Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

DC, SSP Doda participate

Dr. Shikha Dhawan M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae. Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist 24-A, Shastri Nagar (at Dr.Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jan **2** 9419114877 Thousands Nag devotees across country join

Multispeciality Institut

M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery) Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surge

14 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

India is new hope for world; Young generation must utilize this opportunity to make 21st Century, India's Century: Sinha

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

North-Tech Symposium-2023 at IIT Jammu

Under PM Modi country has witnessed major push for Aatmanirbharta in Defence: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed major push for Aatmanirbharta in Defence.

"We are a responsible space power and have shown our strategic strength," the Lt Governor said while speaking North-Tech Symposium-2023 at Jagti Campus of IIT Jammu.

He said the launch of INS Vikrant last year vindicated our resolve to develop indigenous capabilities.

The Lt Governor congratu-Northern Command, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT Jammu for jointly hosting hundreds of Industries and defence tech startups and making this North-Tech Symposium a unique experience with their collaboration.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at the North-Tech Symposium-2023 at Jagti Campus of IIT Jammu on Monday.

It is a proud moment for Academia as for the first time since its inception North-Tech Symposium, defence expo is being held in IIT Jammu, the Lt Governor said.

He observed that the threeday mega event will showcase cutting-edge technological advancements of Indian Army and forge a synergy between Army, Industry and Academia in research, development and innovation in

At the expo, the Lt Governor also talked about India's emergence as defence exporter and self-reliance in

Defence Production. Our arms imports have reduced significantly in the last 4-5 vears and defence export reached an all-time high in the last financial year. It shows our commitment to innovation and Indigenous technology development,

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Govt notifies transport arrangements for migratory tribal families ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Affairs Department in collaboration with J&K Road Transport Corporation and respective District Administration on Monday notified arrangements for migration of pastoral tribal families from Kashmir region to Jammu, with the onset of winter.

The migration of families will commence from mid-September from higher reaches and will continue till November 2023.

The administrative council headed by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has approved the transport service for tribal population during migration as one of the key deliverables, which is being monitored by the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta regularly. Finance department has also earmarked required budget for this annual facility provided during summer and winter migration. Every year the government deputes a

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NTS'23 commences at IIT Jammu Campus

Ancient Kailash Yatra in Bhadarwah;

JAMMU: The picturesque campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu) has sprung to life with the commencement of the North Tech Symposium (NTS'23), a three-day extravaganza that promises to illuminate the path of innovation. Nestled amidst the serene surroundings of Jagti, NTS '23 is set to unveil the technological provess of the Indian Army while nurturing a dynamic synergy among the Industry,

Academia The inaugural ceremony of NTS'23 bore witness to the august presence of luminaries from the Army, the world of Academia, and the expanse of Industry, accentuating the grand confluence of knowledge and innovation.

Lt Gen MV Suchindera Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff, graced the occasion as the chief guest, radiating an



Lt Gen MV Suchindera Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff at the inaugural ceremony of NTS'23 at Jagti.

aura of profound pride and optimism. He remarked, "More than an honour, it's a moment of immense pride for me to witness the harmonious blend of the Army, Academia, and Industry. In an era where technology knows no boundaries, it is imperative that we recognize the essence of cooperation and collaboration."

"The symposium stands as a luminous example of the synergy that can be harnessed," emphasised Lt Gen Kumar, adding, "This platform will serve as a launchpad for numerous startups and industries to illuminate their products and ideas. The primary objective of the symposium is to enrich the participants' technological knowledge, with a collective endeavour to seek solutions that not only bolster national security but also address

environmental concerns." Prof Anurag Misra, Dean of IIT Jammu, echoed

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BJP serves show-cause notice on Sofi Yousuf for 'anti-party' activities

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP on Monday served a show-cause notice on its Jammu and Kashmir unit vice president Sofi Yousuf for indulging in "anti-party" activities and barred him from interacting with the media for the time being.

Yousuf, who is party incharge of Kashmir, was served the disciplinary notice amid reports suggesting that most of the party leaders in the valley had planned resigning from the party en masse last month.

