the All India Inter-Varsity Hockey Championship, four girls as players, and one girl as the team manager participated in the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship.

Whereas senior players, Navjot Singh has qualified FIH level Coaching Course; Pawan Kumar, Urvashi

Sharma, Meenakshi Khajuria, Saval Ahmed and Abhilove Kour qualified Hockey India coaching courses.

The players and coaches from the remote district of Poonch demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication. Notably, all these young athletes are trainees of the Khelo India Hockey Centre Poonch and PMDP Hockey Centre Poonch.

JKP Wrestler Nisar bags Jib Kesari title

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Wrestler Nisar of J&K Police and a resident of Doda bagged the Jib Kesari Dangal title beating his opponent from Alam of Pathankot in Punjab in the 22 minutes long close contest at Village Mannella.

Dangal was organised by Shiv Shakti Dangal Committee Jib (Mannella) in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the supervision of team comprising Rajinder Kumar Ramotra, Ashok Kumar (Shosha) and Virender Sharma, a handout issued here today informed.

Nisar was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 31,000 while runners-up Alam got Rs. 20,000.

Legislator, Pawan Kumar Gupta was the chief guest, who gave away cash prizes to the wrestlers. Shiv Kumar



Sharma, president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association and senior vice president Indian Style Wrestling Association of India presided over the function.

Prominent social activist, Varinder Badyal, Satish Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Shashi Paul and Hukam Singh (SD) were the guests of honour.

The bouts were officiated by the penal including

Rajinder Kumar Ramotra, Ashok Kumar (Shosha), Tulinder Kumar, Anil Kumar and Raj Singh.

In all, 65 bouts were played in this dangal casting the organisers Rs. 3,50,000. In second main bout Nadeem of Doda defeated Jhonny of Atari near Amritsar in Punjab to receives a cash prize of Rs. 18,000. Runners-up Jhonny got Rs. 13,000.

The third main bout won by

Anil of Reasi who defeated Sharif of Mallerkotla in Punjab. Winner Anil got Rs. 15,000, while runners-up Sharif presented prize money Rs. 10,000. In fourth bout Rashid of Mallerkotla outplayed Imam Hussain of Domel. Rashid was given away Rs. 12,000 while runners-up Imam received Rs. 9,000 as prize money.

Members of Shiv Shakti Dangal Committee who helped in the conduct of dangal included Varinder Sharma, Anil Kumar, Rajinder Kumar, Subash Chander, Vishal Sumbaria, Sumit Sharma, Mahesh Sagotra, Vipran Sharma and Kuldeep Sharma.

Proceeding of the dangal conducted by Anil Kumar of Reasi. Earlier, Shiv Kumar Sharma appealed all the youths to adopt sports as part of life.