

## Rijiju unveils statue of 19th Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche in Leh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEIH: The Union Minister of Minority Affairs/Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, in the presence of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and Chairman/CEC, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, unveiled the statue of 19th Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche-often referred to as the Architect of Modern Ladakh-on his 108th Birth Anniversary at Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Park.

108 apple saplings, signifying the 108th birth anniversary of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, were planted on the occasion.

A book titled 'Kushok Bakula Rinpoche-Architect of Modern Ladakh: Life and Times', authored by Sonam Wangchuk Shakspo, was launched on the occasion by the esteemed guests. Stating that a landmark in the form of Kushok Bakula Rinpochee Airport at Leh has been dedicated to Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, the LG highlighted the lasting impression left by a great personality like Bakula Rinpoche on Ladakh and its people.

Calling Bakula Rinpoche a comprehensive personality, he informed that Bakula Rinpoche left an indelible impression on the geography, history, religion, people, generations and culture of Ladakh for years to come.



Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju and others unveiling statue of 19th Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche.

Recalling Bakula Rinpoche's contribution to the upliftment of the underprivileged and promotion of education, along with bringing Ladakh into the mainstream, the LG also highlighted the pivotal role played by Bakula Rinpoche in securing Ladakh from enemy forces during the First Kashmir War. He also highlighted Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's role in the welfare of the people of Ladakh, especially to eradicate poverty and illiteracy, through various roles assumed by him as the Member of Parliament from Ladakh and a Minister in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir government. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Rijiju called himself fortunate for getting the opportunity to unveil the statue of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, terming the moment as 'something to cherish for

years to come.' Stating that there are only a few divine incarnations like Bakula Rinpoche who leave a lasting impression, Rijiju recalled the grand reception given to him and the Indian delegation, who were accompanying the sacred relics of Lord Buddha, on their arrival in Mongolia. He also highlighted Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's contribution to reviving Buddhism in Mongolia. Rijiju reiterated the message given by Hon'ble Prime Minister after the ceasefire with Pakistan following the success of Operation Sindoor on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, in which he stated that Shanti Ka Marg Shakti Se Ho Kar Jata Hai along with the message given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Indian community in Vienna, in which he stated that Bharat is

a land of Buddha and not Yuddha, underlining Buddha's message of peace and brotherhood. Calling himself lucky to be the first Buddhist cabinet minister of the country, Rijiju highlighted various initiatives taken by him for the welfare of Buddhists from Ladakh up to Arunachal Pradesh through the Buddhist Development Plan under which funds would be provided through his Ministry for the development of various centres at monasteries along with playground, fitness equipment, etc. for monks.

He also highlighted various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for all six notified minority communities in India. Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, in his speech, highlighted Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's contribution to the development of Ladakh and achieving Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the people of Ladakh along with the Autonomous Hill Development Council for the region. He stated that the people of Ladakh should remember Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's contribution across all spheres for years to come. He also informed that around Rs five crores were invested to develop the Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Park, along with the plan to develop a Learning Centre at the

site. The Mongolian Ambassador to India, HE Gambold Dambajav, read out the message from the Hon'ble President of Mongolia, Mr Ukhnaagin Khurelsukh, dedicated to Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's contribution to the people of Mongolia. There were cultural performances by the Women's Association of Spituk village. Earlier, Ven Thupstan Paldan welcomed the guests while Nambardar, Spituk village, Jigmet Angehuk gave the vote of thanks.

Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, Urgyan Rinpoche; Abbot Geshe Lobzang Wangchuk and venerable monks from Spituk monastery, Executive Councillors from LAHDC Leh-Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Ghulam Mehdi and Stanzin Choshpel along with Councillors from LAHDC Leh; Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal; DGP Ladakh Police, Dr SD Singh Janwal, IPS; AOC of Air Force Station Leh; Administrative Secretaries from UT Administration; DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve; former MP Ladakh, Thupstan Chhewang and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; heads from religious organisations/political organisations; Officials/ government officers; general public and school students were present in the event.

## Javid Dar attends virtual meeting for VKSA



Cabinet Minister Javid Ahmad Dar participating in meeting.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, participated in a virtual meeting from Civil Secretariat Srinagar on Monday.

The meeting focused on preparations for the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA).

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan aims to promote agricultural development and empower farmers. It also envisages creating awareness among the farmers about modern technology and new seed varieties.

The meeting discussed various strategies to achieve the set goals under

the Abhiyan.

The meeting was organised by the Krishi Bhawan Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. He addressed all the State and UT Agriculture Ministers to discuss the preparedness roadmap of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan which will be conducted from May 29 to June 12, 2025.

Highlighting broad contours of the 15 day campaign, Chouhan said that under the campaign, each district across the country will be covered reaching out to maximum farmers. He stressed on improving the agricultural extension services to boost the productivity and production of all major crops.

