

# LG flags off first lot of 95 newly procured buses of JKRTC

## Corporation's fleet to undergo major expansion with addition of over 500 new vehicles

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday flagged off the first lot of 95 newly procured Buses of J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and dedicated them to the service of people of J&K.

The newly procured buses are part of the revival plan which involves a major expansion of JKRTC's fleet with the addition of more than 500 new vehicles in a gradual manner.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor said that by augmenting the fleet of busses, JKRTC will be in a position to expand its operational network, besides providing safe, secure, hassle-free, and economical transport services to the general public of the UT.

He reiterated J&K Government's commitment to provide quality transport facilities to the public in the UT, and said that the unprecedented augmentation of public transport system will boost revenue generation as more and more viable and lucrative routes will be included in the operational network of corporation.

"Connectivity brings people closer and it is one of the key drivers of growth and prosperity," Lt Governor said. He further said that the new



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha flagging off the first lot of newly procured Buses of JKRTC.

ties to the public in the UT, and said that the unprecedented augmentation of public transport system will boost revenue generation as more and more viable and lucrative routes will be included in the operational network of corporation.

"Connectivity brings people closer and it is one of the key drivers of growth and prosperity," Lt Governor said. He further said that the new

addition will address the long pending demand of the general public of remote areas as the preference for operation of new buses among other routes will be given to the remote areas of UT of Jammu and Kashmir; besides major Interstate routes. The Govt has made significant advances towards improving the standards of Mass Public Transportation by providing cost-effective and convenient public transport to cater to the needs of the people, observed the Lt Governor.

Dedicated efforts are being made to reach out to the unconnected habitations with transport connectivity, especially in rural and remote areas so that the population living in these areas can be provided with better means of transportation, added the Lt Governor.

Pertinently, JKRTC is the only Transport Corporation in the Country having both types of Transport vehicles viz Goods as well as Passenger vehicles. It also ensures timely transportation of food grains and other essential commodities to every nook and corner of the UT of J&K, besides playing vital role during exigencies like natural calamities including earthquakes and floods. As part of the revival plan of JKRTC, a total of 503 vehicles including

277 Trucks, 185 Buses and 41 AC Buses will be added to the fleet of JKRTC in a phased manner.

By adding 277 Trucks to the fleet of JKRTC, the general public will be benefitted by prompt delivery of essential commodities including food grains particularly the people living far-flung and inaccessible areas. The Lt Governor felicitated Ms Navleen Kour for designing the graphics for newly procured vehicles. Her design was selected through crowd sourcing by JKRTC.

Hirdesh Kumar, Administrative Secretary Transport Department; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; and Angrez Singh Rana, MD JKRTC were present on the occasion.

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## Smriti Irani for enhancing deployment of women personnel at important places in J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Minister of Women and Child Development of India, Smriti Irani, who was on two-day visit to the UT as part of the Union Governments special outreach initiative, on Wednesday interacted with the senior JK Police officers and lady officers at GOs Mess, Hunhama, Budgam.

The DGP J&K Dilbag Singh introduced the officers to the minister after which interaction took place.

The interaction meeting was attended by DGP, J&K, Dilbag Singh, Principal Secretary to LG J&K Niteshwar Kumar; ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ, M.K Sinha, ADGP (Cord) PHQ, Danesh Rana, IGP (CIV) PHQ, Alok Kumar, DIG Central Kashmir; Amit Kumar; DC, Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, SSP Srinagar; SSP Budgam, AISG of Police Headquarters, lady gazetted officers and other senior officers.

While interacting with the officers, Irani appreciated and hailed the role of Jammu and Kashmir Police in maintaining peace and rendering their services despite challenging circumstances. She hailed the JKP's efforts during the COVID-19 in implementing the government directives and extending the helping hand to the people in need. She asked the officers to increase the visibility of women deployment at important places taking into account the equality and empowerment of the women in the force. DGP J&K expressed his gratitude to the minister for taking time to have interaction with the JK Police officers. He briefed the minister about the welfare measures and schemes functional in the department for the women and children of police personnel including the



Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Women & Child Development interacting with JKP officers.

