

**Bolstering national security has been our top priority: Rajnath**

NEW DELHI, Oct 1:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that bolstering national security has been the top priority of the government. He was launched several digital initiatives of Defence Accounts Department (DAD) during its 275th annual day celebrations here on October 1.

"Bolstering national security has been our top priority since the beginning. The allocation of a total budget of Rs 5.25 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence in 2022-23 is a testament to that unwavering resolve. The DAD is playing a crucial role in this endeavour," Singh was quoted as saying in a statement by the ministry.

He also said the DAD should bolster their support to the government's efforts through "speedy decisions, as delays not only lead to loss of time and money, but also adversely impact the combat readiness of the country."

The digital initiatives launched by him include System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) mobile app; Pay System for Agniveers; International Air Ticket booking module in Defence Travel System (DTS); Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System (DARPAN); Defence Civilian Pay system and Defence Accounts Human Resource Management System, the statement said.

On the occasion, Singh also gave away the Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2022 to three teams for exhibiting exemplary initiative in implementing key department projects - development, testing and implementation of SPARSH; implementation of E-



Former Minister, Priya Sethi inaugurating Karwachauth & Diwali Special Exhibition at Jammu on Saturday.

**Priya inaugurates 'Karwachauth, Diwali Special' Exhibition**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Priya Sethi, National Executive Member Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former Minister has asserted that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Government has accorded top priority to women's entrepreneurship as a result of which women across the nation including the Union Territory are availing the benefits of various schemes specially launched for them. She said that this has boosted the morale of women as these schemes ensure that they would not have to depend on others now.

She expressed, this while addressing an august gathering at a function where she along with Sanjita Dogra, president J&K Mahila Wing inaugurated 'Karwachauth and Diwali Special' lifestyle exhibition today.

The exhibition has been organized by Divya Abrol Lifestyle Exhibitors at Hotel 'Zone By The Park' near Jammu Tawi Railway Station.

The former Minister said women entrepreneurs can be seen everywhere in the startup ecosystem of India. Women too are seen leaving their high-profile jobs as well as some stepping out of the four walls of their homes and joining the pool of entrepreneurship in India.

"Women-owned businesses enterprises are playing a promi-

Concurrence in DRDO and Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) Bharati: Your PAO, a call away 24x7.

Describing SPARSH as a landmark step, Singh said it is the government's endeavour to provide best services to the serving personnel, ex-servicemen and their families during the soldiers' lifetime as well as after death.

He added that special emphasis is being laid to disbursing right pension at the right time. The Raksha Mantri called upon DAD to make speedy and quality disposal of grievances of pensioners as their first priority.

"As India has completed 75 years of independence, it is moving forward with renewed confidence and determination under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 'Amrit Kaal' to become one of the most powerful countries in the world by 2047. This goal can only be achieved if India has a strong military, which is equipped with state-of-the-art weapons/equipment, manufactured by an 'Aatmanirbhar' defence industry," the minister said.

Singh also emphasised on the important role the department can play in realising the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar' in defence.

"68 per cent of capital procurement budget has been earmarked for the domestic industry during financial year 2022-23, which underlines the government's commitment towards achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing," he said.

The minister elaborated on the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the defence secretary for the performance and efficiency audit of various aspects of

Ministry of Defence.

This committee, through audit, will review the work being done in the ministry from a new and creative perspective, he said, stressing that DAD can play an important role in the process. This will not only increase the efficiency of the services, but also reduce wasteful expenditure, he added.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Rasika Chaudhary, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Avinash Dikshit and other senior officials of the ministry were present during the event. (PTI)

**ABVP for more weightage to PhD holders in recruitment of Asst Prof**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad has asked the J&K Public Service Commission to give more weightage to PhD holders in recruitment of Assistant Professors in colleges under Higher Education Department.

While addressing a press conference at Jammu University, here today, ABVP J&K State Secretary



ABVP leaders addressing a press conference at Jammu on Saturday.

Mukesh Manhas said that as per notification No. HED-GAZ/218/2022-04, dated 22-09-2022, Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission has changed the rule 45 of JKPCS (Business and Procedure) Rules 2021 in the recruitment of Assistant Professor/ PTI/ Librarian in the Higher Education Department.

