

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Govt's new initiatives...

Photography competition. He also felicitated the winners of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition.

In his address, the Lt Governor appreciated the endeavour of Department of Information & Public Relations for hosting a series of events for filmmakers, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts in the Conclave.

He said the J&K Film Policy 2024 unveiled today will attract, support and facilitate regional, national and international film production in the UT.

"The film-friendly and pragmatic J&K Film Policy will ensure that heaven on earth is truly a heaven for filmmakers. We will provide high-impact infrastructure, support in sourcing locations and a large pool of professionals, financial incentives to make the filming more attractive in J&K," the Lt Governor said.

He highlighted that the J&K Film Policy also provides added incentives for films in local languages, thereby promoting regional cinema of J&K. It encourages filmmakers to hire local talent which will lead to employment generation and jobs for the local population of J&K, he added.

The Lt Governor said the new initiative like J&K Film Screening Series is part of systemic and effective reforms to tap into a vibrant and youthful moviemaking culture and to provide space for emerging creators and film enthusiasts to exchange ideas on film aesthetics and strengthen Cine-club culture.

"J&K and Cinema is a symbol of oneness and cannot be seen separately. They are a perfect match. For great filmmakers like Raj Kapoor and Yash Chopra, J&K was not only a shooting destination but also a cultural organism. In the past five years, there has been an effort to reconnect J&K with the culture of Cinema and theatre. Our new initiatives highlight this resurgence," the Lt Governor said.

Madhur Bhandarkar, Bollywood film-maker, lauded the Lt Governor led UT Administration for progressive Film policy and initiatives to create a vibrant film ecosystem in J&K.

'J&K Film Conclave' offers a platform for collaboration, idea exchange, and show-casing talent. The initiative aspires to build a sustainable and thriving film ecosystem in Jammu Kashmir:

The conclave is hosting a series of workshops on filmmaking, besides insightful panel discussions with film personalities like Rahhat Kazmi, Paragg Mehta, and Mir Sarwar. It also features Award-winning films from the Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition, premiere screening of "Country of Blind" and cultural performances by local artists.

Single Window portal launched today will simplify the process of applying for shooting permissions and subsidies. Filmmakers can now apply online for everything from shooting permits to subsidy, making the entire procedure straightforward and user-friendly.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Rehana Batul, Secretary, Information; Jatin Kishore, Director Information, senior officials, winners and participants of the Short Film-Making Competition, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

## Over 1,200 pilgrims...

camp in Jammu since the commencement of the 52-day-long yatra from the twin base camps of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on June 29.

This year's yatra has already crossed the 4.5 lakh-mark of last year, with over 4.7 lakh pilgrims so far paying obeisance at the naturally-formed ice lingam at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine, they said.

Despite rains, the 35th batch of 1,295 pilgrims, including 182 women, 42 sadhus and four sadhvis, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the valley at 3.30 am, the officials said.

While 946 pilgrims are heading for the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route, 349 have opted for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal trek, the officials said.

They said around 5,000 pilgrims are still visiting the cave shrine on a daily basis to offer their prayers. The pilgrimage will enter its final phase on August 14 when the 'Charri Mubarak', the holy mace of Lord Shiva will join the yatra in Pahalgam. The yatra commenced on June 29 and is scheduled to conclude on August 19.

## Major bridges in...

"The process for fencing the sides of various bridges in Srinagar city has been started to save precious human lives," Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat said.

Bhat said detailed a project report regarding fencing has been formulated and Rs 19 lakh each has been earmarked for fencing the sides of Nawa Kadal and Fateh Kadal bridges.

Similarly, a detailed project report (DPR) of Rs 9 lakh has been prepared for Gow Kadal bridge and Rs 29 lakh for Safa Kadal bridge, he added.

Bhat said fencing the sides of Noor Jahan Bridge over river Jhelum at Qamarwari will be completed at a cost of Rs 11 lakh to avoid any further mishap or any suicide incident.

## We support development...

accelerated development in both countries. This is opening up many new areas of mutual cooperation," Modi said.

"And therefore, to further strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, today we have adopted a new plan of action," he said.

Modi said new steps have been taken for cooperation in the field of defence and security.

The two prime ministers also remotely inaugurated an Army Software Park at Telecommunications University Nha Trang. It has been built with New Delhi's development assistance.

"The agreed USD 300 million credit line will strengthen Vietnam's maritime security," Modi said.

"We agree that, to realise the mutual trade potential, the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement should be concluded as early as possible," he said.

Vietnam is a key member of 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

"We have decided to focus on the areas of green economy and new emerging technologies. Each other's capabilities in energy and port development will be harnessed for mutual benefit," Modi said.