"Despite being a senior leader of the party...it has come to notice of disciplinary

Rs 5000 Cr earmarked for upgrading infrastructure, setting up public libraries in Panchayats: DG RRRLF **STATE TIMES NEWS**

The SRINAGAR: Government of India has earmarked whopping Rs 5000 crores for the year 2023-24 for upgrading infrastructure in Public Libraries and extending Library facilities to the Gram Panchayat level across

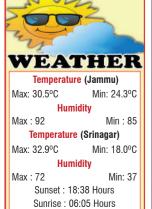
■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Heat wave in Kashmir to persist next week: IMD STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said the heat wave in Kashmir valley will continue over the next week and advised people, especially the elderly and children, to take a lot of flu-

Kashmir is currently reeling from a record-breaking heat wave with Srinagar city experiencing the hottest September day in 18 years on Sunday.

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committee Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party, unfortunately, that you are indulging in antiparty activities and showing marked indiscipline in your political dealings," the notice

Disciplinary committee chairperson Sunil Sethi also accused Yousuf of trying to trigger dissent in the party along with a few others.

ing clip has surfaced whose content depicts that you have no regard for party discipline and high principles which are basis of political ideology of the party," Sethi said.

"...now your audio record-

Defence technologies.

Accused cheated many including SSP ACB

Court rejects bail of cop turned property dealer for cheating Business woman lodged FIR after defrauded of Rs 1.80 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Sessions and District Judge Jammu Sanjay Parihar on Monday rejected the bail of a police constable turned chronic fraudster Mohd Afzal Beigh, who was fraudulently selling the land of a retired senior judge.

Afzal has cheated many by showing them plots owned by others. They include a serving Senior Superintendent of Police in Anti Corruption Bureau, who has been cheated of lakhs of rupees.

Mohd Afzal Beigh , resi-■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 dent of Gool, at present a hotel at Gool in the name of

Bahu Fort, was arrested by Crime Branch Jammu from Srinagar on August 17, 2023 under FIR 72/2023, registered on a complaint of Gule-Surkhab, wife of Dr Khalid Mehmood, alleging that the accused had taken Rs 1.80 Crore from her for a piece of land at Sidhra, which was originally owned by the former senior judge.

Afzal had worked in J&K Police as constable and thereafter he started operating as property dealer. After taking money from Gul-e-Surkhab,, Afzal constructed his father. The Crime Branch is investigating many complaints against the accused Azfal. Baghwan Dass Dandia is investigating the According to FIR, a written

complaint was lodged by Gule-Surkhab, wife of Dr. Khalid Mehmood, resident of H.No. 112 Upper Gujjar Nagar, at present Sidhra Jammu wherein she alleged that she is a business woman by profession, and her husband had purchased a land measuring one Kanal bearing Khasra No.70 min situated at Sidhra JK Finance & Accounts Society's Journal launched Corruption was rooted in J&K for decades, stringent

Kitzy Lane way back from one person namely Ranjeet Singh Wazir through accused Mohd Afzal Beigh, son of Abdul Rashid Beigh, resident of Gool Ramban at present Bahu Fort Jammu and constructed house on it. She further said that there is some more land measuring two kanals adjacent to their house and accused motivated them for purchasing this piece of land by assuring her that he is its sole owner. She agreed to the offer.

On receipt of complaint, an enquiry was conducted

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

unearthed; IED recovered STATE TIMES NEWS The arrested persons have SRINAGAR: A terror been identified as Lateef Ahmad Dar, Showkat

Terror recruitment module

recruitment module was unearthed in Baramulla district, with the arrest of three persons, police said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, security

forces established a mobile check point at Chak Tapper in Kreeri area on Sunday evening.

Three persons, who were moving in a suspicious way, were apprehended, a police official said.

He said three grenades and 30 AK rounds were recovered from the possession of the suspects, who were

Ahmad Lone and Ishrat Rasool. The trio confessed to being overground workers of Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit, the official said.

"On further interrogation, the accused persons admitted they had identified four youths in the general area of Kreeri and were about to get them to join terrorist outfit in near future. The above three individuals were the mastermind of the recruitment module in general area of Kreeri and were also in touch with active

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

JKPC denounces BBC article for maligning Kashmir's media; seeks withdrawal, apology

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Press (JKPC), representing an association of prominent media organizations in the region, has vehemently condemned the recent BBC news article titled 'Any story could be your last' - India's crackdown on Kashmir press,' authored by Yogita Limaye

The JKPC has asserted that the article is not only factually incorrect but also maliciously written, serving as a tool to defame the thriving mainstream media in

In a breach of journalistic norms, the BBC article fails to verify facts with the numerous mainstream journalists employed by over 150 newspapers in Kashmir, as well as with media editors, who could have debunked the inaccuracies presented in the report. The article contains unfounded opinions that are libelous, slanderous, and disgraceful, tarnishing the reputation of the mainstream media in Kashmir.

