

Shelling by Pakistan on civilians is highly condemnable: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra visited the houses at Rehari damaged due to Pakistan shelling and in which three persons were injured. He said devastation due to shelling is highly condemnable.

Sadhotra visited all the houses damaged due to shelling and inquired about the health of three persons who have been



Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra during his visit interacting with victims of Pak shelling at Rehari.

injured. He thanked God that there is no loss of

Dr. Dinesh assumes charge as Hony Secy of Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla



Dr. Dinesh Gupta assuming charge.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On relinquishing the charge by Vijay Bhagotra after serving selflessly for 22 years as Honorary Secretary of the Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, a distinguished social worker and community leader, has been appointed as the Honorary Secretary of the Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu. He formally assumed charge on Wednesday in the presence of Life Time

Achievement Awardee I.D. Soni, President of the Managing Committee; Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; and Members Pankaj Gupta, Satpal Sharma, and R.C. Vaid. Dr. Gupta brings with him a wealth of experience and a lifetime of dedicated service to society. He is the former Assistant General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India, former Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, and Founder Director of CHILDLINE - a project of

the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Currently, he is the elected Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch Jammu, and Patron of the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu & Kashmir. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to humanitarian and social services, Dr. Gupta has been honoured with the prestigious President of India Gold Medal for Social Service. Dr. Rajinder Thappa, Life Member IRCS JK Jammu and social activist, congratulated Dr. Dinesh Gupta for appointing Honorary Secretary of the Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla. The Managing Committee expressed confidence that under Dr. Gupta's stewardship, the Home for Aged & Infirm will continue to uphold its mission of compassionate care and welfare for the elderly and infirm.

Govt committed for holistic dev of every sector, section of society: Sakeena

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito on Wednesday inaugurated the Outpatient Department (OPD), AYUSH & Wellness Centre and several other critical sections of the Trauma Hospital at Bijbehara here. Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, Sakeena Ito maintained that the present government led by Omar Abdullah is committed for the holistic development of every sector and section of the society across Jammu and Kashmir. "This Government has been formed by the vote and trust of people and, as such, we are committed to work tirelessly for the welfare and development of our people", Sakeena stated. "The report card of our last seven months of governance reflects that Jammu and Kashmir is back on the track of development in every sector; be it health, education or other social sectors", she added. The Minister further said



Cabinet Minister Sakeena Ito addressing gathering.

that the medical infrastructure is being upgraded across J&K besides an ample push has also been given for recruitment of medical officers as well as other paramedical staff. "In the last few months this government recruited more than three hundred doctors and posted them in required areas to uplift the medical care facilities", Sakeena said. She added that a large number of doctors were also posted in rural areas to strengthen the medical care services from grassroots level, which is core objective of pres-

ent Omar Abdullah led government. On the occasion, the Minister advised the people to take best utilisation of this newly established Ayush and Wellness Centre for their well-being. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri submitted a detailed memorandum concerning various developmental needs related to the health and education sectors in his constituency. The Minister assured him that these demands would be taken up with urgency and fulfilled on a

human life. National Conference leader also visited Thathar Nardni, Bhalwal, Kheri, in Jammu North Assembly Constituency. He assured the victims that Omar Abdullah government is committed to give compensation to the damages caused by Pak shelling and the injured will also be helped for medical care. The people appreciated Omar Abdullah Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir for his visit to Rehari to see damage caused due to shelling. National Conference leader said terrorism has no space in civilized civil society and it is good that every Indian has united to fight terrorism. "National Conference and its government is committed to fight terror-

ism. Thousands of National Conference workers sacrificed for the country to fight terrorism," he said and added that it is good that DGMOs of our country and Pakistan have talked and reached at ceasefire. "It is hoped good sense will prevail as war is no solution to any problem, and ceasefire will continue. War only gives death and destruction which is unacceptable," Sadhotra said. Others who accompanied Sadhotra were Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Sahil Kerni District President YNC Jammu, Vishav Singh Samyal District Youth Secretary, Sandeep Manhas.

