



Truly Times

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JAMMU & KASHMIR

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DAILY 12 PAGE

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BRIEF**ACB arrests postal employee in Bandipora for accepting bribe**

Srinagar : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a postal employee in Bandipora after he was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹6,500.

An official said that an ACB team conducted a trap at the Post Office Bandipora, during which Mudasir Ahmad Najar, a resident of Rohama, Baramulla, presently posted as a Postal Assistant, was apprehended while accepting the bribe. "The accused was caught red-handed and taken into custody immediately on the spot," the official said, adding that necessary legal formalities were completed. The ACB is continuing its crackdown on corruption in public institutions, and further investigation into the matter is underway.

I-T dept conducts raids in bogus tax deductions case

New Delhi, July 14: The Income-Tax Department on Monday launched multi-city raids as part of a tax evasion probe against those entities which assist certain individuals avail bogus deductions in their returns by claiming a variety of exemptions, official sources said.

They said false deductions claimed by persons in lieu of making political donations to registered or unregistered political parties, payment of medical insurance, tuition fee and certain category of loans are among those cases which are being investigated as part of these raids. Certain individuals and their tax advisors like filers and accountants, who help them claim bogus exemptions, are being searched as part of the operation, they said. The action was taken after it was found that certain taxpayers have not filed their updated correct ITRs (Income Tax Returns) even after the tax department approaching them under the NUDGE (Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable) campaign which has a philosophy of 'trust taxpayers first', they said.

Third body recovered in LJHP canal tragedy, one still missing

Srinagar : The body of the third victim in the LJHP canal tragedy was recovered on Monday afternoon, taking the death toll in the incident to three. Officials said the body of Haji Mehnaz Rashid Shah, a 40-year-old resident of Khanyar, Srinagar, was retrieved this afternoon following an intense multi-agency search operation. Shah was among three family members swept away by strong river currents while attempting to rescue two children who had slipped into the water during a picnic. One person was rescued on the same day, while the bodies of two minors - including Ahmad Bin Khalid of Hyderpora and another child from Narkara, Budgam - were recovered earlier. The now-concluded rescue operation involved teams from SDRF Baramulla, Civil Defence Uri, J&K Police, and local volunteers, who worked tirelessly for over 36 hours to locate all the victims.

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Kavinder Gupta appointed as Ladakh LG

TT Correspondent Jammu, July 14 : After holding several key positions including as Deputy Chief Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta, who is poised to start a new innings as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, on Monday said that it is a challenging assignment and he will work together with everyone for the development of the region.

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Gupta as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Monday. "I am thankful to those who considered me worthy - be it the Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable President, the Home Minister, or the national leadership - who have placed me in this position. Hailing from Jammu city's Janipur area, 66-year-old Gupta served as the

Mayor of Jammu for a record three consecutive terms from 2005 to 2010. He served as general secretary of the BJP's state unit and headed the J-K unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva



Morcha (BJYM) for two consecutive terms from 1993 to 1998.

I want to express my gratitude to all of them," Gupta said. He served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from April 30, 2018, in the BJP-

PDP government headed by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Gupta said there are "certainly challenges involved, but I accept them. I will try my best to serve the Union Territory."



The BJP leader, who also served as Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from 2014, said, "This is a big responsibility, and I am confident of fulfilling it sincerely. We will work together with everyone (for the development of

the region)." Hailing from Jammu city's Janipur area, 66-year-old Gupta served as the Mayor of Jammu for a record three consecutive terms from 2005 to 2010. He served as general secretary of the BJP's state unit and headed the J-K unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) for two consecutive terms from 1993 to 1998. Gupta was elected as an MLA for the first time from the Gandhi Nagar constituency, defeating sitting Congress minister Raman Bhalla in the 2014 Assembly elections. Following the PDP-BJP alliance's victory in the 2014 Assembly elections, Gupta was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the House. Gupta, who earlier also served as secretary of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), spent about 13 months in jail during the Emergency as a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker.

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath shrine

Jammu, July 14: A fresh batch of over 6,100 pilgrims left here on Monday for the twin base camps of the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. Over two lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the shrine since the start of the 38-day annual yatra, which commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 3. The yatra will conclude on August 9. Escorted by CRPF and police personnel, the 13th batch of 6,143 pilgrims, including 4,691 men, 1,248 women and 17 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 235 vehicles between 3:30 am and 4:00 am, the officials said. The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 2,215 pilgrims in 100 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 3,928 pilgrims in 135 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

With this, a total of 89,101 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the Valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch. More than four lakh persons have registered online for the pilgrimage so far. With the yatra entering its second fortnight, the rush of pilgrims from various parts of the country continues, with

over 3,500 fresh pilgrims having arrived in Jammu for their onward journey to Amarnath.

