

GGF J&K appeals for Shaurya Chakra for Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa



GGF J&K members paying tributes to ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the Gandhi Global Family (GGF) J&K visited the residence of the late Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa, to offer heartfelt condolences to his family. Dr. Thappa tragically lost his life in the line of duty due to cross-border shelling in Rajouri.

GGF J&K President Dr. S. P. Varma, expressing profound sorrow, acknowledged Dr. Thappa's exemplary service and selfless commitment to his

duties. "His sacrifice for the nation will never be forgotten," Dr. Varma stated, affirming GGF's solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

Recognizing Dr. Thappa's dedication, Dr. Varma made a formal appeal to the Lt. Governor and Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir to recommend his name for the Shaurya Chakra, India's gallantry award. In support of this appeal, a resolution endorsed by Padma Shri awardees from Jammu will be submitted to the authorities for their further rec-

No talks with Pak other than PoJK, terror: Altaf Thakur

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur on Tuesday strongly praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation, calling it "a defining moment in India's strategic and security posture" and asserting that Pakistan has been forced to bow after suffering irreversible damage to its terror infrastructure and vital military assets.

Thakur stated, "Prime Minister Modi's powerful message reflected the strength, resolve, and clarity of a leader who has completely redefined India's approach to national security. Under his leadership, Indian forces have carried out precision strikes that destroyed multiple terror launch pads, communication hubs, and military supply chains across the border. Pakistan is rattled. Its strategic depth is exposed." He hailed Modi's categorical stand that no talks will be held with Pakistan unless terrorism ends and Pakistan-occupied Jammu

Kashmir (PoJK) is on the table. Thakur said, "This is the New India. No more photo-op dialogues. The only conversation now is about ending terror and reclaiming what rightfully belongs to us-PoJK." Thakur also revealed that the Indus Water Treaty will remain in abeyance as part of India's strategic response. "Why should India continue to honour a treaty that benefits Pakistan when it continues to bleed us through proxy war? The Indus Water Treaty, a symbol of India's magnanimity, will remain suspended. Water is not charity for those who sponsor terror." He also praised Modi's strong support for the armed forces and his message of unity and national strength. "Our nation has spoken through PM Modi. Pakistan has been diplomatically isolated, militarily countered, and now economically squeezed. India has made it clear-cross the line, and the response will be beyond imagination," Thakur concluded.

DGPC Jammu mourns loss of lives in Indo-Pak Conflict

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Gurdvara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in the recent Indo-Pak conflict, including five members from the Sikh Community of Poonch District and the distinguished JKAS officer of JKUT, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa (ADDC Rajouri). "Their untimely passing has left an irreplaceable void in their families and the wider community. While war is never the preferred path, history has shown that defending a nation's dignity and sovereignty sometimes becomes unavoidable," DGPC members said and added DGPC Jammu stands in solemn solidarity with the grieving families, sharing their pain and praying for peace. They said that DGPC Jammu extended its heartfelt appreciation to the Shriromani Gurdvara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Amritsar for providing much-needed financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each of the five Sikh families who have lost their loved ones in this devastating event. "Such timely support in moments of distress is a testament to the Sikh ethos of service and compassion," they said.

Furthermore, DGPC Jammu also recognized the commendable efforts of the Chief Minister of JKUT Omar Abdullah, who has responded to the crisis with remarkable wisdom and maturity.

"From the gruesome killing of 26 innocent tourists in Pahalgam to the present situation, his leadership has provided stability in tumultuous times. By inviting civil society representatives to discuss additional measures for effective crisis management, Omar has ensured that public voices are heard and meaningful solutions are sought," the members said. DGPC Jammu also appreciated the Chief Minister's decision to provide financial relief of Rs 10 lakh to the families of those killed in the conflict. This support is crucial for those enduring immense loss. However, many families have also suffered the destruction of their homes due to crossfire.

DGPC Jammu urged the Chief Minister to extend financial assistance to those affected, ensuring they receive the help needed to rebuild their lives.

LIC launches online facility for 'Premium payment through WhatsApp Bot'

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: In continuation with its commitment towards 'Digital Transformation' and introducing customer centric digital initiatives, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) today unveiled online facility for "Premium payment through WhatsApp bot". This feature was launched at the hands of Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD in the presence of Managing Directors, M. Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey, Sat Pal Bhanoo and R. Doraiswamy and other Senior Officials of the Corporation on 9th May, 2025.

