

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Need to ensure...

Heroes-Spreading Goodness" and made a special mention of Nazia Hurra, a resident of J&K's Bandipora who is working for the well-being of specially-abled children and the people belonging to poor & marginal sections of society.

Despite numerous challenges in her personal life, Nazia has succeeded in creating conducive environment for less privileged in Bandipora and Ganderbal and motivating others to follow the path of Seva, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor urged the Chetna Heroes and all those working towards the welfare of society to provide their valuable suggestions on the shortcomings of the administration to build a better and resilient system.

Parliamentarians, K.J. Alphans and Locket Chatterjee also spoke on the occasion and lauded the spirit of selfless service to the society of all who received the Chetna Awards.

K.J. Alphans appreciated the unprecedented development works going on in Jammu Kashmir under the present Lt Governor-led UT Administration.

The award ceremony was attended by several distinguished personalities including Usha Rai, Eminent Journalist, Ravi Sharma, Founder, Prama Jyoti Foundation, Prabhat Kumar, besides team members of Chetna Foundation.

### Pak national arrested...

guarding the border, the officials said.

They said Nawaz was challenged and subsequently taken into custody.

He was handed over to Khour Police station on Sunday for interrogation, the officials said.

### Central team conducts...

Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) adopted at the 67th World Health Assembly to advance the global strategy for women and children's health.

ENAP sets forth a vision of a world that has eliminated preventable newborn deaths and stillbirths. INAP lays out a vision and a plan for India to end preventable newborn deaths, accelerate progress, and scale up high-impact yet cost effective interventions.

Additional Commissioner of Child and Adolescent Health in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Sumita Ghosh convened a meeting with Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu and Kashmir Yasin M Choudhary and had a detailed discussion on INAP and carried out a situational analysis of newborn health, the spokesman said.

Earlier, the spokesman said, a meeting was also conducted at the NHM office in Srinagar to discuss the District Health Action Plan for improving key performance indicators identified by NITI Aayog for Srinagar district.

The health action plan was prepared by Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) in consultation with NHM J&K and Chief Medical Officer Srinagar, he said.

He said a detailed presentation regarding the situational analysis of various indicators and proposed strategies to improve the same in a time bound manner was presented by Program Director of NIPI Ashfaq Bhat.

"All the indicators were discussed threadbare and inputs were taken from all the stakeholders present in the meeting in order to draft a holistic action plan, the spokesman said.

### Employment verification process..

Kashmir's IT department in record time and at a competitive rate.

By switching over from manual to the digital mode, it is expected that employment verification would become speedier, time bound and transparent, they said.

### Tunnel Mishap: 2...

to T4 on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway near Khooni Nallah in Ramban on Thursday night.

While the body of one of the labourers was recovered on Friday, those of the nine others were retrieved during the day-long rescue operation on Saturday. After the landslide on Thursday, three injured workers had been rescued.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam said bodies of the two local labourers Muzaffar Sheikh (38) and Mohammad Ishrat (30) were handed over to their family members within a few hours after being pulled out from under the debris.

Both were laid to rest at their ancestral graveyard near Panthiyal village in Ramban district late on Saturday, he said.

The remaining eight bodies -- Jadav Roy (23), Gautam Roy (22), Sudhir Roy (31), Deepak Roy (33) and Parimal Roy (38) of West Bengal, Nawaraj Chowdhury (26) and Khushi Ram (25) of Nepal and Shiva Chowhan (26) of Assam were shifted from Ramban to Jammu.

Nodal officers were contacted in West Bengal, Assam and Nepal, and accordingly, the bodies of the deceased were separately moved to Delhi. They are being handed over to their family members in their respective home towns, the officials said.

### Petrol price slashed...

Petrol now costs Rs 106.03 a litre in Kolkata (earlier Rs 115.12) and Rs 102.63 in Chennai (previously Rs 110.85). Diesel is priced at Rs 92.76 a litre in Kolkata (previously Rs 99.83) and Rs 94.24 in Chennai (earlier Rs 100.94).