The prime minister also invited people from Vietnam to the Buddhist circuit in India. "And we want the youth of Vietnam to also take advantage of Nalanda University,"

In his remarks, Modi said India-Vietnam relations have both "expanded and deepened" over the past decade.

"In the last 10 years, we have transformed our relations into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Our bilateral trade has increased by more than 85 percent," he said.

"Mutual cooperation has expanded in energy, technology, and development partnership. Mutual cooperation in defence and security areas has gained new momentum," he said.

"Over the past decade, connectivity has increased. And today we have more than 50 direct flights between us. Along with this, tourism is continuously increasing, and people have also been given the facility of e-visa," Modi said.

## CS reviews developmental...

are reliable in the long run.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary stressed on augmenting their enforcement activities in association with the respective Municipal Corporations.

He also took review of the Master Plans of both the cities and those for other ULBs of the UT. He asked for designation spaces for each activity that are both practical and enforceable on ground. He observed that these Master Plans should be made by utilizing modern technology and taking into consideration the future needs of public.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur detailed out the specific tasks that had been undertaken by the Department regarding updation of master plans for cities and towns of the UT.

She made out that the Master plans had been revised keeping in view of the features and amenities available in different parts of the city besides the infrastructure that is already available there. She revealed that it has features like land pooling, Transit Orient Development (TOD), Transferable Development Rights besides a well thought land use program as part of it.

Regarding the development of infrastructure projects it was revealed that the construction of different housing and commercial projects have been completed or are under progress through these development authorities in their respective jurisdictions.

It was added that in Jammu work is going on the housing colonies at Bärpur, Udhevwala phase I & II, Gole Gujaral and Kot Bhalwal besides development of flats at Lower Roop Nagar under the name of JDA Heights.

In Srinagar it was given out that the 2nd phase of Shehjar Apartments at Bemina is contemplated by the Department besides a satellite township at Rakh-i-Gund Aksha here.

The meeting also took appraisal of the status of works being executed at Transport

Nagar, Narwal and Parimpora, Srinagar: Pertinent to mention here that both these projects are vital for logistics improvement in the respective divisions of the UT.

## DIPR organizes J&K...

simplify processes and enhance opportunities for the growth of cinema in Jammu and Kashmir:

With the launch of the single-window system, the aim of the department is to simplify the process of permissions and subsidies, so that the filmmakers can focus on their creative endeavours.

Renowned film director Madhur Bhandarkar, director and writer Rahhat Kazmi, casting director-producer Paragg Mehta and Actor Mir Sarwar shared their invaluable perspectives and experiences with the audience.

Workshops on filmmaking were also organised during the conclave with discussions ranging from the global appeal of local narratives to practical insights for aspiring actors and filmmakers.

Highlighting the artistic diversity of the region, the conclave featured screenings of impactful short films such as "Melting Stones," "I am Valmiki," and "Unveiling Strength: The Women Athletes of Kashmir." Additionally, audiences were treated to the premiere screening of "Country of Blind," an internationally acclaimed film by director Rahhat Kazmi, based on H.G. Wells' classic story "The Country of the Blind." This marked its first-ever screening in India, further underscoring the conclave's commitment to showcasing cutting-edge cinema.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Vivek Puri; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam; Deputy Director Information (AV/PR), Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (C), Sunil Kumar; Deputy Director Information Kashmir (PR), Ahsan-ul-Haq Chishtii, senior officers and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

## ACB arrests Patwari...

investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught Patwari Mohammad Ayoub Hajam, son of Mohammad Ramzan, resident of Vessu, District Anantnag red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5000 from the complainant. He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Further investigation of the instant case is going on.

## BSF foils infiltration...

The officials said the body of the intruder was recovered near the border fence but nothing objectionable was recovered from his person.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, they said, adding the body is being handed over to police for postmortem and other legal formalities.

## Man found dead...

team retrieved the body of a 60-year-old man from the swollen Tawi river near Gujjar Nagar, they said.

The man's identity and the cause of death were not immediately known.

Two homes collapsed and a portion of a road was washed away in the Bhatindi locality but there was no casualty, the officials said.

The Met office said Jammu district recorded 112 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ended at 5:30 pm while Reasi district recorded 74.5 mm.

Katra town, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Viasno Devi shrine, recorded 72.9 mm of rainfall during the same period, the weather office said.

The heavy rain left many roads waterlogged while residents in parts of Gandhi Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Chatta and Akhnoor faced hardships after water from flooded nullahs entered their homes and shops.

