

03 ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign: Rally organised at Panchtarni

08 ARTO Kathua, driver injured in road accident

12 Asian Men’s Volleyball Cup from August 7-- August 14: Kuldeep Magotra to lead Indian team as Manager at Thailand

J&K generates 1.73 lakh new employment under PMEGP in last fiscal, highest in country: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the distinction of generating 1.73 lakh new employment under PMEGP in FY 2021-22, which is also the highest across all states and UTs in the country

Inaugurating the Common Facility Centre of Martand Chainstitch and Crewel Embroidery SFURTI Cluster at Ranipora, Mattan in Anantnag, the Lieutenant Governor said that during the last fiscal, the KVIC had established 21,640 manufacturing and service units under the PMEGP, way ahead of other bigger states.

The cluster has been established by the J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) with the financial assistance of Rs 4.50 crores under Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), meant for development of



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating Common Facility Centre of Martand Chainstitch & Crewel Embroidery SFURTI Cluster in Anantnag.

clusters to make the traditional industries more productive and competitive.

Under PMEGP of KVIC, 52,116 units have been installed from 2014 till last financial year, as compared to only 10,401 village units established in J&K between 2008 and 2014.

Congratulating KVIB and the artisans on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the new facility will cater to the needs of 5000 artisans with multi pronged intervention for capacity building, skill

development, design and product development and market development.

This cluster will bring about tremendous change and prosperity in the lives of many artisans who are a vital component of our society, keeping alive the invaluable elements of our rich culture and tradition, he added.

J&K is known for its exquisite crafts and craftsmanship. With the active support of the Central Government, the UT administration is extending every possible sup-

port, providing market linkages so that the age-old pristine craftsmanship is preserved in its true essence, added the Lt Governor.

Enlisting the initiatives taken by the government to make traditional handicrafts more remunerative and lucrative for the artisan community, the Lt Governor said that the concerted efforts of Khadi & Village Industries Commission and J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board to revive village industries,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three terrorists held in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Thursday arrested three uncategorised terrorists in Kupwara district and recovered incriminating material including arms and ammunition from their possession, police said.

They said preliminary investigation revealed that the trio was tasked to carry out attacks in the Handwara area of the district and cause loss of life and injuries to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Five feared dead as vehicle falls into gorge in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: Five people are feared dead as the vehicle they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Ramban district on Thursday night, officials said.

The accident took place near the Kelamohr area in the district, they said.

Five people sustained injuries in the accident, the officials said.

Details are awaited.



Self Help Group Women members preparing National flags under "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign at Kanai Tehsil Bishnah in Jammu. (Pic by Shilpa Thakur)

Terrorists kill migrant labourer, injure two others in Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A labourer from Bihar was killed and two others injured in a grenade attack by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday, police said.

Terrorists lobbed a grenade at a tent housing labourers at Gadoora village in Pulwama, a police

spokesman said. He said one labourer died in the blast while two others sustained injuries.

"The deceased outside labourer has been identified as Mohammad Muntaz, a resident of Sakwa Parsa, Bihar. The Injured have been identified as Mohammad Arif and his son Mohammad Majbool, residents of

Rampor, Bihar," the spokesman said.

He said the condition of the injured persons is stable.

The labourers were manufacturing cotton bedding, police said. Terrorists had stepped up attacks on non-locals earlier this year but there was a halt in such targeted killings for the past nearly two months.

SIA charge-sheets SIM card sellers using forged documents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: State Investigating Agency (SIA) J&K Police on Thursday filed the charge-sheet against Idress Ahmad Baba alias Idress Pir, son of Abdul Ahad, resident of Wuder Payeen Handwara and Asif Ahmad Dar, son of Mohd Jamal Dar, resident of Khaipora Rajwara Handwara, currently under judicial custody, for issuing SIM cards through uploading fake documents and using fraudulent means for carrying out illegal activities.

The charge-sheet was presented before the Court

Kupwara in case FIR No. 08/2022 under sections 420, 468, 471, 120-B, 201 IPC of P/S CIK/SIA

According to a handout, the accused are agents of franchisee Binamin communication Zachaldara Handwara. The case was registered in Police Station CIK/SIA Srinagar. The franchisee/POS was found on the basis of evidence collected, allegations were proved against the accused persons who had issued SIMs by forging the election cards of different persons without their knowledge.