JKPSC has mentioned criterion of academic qualification as per UGC regulations according to which 75 marks for written test, 15 marks for interview and only 10 marks for academic qualification that includes UG/PG/NET/SET/SLET/PhD/Experience shall be given.

"Just only 10 marks for aca-

**Gandhi Jayanti an occasion to rededicate ourselves to values of peace, communal harmony: Prez Murmu**

NEW DELHI, Oct 1:

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday greeted citizens on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and said it is an occasion for all to rededicate themselves to the values of peace, equality and communal harmony.

"On the occasion of the 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, I pay homage to the Father of the Nation on behalf of all fellow citizens," she said in a message to the nation.

Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the values of his inspiring life - peace, equality

and communal harmony, the president said.

Observing it this year assumes a special significance as the nation has been celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav, marking 75 years of Independence, Murmu said.

This is the time, for all of us, to work towards the realisation of India of Gandhi's dreams, she said.

A century ago, Gandhiji inspired millions with his call of 'Swadeshi' and his stress on self-reliance, Murmu said.

"The making of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, which is under way, is thus inspired by the vision of the Mahatma and is intended as a true tribute to him. The India of his dreams is a clean India, a healthy India. The initiatives taken in this regard have been bearing fruits now,"

**Mukesh Manhas said that JKPSC should withdraw the controversial order and all those candidates who have been short listed for AP and PTI teacher's should be given a chance to appear in the interview.**

Ramnik Sharma, State Joint Secretary Governor Manoj Sinha's administration is playing in the hands of BJP leadership in J&K by first subjugating the people by creating problems and then asking them to contact BJP leaders for redressal.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, provincial president of National Conference (NC) after inaugurating the Party office here at Ramgarh in a very impressive function organized by Ashok Kumar Attri (retired DIG), vice president NC central zone. The senior NC functionary was accompanied by Ajay Sadhotra (former minister) and Sheikh Bashir Ahmed (provincial secretary, NC).

Castigating the Government for not doing enough for the people, Rattan Lal Gupta said that LG's Administration has proven to be complete failure as can be well gauged by the reports of Chief Secretary snubbing the concerned quarters over callous approach towards development projects kept at disposal of HoDs for administrative approval.

The provincial president said that the LG Administration

**LG's admn playing in hands of BJP leadership: Rattan Lal**

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NC senior leaders Rattan Lal Gupta, Ajay Sadhotra and others during a function at Ramgarh in Samba.

**Col Mangotra, Dr Manu Arora address IMS students**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: Two day programme for the new BBA, BCA & MBA batches was organized today in the IMS college campus. The programme

umbrella by respective faculty members.

This was followed by expert guest lecture taken by Dr. Manu Arora- the renowned Psychiatrist from GMC, Jammu who talked about stress management and created awareness regarding burning issues such as depression and anxiety amongst the students.

A fun activity in the form of a pop quiz and an icebreaker activity of Tug of war was conducted for the students. The session also witnessed a small felicitation ceremony for Rohit Kumar and Ishkeeka Sharma, BBA University Toppers of the 2018-2021 batch.

All the guest lectures ended with an engaging Q & A session with the students and faculty. The programme was concluded by Assistant Prof. Gurshish Kour who gave the formal vote of thanks.

The Inaugural session started with welcome addresses by Chairman JGEI - Vidhi S. Jamwal and Director Incharge

IMS - Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, where they welcomed the students to the institute. This was followed by College presentation by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma who showcased the facilities, achievements and activities undertaken by college in the last year.

The first guest lecture was taken by Col. Yogesh Mangotra, retired Army personnel who discussed the various facets of leadership, its implications in everyday life and the techniques through which students can implement them to succeed in future.

Prof. J. R. Dhotra welcomed the students who motivated them to explore themselves and enhance their self-understanding to improve themselves.

Following the address, the students were familiarised with the New Education policy and the various subjects under its



Tractor-trolley operators staging protest against G&M Dept and local administration at Khour.