The officials said traffic on the 270-kilometre Jammu-Srinagar national highway was halted for several hours owing to a mudslide at Hingini and intermittent shooting stones from the hillocks at Mehad, Panthiyal and Kishtwari Pather due to heavy rain all along the arterial road.

Traffic on the highway was restored around noon after road clearance agencies removed the debris, they said.

Jammu city recorded a maximum of 29 degrees Celsius, more than four notches below normal. The minimum temperature was recorded at 24.1 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, a Met spokesperson said.

The weather office has predicted wet weather for the Jammu division till August 10 with intermittent to moderate rainfall till August 5, followed by widespread rain for the following two days and scattered rainfall for another three days, the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, the authorities advised people to stay away from water bodies in all 10 districts of the Jammu division and avoid slide-prone areas as a precautionary measure.

## States empowered to...

of sub-classification has to be justified by "quantifiable and demonstrable data by the states, which cannot act on its whims".

The bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Mishra, was hearing 23 petitions, including the lead one filed by the Punjab government challenging the 2010 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The CJJ wrote for himself and Justice Misra. Four judges wrote concurring judgements while Justice Trivedi dissented.

The top court had reserved the verdict on February 8 on pleas seeking review of the E V Chinnaiah judgement, which in 2004 had ruled that all SC communities which suffered ostracisation, discrimination and humiliation for centuries represented a homogeneous class incapable of being sub-categorised.

The verdict came on references to revisit the five-judge constitution bench judgement of 2004 in the case of EV Chinnaiah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh in which it was held that SCs and STs are homogenous groups and hence, states cannot further sub-classify them to grant quota inside quota for more deprived and weaker castes in these groups.

## Backwardness within SCs...

provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Sub-article 16(4) of the Constitution states that nothing shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens, which in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services.

"The beneficiary class in Article 15(4) must be a socially and educationally backward class. 'Socially and educationally backward' are not mutually exclusive concepts. The phrase constitutes a constitutional recognition of the sociological reality that educational backwardness is caused by the social backwardness of the class," he said.

"The beneficiary class in Article 16(4), similar to the class under Article 15(4), must predominantly be socially backward. The purpose of both the provisions is to ensure substantive equality of opportunity to the socially backward communities..." he said.

The adequacy of representation must be determined based on the standard of effective representation and not numerical representation, he said.

The apex court analysed the judgements and other details to hold that SCs are a "heterogenous class" capable of being sub-classified.

"The Constitution does not provide a definition of the Scheduled Castes. Article 366(24) states that castes/groups notified under Article 341 shall be Scheduled Castes. However, neither Article 341 nor Article 366(24) prescribes the criteria for their identification..." he said.

The heterogeneity is also evident from the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 where certain castes are notified as SCs in specific localities only.

"For example, in Madhya Pradesh, of the twenty-five castes, only nine are Scheduled Castes throughout the State. The criteria used to identify the Scheduled Castes itself indicates that the endeavor was not to include all castes that suffered from identical forms of untouchability. Thus, the Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous class," Justice Chandrachud said.

Supreme Court judge Justice Pankaj Mithal said reservation policy requires a fresh relook and new methods are needed for the uplift of people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Justice Mithal said notwithstanding the success or failure of the reservation policy, one thing is for sure that it has burdened the judiciary at all levels, especially the High Courts and the Supreme Court with enormous litigation.

"The policy of reservation as enshrined under the Constitution and by its various amendments requires a fresh re-look and involvement of other methods for helping and uplifting the depressed class or the downtrodden or the persons belonging to SC/ST/OBC communities. "So long no new method is evolved or adopted, the system of reservation as prevailing may continue to occupy the field with power to permit sub-classification of a class particularly Scheduled Caste as I would not be suggesting dismantling of an existing building without erecting a new one in its place which may prove to be more useful," Justice Mithal wrote in a separate 51-page judgement.

Justice Mithal said in the constitutional regime, there is no caste system and the country has moved into a casteless society except for the limited purposes of affording reservation to the depressed class of persons, downtrodden or belonging to SC/ST/OBC.

# GDC Nowshera starts series of activities for Independence Day celebrations

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: GDC Nowshera has organised a series of activities on the eve of Independence Day from 1st August 2024 to 15th August 2024 under the supervision of worthy Principal Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad. The first day begins with the plantation drive, under the theme, 'Ek Ped, Maa Ke Naam' blending the celebration of national pride with a commitment to environmental sustainability organised by NSS PO Dr. Sunil Dutt Sharma and HOD Sociology, Dr. Ruhi Gupta.