AIM, NITI Aayog to establish 500 more Tinkering Labs in J&K schools

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: The Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog New Delhi, Dr Chintan Vaishnav on Thursday said that more than 500 labs would be established in Jammu and Kashmir schools in the next few years to promote innovative and creative mindset among students.

"We want to take this creative and innovative movement to all schools and provide these creative minds a platform to perform and showcase their talent," he said during his visit to Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam.

In an interactive session with Principals and Headmasters of schools of Budgam, the MD said that Atal team has created over 10k Tinkering Labs all over India and hundreds of these have been also established in J&K schools.

He said the aim is to encourage young minds in the field, and challenge students to become producers of products themselves instead of consumers.

The MD was accompanied by Deepali Upadhyay, Program Director, Atal Tinkering Labs, AIM; Prateek Deshmukh,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Drugs smuggler killed in accident while avoiding police in Udhampur; aide held with Rs 1.9 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR/JAMMU: A narcotics smuggler was killed in an accident while trying to flee from police in Udhampur district, officials said on Thursday.

His accomplice was, however, arrested and the police recovered 1.91 crore cash and 250 gm heroin, they said.

During patrolling late on Wednesday, police noticed two people -- who were later identified as Mukhtiar Ahmed, son of Khalil ur Rehman of Kupwara and his accomplice Jagtar Singh, son of Jarnail Singh, hailing from Tarn Taran in Punjab -- moving in a suspicious manner near Gole Mela petrol station in Udhampur; Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh said.

On seeing the police, the duo tried to flee. In the process, Ahmed was hit by



Accused in police custody along with seized cash and drugs at Udhampur.

an unknown vehicle. He was rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital, but he died during treatment, the ADGP said.

"After thorough search of the vehicle, approximately 250 gm heroin was found along with huge cash amounting to Rs 1, 91, 34, 030 of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Services to Govt employees to become hassle free, GAD announces Administrative Management System

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Under the Prime Minister's flagship programme 'Digital India', the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past have implemented various IT-enabled solutions to create a vibrant digital ecosystem for delivering essential services for common people and employees.

In the last one year, the General Administration Department (GAD) has successfully implemented online services namely e-Office, online Property

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

180 IAS, 200 IPS officers directly appointed every year: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: 180 IAS and 200 IPS officers are directly appointed every year through the Civil Service Examination.

Sharing this information in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Minister Incharge Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), informed that the annual intake of IAS officers through Civil Service Exam (CSE) was increased to 180

in 2012. Similarly, intake of IPS officers through CSE



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

was increased to 200 from CSE-2020.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Dr

Jitendra said, optimal intake of Directly Recruited (DR) IAS officers increased on the basis of the recommendations of Baswan Committee.

The Committee had also recommended that any number above 180 would compromise quality; exceed the LBSNAA's capacity and; lead to distortion in the career pyramid of IAS officers, particularly for senior posts in the Government of India.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Srinagar reports more corruption cases in J&K in 2022

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Srinagar has reported more corruption cases compared to other districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the past seven months, officials said.

Every fourth case of graft or misuse of official position was reported from the city during this period, they said.

According to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), a total of 94 graft cases were registered from January 1, 2022, till date.

Of these, 24 cases were registered in Srinagar district alone. The ACB police station in Srinagar, which also covers graft cases in

Ganderbal and Budgam districts, had a total of 32 cases in the corresponding period.

Baramulla police station of the ACB, which also covers Bandipora and Kupwara districts, reported 23 cases while the Anantnag police station covering four south Kashmir districts had 13 cases, as per the ACB data.

In the Jammu province, the data showed that corruption is much less with only 19 cases registered in 10 districts.

Jammu police station of the ACB reported 11 cases in the first seven months while Doda police station

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NHAI extended undue benefit to concessionaires through post-tender amendments: CAG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Apex auditor CAG has pulled up the state-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for extending "undue benefit to concessionaires by resorting to post-tender amendments".

The Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG) also said the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) failed to adhere to guidelines of the Cabinet Secretariat for circulation and approval of Cabinet notes.

NHAI comes under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

"NHAI extended undue benefit to concessionaires by resorting to post-tender amendments," the CAG said in a report tabled in

Parliament.

"The premium payable by the concessionaire was laid down in a legal contract drawn up after an open bidding process, in which premium offered was the one and only parameter in deciding upon the financial bids (request for proposal)," the CAG said in the report.

