

ABVP celebrates National Students' Day, 76th Foundation Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) celebrated National Students' Day and its Foundation Day with fervour at multiple locations, notably at Jammu University and Kishtwar.

The event at Jammu University commenced with a welcome speech by Sahil Choudhary, President of ABVP Jammu University, who emphasized the organization's pivotal role in nurturing student leadership and fostering a culture of responsibility and growth among



ABVP leaders addressing activists at a programme in Jammu on Tuesday.

students. Following this, Ravail, a research scholar at Jammu University and State Universities Convenor, provided a comprehensive overview of ABVP's extensive initiatives aimed at empowering students across the nation,

highlighting its impactful contributions to student welfare and educational development. Akshi Billowria, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu and Kashmir, delivered an eloquent address marking ABVP's 76-year journey,

underseoring the organization's steadfast commitment to the principles of Swami Vivekananda. She emphasized ABVP's dedication to empowering youth and fostering nationalism, stating, "For 76 years, we have strived to

create an environment where students can thrive, learn, and contribute meaningfully to society."

The celebrations included a series of engaging activities such as debates, cultural performances, and a panel discussion focusing on the contemporary role of youth in nation-building. Akshi praised the dedication and enthusiasm of the students, recognizing them as the driving force behind ABVP's success. She remarked, "Our students embody the spirit of change and progress. The passion and commitment they display are crucial to shaping ABVP's dynamic future."

Chaitanya Magotra concluded the event with a vote of thanks, urging everyone to uphold ABVP's principles and continue working towards the betterment of society and the nation.

Kavinder, Priya Sethi listen to public grievances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. CM and Priya Sethi, former Minister accompanied by Ankush Gupta, Incharge RMSA were listening to the public grievances at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Kavinder Gupta, while listening to the grievances said that the Bharatiya Janata Party believes in the principle of ensuring the welfare of every person who was neglected and oppressed due to any reason. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has framed all policies keeping in mind the interests of every section of society, proving the "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas" policy. It is due to these beneficial public welfare policies and works, people have elected the Modi government for the third time consecutively. He said that with the aim of furthering the services to the masses, the party has arranged daily grievance camps in the headquarters.

Priya Sethi, while speaking



BJP leaders Kavinder Gupta and Priya Sethi listening to public issues.

on the occasion, said that the senior leaders of party are sitting on daily basis at party headquarters to attend to the public grievances. She said that the party has built up a responsive and pro-active grievance redressal mechanism to address the issues of the masses in these grievance camps. She said that with the same responsiveness and commitment to the masses, senior party leaders are ensuring that prompt remedial measures are

taken for the issues put forth by the visitors. Ankush Gupta, who diarized the issues, said that the senior leaders telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials to resolve the issues and also issued letters to many of them. Earlier, the people in the form of deputations, presented an array of problems related to their day-to-day issues and the local development issues related to the departments like PDD, PWD, PHE, Revenue etc.

Team Jammu condemns Kathua terrorist's attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Team Jammu on Tuesday strongly condemned yesterday's terrorist's attack during which five Army soldiers got martyred while an equal number were injured in Machedi area of Kathua district. An emergent meeting of volunteers of Team Jammu was held under the chairmanship of Zorawar Singh Jamwal during which volunteers strongly condemned Pakistan sponsored terrorists attack and urged all the countries of World to declare Pakistan a

rogue state and put bar on it till all training camps of terrorists in Pakistan are destroyed. While addressing the volunteers, Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said, "Nation salutes the martyrs who have laid down their precious lives in the line of duty. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

While coming down heavily on neighbouring rogue country, Team Jammu chief Zorawar Singh Jamwal further said that Pakistan has always

unleashed terrorism on our soil and is now making desperate efforts by infiltrating highly trained terrorists but Pakistan will not succeed. Terrorism is on last legs in J&K.

Our determined security forces are responding valiantly and are defeating Pakistan's nefarious designs on different fronts." He questioned the criminal silence of sympathizers of Pakistan in J&K who time again are the votaries of dialogue with Pakistan. Volunteers of Team Jammu also passed a

resolution urging the world to declare Pakistan a rogue state and force Pakistan to destroy all terrorists training camps mushrooming in its land.

Chib emphasizes youth engagement, strategic importance of upcoming Assembly Polls in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Uday Bhanu Chib, former President of Youth Congress Jammu and Kashmir and presently National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), underscored the pivotal role that youth must assume in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Engaging closely with the aspirations of young citizens, Uday Chib highlighted key policies of the Congress Party aimed at empowering and addressing the concerns of the youth demographic.

The senior Youth Congress leader was speaking during an interaction with youth of Wards No. 60, 59 and 38 in Jammu north Assembly segment. In the meeting, Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPC, Surinder Kumar, Pummy Manhas, Surjeet Manhas, Digvijay Singh, Lucky Chib and Sher Singh were also present.



