

# Amrit Kaal is period of India’s cultural renaissance: Sinha



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at foundation day function of J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday described Amrit Kaal as the period of India's cultural renaissance, saying the entire World is watching us.

"Every citizen must feel proud to be part of this journey and each one of us has equal opportunity to contribute so that our great country can regain its old glory of 'Vishwa Guru'," the Lt Governor said while addressing the foundation day function of J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Jammu.

He congratulated all the members of the Parishad for their dedicated endeavours to promote ancient values, glorious and rich composite culture, promotion and development of Sanskrit to enrich the knowledge system.

"India has always been considered as a living guide and a vibrant energy field which gave the message of one world, one family and vision to respect all religions, sects and spiritual streams. Ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace are core of our ancient values," the Lt Governor said.

He said the welfare of the

world was the prime objective of our sages, saints and mystics. They devoted their entire life to awaken the conscience of the people, foster social reforms and provided a treasure of knowledge in mathematics, chemistry, medicine, literature & arts and enriched the world, he added.

"Sanskrit is the source of ideals and values of our great civilization and it has the potential to provide solutions to modern-day challenges, such as Atharvaveda's teaching on ecological balance, protecting the environment, living in harmony with

nature," the Lt Governor said.

He called upon the J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad, various organizations and individuals to further strengthen their efforts for the promotion of Sanskrit and ancient values.

He said the ancient India was far ahead in comparison to rest of the world in technology and research.

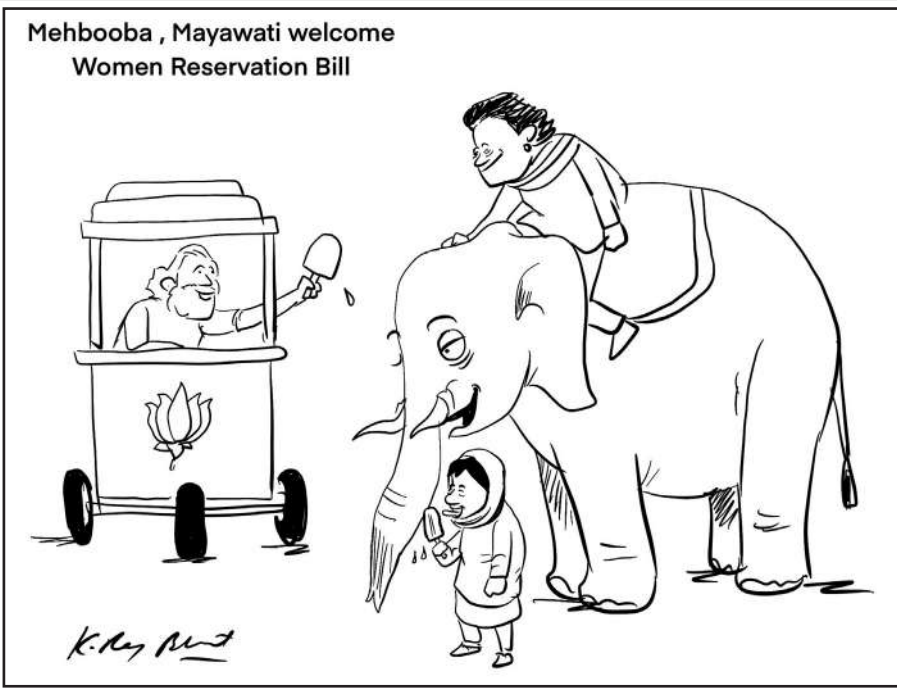
Responding to demands projected by the various dignitaries present on the occasion, the Lt Governor assured that all the Sanskrit vacant posts will be filled within one year. It is being

ensured that National Education Policy is implemented in letter and spirit, and Indian Philosophy is taught in every university, he added.

On the establishment of Sharda University in J&K, the Lt Governor called for preparing a feasible and viable roadmap for the University and assured all the necessary support in this endeavour.

Citizens from different walks of life were felicitated on the occasion for their significant contribution in diverse fields.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Chairman J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Prof. Ramnarayan Dwivedi, Mahamantri Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad, Varanasi; Suresh Sharma, Chairman, Shri Gandhi Sewa Sadan Jammu, senior officers and eminent personalities were present.



# Jammu Air Show; invitation extended to public for event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu and SKAT (Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team) team of the Indian Air Force on Wednesday extended a warm and enthusiastic invitation to the public for grand Air Show and awareness camp being held at Air Force Station Jammu on September 22.



Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai talking to reporters at Jammu on Wednesday.