circumstances. She hailed the JKP's efforts during the COVID-19 in implementing the government directives and extending the helping hand to the people in need. She asked the officers to increase the visibility of women deployment at important places taking into account the equality and empowerment of the women in the force. DGP J&K expressed his gratitude to the minister for taking time to have interaction with the JK Police officers. He briefed the minister about the welfare measures and schemes functional in the department for the women and children of police personnel including the

martyrs. He also briefed her about the action taken in crimes against women, drug abuse and human trafficking. The DGP also apprised the visiting minister regarding the measures taken to minimize the crime against women and children. The DGP informed the Minister that Women Police Stations and Women Police Cells have been opened in all the important cities of the J&K, to facilitate the complainants of any kind of harassment or mal-treatment and early action on them. The DGP also gave a detailed overview regarding the security scenario of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Sidhu bulldozing Punjab cabinet, Rawat building bridges with Pakistan: Chugh



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday questioned if the new Punjab chief minister Charanjit Channi was being "bulldozed" by Punjab PCC president Navjot Sidhu.

In a statement here Chugh said the way Sidhu has been overbearingly guiding and accompanying the chief minister and the two deputy chief ministers was a clear indication of the AICC that Sidhu would be calling shots in Punjab and the rest of the cabinet would play second fiddle to him.

Chugh said he was surprised at the manner the

chief minister and the two deputy chief ministers were being made to play a subservient role under his overbearing presence.

Chugh asked AICC president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi if they had to make the chief minister and his deputies tools in the hands of Sidhu then why did the AICC high command not appoint Sidhu as a chief minister.

"The Congress has heaped an insult of the people of Punjab by making this kind of an arrangement for the government to run", he said. Chugh also lambasted Harish Rawat, the Congress observer for Punjab, for saying that Pakistan Army chief Gen Bajwa was his "Punjabi Bhai".

"If this is the kind of anti-national sentiment the Congress is going to spread in Punjab the BJP would oppose it tooth and nail and expose the anti-national designs of the Congress in Punjab", Chugh added.

## IIMC Jammu to start Hindi journalism course soon

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Northern Regional campus of Indian Institute of Mass Communication organised a seminar on the future of language press as part of the ongoing Hindi Fortnight on its campus, here on Wednesday.

Prominent Hindi writer and poet Dr Agnishekhar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, the chief guest credited Hindi journalism for giving fuel to the freedom struggle of India. He said that the fire started by India's first Hindi newspaper Udant Martand gave soul and purpose to our struggle against foreign rule. Calling language as prime carrier of any culture, Dr Agnishekhar said, "In the age of digital revolution, we must make our presence felt by expressing our ideas and emotions in Hindi and other local languages."

Veteran journalist and president of Press Club Jammu, Ashwani Kumar, shared his experience on the dawn of Hindi journalism in Jammu & Kashmir. He particularly lauded young women journalists from Kashmir for showing exceptional talent and acumen in Hindi journalism.

IIMC Jammu Regional Director, Prof Rakesh Kumar Goswami said this was the first offline event of the institute since the Covid pandemic. He said that the IIMC, which is country's top mass communication institute, has taken the lead in starting language journalism programmes across the country. "IIMC is conducting journalism courses in Urdu, Malayalam and Marathi at its Delhi, Kottayam and Amravati centres, respectively," he said, adding that

the Jammu centre would soon start the Hindi journalism course. At present, the centre runs an English journalism programme. The Regional Director hoped that with the advent of new found interest in the regional languages, more journalists would start writing in Dogri, Gojri, Kashmiri and other local languages of Jammu & Kashmir.

Later, the chief guest and the guest of honour gave away certificates and cash awards to the winners of a dictation competition held on Hindi Diwas (September 14).

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Assistant Professor Sanjeet Khajuria, while the vote of thanks was presented by Assistant Professor Dr Anubhav Mathur. Academic-cum-teaching Associate Ravia Gupta gave a poetic presentation on the event.

## Congress urges LG to declare Sept 23 as Holiday

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Paying glowing tributes to Maharaja Singh, erstwhile King of Jammu and Kashmir, Congress leader and Member Media Committee of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), Kapil Singh on Wednesday demanded a holiday on September 23rd the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh.

He said that the BJP Government at the Centre and UT Administration J&K had always been vocal about the causes of Jammu but when it comes to declaring September 23rd as a holiday they maintain calm and silence on the subject.

Kapil Singh questioned and said that before the regime of BJP, they were sloganeering about holiday on this day and now who stops the BJP from declaring September 23rd as a holiday especially as this day is connected with sentiments of millions of people, Maharaja being a visionary statesman, philanthropist and a reformist was most popular among his subjects and people of all sections even today. The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) during previous elections used the name of Maharaja Hari Singh to garner vote and support from Jammuites, when it comes to declaring holiday on his birthday the party takes different stand by met even adhering to the populist voice of people.