Announcing the duty cut through tweets, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had also stated that the government will give Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy to the poor who got cooking gas connection under the Ujjwala scheme, for 12 cylinders in a year to help ease some of the burden arising from cooking gas rates rising to record levels.

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder costs Rs 1,003 in the national capital. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries will get Rs 200 subsidy directly in their bank account and the effective price for them would be Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

There was no subsidy paid on cooking gas since June 2020, and all users including Ujjwala beneficiaries bought cylinders at market rate, which currently is Rs 1,003 in Delhi.

The Rs 200 subsidy will cost the government Rs 6,100 crore, she had said.

State-owned fuel retailers passed on the excise duty cut to consumers despite los-

## Rashtriya Rifles launches plantation drive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NOWSHERA: Reiterating the commitment of the nation towards a cleaner and greener environmental solution, Kalal based Rashtriya Rifles in conjunction with the local populace of Dabbar Potha made an endeavour to improve the Biodiversity in the AOR.

The Kalal Rashtriya Rifles conducted afforestation drive on Sunday at Govt High School, Dabbar by incorporating young blood to spread the message of "Cleaner & Greener India" amongst the upcoming generation. A total of 27 civilians including 18 children participated in the afforestation Drive.

Even though Nowshera Tehsil falls under thick Kalidhar forest Division but the impact of development of



Army official along with children planting a sapling.

roads & increased population is making a slow impact on the forest cover. The afforestation drive in conjunction with forest department has resulted in plantation of more than 35 saplings in the neighborhood of Dabbar Village.

The afforestation drive was an endeavor to encourage, inspire & sensitize local populace to preserve delicate ecological balance and was well received by the local population.

### Foolproof security to KPs' Modi Govt's top priority: Danish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Danish Mishra, Co-Incharge Social Media Department and Prabhari Jammu Poonch Lok Sabha Seat BJP J&K on Saturday said that ensuring foolproof security to Kashmiri Pandits is BJP government's top agenda as already many steps have been taken to beef up the security grid at all the vulnerable areas in the Valley. In a statement issued to media persons,

the BJP leader asserted that Kashmiri Pandits and other minority community members living in the Valley should rest assure that Modi Government will not do any compromise with their safety and security as already adequate steps have been taken to stop terror mongers from doing any mischief. He said that KPs should not take decision in a hurry as their safety is the responsibility of Modi government and it will

take no chance to keep at stake the safety of people. Mishra said that BJP government is pondering to ensure that all the migrant KP employees be posted at safer places and their other issues shall also be sorted out in shortest possible time. He said that leaving Valley once again is no solution as BJP Government led by PM Modi is all set to ensure safe and dignified return of all the KPs back to Valley.

ing Rs 13.08 a litre on petrol and Rs 24.09 per litre on diesel because of holding rates even though raw material (crude oil) cost surged.

This excise duty cuts along with Rs 5 cut on petrol and Rs 10 reduction on diesel affected from November 4, 2021, rolls back the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected between March 2020 and May 2020 to avoid passing on to consumers the sharp fall in international oil prices.

The excise duty hikes of 2020 had taken central taxes on petrol to their highest level of Rs 32.9 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 31.8 a litre.

After the latest excise cut, the incidence of central tax on petrol will come down to Rs 19.9 a litre and that on diesel to Rs 15.8 per litre.

She exhorted all state governments to also cut local sales tax or VAT.

Post November 2021 reduction in excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 10 a litre, 25 states and UTs had cut VAT to give further reprieve to consumers battered by record-high retail prices.

However, states ruled by non-NDA parties like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu had not reduced VAT.

Post that reduction, state-owned oil firms held petrol and diesel prices for a record 137-day period during which international oil prices rose from USD 84 per barrel to near 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel.