Speaking at a well attended press Conference, the organizers invited everyone to be part of the extraordinary event that promises a symphony of excitement and adventure like never before.

This prestigious press conference was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Director of Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; Lt. Colonel, Suneel Bartwal PRO (Defence), Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta and Indian Air Force Officers from the Surya Kiran Aerobatic team.

This event promises to be an exuberant celebration of thrills and adventure that you absolutely cannot afford to miss, they said.

It was informed that the Directorate of Tourism Jammu will set up an informative publicity stall at the venue, providing an opportunity for attendees to gather insights about upcoming tourism activities, enticing destinations, and promising opportunities.

Vivekanand Rai, Director of Tourism Jammu, extended a personal invitation to the

public, promising that this event will be nothing short of spectacular. He informed that the Air show and awareness camp is a joint collaboration of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Air Force Station Jammu, wherein the Hon'ble LG J&K, Sh. Manoj Sinha, will be the chief guest of the event. He also adds a friendly reminder that carry bags and other eatables are not allowed within the event premises.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director of Tourism, informed that the live streaming will take place on September 22, on all our social media handles: @Facebook: @jammutourismofficial, Instagram/Twitter @jammu-tourism, YouTube: @jammu-tourismofficial273. She further informed that public access to the event on September 22 will be through the Peer Baba gate.

Speaking at the press conference, Wing Commander Kartik, Squadron Leader Himanshu Singh, Squadron

Leader Allen George, and Flight Lieutenant Kanwal Sandu from the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) shared captivating insights.

They revealed that this remarkable nine-aircraft team, unique in Asia, has executed an astounding 600 displays. Additionally, they emphasized that the event will feature the Akash Ganga skydiving team, the Air Warrior Drill Team, the Mi-17 1V helicopter operations, and the outstanding SKAT team operations. The Suryakiran Aerobatic team, popularly known as SKAT, inherits the motto "Sadhaiva Sarvottam" with ease, aptly describing the adage "Always the Best". This spectacular showcase aims to raise awareness about aviation.

This event is not just a showcase of extraordinary talent but also an opportunity for the public to witness the dedication and excellence of the Indian Air Force. It's an invitation to be inspired and to consider a future in the defense and air force sectors for the youth.

# 4 died in 20 days after falling from walnut trees

## Failure to follow safety measures result in deaths: Officials

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: A man died from falling a walnut tree in Baramulla on Tuesday.

As per reports, man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Najar resident of Lavhipora Bijhama fell from walnut tree resulting critical injuries to him. He was declared brought dead by doctors.

Another 60 year old man from Poonch died on the spot after he fell from Walnut tree in Khag area of Budgam district on Monday. An official of Police Station Khag told that man namely Rafiq Ahmad Kusar fell from tree at Ellahipora Nagbal Khag resulting in his on-spot death.

Earlier on September 10, a middle aged man died after he fell from a walnut tree at Jamlan Dharam Gool in Ramban district .

As per the official report ,Mohammad Amin aged 58 resident of Dharam fell from walnut tree resulting which he suffered serious head injuries and was rushed to PHC Sangaldan where doctors declared him brought dead.

On September 1, 35 year old Ali Mohammad Waloo fell down from walnut tree in his native Nowgam village of Sonawari district Bandipora, initial reports said that he had lost his balance when he was claiming tree and fell down on the ground. He has sustained serious injuries due to the fall . Later, he was shifted to the Community health centre Sumbal for treatment ,However doctors there too declared him brought dead

However, the Horticulture Department Kashmir has already advised people for taking safety measures to avoid any such tragic incidents in the future. Advisory reads as " Walnut trees are huge trees that grow up to the height of 40-50 ft and the bark of these trees is very slippery. When farmers climb trees carrying a long stick in hand to hit the fruit, some time they loose their balance resulting in a fall from the tree'.

The manual nature of walnut business in the valley along with primitive methods for harvesting followed by locals are the main con-

tributors to the high rates of injury and death associated with harvesting walnuts.

Officials of the Horticulture department said that these incidents are happening due to negligence, although the department has issued an advisory yet people are not following these instructions properly. He further added, that such incidents can be avoided if people start to taking safety measures.

The official said ,people should resist harvesting walnuts during rains and do it only after trees become dry properly to avoid slip."The workers collect them by standing on the branches of a tree and using a stick. They lose their balance and fall. The slippery nature of the tree is also a reason of falling. Another cause for falling is the branch giving way while the worker is perched on it," he said.

He said only those people should be involved in harvest who have expertise or techniques for the same. "People should use safety measures like ropes," he said.