He further said that, Maharaja Hari Singh during his rule had done lot of works including the construction of roads, bridges, temples, hospitals, libraries, schools, colleges and many infrastructures.

He opened all public schools, colleges, wells and temples for all sections of the society. Maharaja was also a social reformer; he stopped the rampant practice of child marriage and actively promoted widow remarriage. He made trafficking and organised prostitution illegal.

Maharaja was also successful in rooting out the practice of sati, even encourage and empowered farmers. The BJP by not declaring this day as Holiday is doing injustice playing with sentiments of people of J&K, Kapil said. He demanded and urged LG to declare the September 23rd the holiday.

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■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Under the 'Seva Hi Samarpan' campaign started on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday, former Minister, Priya Sethi on Wednesday launched a tree plantation drive at Ward No 53, Trikuta Nagar in Jammu City.

On the occasion, Corporators Jyoti Devi, Neeraj Puri (Mandal President), Pawan Singh, Ajay Gupta, Rahul and Gurmeet Randhawa (Co incharge Beti Bacho Beti Pado), Rekha Sharma and Rajni Rohmetra, Saroj Manhas, Sarojani Sharmajee; Dr Mitali Gupta, Consultant Dietitian, party workers and other residents were also present.

The former Minister said that this plantation drive has been coordinated under PM Modi's Beti Bachao Beti



Former Minister, Priya Sethi launching tree plantation drive.

Padao campaign as a part of ongoing 'Seva Hi Samarpan' Abhiyan.

In this connection, Dr Mitali Gupta, a daughter of the soil, has come forward and adopted a park in the aforesaid Ward and vowed to maintain it for the welfare of the society, Priya Sethi said,

extending helping hand in making this Temple City more beautiful.

The former minister said that this year PM Modi has completed 20 years of public service and through this he is leading the country towards a path of growth, development and prosperity.

She said that the life and works of Modi has been surprisingly inspirational to everybody whether political or non-political.

Modi has set up an unparalleled benchmark in public working and shown to the people the importance of complete dedication to our Nation and society, she said, adding that the purpose of today's programme is to highlight how the political working can be carried out with dedicated and selfless service to the Nation and the society.

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Priya Sethi said that the mission of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to usher in an era of peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and for this BJP is taking every possible step.

She asserted that the BJP had replaced the hopelessness in the Union Territory with holistic development and assured that the spree of development will continue in the Union Territory with same speed as it was in the past.

Present on the occasion was Arun Sharma National Secretary Bharat Vikas Parshad, Dr Manju, Law Department Jammu, Prof Vijaya Luxmi ex Principal Parade College, Dr. Chander Mohan Kohli Botanist and Ex Principal Degree College Bani, Raman Gupta MD Pans and Pots, Meenu Chawala, Munish Chawala State Home lead (fiber), Anil Arora, Nidhi Arora and Joginder Arora.

## HC quashes FIR against Journo

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court today quashed FIR against Journalist Sushil Pandit who tweeted false information about a terrorist attack on CRPF and killing of five personnel at Pampore.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal while quashing FIR after hearing Adv Ankur Sharma for the petitioner observed that FIR impugned, is nothing but an abuse of process of law and the case of the petitioner: During the course of hearing Adv Ankur Sharma submitted on 21.05.2018, at about 10 AM, a seminar was hosted by Seema Mustafa on the issue of Kashmir in India International Center, New Delhi. The speakers included Wajahat Habibullah (Retired Bureaucrat), Siddiq Wahid (Ex Vice chancellor), Mohd Yusuf Tarigami (ex-MLA), Kapil Kak (Retired Air Vice Marshal), Ganhaur Geelani (Journalist) and several other politicians and activists from Jammu and Kashmir. During the course of this seminar; in the afternoon, one speaker, Tauseef Raina, while addressing the seminar, paused for a moment to look at his mobile phone and then said 'As I am speaking, 5 CRPF Jawans have been killed in Pampore' and thereafter resumed his address. The petitioner tweeted from his twitter handle regarding killing of 5 CRPF Jawans. It was stated that after a couple of hours, a friend of the petitioner from Jammu and Kashmir, called him on his mobile phone and informed him that the tweet posted by him was, in fact merely a rumour and advised the petitioner to delete the same and on coming to know that it was just a rumour, the petitioner deleted his tweet at about 2.30 PM. It was submitted that the petitioner was not aware that his accidental tweet was probably saved by some persons who would later on use it for their political end to harass petitioner. It was also

stated that after sometime while the petitioner was checking his twitter, he was surprised to see that the ex-Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir who used the tweet of petitioner as prop on his own tweet, tweeted a fresh tweet. It was further stated that the said ex-Chief Minister gave the intentional communal meaning to the tweet of petitioner and if tweet of the petitioner is taken on its face value to be true, it does not carry any communal inflammatory language, which can create or spread communal hatred between two religious communities.