Former President of Youth Congress Jammu and Kashmir, Uday Bhanu Chib and others addressing public meeting.

Reflecting on the strategic significance of the upcoming polls, Uday Chib articulated, "The upcoming Assembly elections represent a critical juncture for the future of Jammu and Kashmir. It is imperative that the youth actively participate and contribute to shaping the direction of our state."

Uday Chib further recalled the impactful role played by youth during the recent Lok Sabha elections, where their enthusiastic

support bolstered the INDIA Alliance nationwide. He urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to sustain this momentum, emphasizing, "The youth have demonstrated their potential to effect positive change. Their involvement in the upcoming Assembly polls will be decisive in determining the course of our state's future."

Acknowledging the chal-

lenges and opportunities ahead, Uday Chib outlined the commitment of Congress to fostering an inclusive environment where the aspirations of every citizen, especially the youth, are prioritized. "Our policies are designed to empower the youth with opportunities for education, employment, and leadership," he affirmed.

Hari Singh Chib, in his

address, emphasized the Congress party's commitment to engaging with all segments of society, with a special focus on the youth, to forge a constructive future for Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the people of the region to responsibly exercise their democratic rights and actively participate in shaping the state's destiny.

Hari Singh appealed to the residents to lend their support to the Congress Party in the forthcoming Assembly elections, highlighting their agenda for fostering equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the importance of unity and collective effort in achieving progress and prosperity, emphasizing that inclusive governance and shared aspirations are pivotal to realizing the state's full potential.

Police Hospital Jammu starts indoor facilities in Gynaecology Deptt



SP of Police Hospital Jammu, Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal interacting with mother of newly born baby.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a major achievement, the Gynaecology department of Police Hospital Jammu (PHJ) started its in-door facilities and successfully completed its first normal

delivery. A baby girl weighing 2.8 kg was delivered at 5:38 am at the hospital. The mother and baby are both doing well, and the baby received its first day immunization in the hospital.

Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, Superintendent of Police Hospital, congratulated the doctors, staff, and parents on this joyous occasion. She presented a sapling plant to the parents and announced that PHJ will promote a green initiative and gifted a fruit-bearing plant to every new born, and will encourage parents to nurture both their child and the plant.

Police Hospital Jammu's state-of-the-art facilities and experienced medical team ensure the best care for mothers and babies.

CS calls for holistic development of new tourist destinations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a meeting to assess the proposal of Tourism department to be taken up with Union Ministry of Tourism for funding by World Bank.

The meeting was attended by the ACS, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, Revenue; Director Tourism, Jammu/Kashmir; DG Budget besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had an overview of proposal framed by the department to be taken up with Union Ministry of Tourism and World Bank for their funding over a period of next 4-



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Srinagar on Tuesday.

5 years.

Dulloo impressed upon the officers to choose destinations from both the Divisions that are currently less treaded and have potential to be developed on their unique strengths.

He advised that these destinations along with other nearby lesser known destinations should be developed as a circuit. He

called for inclusion of activities related to adventure, nature, leisure, pilgrimage or eco-tourism in this plan.

He also enjoined upon the concerned to focus on promotion of destinations that would address the problems of overcrowding in the existing, popular destinations. He also asked for focusing on high-end and

niche tourism.

Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, during the meeting threw light on the main features of this proposal. She highlighted that it is going to lay focus on the already developed infrastructure available in the vicinity besides the status of bed capacity, surface and air connectivity, communica-

tion network, medical, sanitation and other common amenities along with that of the creation of master plan in such areas.

It was also revealed that this envisaged plan is going to look into the identification of zones that could be developed for hospitality, fun, pleasure, adventure or eco-tourism activities.

Besides the gap analysis and acknowledging of strengths of each site, the proposal is also covering the scope of introduction of activities like Paragliding, Zipline, Camping, Skiing, Trekking, Mountaineering, Rafting, Canoeing for their development and promotion as alternate destinations accessible to tourists round the year.



Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir assuming charge of Director Colleges J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir on Tuesday assumed the charge of Director Colleges J&K.

Prof. Bashir shall continue to hold the charge of Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges and Principal Amar Singh College Srinagar in addition to his on duties. After assuming charge,

Prof. Bashir took a meeting with the officers and officials to assess the status of higher education sector in J&K. He remarked that the department is committed to fostering a conducive environment for learning and development, promoting innovation in teaching methodologies and enhancing the overall educational

experience for students across colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that the department will strengthen academic programs, promote research culture and ensure the holistic growth of students. Having Ph.D in Electronics, Prof. Aijaz Bashir has been a prominent academician and administrator. He is also the member of prestigious Higher Education Council of J&K and has served Higher Education department for a period spanning more than thirty years.

Prof. Ajaz has also previously headed Islamia College Srinagar for a period of four years leading the autonomous college to unprecedented heights.