"Nation First" is guiding principle of BJP: Balbir



BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan interacting with partymen.

"Our nation is not just a piece of land but an embodiment of our culture, values, history, and aspirations," said Balbir, adding that our activists are always at the service of Bharat Mata. Whether in government, opposition, or social service, our mission remains the same: the prosperity, security, and dignity of every Indian. Balbir highlighted that the party's commitment to national development includes empowering youth,

promoting innovation, and strengthening democratic institutions. He urged all to maintain high ethical standards, resist divisive politics, and focus on inclusive development. For us, politics is not a career but a duty that begins with putting the nation first. As the largest political party in the world, the BJP continues to strive for a new India-strong, self-reliant, and united under the banner of "Nation First, Party Next, Self Last," he said.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Blood donation Camp organised by DoPT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity with India's defence forces and the larger cause of national service, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a voluntary Blood donation Camp today. The Camp was organised by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) at North Block here, where over 150 employees donated blood. Earlier, a similar Blood Donation Camp was launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh on behalf of the Ministry of Science & Technology at Ambedkar International Centre. Addressing the gathering at the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp organized



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacting with donors at the voluntary Blood Donation Camp organised by DoPT at North Block, New Delhi on Wednesday.

by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored

but also on training, capacity building, and fostering a compassionate spirit among citizens. Dr. Jitendra Singh personally interacted with the donors, applauding their selfless service and addressing common misconceptions surrounding blood donation, leveraging his medical expertise as a renowned endocrinologist. The Minister also announced that similar blood donation camps will be organized across all departments and institutions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in the coming weeks. These efforts aim to establish a robust and diverse national blood pool that can be mobi-

lized swiftly during emergencies. "This initiative echoes the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose resolve and commitment to national service we are proud to support through this small yet meaningful gesture," Dr. Singh added. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Indian Red Cross Society, all participating institutions, and every individual who contributed to this noble cause. This momentous day not only celebrates the spirit of Indian science but also reaffirms the Ministry's ongoing commitment to nation-building and national service.

Yudhvir Sethi inaugurates 3rd Outlet of 'The Kulfa Hut' at Rani Park



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating outlet.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, on Wednesday inaugurated the third outlet of the popular local brand 'The Kulfa Hut' at Rani Park, near Jain School, Jammu. The new outlet marks a significant expansion of the brand, which has garnered popularity for its unique flavours and authentic local taste. Addressing the gathering after the inauguration, Yudhvir congratulated the entrepreneurs behind 'The Kulfa Hut' and lauded their spirit of innovation and commitment to promoting local food culture. He said that such ventures not only contribute to the local economy but also serve as an inspiration for others. He appealed to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to foster entrepreneurship and actively explore opportunities for self-employment. "This is the era of StartUp India and Atmanirbhar

Bharat. The youth should come forward and take full advantage of the various Central Government schemes launched under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These initiatives are specifically designed to empower youth, promote innovation, and boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem," he emphasized. Sethi further added that Jammu has immense potential to emerge as a vibrant business and tourism hub, and encouraged young minds

to tap into unexplored avenues in food, retail, and allied sectors. 'The Kulfa Hut', which has quickly become a household name in the city, is known for serving traditional kulfa delicacies and fusion flavours that reflect the rich culinary heritage of the region. With its third outlet now open, the brand continues to grow and connect with a wider audience. Ex Corporator Anil Masoom, Owner Sunny Sharma and others were present.