**Overcharging for minor mineral by crusher owners Kissan Tractor Union members protest against G&M Dept**

Excelsior Correspondent

KHOUR, Oct 1: The members of tractor trolley operators and farmers under the banner of Kissan Tractor Union held strong protest outside SDM office Khour against overcharging of mineral material and harassment by police to the local tractor trolley operators.

The protest was led by president Ravi Singh and general secretary Anshu Choudhary. Scores of tractor trolley operators/owners assembled in front of the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate Khour and raised loud slogans against Administration and also against the Geology and Mining Department. They were alleging that stone crusher owners/operators were overcharging from them and local police was also harassing to the tractor trolley operators.

SDM Khour called on a meeting of association leaders and concerning officials including District Mineral Officer Gulshan Kumar, SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Sharma, SHO Rattan Singh Rana, Tehsildar Khour Monika Sharma, Tehsildar Kharah Balli to sort out the

**problems being faced by Kissan Tractor Union Khour.**

Leaders of the Union apprised the officials regarding the problems faced by the tractor trolley operators and locals of both Tehsils. They alleged that Lease holders of Government Mining Blocks and crusher owners were overcharging than the rates fixed by the government. Officials listened to their grievances and assured that they will sort out their issues.

Speaking on the occasion Anshu Choudhary said that crusher owners are charging much more than the rates fixed by the government. He said crusher owners are charging Rs 2200 for 100 sft for Bajri whereas its rate fixed by the government is Rs 1500. Similarly, they are charging Rs 1800 for 100 sqft dust whereas the rate fixed by the government is Rs 1250. He alleged that Lease holders of government mining blocks are also overcharging and they are taking Rs 600 for sand whereas rates fixed by the government is Rs 400. He lambasted the G&M department and all other concerning officials who failed to check the loot of lease holders and crusher owners.

**Faculty Development Programme concludes at NIT Srinagar**

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 1: The six-day long Faculty Development Program (FDP) on 'Social Commitment and Evaluating Impact in Community - Institution Engagement' concluded today at National Institute of Technology (NIT)

Srinagar. Prof Rakesh Sehgal said the main aim of this FDP was to invite faculty from across the country that are keen to bring innovative changes in their respective organizations through leadership skills.

Institute's Registrar, Prof Syed Kaiser Bukhari said the mission of such FDP programs is to enable higher educational institutional level in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.

Addressing the gathering, Sudheer Kumar, MGNCRE FDP Coordinator, Hyderabad said linking work and education has earned MGNCRE the prestigious UNESCO Chair on experiential learning, work education, and community engagement.

In his welcome address, Coordinator of FDP, Dr Tanveer Rasool briefed about the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme and Mentoring Institutional Social Responsibility and Facilitation for Community Engagement.

Dr Leela Manohar Aeshala, Asst Prof and Dr Tanveer Rasool, Asst Prof from Department of Chemical Engineering were the coordinators of the event.

Later certificates were distributed to participants and student volunteers by the organizers. About 25 delegates from across the country participated in the FDP. Dr Leela Manohar presented vote of thanks.

During the FDP, participants were introduced to various aspects of community engagement and social responsibility. The program was a great success and received positive feedback from all participants.

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**JJAR observes National Ayurveda Day**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: With the blessings of Late Dr. Rooplal Sharma and Chairperson Shri Sain Charitable Trust for Higher education, Jammu, on the occasion of 7th National Ayurveda Day 2022 under the theme "Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda" a food festival was celebrated at Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research, Jammu.

The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Director Academics; Dr. Raghuvir Singh, Principal Dr. Sharada and Vice Principal; Dr. Nitin Mahajan.

Food festival was organised having theme "Navaratri special". The competition was held at the college premises.

Afterwards Dandiya festival was held which was conducted from 1pm to 3pm. Students



A view of Food Festival during National Ayurveda Day at JJAR on Saturday.

actively took part and enjoyed the event. The whole event was conducted by the cultural committee members of JJAR i.e. Dr. Poonam Gupta, Dr. Namartha Raina, Dr. Gursimran, Dr. Poonam Bala, Dr. Shweta Chauhan, Dr. Anamika Gupta, Dr. Shrey and Dr. Sandeep.