The farmers have been advised to wear non-slip

shoes and to check forecasts by the IMD before planning for the harvesting."Workers should not use long metal poles to harvest the trees, as accidental contact with electric poles result in electrocution, serious injury or death," said official of the horticulture department. He said people should also remove logs, stones, boulders around the base of the tree and also use nets to reduce risk.

"Ensure a stable and firm position before beating the walnuts. Learn basic first-aid from the nearest health centre," he said.

He further added that in case of any emergency people should immediately contact for medical assistance and ambulance service. Walnut is grown across Kashmir and is one of the important sources of income. Walnut is a dry fruit with a tremendous export potential.

As per figures of the Horticulture Department, area under cultivation of walnut is 46,197 ha. The average annual production of walnuts is 182,659 metric tonnes.

# DC issues showcase notice to doctors remaining absent from duty in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaisliya on Wednesday issued show cause notices to doctors who were found absent from duty at a premier hospital in Jammu city and ordered a probe into the matter, officials said.

The deputy commissioner conducted an unannounced inspection of the government hospital at Gandhi Nagar on Wednesday, assessing patient care facilities and staff attendance, officials said.

During the surprise visit, it came to light that some doctors were not present on duty, they said.

The deputy commissioner promptly ordered an official inquiry and simultaneously issued show cause notices to the doctors, they said.

Addressing the hospital staff, the deputy commissioner reaffirmed his strong commitment towards promoting punctuality, efficiency and the seamless functioning of the hospital.

He emphasised the importance of upholding the highest standards of duty in serving the public and vowed to root out any form of negligence or corruption.

# Sheetal Nanda interacts with deputations of specially-abled persons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, on Wednesday convened a meeting with various deputations of specially abled persons regarding implementation of welfare schemes meant for their socio-economic empowerment besides assessing their issues.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Social Welfare Jammu, Vivek Sharma, Director Social Welfare, Kashmir, Mohammad Shafiq Chak, Deputy Director (Admin), Mehmoode Riaz Khan, Chief Accounts Officer, Ashu Behl and representatives of various NGOs including Parveen Sangral and Rajesh (MUSKAAN Foundation), Ajay Kumar Sharma, Ajay Kumar and Sudesh Kumar (J&K Handicapped Welfare



Association), Sushil Sharma (All J&K Disabled Welfare Trust), Sham Lal (Corporator), Ritika (Beloved Grace Organization), Roshan Bhan ( J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra for Deaf and Dumb and Residential School for Blinds Jammu), Beena Bakshi (Mahila Jagriti Udhog Kendra, Jammu) and Umesh Sharma (Disabled Care Foundation).

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various issues raised by the participants like hold-

ing of awareness camps regarding NTA and legal guardian certificate, enhancement of disability pension under ISSS, UDID cards, National Action Plan for skill development for persons with disabilities and related matters.

Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to hold special camps on all the oriented schemes of Department for Welfare of Persons With Disabilities throughout J&K. She asked the officers to ensure that all the eligible candidates are brought under the ambit of welfare and development schemes tailored for them.

The participants appreciated the Social Welfare Department for their holistic approach towards resolving the issues being faced by the specially abled persons of the UT of J&K.

# Absence of democratic system in J&K causing hardship to people: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Wednesday expressed serious concern over the difficulties confronting the people in the absence of a democratic system in J&K while slamming the government for snatching the rights of people.

Addressing workers meeting at Bahu Fort, Bhalla accused the Centre of snatching the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said anti-people decisions of Govt were aimed at diverting attention from "real" issues.

He accused the Centre of failing the people on all counts.He said J&K was divided into two Union Territories against the wishes of the people and they were now being denied their democratic rights by "the BJP aiming to hide its wrong policies and utter failure". The Congress shall continue to



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing gathering at Jammu on Wednesday.

fight for the democratic rights of the people and ensure justice, he said.He slammed various anti-people decisions, terming it "BJP's deliberate move to divert the attention of the people from real issues especially rising unemployment, unprecedented price hike and other developmental issues concerning

people". In his address, Bhalla urged the party leaders to work hard to strengthen the Congress at the grassroots level and stressed that the party "is an instrument of service to the people". He urged his party cadres to gear up for the challenges. He said Congress is fully prepared for ULB, Panchayat,

Assembly and 2024 Parliamentary elections, besides it is fully capable to defeat the divisive agenda and misleading politics of BJP. Congress shall continue to fight against the anti-people policies of BJP Govt and vigorously fight for restoration of democratic setup in J&K," he said. He stated that BJP's divided and rule policy and misleading politics stands exposed with the result people have decided to throw BJP out of power.