They finally broke the hiatus with a Rs 10 per litre increase on both petrol and diesel in 16 days starting March 22, but again hit a freeze button after the last revision on April 6, despite not covering all of the cost.

Brent - the world's most known crude benchmark - was at USD 112.55 per barrel on Sunday.

Holding of prices despite rise in cost had led to lower earnings of fuel retailers in the January-March quarter.

Central excise duty makes up for 20 per cent of the price of petrol, down from 26 per cent earlier. It now makes up for 17.6 per cent of diesel price. After considering local sales tax or VAT, the total tax incidence in the price of petrol is 37 per cent and that on diesel is 32 per cent, down from 40-42 per cent earlier.

The excise tax on petrol was Rs 9.48 per litre when the Modi government took office in 2014 and that on diesel was Rs 3.56 a litre.

The government had between November 2014 and January 2016 raised excise duty on petrol and diesel on nine occasions to take away gains arising from plummeting global oil prices.

In all, duty on petrol rate was hiked by Rs 11.77 per litre and that on diesel by 13.47 a litre in those 15 months that helped government's excise mop up more than double to Rs 2,42,000 crore in 2016-17 from Rs 99,000 crore in 2014-15.

It cut excise duty by Rs 2 in October 2017 and by Rs 1.50 a year later. But it raised excise duty by Rs 2 per litre in July 2019.

It again raised excise duty on March 14, 2020 by Rs 3 per litre each. The government on May 6, 2020, again raised excise duties by Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on diesel.

### Common Eligibility Test...



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing the joint meeting of all the six Autonomous Bodies functioning under the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), at North Block, New Delhi on Sunday.

(IIPA), Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI), Grih Kalyan Kendras (GKK), Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) and Kendriya Bhandar (Registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act).

In line with the mandate of the Department of Expenditure Dr Jitendra directed the senior officials to explore the possibility of the merger of Grih Kalyan Kendras (GKK) and Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) due to overlapping mandate and aims and objectives. He asked the officials to come out with a feasibility report within one month. The Minister also guided the Kendriya Bhandar to open more outlets at centers of Grih Kalyan Kendras and IIPA for increasing sales and cost-cutting.

He asked the Kendriya Bhandar to go whole hog to promote its unique product of organic pulses and build a brand for the same. He also lauded the KB officials for achieving 500 percent growth in sales from Rs 750 crore in 2027-18 to Rs 4,000 Crore in 2021-22. After the review of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), Dr Jitendra said that the organization is gearing up to conduct computer-based online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to Non-Gazetted posts by the year end. He said, initially the test will be conducted in 12 languages including Hindi and English and will later on add all the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

He said, after the recruitment of Chairman, Secretary-cum-Controller of Examinations, Director and Deputy Secretary, efforts are being made to fill more staff in the NRA and a permanent office for ease of functioning.

### J&K reports 8...

cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin stated that Jammu district recorded six cases and Srinagar two cases while as no other district across the Union Territory of reported any fresh case.

### RFID in offing...

route, the officials said. The measures come in the wake of a stampede on New

## BDO Lamberi headless: Noval urges Govt for immediate appointment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NOWSHERA: Noval Sharma, renowned social activist has raised serious concern over the problems being faced by the people of Lamberi Block in Tehsil Nowshera of District Rajouri due to non availability of Block Development Officer.

In a statement issued to media here today, Sharma said more than one month has been passed that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Lamberi has been transferred but till date the post continues to be vacant for the reasons best known to the Administration. He said that under these circumstances the official work has got badly hampered. He said that in such a situation people have been suffering

on account of pending approvals as a result of which the development works in the Block have come to a grinding halt.

The social activist said that this is a glaring example of official apathy, with the Block being headless for the past over a month. Non-availability of a BDO not only takes a toll on development but it hits planning in the block as well. Sharma sought immediate attention of the Deputy Commissioner and Divisional Commissioner Jammu to take serious note of the matter and made a fervent appeal to him to appoint some deserving officer on the vacant post so that the problems being faced by the people of the block would be addressed at the earliest.