**Two lakh pilgrims undertake Amarnath Yatra in 11 days**

Jammu : The number of pilgrims who undertook Amarnath Yatra this year crossed the two-lakh mark on Sunday. "More than 17,000 pilgrims on Sunday paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, taking the total number of yatis to 2,00,063," officials said here. A total of

17,317 pilgrims performed 'darshan' at the 3,800-metre-high holy cave shrine on Sunday, the officials said. They said the yatis included 12,210 males, 4,202 females, 264 children, 103 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, six transgenders and 514 security forces personnel. The annual yatra started on July 3 and will culminate on August 9, the officials added.

CS pushes for 100% digital health records under ABDM

TT Correspondent Srinagar, July 14 : Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on ensuring seamless integration of healthcare data and digital services across the UT. The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Managing Director, ABDM; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Coordination (Medical Colleges) and other senior officers of the Department.

Taking stock of the ongoing initiatives under ABDM, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgency of linking patient health records with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs, emphasizing that no stone should be left unturned to complete this vital digital transition without any further delay. He called for interlinking of Sehat, ABDM and HMIS portals, to create a unified digital ecosystem that empowers the patients, healthcare professionals and institutions to access and share data effortlessly through a single platform. Dulloo stressed that contin-

uous updating of patient health records must be ensured so that individuals need not carry paper records when visiting any hospital or doctor. He called for universal implementation of the Scan and Share facility across all health institutions. He directed the department to rationalize manpower, especially for data entry tasks critical to success of the HMIS module. In a significant push towards improving accountability and data integrity, the Chief Secretary instructed the department to expedite the Health Professional Registry (HPR) and take strict measures against pro-

fessionals delaying compliance. He also advised for seeking technical support from BISAG-N to professionally and swiftly conclude digitization targets under the ABDM framework. During the meeting, Secretary H&ME, Dr. Shah, briefed about the steps already taken to accelerate digital transformation.

He highlighted the Department's success in initiating the HPR, digitizing patient health records, integrating radio diagnostic reports with ABHA IDs and rolling out the Scan and Share facility in numerous health institutions. (Cont. on Page-11)

Adventure tourism vital for boosting repeat visits to Kashmir: CM Omar Abdullah

TT Correspondent Srinagar, July 14 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that in order to promote repeat tourism in Kashmir, it is essential to offer something new and refreshing each time-like adventure tourism.

He was speaking at the launch of the book "Valleys of Jammu and Kashmir - A Tribute to the Soul of Jammu and Kashmir" authored by Mehmood A. Shah, Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, at a local hotel here. If we aspire to promote repeat tourism, we must recognize that tourists won't return solely for our Mughal gardens or the Tulip bloom, nor just for the gondola rides. They return when offered something new-something refreshing each time. Adventure tourism provides exactly that. No two experiences are ever the same. The trail looks different in the morning than it does at sunset. Each trek offers a unique story. Calling for preserva-

tion and promotion of the region's historic trekking routes, he said these trails, connecting Jammu with Kashmir and Kashmir with Ladakh-are not just physical pathways, but cultural



corridors of heritage and sustainable tourism. It is imperative that we market our trekking routes not just as a tourism product, but as part of our ecological and cultural legacy. We must not confine ourselves to markets where advisories act as obstacles. There are many countries with no such restrictions, whose tourists would be eager to explore our terrain," he said, calling for joint efforts with Ladakh to keep traditional routes alive and accessible.

Referring to the current situation, Omar Abdullah said it was unfortunate that the book is being released at a time when many of the trekking routes described in it remain inaccessible due

Special Crime Wing Jammu registers two FIRs in high-value cheating cases

Jammu: Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu has registered two separate criminal cases involving serious allegations of cheating, criminal conspiracy, and financial fraud, causing significant loss to both individuals and financial institutions.

Case 1: Overseas Job Scam of 17.5 Lakhs

A written complaint was received in the Special Crime Wing, Jammu, from a resident of RS Pura alleging that he was duped of ₹17.5 lakhs by two individuals, Kartik Choudhary S/O Gurnam Choudhary and Ravinder Choudhary alias Sonu S/O Mohan Choudhary, both residents of Ward No. 13, Purana Pind, near SBI Bank, RS Pura, Jammu.

