

LG inaugurates 'Kumaon Literary Festival' in Srinagar



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating Kumaon Literary Festival at the KJCC Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the Kumaon Literary Festival at the Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The Lt Governor said that the festival brings together celebrated authors, poets, thinkers of the country to celebrate art, culture & literature and provides an opportunity to the people to explore new ideas and perspectives.

J&K is home to rich literary tradition, dating back to many millennia and our quest for knowledge continues, he further observed.

The Lt Governor said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dedicated efforts are being made since last two years to

revive and promote J&K's culture, art, literature, cinema, and music.

The nation is witnessing Economic, Cultural and Scientific Renaissance under the leadership of PM. Our ancient literary culture and values are rich and diverse and always guided us on the path of peace, co-existence and brotherhood, the Lt Governor further added.

Terming Culture as a way of life and a mirror that reflects people's aspiration and socio-economic transformation, the Lt Governor said efforts are being made to involve local artists and people as stakeholders in maintenance and promotion of art, heritage sites etc.

Recalling the contribution of famous writers and thinkers from Jammu

Kashmir, the Lt Governor said the cultural ethos of our great Nation is deeply connected with the Jammu & Kashmir UT since time immemorial. From storytelling to Classical Indian Music, Jammu Kashmir is the land of various creative mediums, he added.

There are end numbers of revered writers from Jammu & Kashmir who have enriched the cultural history of India. I believe that the past was prosperous and, I am sure that the new generation of writers will take it to greater heights, the Lt Governor

Referring to the Jammu & Kashmir's Film Policy launched last year, the Lt Governor observed that the policy has facilitated the shooting of films in the picturesque locations across UT and the Bollywood's golden era of 70s-80s is making a comeback.

The administration has started cinema halls in Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and efforts are afoot to start cinema halls in every district. Record 1.60 crore tourists had come to Jammu and Kashmir till September this year, which in itself is testament of a vibrant Jammu & Kashmir, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also spoke on the efforts to promote local languages including Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Dogri, Punjabi. The UT Government is

J&K Agro adds 550 MT cold storage facility in Srinagar



ACS, APD, Atal Dulloo after inaugurating Cold Storage facility at Agri Complex Lal Mandi.

under PMDP and was outsourced to the highest bidder through the tendering process on rental charges.

MD said that the cold storage facility would aid farmers to preserve their perishable produce and prevent wastage and losses of their produce.

He said the facility has been outsourced to Kanwal Foods &

Spices Pvt Ltd.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dulloo said that as J&K is in need of a more cold storage facility for which the government is taking several steps to increase the capacity in cold storage.

He said that several new proj-

ects have already been sanctioned while the work is going on various other projects.

He said that the 550 MT cold store facility will help in preserving perishable items and produce like fruits and vegetables and eventually increase shelf life due to which farmers can fetch good prices and subsequently increase their income.

He said that several projects have been sent for approval under Mission for Integrated Development for Horticulture (MIDH) with some projects have already been approved with subsidy being provided by the government and loan being also provided to the farmers.

He said that the government's endeavor is to double the cold storage capacity in the next few years across J&K.

He added that an apex committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr Mangala Rai who has also recommended several cold stores while some cold stores have also been approved some under NABARD.

On the occasion, Dulloo also inspected the site for banana ripening chamber with 60 ton capacity.

Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd, Secretary J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisan and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

Patrons of religion, Dogra rulers harnessed spiritualism in big way: Dr Karan Singh

Directs for digitization of rare religious scriptures collection in RSRI Library



Chairman Trustee of JKDT and former MP, Dr Karan Singh during visit to Raghunath Temple.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust and former Member Parliament, Dr Karan Singh on Wednesday said that Dogra rulers were great patrons of religion and therefore harnessed spiritualism in a big way.

He was addressing media persons here at historical Shri Raghunathji Temple after paying obeisance and praying for the peace, prosperity and progress of the UT of J&K. Senior Advocate, Ajay Gondota, President J&K Dharmarth Trust also accompanied the Chairman Trustee.

The Chairman Trustee also inaugurated pure Silver Jhaleri on Sphatik Shivaling situated in the Natraji Temple, one of the temples in the vicinity of Shri Raghunathji Temple Complex. He said that the centuries' long Dogra rule, which was dominated by the temperament well marked with spiritualism has succeeded in maintaining Indianness among the people of the erstwhile State of J&K especially the Duggarland which stretches from Lakhampur to higher reaches of Pir Panjal area and Chenab Valley.

The former MP said that his forefathers had constructed several temples across the erstwhile State of J&K while the Natraji Temple was constructed by him. He said that this is the only Natraji Temple in North India. He said that he brought this rare Sphatik Shivaling from Germany especially for Natraji Temple located inside the Raghunathji temple.

The Chairman Trustee said that the Dharmarth Trust has been entrusted to look after the temples and shrines in J&K for the last over 150 years and the organization has been working zealously to ensure that all the temples coming under its jurisdiction remain in best condition offering state of the art facilities to the devotees, who visit these religiously significant destinations from within and outside the UT besides from foreign lands to pay obeisance and seek blessings of Gods and Goddesses.

Later, Dr Karan Singh also took a round of temple premises and also met with devotees.

The Chairman Trustee also visited the Shri Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute (RSRI) Library situated in the Raghunathji Temple complex. He took stock of the functioning of the library and stressed on giving due care to the Upanishads and other rare and valuable scriptures conserved in the library.

Dr Karan Singh termed the books present in the library as treasure and said that this is the part of rich heritage of not only J&K but that of the country. He directed that all the Upanishads and other rare and valuable scriptures available in the library should be digitized and converted into e-library which will be very helpful for the scholars and booklovers visiting the place.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra employees of the Union Territory administration on Wednesday held a demonstration here over targeted killings of minorities and demanded immediate relocation away from the Valley.