Adv Ankur Sharma vehemently argued that the petitioner had posted the tweet believing it to be true but as soon as he found the same to be fake, he immediately deleted his tweet. He further submitted that no offence is made out against the petitioner as the essential ingredients of offence under section 505 RPC are missing and further assuming the offence is made out, even then the case of the petitioner falls within the exception appended to section 505 RPC.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, after hearing both the sides observed that mens rea is an essential ingredient of offence under section 505 RPC and as it provides a reasonable restriction on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression therefore the same is required to be strictly construed. "The intention to generate the consequences as envisaged by section 505 RPC must be forthcoming from the plain reading of the statement/report or rumour and should not be left at the discretion of a particular person. A perusal of the petitioner's tweet would reveal that it begins with words 'Just heard', meaning thereby that what was uploaded by him was just heard by him and he had no personal knowledge of the same. Further the act of the petitioner in deleting the said tweet has not been disputed/denied by the respondents and this subsequent conduct of the

petitioner also makes it ample clear that the said tweet was uploaded in a good faith without any criminal intention to generate the consequences as provided by section 505 RPC. At the most from the tweet in question, it can be inferred that the petitioner was not in favour of the ceasefire during the holy month of Ramzan but the same can, by no means can be construed to be an act on the part of the petitioner to generate the consequences as envisaged by the section 505 RPC. As such the essential ingredients of offence under section 505RPC are lacking in the FIR. Further, exception to section 505 RPC clearly provides that it does not amount to an offence within the meaning of this section when a person making, publishing or circulating such report, rumor or report has reasonable grounds for believing that such statement, rumor or report is true and makes, publishes or circulates in good faith and without any such intent. As already observed merely use of words 'Just heard' would demonstrate that the petitioner has not published any statement on his own but on the basis of what he heard. He tweeted in the good faith what he heard, believing it to be true, that was in fact not true and immediately deleted it as soon as he came to know about the falsity of the content of tweet. Even if for the sake of arguments the offence is made out against the petitioner still his case would fall within the exception as well. Reliance is placed upon the decision of Apex Court in Vinod Dua vs Union of India and Ors reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 414, where in Apex Court while relying upon number of its earlier decisions quashed the criminal proceedings arising out of FIR on the ground that the statements of the petitioner were covered by Exception 2 and Exception 3 of section 499," Court said and quashed the FIR.

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## LG distributes Akshaya Patra's essential grocery boxes



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha handing-over kit of essential grocery items to a beneficiary.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today handed over kits of essential grocery items, provided by Akshaya Patra Foundation, to the beneficiaries at Raj Bhavan here.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the NGO for its humanitarian work during the trying times of Covid pandemic.

"Feeding the needy is the biggest duty of mankind. Humanitarian organisations have supported and complemented the efforts of governments in the fight against

pandemic. Akshaya Patra is doing a great service by feeding millions of children in India who lack the means," Lt Governor said.

He called upon other similar NGOs to come forward for the humanitarian and social welfare activities in times of need for the poor people.

The grocery box contained wheat flour, rice, pulses, edible oil, condiments, sugar, and other items like spices etc. Bharatarshabha Dasa, Trustee and Regional President, Akshaya Patra Foundation was present on the occasion.

## Div Com takes serious note of fake accounts on social media on his name

Cyber police directed to take action against creators

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer has taken serious note of the several fake accounts operating on social networking sites on his name.

Some of these accounts which are operational are @RaghavLanger(twitter), Dr Raghav Langer (facebook) respectively.

The Div Com has appealed to the general public not to pay attention and not to fall prey to any of the tactics adopted by these fake account holders as none of them belongs to him.

Dr Langer has also directed the cyber police to take appropriate action against the creator of these fake accounts.

Dr Langer has also made it clear that he has no facebook or twitter account.