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LG, CM greet...

and more resilient community throughout Jammu & Kashmir," he noted. The Chief Minister also prayed that Almighty may answer all prayers and accept our fasting for this sacred month. He prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nadda emphasizes grassroots...

workshop on office management, public speaking, team-building, and social etiquette, equipping MLAs with tools for effective governance and public engagement. National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, Leader of the Opposition in J&K Sunil Sharma, General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma, General Secretaries Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and Vibodh Gupta, MP Rajya Sabha Ghulam Ali Khatana, former Dy CMs Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, former BJP President Ravinder Raina, District President Reasi Rohit Dubey, besides other senior leaders of the party graced the occasion. The session concluded with a resolve among participants to adopt a service-oriented approach, aligning with the BJP's mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

Jammu-Srinagar NH...

towards Srinagar, and from the Valley towards Jammu," a traffic department spokesperson said after the road was reopened.

He cautioned the commuters to follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking, which causes congestion.

"The passengers are advised to take the highway only during day-time and avoid unnecessary halting between Ramban and Banihal since there are apprehensions of landslides and shooting stones. The heavy motor vehicles shall be allowed later, after a thorough assessment of the condition of the road," the spokesperson said.

Ramban deputy commissioner Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary said there are at least 16 locations along the 66-km road stretch that were rendered vulnerable by the rains.

"The road has been cleared in almost all the places, except in Mehar, where the width has shrunk after the sinking of the side portion. This spot is a challenge. The concerned agency will address this in the next two weeks," he told reporters in Banihal.

Chaudhary, along with Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kuldeep Singh and SSP (national highway) Rohit Raskotra, reviewed the vulnerable locations.

Chaudhary said the landslide at Peerah will not hamper the traffic, which has been diverted through the other tube.

"All the stranded vehicles have been cleared," he said, advising commuters to follow the traffic advisories before taking the highway.

34 JKAS, seven...

Jal Shakti Department; Suraj Parkash Rukval, JKAS, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, as Director; Geology and Mining, J&K; Mohammad Farooq Dar; JKAS, Special Secretary, Skill Development Department, as Managing Director; J&K Horticulture Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation; Abdul Sattar, JKAS, Special Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, as Special Secretary, Tourism Department; Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, JKAS, under orders of repatriation to J&K from Union territory of Ladakh, as Director; Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu; Puneet Sharma, JKAS, Director, Geology and Mining, J&K, as Special Secretary, Revenue Department. He will also look after the work of DILRMP, NAKSHA, SVAMITVA and AGRISTACK.

Ashish Kumar Gupta, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Skill Development Department; Rakesh Magotra, JKAS, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, J&K, as Member, J&K Services Selection Board; Rifat Aftab Qureshi, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Stamps), Kashmir, as Additional District Development Commissioner; Srinagar; Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, JKAS, Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, as Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K; Shokat Mehmood, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kathua, as Additional Secretary, Information Technology Department; Vishal Sharma, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Revenue Department, as Additional Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department; Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner; Srinagar, as Secretary, J&K Board of School Education; Mohammad Anwar Bandyaj, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Reasi, as Additional Secretary, School Education Department; Sunaina Sharma, JKAS, Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, as Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Jammu; Syed Shabir Ahmad, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Pulwama, as Joint Director, Education (Central), Kashmir; Mohammad Syed Khan, JKAS, Member, J&K Services Selection Board, as Additional Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Haqem Tanveer Ahmad, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kupwara, as Joint Director, Education (North), Kashmir; Pankaj Bhagotra, JKAS, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Reasi; Vivek Phonsa, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kathua; Surinder Paul Sharma, JKAS, Joint Registrar, Cooperatives (Special), Jammu, as Regional Transport Officer, Kathua (Hqr:Lakhanpur); Ajaz Qesar Malik, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Information Technology Department, as Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu; and Jasmeet Singh, JKAS, Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Regional Transport Officer, Jammu.

According to separate order, Zeba Suleman, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Samba, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Rahul Gupta, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as DSWO, Ramban, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, for further posting.

Supinder Kour, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as Under Secretary, GAD, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Public Service Commission; Nowshad Anjum Mir, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kupwara, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Social Welfare Department, for further posting.

Irfan ul Ashaq, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as CDPO, Narwan, Baramulla, has been transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, for further Posting.

Sahir Majeed, Jr. Seale JKAS, presently posted as DSWO, Bandipore, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary in the J&K Public Service Commission; Nazir Ahmad Rather, Under Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat Reference Monitoring Cell, General Administration Department, as Under Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department.

India now emerging...

longer just a workforce but instead becoming a world force," Modi said. The prime minister said that India's rising defence products showcase the strength of its engineering and technology to the world.

"From electronics to the automobile sector, the world has witnessed India's scale and capability. India is not only providing products to the world but is also becoming a trusted and reliable partner in the global supply chain," Modi said.