Safety of our people Govt's topmost priority: Dy CM



Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary during visit to border areas in Nowshera.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Following the recent cross border shelling, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday undertook an extensive visit to the border areas in Nowshera subdivision of Rajouri district. During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the damaged houses, inspected the loss due to shelling, met with the affected families besides interacting with the border residents at various locations. During the interaction, he assured that the government stands firmly with them in this hour of need and is

actively mobilizing the resources and efforts to ensure that they don't face any inconvenience. He also assured that the safety of every single resident living near the LOC is our topmost priority and best possible measures are being taken in this regard. During the extensive tour, the Dy CM met several delegations at different locations in which the local residents apprised him of various issues which were mainly pertaining to construction of individual and community bunkers, compensation for their loss during recent cross border firing, water

scarcity, unscheduled power cuts, link roads etc. The Dy CM gave on spot instructions to the concerned officials to resolve their grievances and assured them that all their other genuine issues will be redressed in a phased manner. In a step to safeguard lives and livelihoods, the Dy CM also assured that additional individual and community bunkers will be constructed at strategic locations based on requirements identified. "These bunkers will provide immediate safety during instances of cross-border shelling and are a critical component of the administration's border protection strategy" he added. The visit underlined the unwavering commitment of the Government towards the safety, security, and well-being of the people living in the border belt. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa and other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Dy CM during his visit.

LOP Rahul Gandhi concerned about border people, taking regular feedback: Karra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday said that immediate disbursement of ex-gratia relief and proper rehabilitation of the affected people should be the top most priority of the government and should be undertaken on war footing especially whose houses are badly damaged. Senior Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra, accompanied by key party leaders, undertook an extensive visit to Rajouri district, including Thannamandi, Nowshera, and Manjakote, to assess the situation in the border areas severely affected by recent incidents of shelling and violence. Karra was joined by Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan, MLA Ifthikhar Ahmed, DCC President Shabir Ahmed Khan, DDC Sain Rasheed, NSUI President Ajay Lakhotra, Kissan Cell Chairman Bharat Priye, and other local leaders.



JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra and other leaders during visit to GMC Rajouri.

During the visit, the delegation met with the injured at Government Medical College Hospital Rajouri, and interacted with affected families in border migrant camps, expressing solidarity and listening to their grievances. Karra also reached the extreme Line of Control (LOC) in Manjakote, where he met residents directly impacted by the shelling. Earlier, a prayer-cum-review meeting was convened at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to mourn the martyrdom of ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa and others. A two-minute silence was

observed in the presence of prominent local leaders, sarpanches, and panchees. The meeting reviewed the grave humanitarian and infrastructural crisis in the region, calling for urgent and long-term remedial measures. Karra expressed grave concern over the extensive loss of lives, property, crops, livestock, and damage to shelter houses. He emphasized the urgent need for immediate compensation, including for damaged vehicles, and reiterated the Congress party's demand for a special central package for relief, rehabilitation, and recon-

struction in affected areas. He also pressed for a recruitment package for youth from border areas and the construction of well-equipped community and individual bunkers across Rajouri, Poonch, and other vulnerable regions. Karra criticized the sudden ceasefire initiated by a third country, stating that it has left critical questions unanswered. He added that the Congress Party, under Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, has demanded a special session of Parliament and an all-party meeting to address the border situation. Karra revealed that Rahul Gandhi personally contacted him during the meeting to get updates and has been receiving regular feedback on the ground situation. "The plight of our border residents is deeply concerning. The Prime Minister must heed the opposition's demand for an all-party meet and take swift action," Karra stated, assuring that

he would continue to visit affected areas in the coming days and keep the party high command informed. Raman Bhalla, while speaking to the media, underscored that Rajouri and Poonch are among the worst-affected districts in the entire country. He urged the Prime Minister to announce a comprehensive central relief package, including special recruitment drives in paramilitary forces and the construction of bunkers to protect civilian populations. "Every citizen of the country stands united against terrorism and Pakistan's designs. This is a national cause," Bhalla asserted. Several prominent leaders attended including Iqbal Shawl, Prof. Lalit Mahajan, Adv Junaid, Ashok Sharma, Shakeel Mir, Sushil Sharma, Khurshid Janam, Rajesh Bittu, Rajinder Singh, Amit Sayal, Sajad Tariq, Rajinder Prasad, Vijay Bakshi, Bhavisha Sudan, Daleep Heer, Ravinder Chouhan, Sat Pal Sharma.