## JKDFA warns JKMPCL to redress issues within a week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association (JKDFA) thanked the UT Govt for increasing milk prices like Rs 46 for cow milk containing 3.5 Fat and Rs 60 for Buffalo milk containing 5.00 Fat and standard milk mixed cow and Buffalo is Rs 53 for 4.5 fat.

Govt also fixed the

Producer/Farmer Price like Rs 44 for cow milk for 3.5 Fat and Rs 58 for Buffalo milk for 5.00 fat and standard milk is Rs 51 containing 4.5 fat on that increase the dairy farmer will manage for a few months only.

"We demand the Govt to increase the minimum Rs 55 for cows and Rs 70 for buffalo," JKDFA members said.

"Average production cost of milk is Rs 50 for cow and Rs 65 for buffalo and it is very difficult to operate a dairy due to the price raise of Cattle feed and fodder from the past one year after COVID Pandemic," they said adding that dairy farmers are in trouble as most of dairy farms are on doors of closing.

Kulbushan Khajuria President of JKDFA, giving seven days ultimatum to the Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producer Co-operative Limited (JKMPCL) for increasing collection price of milk as per Farmer/Producer Price Fixed by Govt otherwise from June 1 dairy farmers will organize protest in front of JKMPCL and stop

milk supply in J&K.

The other who present on the occasion were Surjeet Singh, Sukhdev Raj Choudhary, Kishore Sharma ,Sat paul Choudhary, Surejeet Singh(jeeta), Sandeep chib, Tarun Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Kehar Singh, Sukhdev Choudhary(Sukha) and others.

Year's Day in which 12 people lost their lives and 16 others were injured.

It was the first such tragedy at the shrine, where pilgrims reach after a 13-km trek, following which Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had announced several decisions to ensure the safety of the devotees, including a provision for 100 per cent online registration. Sinha had issued directions for physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination, augmentation of infrastructure, decongestion of the entire track, appropriate use of technology for effective crowd and queue management and introduction of RFID tracking.

RFID is based on a wireless technology used for tracking through radio waves.

The tags can carry encrypted information, serial numbers and short descriptions.

In a bid to cater to the large crowd at Bhawan (sanctum sanctorum), work on the proposed 'Durga Bhawan' was being expedited so that devotees coming to the shrine who get stuck due to inclement weather can be accommodated, the official said.

The yatra registered a footfall of over 55.77 lakh in 2021, compared to 17 lakh the previous year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The National Green Tribunal has put a cap of 50,000 pilgrims per day keeping in view the COVID-19 situation.

From 13.95 lakh in 1986, when the shrine board took over the affairs of the shrine for better management, there has been a steady increase of pilgrim footfall with each passing year, touching the all-time high of 1.04 crore turnout in 2012 against 1.01 crore its preceding year.

However, only 17 lakh pilgrims, the lowest in over three decades, visited the shrine in 2020 when it, for the first time in its history, remained closed for five months due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and reopened for the pilgrims on August 16 (2020).

### Selected for T20Is...

picked Arshdeep especially for his death overs bowling for Punjab Kings.

Arshdeep bowls at early to mid 130's and has only 10 wickets in 13 games (before Sunday's game) but his ability to bowl the change-ups along with wide yorkers and deliveries in the block-hole has earned him a place in the squad.

Arshdeep was with the Indian team as a net bowler in an away series against Sri Lanka last year, while Umran was in the UAE, assisting the national team during T20 World Cup.

The selectors more or less picked up players who have played in last two T20I series for India with Dinesh Karthik, at 36 years of age and 18 years after he first played for India, making his umpteenth comeback.

Karthik's inclusion will certainly put Rishabh Pant under a bit of pressure as both are designated middle-order finishers unlike third keeping option Ishan Kishan, who is a specialist opener. As per indication in the team sheet, Karthik is second keeper and Ishan is a pure batter.