National Highways are developed under different modes of execution including Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) or toll, BOT (Annuity), and Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC).

In BOT (toll) projects, prospective bidders either quote Viability Gap Funding (VGF) payable to concessionaires or negative VGF/premium payable to NHAI by concessionaires.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

AUGUST 5: The day Modi-Shah outsmarted Kashmir mainstream



They had not thought in their wildest of dreams what happened this day three years ago. And when it happened, they-the three former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir--found themselves locked up in the confines of their homes. Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were placed under house arrest after Home Minister Amit Shah announced on August 5,2019 in Lok Sabha the Centre's decision to repeal Article 370 and Article 35-A of the Constitution of India besides bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories- Jammu and Kashmir, with legislature and Ladakh, without legislature. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and former J&K Chief Minister had described the announcement like lightning strike.

Ghulam Nabi Azad was not far from the truth. The constitutional amendments actually came as a lightening for the Kashmir mainstream-comprising two dynastic political

families, which had been ruling Jammu and Kashmir in turns after the infamous Indira-Sheikh Accord of 1975.

Here it is not to discuss the fallout of Article 370 and Article 35A. What repeal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status actually means in terms of its political and constitutional terms is not to be discussed either. Much has been spoken, debated and written during the past three years on these constitutional amendments and political developments. The point to be brought home here is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah outsmarted the pampered, conceit and bullying mainstream leaders of Kashmir, who ruled Jammu and Kashmir by exploiting their brethren in the Valley, discriminating the two important regions of Jammu and Ladakh and more importantly blackmailing and bullying New Delhi for nearly 45 years.

Soon after her resignation as Chief Minister on June 19, 2018, Mehbooba Mufti had taken high moral grandstanding by saying, "We defended Article 370 and Article 35A", least imagining and anticipating that her ouster was actually the beginning of the real-

ization of the BJP's dream of having 'Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan'. Those in the Indian opposition criticizing the BJP for entering into alliance with the PDP for lust of power also erred in their analysis as the saffron party used the Muftis party as ladder to achieving their manifesto of over seven decades. The BJP provoked their Chief Minister in coalition so much that Mehbooba Mufti warned on July 29, 2017, despite holding a constitutional position, that if Article 370 or Article 35A were trampled with, there will be nobody in the 'state' to hold the Indian Tricolour. She had apparently her last laugh over the BJP 'kneeling' down over the issue of Article 35A when Attorney General K K Venugopal informed a bench of Supreme Court Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar on October 31, 2017 that former Intelligence Bureau Director Dineshwar Sharma had been entrusted with the task to hold talks in his capacity as the Centre's Special Representative in the State and pleaded that the case with regard to repeal of this law be adjourned for six months. Senior Advocate

Rakesh Dwivedi, then appearing for Jammu and Kashmir, had supported the stand of the Centre, making the PDP to fix muscles over its victory. Nobody could decipher the code that this move was just to gain the time. Times have proven how patiently the Modi led NDA government proceeded towards realizing its dream political agenda on Kashmir.

The so-called mainstream parties (which can never be mainstreamed because of their duplicity and political inconsistency for lust of power) could not see the writing on the wall when the Jammu and Kashmir government issued an advisory on August 2, 2019, asking tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to curtail their stay in the Valley with immediate effect citing intelligence reports of terror threats. Though nervous and perplexed but confident on the basis of their time tested bullying tactics, the mainstream leaders put Governor Satya Pal Malik on notice to clear the air about what was going on. Even former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah rushed to the Raj Bhavan in the evening only to be assured by the Governor that there was no forward movement over the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd
Human Resources
Corporate Headquarters
M.A. Road, Srinagar
Phone No's-0194-2713121-24

Apply For - Chief Digital and Data Officer (On Contract)

- In continuation to Notification No: HRD/Rectt/2022-1247 Dated: 19.07.2022 whereby applications for the position of Chief Digital and Data Officer (On Contract) in J&K Bank were sought from eligible candidates, the last date for submission of application stands extended till 15.08.2022.
- The post of CDDO shall be equivalent to the position of Deputy General Manager of the Bank.
- The selected candidate will have a choice to be stationed at Srinagar/Jammu.

Sd/-
General Manager-HR

No.: JKB/Rectt/2022-1288
DIP/J-2211-P/22

Dated:-02.08.2022