The prime minister said India's leadership in various sectors was a result of years of hard work and systematic policy decisions.

"A few years ago, I presented the vision of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local for Global' to the nation and today, we are seeing this vision turn into reality," he said.

Modi said the country is manufacturing semiconductors and aircraft carriers and its superfoods like 'makhana' and millets, Ayush products and yoga are being embraced across the world.

The prime minister said India should be presented to the world as it is, without any bias. "We do not need any make-up," he said, adding that real stories from the country should reach the world in its true form.

He said India was the land that gave the world the concept of zero and was now becoming the land of infinite innovations.

"India is not only innovating but also 'Indovating', meaning innovating the Indian way," Modi said. He added that India was creating solutions that were affordable, accessible, and adaptable, and offering them to the world without gatekeeping.

"When the world needed a secure and cost-effective digital payment system, India developed the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system. Today, countries like France, UAE, and Singapore are integrating UPI into their financial ecosystems," he said.

The prime minister said during the COVID-19 pandemic, India's vaccine demonstrated the country's quality healthcare solutions to the world. He said the Aarogya Setu app was made open source to benefit the world.

The prime minister said the BJP-led NDA government's re-election for a third term showed people's trust and hoped that the new global news channel from India would take the country's achievements abroad.

He said the world is looking at India in the 21st century, and that the country is constantly generating positive news.

India is now leading many global initiatives, he said, referring to him co-hosting the recent AI summit and India's presidency of the G20.

He said the recently concluded Maha Kumbh, too, highlighted India's organising skills and innovation.

The prime minister said that his government has repealed many obsolete laws, including the Dramatic Performances Act that had provisions for the arrest of 10 or more persons found dancing together.

Taking a swipe at his critics, the prime minister said he was surprised that the "Lutyens jamaat" and "the Khan Market gang" were silent on such laws for more than 75 years.

"Had Modi brought such a law (Dramatic Performance Act), just think what would have happened. Even if trolls on social media spread any such false information, these people would have raised a hue and cry and targeted Modi. But, it's our government which has abolished this law dating back to the colonial era," the prime minister said.

BJP President pays...

Secretary and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh and Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma, they said.

Nadda reached Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, to address the concluding session of the two-day training workshop organised by the party for its 28 legislators -- majority of whom are first-timers -- ahead of the budget session, which is scheduled to start on March 3.

The 'Vidhayaak Prashishan Shivir' was jointly inaugurated by BJP national general secretary B L Santosh and Sat Sharma at a hotel in Katra on Friday.

The focus of the workshop is to ensure the effective participation of the BJP legislators in the assembly proceedings.

Bodies of 2...

of Shaheena Akhter of Manjakote was retrieved from the river near Dingla on Saturday; Abdul Aziz's corpse was found in the same area late Friday evening.

A two-year-old boy was also reported missing after the accident and a search to locate his body was continuing when last reports were received, the officials said.

Stop Misleading J&K...

Chugh strongly stated that terrorism and talks cannot go hand in hand. He criticized the senior Abdullah for acting like a PRO of Pakistan instead of standing with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Instead of advocating for talks with Pakistan, he should ask his son and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister to focus on fulfilling promises and working for the betterment of the people," Chugh said.

No fuel for...

public transport buses in Delhi by December 2025, replacing them with electric buses to promote cleaner and more sustainable transport.

Giving more details about the implementation of new rules, the officer said many fuel stations in Delhi have already installed AI-enabled cameras to check violations of pollution under control (PUC) certificate rules.

"These cameras currently detect vehicles which do not have PUC certificate and the fuel pump staff deny fuel to such vehicles. We can also use these AI-enabled cameras to detect the age of particular vehicles. For this, we need to upgrade our system," the officer added.

He said the fuel pumps which currently do not have such devices will have them installed soon.

Moreover, the Delhi government will deploy teams to identify overage vehicles and ensure they are either prevented from entering the city or removed if already present. In November, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said in its report that vehicular emission is the top contributor to Delhi's pollution during winters -- more than stubble burning, road dust or bursting of firecrackers -- with over 50 per cent of pollution from local sources linked to the city's fragmented transportation system. Nischal Singhania, the president of the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association, welcomed the move and said, "Vehicles older than 15 years are already banned in Delhi by the Supreme Court."

"We already have apparatus to detect vehicles without pollution under control (PUC) certificates and I think the same system can be used to detect vehicles older than 15 years," he said. The Delhi government's decision aligns with a 2018 Supreme Court ruling that banned diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years in Delhi. A 2014 National Green Tribunal (NGT) order also prohibits parking of vehicles aged over 15 years in public areas.