Bhalla asked the Centre to pave for holding elections in J&K without creating hurdles. He said BJP government has abandoned J&K people of their democratic rights to rule J&K directly and do whatever suits it

(BJP) be it enacting different laws from time to time or be it punishing people under the garb of imposing many taxes or be it undermining the institutions to run away from transparency and accountability.

Bhalla slammed the government for failing to address extreme joblessness, economic losses, lack of development, failed back to back village initiatives after spending huge amount and many anti people measures in terms of imposing taxes, toll plazas and new drama of installing smart meters and said people are being punished on one pretext or the other aiming to hide utter failure on the part of BJP Government.

# Dr Jitendra replies Chandrayaan debate in Rajya Sabha, hails Modi’s enabling leadership

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided enabling leadership for Chandrayaan-3 and other Space missions with his foresight, increased allocation of funds and engaging private participation, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister.

"We are offering them funds when they require it, we are offering them environment when they require it, we are offering them freedom when they require it, we are offering them synergy when they require it and we have liberated them from those self-imposed shackles and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh replying to a debate on Chandrayaan 3 Mission in Rajya Sabha.

this has happened in the last nine years," said Dr Jitendra, participating in the Discussion on "India's Glorious Space Journey marked by successful Soft Landing of Chandrayaan-3"

in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The Minister said PM Modi hiked the Space budget manifold and opened up the Space sector with the result that the number of Space StartUps have gone up from just 4 in 2014 to 150 now.

"If you see the Space Budget alone, there is a 142% increase in the last nine years," he said, pointing out that there has been a three-fold or more hike in related budgets like Dept. of Science & Technology and Dept. Atomic Energy.

Dr Jitendra said India's quantum leap in the Space sector has only been possible

after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the "veil of secrecy".

"...And this is what has given the outcomes, - a multiple, manifold investment; so there is a huge synergy now between Research, Academia, Startups and Industry," he said.

Dr-Jitendra said, out of the 424 foreign satellites launched by ISRO since 1990s, more than 90% - 389 were launched in the last nine years. "The world today has recognized the quantum jump that India has undertaken," he said.

# Oppn should have alliance on seats where BJP hopes to win, won't backtrack from suggestion: Omar

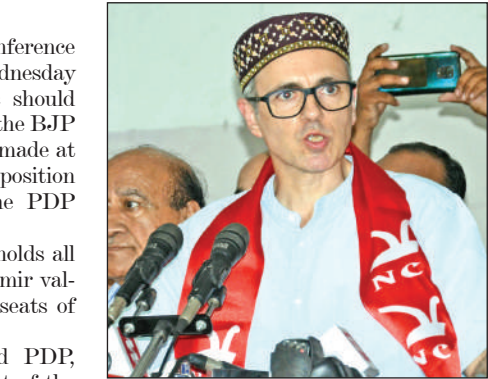
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday asserted that the INDIA bloc should have an alliance on seats where the BJP "hopes to win", a suggestion he made at the recent Delhi meeting of opposition parties that reportedly left the PDP miffed.

National Conference currently holds all three Lok Sabha seats of Kashmir valley, while BJP represents two seats of Jammu and one of Ladakh.

Although Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP, which along with the NC is part of the INDIA alliance from Kashmir, did not come out with any official statement on Abdullah's suggestion, PDP sources said their leadership is not happy with the National Conference leader's view.

The PDP believes that it was an attempt to sideline them and also undermine the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a grouping formed in 2019 for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the sources said.



NC Vice President Omar Abdullah talking to reporters at Jammu.

But Abdullah on Wednesday said he will not backtrack from his suggestion.

"Should I not put forth my viewpoint? I have given the viewpoint of my party and it is my right. I have not forced my opinion on anyone. I have not walked out of or boycotted the meeting," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of a party function here.

He was responding to a question about reports suggesting PDP's unhappiness over his remarks on the seat-sharing formula at the INDIA alliance coordination committee's first meeting in Delhi last week.

"I have only said that when you are talking about seat sharing, there should be a formula if our goal is to defeat the BJP, we should have an alliance on those seats where BJP hopes to win. I do not think the BJP is getting any seats from Kashmir. I have only put forth my viewpoint," the NC vice president said.

He said to accept his suggestion or not is up to the alliance and "I am not backtracking from my suggestion."

Omar refused to comment on the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi's statement that he saw a scope for a third front.

"I will not like to speak for any third front, I will speak for the INDIA alliance... Owaisi can have his single-party alliance also," he said.