**Pb police nabs teacher with 5 kg narcotics**

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Oct 1: Punjab Police recovered five kilograms narcotic substance from a Government teacher in Poonch today.

Official sources said that at around 3 pm on Saturday, one Nizam Din, a teacher by profession posted at Govt Middle School Qasba Colony in Poonch was apprehended by Punjab Police team near Christ School Poonch. About 5 kgs of narcotic substance was recovered from his possession, they said.

Later, Punjab Police team brought him to Police Station Poonch and also subsequently went to his rented room and recovered three laptops from there.

The Punjab's Police team along with accused the recovery left towards Jammu. The Punjab police was assisted by Poonch police during the operation, the sources added.

Station House Officer Poonch, Insp Ranjit Rao confirmed the arrest of Government teacher along with narcotics by the Punjab police in Poonch and said they took the accused with them to Punjab.

**HC killed in accident**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: A Head Constable posted in Special Operation Group (SOG) Jammu was killed in accident near Jammu Airport, police sources said.

The deceased was identified as Ranjeet Singh, son of Bachan Singh, a resident of Dewan Ghar Tehsil RSR Pura District Jammu. He was seriously injured after a Scorpio car hit him near Jammu Airport.

He was rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where he breathed his last.

The body of the deceased has been shifted to mortuary to mortuary of GMCH for autopsy.

A case FIR Number 182/2022 under relevant sections has been registered at Police Station Satwari and the accused driver identified as Mohammad Saleem, son of Mohammad Rafiq, a resident of District Poonch has been arrested.

Further investigation into the case is going on.

**Congress seeks ST status for Chenab Valley people**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 1: The Congress Party has demanded Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the people living in the entire Chenab belt including Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar districts besides parts of Reasi.

Addressing a press conference here today, Congress spokesperson, Dr Jahanzaib Sirwal said that the people across the Chenab belt are living in extreme geographic and climatic conditions which is evident from the fact that landslides have become a permanent feature in the region as a result of which the road connectivity remains adversely affected throughout the year with connectivity in far flung and remote areas being virtually zero for months together.

Sirwal further said that the infrastructure pertaining to every sector is wanting due to abject negligence of the Union

Territory administration. The cosmetic road, education and health infrastructure which are the basic essentials, lie in shambles across this tough mountainous region with the people of this region suffering the most and compelled to live in miserable conditions.

Dr Jahanzaib said that the people, residing in the entire Chenab belt, should be declared as Scheduled Tribe (ST) as they are facing discrimination and step-motherly treatment by the J&K Administration and Central Government on this count adding that lakhs of educated unemployed youth from the Chenab Valley region being the worst sufferers can be benefitted by declaring the people as STs as this would facilitate these youth in getting employment. He said that due to unemployment the youth of this region could be misled or misused by anti-national and anti-social elements.

Advertisement for Silk India 2022 exhibition. On the Occasion of NAVRATRI & KARVA CHAUGH. Exhibition cum sale of silk products across the country. Products on Display: Bihar: Organic Tassar Silk Saris Karnataka: Creep Silk, Georgette Silk, Arini Silk Tamilnadu: Kanjeevaram Silk Sarees & Designer fancy Sarees Andhra Pradesh: Dharmavara, Mangalagiri Gadwal, Uppada & Pochampalli Sarees Uttar Pradesh: Lucknowi Chikan, Mulbari, Jamdani, Jamawar Silk Maharashtra: Designer Dress materials Punjab: Patiala & Fulkari Dress materials Orissa: Sambalpur, Ikkat, Bomkai Sarees Handloom Silk Cotton Chhattisgarh: Exclusive Raw Silk Saris, Kosa Silk, Tassar Suit Madhya Pradesh: Maheswari, Chanderi Silk Sarees West Bengal: Baluchari, Dhaka Masli, Boutique Saris, Kantha Saris, Zordoshi Assam: Muga & Eri Silk Sarees Jammu & Kashmir: Kashmiri silk, Shawls Suit & Pashmina Rajasthan: Kota Silk, Hand Block Print Dress & Saree. COUNTRY INN HOTEL (Jehlum Resort) Last 8 Days. Entry Free | All Credit & Debit Cards Accepted. Contact: +91 92977 79727