J&K Govt tightens...

legal enforcement, this move signals a renewed effort to protect Jammu and Kashmir's natural wealth while fostering responsible economic growth. The citizens are encouraged to report any instances of illegal mining through designated helplines and online grievance portals, reinforcing the administration's objective of public participation in governance and environmental conservation.

Shantmanu gets addl...

that Shantmanu, IAS (AGMUT:1991), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), School Education Department, shall discharge the functions of Chairman, J&K Board of School Education and Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, in addition to his own duties, as an interim arrangement, till further orders," read a S.O. 55 notification issued by General Administration Department (GAD).

CM reviews Ramadan arrangements, directs officers to ensure seamless facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements made for the holy month of Ramadan, which commences tomorrow.

The Chief Minister emphasized that people rightfully expect their elected government to take all necessary measures to ensure they do not face any inconvenience during this sacred month.

"As the holy month of Ramadan begins tomorrow, the people rightfully expect the government to take all necessary measures to ensure they do not face any difficulties during this sacred month" the Chief Minister said.

He stressed that key departments under pressure must deliver service-particularly the power supply- which must be prioritized. "People want, and we must strive, to ensure that there are no power outages during Sehri and Iftar time. Any necessary shutdowns should be well-planned and curtailment could be made during the day time as per a proper schedule. The maintenance works, wherever required, be also taken up during the day time", the CM instructed.

He directed officials to immediately address system issues or faulty distribution transformers (DTs) to avoid disruptions.

On water supply, CM said that the recent spell of snow and rainfall had helped improve the situation but stressed the need for supply of adequate potable water to house holds.

"By the grace of Allah, the recent rainfall over the past few days has been beneficial in this regard," he said.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to focus on cleanliness, particularly around mosques, shrines, traffic management, and making security arrangements.

He noted that both IG Jammu and IG Kashmir have addressed the security concerns. To enhance public service delivery, he directed all Deputy Commissioners to set up a fully staffed and operational district control rooms to promptly address grievances.

"Our collective effort should be to ensure a smooth and hassle-free Ramadan for the people. It is our responsibility to put all necessary arrangements in place," he stated.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Inspector General of Police Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner JMC, MDs of KPDC/L/JPDC/L, and heads of key departments and Joint Director SMC. The meeting was conducted both in person and through virtual mode. Earlier, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Bidhuri, presented a detailed report on the arrangements in place for the holy month. The meeting was informed about the electricity demand during peak hours, particularly at Sehri and Ifari, water supply, sanitation around religious and significant public places, ration distribution for March, traffic deployment plans, police security arrangements, food safety and joint market inspections.

Four-Year Undergraduate and One-Year Postgraduate Programs to begin at CSU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Central Sanskrit University is set to introduce a four-year Shastri (UG) program and a one-year Acharya (PG) program from the academic session 2025-26. These programs, designed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, will award degrees such as Shastri (Graduate), Shastri Shodh (Research), and Acharya (Postgraduate) based on semester completion.

The new Shastri program will integrate both traditional and modern subjects. Students will have the opportunity to study classical disciplines like Vedas, Jyotish, Vyakarana, Sahitya, Darshan, Buddhist Philosophy, Kashmiri Shaiva Darshan, Dharmashastra, Advaita Vedanta, Puranic History, and Pali-Prakrit. Alongside these, contemporary subjects such as Political Science, History, English, Hindi, and Computer Science will also be offered. Skill development courses will further enhance the curriculum.

Under the restructured academic framework, students will be awarded qualifications at different stages of completion. Those completing two semesters will receive a certificate, while four semesters will lead to a diploma. A full Shastri (Graduate) degree will be granted after six semesters. Students who complete eight semesters will be awarded a Shastri (Research Honors) degree. Furthermore, those successfully completing ten semesters will directly qualify for an Acharya (Postgraduate) degree and gain eligibility for research programs.

Each semester's core subjects will carry 100 marks, with a 60-mark written exam and a 40-mark continuous assessment component. The curriculum will also include interdisciplinary subjects, skill-based education, and value-based learning.

By implementing this progressive academic structure, Central Sanskrit University aligns itself with the vision of NEP 2020, ensuring a holistic education system that balances tradition with modern learning and prepares students for diverse career opportunities.

ABVP J&K demands justice for paramedical students

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu and Kashmir has strongly condemned the delay in the completion of the Paramedical course for the batch of 2020.

Despite successfully completing their final exams, students are being subjected to an extended internship period, causing undue hardship and affecting their future career prospects.

Expressing concern over the issue, Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir, stated, "We demand that the Allied and Healthcare Council take immediate action to address the grievances of the Paramedical students. The students have already faced a delay of one and a half years in completing their course, and further prolonging their internship period is unacceptable."