During his tenure, Islamia College of Science and Commerce set new benchmark of academic excellence.

Political, social organizations condemn terrorist attack in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Various political and social organizations condemned the terrorist attack in Kathua and called for enhanced security measures, community vigilance, and decisive actions against terrorism.

The **Kashmiri Displaced People Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP)** strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the army in Kathua. They expressed deep sorrow over the loss of a JCO and four soldiers, with six others injured. Leaders called for enhanced intelligence efforts and vigilance by local communities to prevent future attacks. They offered prayers for the peace of martyred soldiers and quick recovery of the injured.

Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS) organized a protest in Jammu city against Pakistan, fueled by recent terrorist attacks across various districts. They burned an effigy symbolizing Pakistan's

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and chanted anti-Pakistan slogans. President Ashok Gupta criticized the redeployment of troops from certain areas due to the Ladakh standoff, which he claimed facilitated terrorist activities in Jammu. The protest was attended by party members, including Bantu, Prem, Kalu, Raju, Ganesh, Vikram, Rampal, Vinay, Abhishek, Raman, Sundar, and others.

Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) vehemently condemned the attack on an army vehicle in Machedi. They called for immediate measures to strengthen grassroots intelligence networks and community cooperation to prevent such incidents in the future. DSS leaders paid homage to the martyrs and prayed for the injured soldiers' speedy recovery.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&K National Conference, expressed profound sorrow over the attack in Machedi

and emphasized the need for concrete action to ensure public safety. Gupta urged stronger coordination among security agencies and criticized the current administration's handling of security issues compared to past administrations.

Movement Kalki organized a protest at Jammu Bus Stand against terrorism following the Kathua attack. They burned an effigy of Pakistan and demanded strict action against terrorism facilitators. Speakers stressed the need to eliminate terrorism at its roots and called for decisive measures from the government. The protest was led by Kalki board member Sanjeev Dubey. Core committee members Rajput Arjun Singh, Kushal Sharma, Vikram Mahajan, Ravinder Khajuria, Raj Kumar, Ashutosh Rajkumar, and several others were present.

Member Parliament Gulam Ali Khatana strongly condemned the

Kathua attack, attributing it to Pakistan's attempts to divert attention from its internal crises. He praised India's leadership and security forces for their capability in neutralizing external threats. Khatana emphasized the government's tough stance on terrorism and highlighted the effectiveness of anti-terror policies in reducing incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra condemned the terror ambush on Army Convoy in Billawar in the Kathua district and urged the Centre to take corrective measures by further strengthening the security grid in order to instill sense of security among the people.

In a statement, Sadhotra expressed grave concern over rising terror incidents in the Jammu Region, saying the barbaric and inhuman acts have no place in

a civilised society and the threat from enemies inimical to peace is not acceptable. Sadhotra said the terror incidents in the midst of Shri Amarnathji Yatra is all the more worrisome and the security agencies must step up surveillance and take adequate measures to foil the machinations of terrorists. He said the government must understand the gravity of the situation, firm up its strategy to tackle with the monster of terror and shoulder its responsibilities with seriousness for the national security in general and instilling confidence among the people in particular.

Sadhotra conveyed condolences to the bereaved families of the brave hearts and prayed for peace to their souls. At this hour of grief, the entire Jammu and Kashmir is in solidarity with those having lost their kin in the terror ambush. He prayed for speedy recovery to the soldiers injured in the attack.

SANJY: NDMA conducts midterm Yatra review

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
ANANTNAG: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) convened a crucial mid-term review meeting today to assess the state of disaster management preparedness for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2024.

Major General (retired) Ajay Kumar Verma, Senior Consultant at NDMA, chaired the meeting, which brought together key stakeholders from the District administration and various departments including Brigadier (Retired) Ravinder Gurung, Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, senior officers from CAPFs and Police, Superintending Engineers of KPDC, Executive Engineers of R&B and representatives of Indian Meteorological Department among others.

The meeting focused on ensuring comprehensive readiness to handle potential disasters along the yatra route.



Major General (retired) Ajay Kumar Verma, Senior Consultant at NDMA, chairing a meeting.

It was given that District Administration and relevant agencies have provided both manpower and equipment support to respond effectively to any hazard or disaster situation.

Besides, the meeting was told that Stations along the yatra route are well-equipped with necessary equipment for disaster response including fire tenders, extinguishers, safety railings, Public Address Systems and emergency communication system and emergency telephone numbers.

Disaster response teams including from NDRF, SDRF,

Police, CAPFs, Fire and Emergency and other personnel are in place for effective response to any situation.

Major General Ajay Kumar emphasised on the use of technology, effective coordination and quick communication to minimize the impact of disasters. Proper functioning of the JPCR, communication facilities, medical services, and air lifting capabilities were stressed.

Notably NDMA has conducted a Table Top exercise and review of disaster preparedness earlier in the context of SANJY 2024.