It was informed that

2000 teams of agricultural scientists, officials and progressive farmers will be formed so that the farmers get benefit of all the schemes of agricultural department at their doorstep. The Abhiyan would facilitate seed distribution among the farmers besides ensuring registration of left out farmers under different schemes.

Javid Dar briefed that the J&K Agriculture Department has already organised awareness camps in all 20 districts having 1200 locations at UT as well as Panchayat level. Besides, about 25 lakh farmers have been registered with the departmental portal so that they get benefits of the schemes being run by the Central government.

Javid Dar said that Omar Abdullah government committed to fulfil the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to double the income of the farmers communities. He assured that the J&K Agriculture Production Department shall take all necessary measures to ensure successful implementation of this ambitious Abhiyan.

## Dy CM meets delegations; emphasises seamless public service delivery across govt offices



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary listening to delegation.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Several delegations and individuals on Monday called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, at Civil Secretariat Srinagar and projected their issues and demands.

A delegation of people from Seer, Jagir and other villages led by MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar, called on the Dy

CM and raised the issue of illegal sand mining in Sopore.

The Dy CM assured them of firm and immediate measures to address the issue.

A delegation of J&K Contractor Coordination Committee also met the Dy CM and apprised him of various issues and difficulties faced by them.

Another delegation of

Assistant Engineers from PWD (R&B) department also put forward their issues regarding seniority list and promotion pending since long.

Meanwhile, several individuals met the Dy CM and apprised him of various issues being faced by them, mainly pertaining to roads, water scarcity, irregular power supply, transfers and road connectivity. The Dy CM gave a patient hearing to the individuals and assured that all their genuine issues would be looked into for redress on priority.

While highlighting several initiatives meant for welfare and development of common masses, the Dy CM emphasised seamless service delivery to the general public across all government offices.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Shardhanjali Samroh was held on Monday which was presided over by K. Nirmal Kotwal, President JKHCB AJ to mourn the sad demise of Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta (Former President, JKHCB AJ) who left for heavenly abode on May 17, 2025.

The members of the abstained from work in all the Courts including High Court, Subordinate Courts, Tribunals and Revenue Courts, Forums.

Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta's contribution to the Bar remembered by all the senior and young lawyers present in the Shardhanjali Samroh. The legal fraternity bids farewell to a truly exceptional lawyer. With his departure, the Bar has lost



JKHCB AJ members paying tributes to Sr Adv P S Dutta.

not only a well experienced Advocate but also a pillar of wisdom, integrity and dedication. His absence will be deeply felt by colleagues as his contributions have felt an incredible mark on the profession. The legacy, he has left behind will continue to inspire future gen-

erations of Lawyers.

K. Nirmal Kotwal, President JKHCB AJ, said that Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta was a mentor par excellence. Many of the finest minds in the legal field today, including noted environmentalist M.C. Melita, who too hails from

## Core teachings of Guru Ravidas are based on equality, service, compassion: Balbir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian branch of British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and member of the Begunpura Vishwa Mahasabha, along with prominent social worker and businessman of Jammu, Prem Gupta, served Langar (free community meal) to over 300 people today in the Bakshi Nagar area of Jammu.

This Langar has been organized daily for the past three months by Prem Gupta using his personal resources.

On this occasion, Balbir Ram Rattan said that the core teachings of Gurn Ravidas are based



Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth and others serving Langar among people.

on equality, service, and compassion. The Langar service being arranged by Prem Gupta for the past three months without any publicity is a living

example of the principles of Guru Ravidass and other great Indian saints. He said that such initiatives promote love, brotherhood, and harmony in society and are a powerful step in the fight against hunger.

This Langar symbolizes true

service to humanity and serves as a medium to unite people from all sections of society.

Balbir Ram Rattan added that such efforts bring positive change in society and inspire others to engage in selfless service. On this occasion, Prem Gupta said that this service is a duty for me, and not an act of charity or favour. As long as it is possible, I will continue this langar in the same way. Serving humanity is the greatest task, and it gives me inner peace.

He also mentioned that other people of society should come forward to engage in such selfless acts of service so that we can build a strong, harmonious, and cooperative society. He further said that information about this langar should reach the poor and needy so that as many people as possible can benefit from it.

## Parvinder leads Tiranga Rally in Ward 58, lauds Army's bravery against Pakistan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a stirring display of patriotism and unity, Parvinder Singh Happy led a vibrant Tiranga Rally in Ward No. 58 on Monday, drawing participation from local residents, youth, and community leaders.

The rally, marked by the enthusiastic waving of the Indian Tricolour and chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," served not only as a symbol of national pride but also as a powerful statement of solidarity with the Indian armed forces.

Parvinder Singh Happy, a prominent socio-political activist in the region, used the occasion to highlight the unparalleled bravery and commitment of the Indian Army, especially in its continued defence of the nation along the borders with Pakistan.