ABVP Jammu Kashmir has put forth the demands to the university administration asking to count the extra clinical postings attended by students during their course as part of their internship period, reduce the internship period to compensate for the delay in course completion, and issue a valid degree and internship certificate to students immediately after their final exams.

The organization has urged the authorities to take a sympathetic view of the students' struggles and ensure swift action to resolve their grievances.

Three days hands on training programme in Aquarium Making held at GDC Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS UDHAMPUR: NSS Units in collaboration with Department of Zoology successfully conducted a three days training programme on aquarium making from 24th to 27th February 2025. The programme aimed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge required to design, construct and maintain aquarium catering to hobbyists, students and NSS volunteers.

The event started on 24th February 2025 with the inaugural session with lighting of lamp by worthy principal Dr. Sanjay Verma and senior faculty members including Prof. B.L.Thakur, Prof. Suresh Kumar, Dr. Rajni and Dr. Mohinder Pal, anchor Baljeet and Monika welcomed the one and all present there with beautiful notes. This was followed by address of worthy principal sir in which he motivated the volunteers about attending such training programs which will be beneficial to them in near future, he also emphasized on the importance of skill in the coming era and is must in NEP 2020 also.

On the third day the event was concluded in the conference hall in which Mohit and Mooseena first of all welcomed all the dignitaries which was followed by report sharing by Programme coordinator Dr. Gurpreet Kour, she feels delighted to see the enthusiasm of the participants. It was followed by Address of Principal Dr. Sanjay Verma who wholeheartedly acknowledged the efforts of Organizing Team Prof. Sanjeet Singh, Prof. Tania Mahajan and Dr. Jyoti Sharma and above all he appreciated the hard work of the participants.

The event ended by certificate distribution to the participants by worthy principal and is followed vote of thanks by NSS PO Prof. Sanjeet Singh and concluded with Exhibition of 15 Aquariums prepared by all 75 participants who were divided into 15 groups.

Two-day workshop on 'Accreditation Procedure & Ranking in HEIs' inaugurated at SMVDU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS KATRA: A two-day workshop on Accreditation Procedure & Ranking in HEIs commences at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra.

This workshop was organized by Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA), SMVDU, and sponsored by Pradhan Mantri- Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, Govt. of India. Prof. (Dr.) Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu was the chief guest at the inaugural session.

Prof. Supran Sharma, Director, DQA, and Coordinator of the workshop briefed the participants about the workshop, highlighted the changing dynamics of the accreditation and data-capturing systems and necessity of sensitization of all the stake-holders regarding accreditation procedures.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU felicitated the chief guest, and Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Director, IQAC, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Prof. Sharma is one the eminent resource person of this workshop.

In his inaugural address, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU emphasized on developing a work-culture wherein complexities of accreditation related data-collection and data processing may be reduced, and pace of accreditation process may be increased.

The chief guest Prof. (Dr.) Umesh Rai highlighted the importance of appropriate data in the accreditation process.

A self-assessment of data, identification of strengths and challenges in the institutional data, and subsequent removal of the weaknesses is essential to secure a good score in the accreditation, Prof. Rai said.

At the end, Dr. Surender Singh, Deputy-Director, DQA, and Co-Coordinator of the workshop proposed the vote of thanks.

The aim of this workshop was to sensitize the participants about the underlying intricacies of accreditation and ranking procedures. Prof. Abdul Q. Ansari, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, and Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, University of Jammu are also the highly learned resource persons of this workshop.

Amandeep Sharma is New President YLA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Advocate Amandeep Sharma has been elected as new president of Young Lawyer Association Jammu, Jammu whereas Advocate Bhagirath Singh has been elected as new Vice President, Advocate Saksham has been elected as new General Secretary, Hitesh Koul has been elected as Joint Secretary, Sushil Kumar has been elected as and has been elected as Treasurer of Young Lawyer Association Jammu.

Total Votes polled 649 out of 790.

According to Advocate Monish Chopra Chairman Election Committee and Rohit Sharma Returning Officer Advocate Amandeep Sharma secured 271 votes to win the presidential chair. The other contenders for the post namely Advocate Chander Dev Manhas, secured 260 votes and Advocate Manik Wazir secured votes 118 respectively.

According to Returning Officer, Advocate Bhagirath Singh secured 250 votes to win the Vice President. The other contenders for the post namely, Jaskaran Singh secured 169 Votes, Advocate Anish Dubey secured 150 and Advocate Rishav Vaid secured 89 votes respectively.

Advocate Saksham elected as general secretary by securing 382 votes whereas Advocate Anuragh Bakshi secured 267 Votes.

Advocate Hitesh Koul emerged as winner for the post of joint secretary by securing 387 votes whereas Advocate Karuna Atri secured 261 Votes.

Advocate Sushil Kumar has been elected as cashier secured 374 Votes whereas Advocate Qadeer Ahmed secured 272 Votes.