This event aimed to promote ecological awareness, increase green cover on campus, and instill a sense of responsibility towards nature among the college community. The plantation



Faculty along with students during the event.

drive has educated our NSS volunteers and participants about the importance of trees and environmental stewardship and it strengthens community bonds through collective action towards greener campus. More than 50 students, faculty members of the college have participated in the event with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The plantation drive not only commemorated a significant national event but also highlighted the importance of environmental conservation. The enthusiastic participation and collaborative spirit of the college community underscored the value of such initiatives in fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

# ABGRF initiates plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign



Foundation members during plantation drive.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Akhil Bhartiya Gau Shala Research Foundation (ABGRF) on Thursday launched its 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Abhiyan, initiating a plantation drive from Zorawar Singh Chowk to Shiva Ji Chowk, Jammu.

The event was attended by Advocate P.S. Chandel, Convener of the Foundation,

Dr. Vikas Bhardwaj, State President, and Shyam Anand.

Advocate Chandel highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and the Foundation's dedication to increasing greenery and ecological balance.

Dr. Bhardwaj advocated for the establishment of cattle pounds across Jammu and Kashmir, suggesting

each pound cover 200 kanals to aid stray and abandoned cattle.

He underscored the need for community involvement in these efforts.

The drive saw active participation from volunteers and community members, including notable figures such as Dr. Sanjay Koushal, Ranjan Gupta, Gurmeet Singh Tiger, Dr. Ankur Dental, Narinder Gupta, Nitin Sharma, Subash Gupta, and Vishmber Sharma.

The event ended with a commitment from all attendees to support environmental conservation and engage in future initiatives.

The Foundation expressed appreciation for the support and encouraged more people to join their mission for a greener, healthier environment.

## Cyber Cell recovered defrauded amount of Rs 85,000

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cyber cell DPO Jammu, a dedicated unit to deal with cases of online frauds and cyber crime who has been relentlessly working day in and day out for ensuring the safety and security of masses in general has once again successfully recovered hard earned money of the complainant.

The complainant received recharge message and unknown caller asked him the he recharged mistakenly. The complainant asked him that he will pay back him but the fraudster asked complainant to share screenshot of recharge message. The complainant shared screenshot of recharge message and lost an amount of Rs 85,000.

The cyber cell DPO Jammu took no time to start the investigations and acted swiftly while exhibiting the ultimate professional excellence through its dedicated skilled human resource which was put to task and in no time the lost amount of Rs 85,000/-was recovered.

District Police Jammu, equipped with advanced technology and expert human resource remains at the forefront in the fight against cybercriminals.

## Anti-encroachment drive conducted

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURANKOTE: Municipal Committee today conducted an anti-encroachment drive at Surankote main market in Poonch district. Official sources said that footpaths have been encroached by the carts and wheel carts due to which people are compelled to walk on the road, resulting traffic jam in main market, Surankote.

Keeping in view this problem, Municipal Committee team today conducted inspection and anti-encroachment drive. Official sources said that some shopkeepers and vendors had encroached the footpaths by placing their goods outside of the shop due to which the pedestrians were facing problem in commuting through the main market. The team removed the encroached items displayed outside and also imposed a heavy fine on the erring shopkeepers.

Inspector Amarpal and EO Mohd Yaqoob told the reporters that they have warned the shopkeepers to remain confined inside the limits of their own shop failing which heavy fine and legal action as per law will be taken again defaulters.



## Ashwarya wins gold medal in KV Regional Judo Championship



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ashwarya Bhat, daughter of Ashok Bhat and a student at KV Bantalab, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning the gold medal in the KV Regional Judo Championship held at KV Miran Sahib from July 24 to 25, 2024.

Her success is a testament to her dedication and

skill in judo, honed under the expert supervision of NIS Judo Coach Rameshwar Singh Jamwal. Vikas Gupta, the Joint Secretary of the Judo Federation of India, has praised both Ashwarya and her coaches for their hard work and commitment. He congratulated Ashwarya on this outstanding accomplishment.

## Samba Admn launches Swachhta Pakhwada

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: As part of the series of events under "Swachhta Pakhwada," a Swachhta pledge was taken by district officers, officials, students, NSS Volunteers, and staff members at the Conference Hall Samba.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, addressed the participants, emphasizing that the aim of Swachhta Pakhwada is to inculcate civic sense and a sense of belonging among the citizens. He also directed the officers to visit the families of martyrs during the plantation drive, "Ek Ped Maa K Naam, Ek Ped Shahidoon K Naam." Following the pledge-taking ceremony, a cleanliness drive was organized in and around all the blocks of Government offices. Simultaneously, the pledge was taken in all offices at the tehsil and block levels. This campaign shall continue till 15th of August.

The event saw the participation of all district officers, sectoral officers, students, and NGOs.