Parvinder Singh Happy, prominent socio-political leading Tiranga rally in Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "Our soldiers are the real heroes who stand tall on the frontlines, defending the integrity and sovereignty of our country day and night. We owe them not just our respect, but our constant support."

The rally assumed added significance in the current geopolitical climate, as tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and cross-border skirmishes remain a challenge to regional peace.

Parvinder emphasized that while peace is always pre-

ferred, India must never compromise on its security or honour. He credited the Indian Army for maintaining a strong deterrent against Pakistan's provocative actions and cross-border terrorism.

Community members joined in large numbers, reflecting the growing civic awareness and pride among citizens in celebrating national values and supporting the armed forces. Many youth participants said the rally inspired them to learn more about India's military history and the sacrifices made by jawans over the decades.

The Tiranga Rally, while primarily a civilian initiative, also indirectly supported government efforts to promote national unity and counter narratives that question the role or necessity of India's defence preparedness.

## Shutdown for various 33KV lines scheduled on May 20th cancelled

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL informed that the shutdown for 33 kV GIS Tangpora Grid Exhibition Tapline (Allochibagh bund Portion), 33 KV GIS Tangpora KP Bagh Line and 33 KV TRC Rajbagh Line/ KP Bagh Rajbagh line (Sr. No. 07, 08 & 09) on 20th of May 2025,

stands cancelled. Also, the shutdown approved for 33 kV Pampore-Badambagh Line (Sr. No. 14) on 20th of May 2025 may also be treated as cancelled in order to facilitate smooth operation of PHE WSS Tangnar affected due to outage of power supply during the intervening night of 18th & 19th of May 2025 due to gusty winds.

## Power Shutdown

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: According to the Chief Engineer, J&KP&TCL, in order to carry out augmentation works at GSS Magam, wherein temporary shifting of 33 KV Kongandara and Magam feeders is to be carried out for sparing of bay for 80 MVA Power Transformer and dismantling/laying/stringing of conductor; shutdown of 33KV Kongandara Feeder and 33KV Magam Feeder shall be observed due to which power supply to Kunzer, Khore, Agar, Kralweth, Mangalore, Ahmaadpora, Hardaboor, Loopora, Dhoibwan, Magam, Mazhama, Aripathan, Bamrooda, Badran, Kanihama, Warihama and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 20 May, 2025. According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL, in order to facilitate laying of HT AB Cable, shutdown of 33KV Badampora Kurhama-Dab (Tap line) shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Dab shall remain off while power supply to Dab, Batpora, Rabitar and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 20 & 22 May, 2025.

## Retired police personnel pledge support to J&K Police



Retired police personnel during the meeting in Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second monthly meeting of the Retired Police Personnel was convened on Monday under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the Retirees Police League, District Jammu, at the League's office in Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting witnessed active participation from numerous retired police veterans and focused on key

issues concerning pensioners and their role in community security.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to reaffirm the League's unwavering support to the J&K UT Police in countering the current security challenges posed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The retirees unanimously expressed their willingness to serve whenever called upon, leveraging their training and experience in critical

situations.

Highlighting a pressing concern, the veterans urged the administration to streamline the renewal of weapon licences for ex-police personnel.

They appealed for a simplified verification process or suggested that weapons be issued directly to retirees at the Village Defence Committee (VDC) level, citing their proven capability in handling arms and their

widespread presence across localities as a potential security asset.

The meeting also saw participation from officers of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, facilitating a fruitful interaction on strengthening community policing and strategies to address security threats in the region, especially considering the presence of VIPs and vital installations nearby.

Large number of legendary retired Police Veterans including SSP Suresh Kumar Sharma, Mohd Sadiq Vice President, Taj Mohd Inspectors Office Secretary Ramesh Sharma V R Bali Kirpal Singh Coordinator and Bhram Datt SIs attended the meeting.

The meeting concluded on a cordial note with a tea session, reinforcing camaraderie and a collective resolve to contribute to the safety and security of society.

## Bukhari expresses concern over windstorm devastation in Valley Urges administration to ensure adequate compensation to those affected severely

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed deep concern over the extensive devastation caused by the windstorm in various areas across the valley, including Budgam, Pulwama, Tangmarg, and Baramulla, Uri, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Bandipora, Sumbal Sonawari, on Sunday evening. The Apni Party President has urged the administration to ensure prompt compensation for those who have suffered significant losses due to this severe weather condition.

In his statement issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "The windstorm has caused widespread damage in various



areas of the valley. Reports pouring in from various areas across the valley indicate that extensive damage has been caused to orchards, houses, and vehicles due to the strong winds."

Apni Party president also urged the administration to act swiftly in providing adequate compensation to those who have suffered significant losses due to this natural calamity.