The BBC's report suggests a stifling atmosphere for journalists in Kashmir, alleging threats and arrests for The JKPC firmly rebuts these claims, asserting that there are no such instances of harassment or restrictions on press freedom within the region. The use of the phrase "Any story could be your last" is deemed baseless and misleading by the JKPC, as thousands of journalists work in the valley without issue or restriction.

The JKPC emphasizes that individuals arrested on charges of aiding and abetting terror, including some self-proclaimed journalists found in possession of hand grenades, are currently

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Observing that

corruption was deeply rooted in all the systems of Jammu and Kashmir for many Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that multipronged action has been taken against corruption, stringent action against offenders, and implementation of digital governance for accountability to usher in clean and transparent gover-

"Accountability and transparency is the soul of good governance. With complete



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during the launch ceremony of the first edition of the Journal of JAKFAS at Srinagar.

dedication and commitment. we have ensured timely and expeditious implementation of development projects,

direct benefit to common man, and social and regional imbalances have removed," the Lt Governor

said at the launch ceremony of the first edition of the Journal of Jammu Kashmir Finance & Accounts Society (JAKFAS) at Srinagar.

He congratulated all the members of the JAKFAS and highlighted the important role and contribution of Account Service Officers in inclusive development and growth.

Finance and Account Services are not only the watchdog of accountability as far as government expenditure is concerned but they are also promoter and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Well done Zaffar Shah - a tribute

Senior Advocate Zaffar Shah must be feeling on top of world with his sterling performance in Article 370 proceedings before a constitution Bench of Supreme Court.

He must also be relieved of a nagging feeling of disappointment for being left behind in race by two of his close associates -Muzaffar Baig and Justice BA Khan.

That was all in past. Zafar Shah is a celebrity in legal circles today. He has done which no State Advocate has ever done before the highest court of land and has made all of us proud. He has proved that he is the best in law business occupying No-1 position amongst practising lawyers in the State today.

more nervous than Zaffar Shah may have been on his maiden appearance before a

lest he may falter or become incoherent loosing the track. But blissfully he kept his cool, exuded confidence,

and delivered a scintillating

performance. I could see the

judges on Bench, some of

whom were my colleagues,

hearing him with respect

and rapt attention and not

raising a single query to

interrupt flow of his argu-

ments. Judges love to hear

the counsel who delivers the

best and who assists the

Court fairly.



Constitution Bench of Supreme court and that too in Article 370 proceedings. I had kept my fingers crossed as many of his well wishers may have when he rose to address constitution Bench of SC on 16th day of hearing. I was not sure of what he will do when top lawyers of the country appearing with him had already made their mark. I was panicking

may fumble and derail under pressure of his maiden appearance before a constitution Bench. Even top lawyers fumble and falter before a Court on a given day. I have seen some bigwigs faltering before my Court. But Zafar remained steadfast and consistent, proving me wrong. That said-Zaffar Shah's extraordinary advocacy has

to recall memories of our young days and ups and downs of life. Zaffar and me shared

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

I had a fear that Zaffar JAMMU:

sent me down memory lane

some kind of chemistry and became buddies on first sight. We started our life journey together in legal profession and went through more downs than UP's on the way. Those were times

Not even one square inch of our land occupied by China: Ladakh LG

Lieutenant Governor B D Mishra asserted on Monday that not even one square inch of Indian land has been occupied by China and that the armed forces are prepared to give "a bloody nose" to anyone engaging in any misad-

Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark on China occupying a large chunk of land in Ladakh, he said, "I won't comment on anybody's statement. But I will say what is fact because I have seen myself on the ground that not even one square inch of land which the Chinese have occupied."

"Whatsoever happened in 1962 that is immaterial. But



at Jagti Campus of IIT Jammu on Mondav.

today we are in occupation of our land to the last inch," he

Mishra, a retired Brigadier,

was here to attend the threeday North Tech Symposium being organised by the Army. Responding to reporters' queries on the sidelines of the

event, he said, "Our armed forces are prepared for any eventuality, and God forbid if the balloon goes up, people will get a bloody nose from us." He said the morale of troops is very very high. "Their intent is to

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