If there was one player, who would feel a bit let-down, it has to be Rahul Tripathi, who, before Sunday, had scored 393 runs at a strike-rate of above 160 and had three fifty plus-scores to his credit.

Tripathi, who has been consistent in the IPL, may get his chance sometime during the season but he might feel hard done by, considering Suryakumar Yadav was left out due to a hand injury.

Hardik back in the mix, Venkatesh remains back-up

In case of Hardik, it was never a question of how he will make a comeback for one of India's guaranteed game-changers but as to when that recall will come.

The Gujarat Titans skipper scored 413 runs in 13 games at a strike-rate of 131-plus but more importantly bowled nearly 25 overs (24.3 overs), which is around a couple of overs per game.

He worked up good pace, got a few wickets but more importantly will give Rohit a sixth bowling option going into the World T20 in Australia.

India's spin department for the T20I series also looks menacing with three wrist spinners -- Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi and Yuzvendra Chahal -- in the mix along with left-arm orthodox Axar Patel.

The 34-year-old Pujara scored 720 runs in five Division two games for Sussex, which included two double hundreds and two hundreds, which forced the selection committee to give him a call-up for the 'fifth' Test of the last series. The squad doesn't have any new face from the one that was picked last year.

Prasidh Krishna, who had been drafted into the Test squad during the course of last series, is back while KS Bharaath is now the official second keeper in Tests after 37-year-old Wriddhiman Saha was shown the door earlier this year.

Another notable omission from Test squad was Mayank Agarwal, who had a poor tour of South Africa in which he scored only 135 runs in six innings with one half-century. But the final nail in coffin seemed to be a total 59 runs in three innings at home versus Sri Lanka.

Shubham Gill, who is considered to be a batter with way better technique and temperament, has been preferred in the side. Gill can also double up as middle-order batter.\*\*\*

Shreyas Iyer and Hanuma Vihari, who have done well for India in the little chances that they got, are there.

India's Test squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain) Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohd Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasidh Krishna. India's T20I squad: KL Rahul (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (vice-captain)(wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik.

### LG, leaders congratulate...

success has brought proud for entire Jammu and Kashmir. The young cricketer and his middle income family has worked hard to reach to this level in sports of cricket , thus Congratulations to entire family, relatives, friends and game lovers.

Working President Raman Bhalla and Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma have also congratulated Umran Malik and his family. He has brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir. They wished him every success.

## Accepting delimitation report despite protests by all non BJP parties is unfortunate: JKPCC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress committee has taken strong exception to the move of the BJP led centre government to accept the controversial delimitation report despite protests by almost all non BJP political parties in Jammu and Kashmir and other socio political organisations.

Terming the move as unfortunate and against the basic spirit of democracy, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said that BJP government wants to show that it is least bothered about the views of opposition and non BJP organisations, some of even those who are otherwise BJP allies or followers but opposed the delimitation report in present form.

He said that all non BJP political parties and Independent social organisations have expressed strong reservations and objections over the delimitation report and held protests against it. But least bothered about this and views expressed against the report, the centre hurriedly accepted the report, probably to convey the message that it is least bothered over any objections by one and all.

It is reflection of the authoritarian attitude of the BJP government. The government should have taken note of the large scale objections and resentment expressed by the cross section of society in different areas for different reasons and facts, mainly on the ground of the unreasonable dissections and divisions con-

trary to the geographically and topographical situation, connectivity, continuity, population etc. Hundreds of representations seeking minor amendments on the ground of public convenience only, too were not considered and rejected outrightly by the Commission. He said the centre's move to outrightly ignore the widespread resentment and reservations expressed by the people especially by all shades of non political opinions, shows the BJP government is Not bothered about non BJP opinions and views on any subject, which is anti democratic mindset of ruling party, Sharma adding that opposition shall reach out to every nook and corner and explain the attitude and approach of BJP government.