The complainant alleged that the accused persons assured him that his son would be sent to Portugal on a work visa, and accordingly, he arranged and paid ₹17.5 lakhs in multiple transactions, both via RTGS and cash. Despite repeated assurances, the son was first sent to Armenia on a tourist visa,

where he remained stranded for 9 months before returning without any job or onward transfer to Portugal.

To mislead the complainant further, the accused issued dummy flight tickets, conducted a fake interview in Delhi, and finally issued two cheques of ₹8 lakhs each, which were subsequently dishonoured.

Investigation revealed that the accused were involved in a deliberate and well-planned conspiracy to cheat the complainant under the guise of overseas employment.

The omissions and commissions by the accused persons constitute offences punishable under Sections 420, 120-B IPC, and a formal case has been registered at Police Station SCW, Jammu.

In another case, the Branch Manager of Bank of Maharashtra, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu filed a complaint against M/s Shuhul Automobiles Pvt. Ltd. (an authorized Mahindra dealership) and Rakesh Sharma S/O Ratan L/R O Marh, Jammu, a Sales

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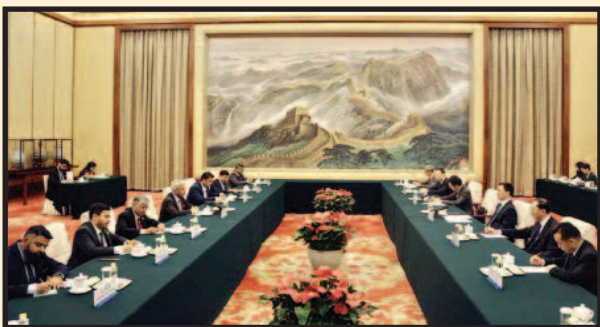
Need to address de-escalation, competition should not turn into conflict: EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi/Beijing, July 14 : India and China should build on "good progress" in normalising the bilateral ties to address border-related issues including de-escalation, and it is essential to avoid "restrictive trade measures and roadblocks", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday during talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar said the bilateral relations can develop in a "positive trajectory" on the foundation that differences should not become disputes and nor should competition become conflict, adding the ties can be built only on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

The external affairs minister said India hopes "zero tolerance for terrorism" will be upheld at the upcoming meeting of the SCO, saying its primary mandate is to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, comments seen as a reference to Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism. Jaishankar met Wang hours after he landed in China on a two-day visit to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). It is his first visit to the neighbouring country since bilateral ties witnessed a severe downturn following the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020. The external affairs minister also held talks with Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and conveyed to him that contin-

ued normalisation of bilateral ties can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes. In the last nine months, India and China have been engaged in nor-



malising their relations after ending the military face-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in October last year.

Though the two sides dis-

engaged troops from the friction points, they are yet to de-escalate the situation by pulling back the frontline forces from the border. Each

lined the need to avoid "restrictive" trade measures and "roadblocks", in an apparent reference to Beijing's approach on export of critical minerals as well as issues relating to the supply of fertilisers. We have made good progress in the past nine months for the normalisation of our bilateral relations. It is a result of the resolution of friction along the border and our ability to maintain peace and tranquillity there. This is the fundamental basis for mutual strategic trust and for smooth development of bilateral relations. It is now incumbent on us to address other aspects related to the border, including de-escalation," the external affairs minister said. Jaishankar also repeated New Delhi's consis-

tent position that India-China ties should be based on "mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity". As neighbouring nations and major economies in the world today, there are various facets and dimensions of our ties. Measures towards normalising our people-to-people exchanges can certainly foster mutually beneficial cooperation," he said. It is also essential in this context that restrictive trade measures and roadblocks are avoided. I hope to discuss these issues in further detail. The external affairs minister noted that "stable and constructive" ties between India and China are not only to each other's benefit, but that of the world as well. This is best done by handling rela-

tions on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. We have also earlier agreed that differences should not become disputes, nor should competition ever become conflict. On this foundation, we can now continue to develop our ties along a positive trajectory.

Jaishankar said the bilateral relationship requires both sides taking a "far-seeing approach" even as he referred to a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan in October last year. Since our leaders' meeting, the India-China relationship has been gradually moving in a positive direction, he said, adding "our responsibility is to maintain that momentum. In