This option will provide LIC customers one more alternate option to pay Premium online. Registered Customer portal users can use WhatsApp number 8976862090 to find out the policies which are due for payment and directly make the payment through UPI/Net banking/Cards within the WhatsApp bot. The full Customer journey of identifying policies due for premium till payment and receipt generation happens within the WhatsApp bot.

Speaking on this occasion, Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, LIC of India, said that this option will provide ease of operations for LIC's Customers and will be a handy tool to pay LIC premiums from anywhere, anytime through the fast growing medium of WhatsApp. This option will help to enhance efficiency and productivity ensuring better services to LIC's customers.

LIC's customer portal has over 2.2 crore registered policyholders, with over 3 lakh customers logging in every day for availing various online services.

ommendation to the Government of India.

In honour of Dr. Thappa's legacy, Dr. Varma also proposed to institute an annual memorial award in his name, alongside an annual memorial lecture to commemorate his service and sacrifice.

A two-minute silence was also observed by the delegation. The GGF J&K delegation included Dr. Robert Robin Gill, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Dr. Alka Sharma, Daniel Nair, Dr. Nitin Sharma, Renu Anthony, Manish Joshi, Avinash Chaudhary, and Er. Ankush Varma.

Volleyball selection trials for KIBG 2025 today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has officially constituted a committee for conducting the volleyball selection trials in preparation for the upcoming Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2025. These trials are scheduled to take place on May 14, 2025 on 5:00 PM, at the M.A. Stadium, Jammu. As per the directive approved by the Competent Authority, the committee comprises three esteemed members. Baljinder Paul Singh, Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu; Kuldeep Magotra, Chief Executive Officer, Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir (VAJK); and Hardeep Singh Gill, Senior Volleyball Player and Vice President, VAJK, have been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the selection process.

The trials aim to identify talented volleyball players from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir who will represent the region at KIBG 2025, scheduled to be held in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNH&DD) from May 19 to 24, 2025. Following the conclusion of the trials, the Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu, is directed to submit the final selection list and screening details of the volleyball contingent without delay, ensuring timely participation and preparation for the national-level competition.

Randhawa conducts surprise visit to PHE Pumping Station in Sainik Colony amid public complaints

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to mounting complaints from the residents of Chowadhi, Chatha, and Sunjan regarding erratic water supply and service negligence by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, conducted a surprise inspection on Tuesday at the PHE pumping station located in Sainik Colony, Jammu.

During the visit, MLA Randhawa inspected the functioning of pumping machinery, reviewed maintenance records, and



MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, conducting surprise inspection at PHE pumping station in Sainik Colony.

directly engaged with the on-duty staff to assess ground-level operations. Locals from nearby areas

expressed their frustration over irregular water supply, frequent pump failures, delayed grievance redres-

sal, and inadequate pressure during peak hours. "Residents of these areas are suffering, especially in

Shaheen becomes J&K's first level-1 female Volleyball coach

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shaheen Akhtar of district Poonch has become first FIVB level 1 woman coach in the discipline of Volleyball in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shaheen has attained the distinction after she declared qualified in the five-day long specialised course, which was organised by BVL Foundation of Assam at Guwahati.

Former National player, Akhtar, who represented J&K, has also done NS NTS certificate course from Bangalore. Presently, she imparts coaching at the training facility of Shaheed



Shaheen Akhtar of district Poonch receiving FIVB level 1 woman coach of Volleyball in J&K certificate.

DySP Manjit Singh Poonch. Memorial Volleyball Club Lone candidate from

the ongoing summer season. Clean and consistent water supply is a basic necessity and cannot be compromised," said Randhawa.

"Strict instructions have been given to the department to resolve these issues on priority and ensure regular updates to the public."

The MLA also assured residents that follow-up inspections will be carried out and any departmental lapses will be dealt with firmly.

He reiterated his commitment to improving civic amenities and acting swiftly on citizen grievances.

J&K, she was among 12 such individuals enrolled for the five-day duration level-1 coaches' course from different parts of the country.

Meanwhile, Mohd Tariq, chairman Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Club congratulated Shaheen Akhtar for her success in the FIVB level 1 coaching course.

The Club also expressed gratitude to Abhijit Bhattacharya for hosting the course and thanked Sri Dharan, former national coach of India for sharing his experiences during the course.

SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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