The protest follows the murder of Puran Krishan Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was shot dead, allegedly by militants, in Shopian district on Saturday.

Several organisations held protests across the Union Territory in the wake of Bhat's murder, while Kashmiri migrant pandit organisations expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings.

The employees assembled under the banner of All Jammu-based Reserved Categories Employees Association.

Lashing out at the administration, the protesters alleged that 7,000 employees belonging to minority communities, including Kashmiri Pandits, serving in the Valley "have been caged by the faulty and unconstitutional transfer policy" that did not allow

them to transfer out of Kashmir.

"We have been denied salaries for four months. Even on big festival days, salaries have not been released. The government has failed to address our demands for transfer and relocation from the Valley."

The employees returned to Jammu following the killing of Rajni Bala, a schoolteacher in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31. The employees' association also hit out at the administration and the BJP for their "lip service and condemnations" following each targeted killing without making efforts to stop them.

The terrorists are killing people from minority communities and openly claiming responsibility. They are not only challenging the government but also creating fear psychosis among the employees, they said.

The protesters said targeted killings of minorities have been going on for a year but the government had not only failed to protect them but also could not instill confidence in them.

CS directs banks to saturate self-employment in J&K by November end

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Government is committed to bring down unemployment in J&K and the financial sector needs to put in a place an actionable mechanism to saturate the self-employment by the end of November 2022.

He said banks now need to move towards sustainable, equitable and outcome based banking for sustained gains.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Prashant Goyal, MD& CEO, J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLBC) Baldev Prakash, Administrative Secretaries of various Departments, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Dr A. K. Sood and other senior

functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, line departments, insurance companies were also present on the occasion. Joint Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Go Pankaj Sharma, District Development Commissioners of all districts of J&K and Lead District Managers joined the meeting virtually. The Chief Secretary, Dr Mehta stated that employment generation is the major challenge of the Government and it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to address the issue.

"Banks need to come forward and provide financial assistance to the unemployed youth for achieving the gainful employment. We need to show empathy towards the unemployed

youth in guiding them towards the path of prosperity and self-sufficiency through various credit facilities tailored in accordance to their entrepreneurial aspirations. We have to create an environment where youth have to think beyond Government jobs and strengthen avenues to self-employment," he said.

Earlier in his welcome address MD& CEO J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLBC) Baldev Prakash assured J&K Government that banks operating in J&K will extend all possible support for implementing the programmes and schemes in Union Territory of J&K.

While appreciating banks for 100% coverage of the unbanked villages by opening of banking touch points under

National Strategy for Financial Inclusion Programme, Dr Mehta impressed upon the banks to cover remaining one village under roadmap of opening banking outlets in villages having population over 5000 expeditiously. He directed banks to expedite the roll out of brick and mortar branches in 10 identified villages with population over 3000.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the Banks to take advantage of the B2V4 programme commencing from October 27, 2022 for disseminating the information on various products/ schemes to the grass root level and identifying the prospective aspirants.

He urged for upsurge in credit off take under Mission Youth saying, "I am of the belief that Mission Youth Schemes are the

most attractive schemes and more youth need to be covered under the scheme." He said self-employment schemes need to be targeted in a focussed manner on SC/ST/OBC sections of the society for inclusive growth.

Chief Secretary impressed upon banks to desist from seeking collaterals for the loans where it is not required under norms and operate within the ambit of the RBI norms/GOI schemes in the course of processing of loan requests.

Earlier General Manager J&K Bank, Syed Rais Maqbool informed that banks in J&K have achieved 44% of the Target under Annual Credit Plan by disbursing credit of Rs.22,541.45 Crore to 7,46,141 beneficiaries. Agriculture and MSME sec-



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing 8th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee meeting.

tors have performed well in the priority sector lending.

It was informed that against the Annual Target to cover 29,710 beneficiaries during FY 2022-23 banks have sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs.955.54 Crore to 24,225 beneficiaries under six major employment generation schemes during the first half year of FY 2022-23.

He informed that Rs.202,93 Crore have been disbursed to 3,104 beneficiaries under schemes of Mission Youth upto September 30, 2022.

It was further informed that 14,703 KCCs (crop) and 15,543 KCC (AII) have been issued during first half of financial year 2022-23 and near saturation has been achieved under the programme.

Against the quarterly target of holding 651 financial literacy camps, 866 financial literacy camps have been organized during the quarter ending September 2022.

He further said that the aggregate CD ratio in J&K has increased from 56.58% as on 30.09.2021 to 58.46% as on 30.09.2022.

Bajrang Dal protest against Farooq Abdullah on Target killing will not stop



Secy Mining visits Ganderbal under Jan Abhiyan to oversee e-Challan implementation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Under the Jan Abhiyan Programme in connection with Fourth Phase of "Back to Village Programme (B2V4)", Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, Mining Department, J&K UT along with O.P. Bhagat, Director Geology and Mining, Zulfiqar Mohd Shafi, Mineral Officer, Ganderbal with additional charge of Srinagar and other senior officers visited District Ganderbal on Wednesday.

Javed Ahmed Rather, Sub Divisional Magistrate Kangan also participated in this special event.

Amit Sharma briefed the gathering regarding e-Marketplace provisioned by the Mining Department and the relevance of immediate switching over to generation of e-Challans for purchase / procurement of raw material / minor minerals. A large public gathering along with Lease holders, Stone Crusher holders and other connected persons interacted with the Secretary Mining and put forth their



Secretary Mining Department, J&K UT, Amit Sharma during visit to Ganderbal.

issues which were promptly addressed by him while issuing directions to all concerned for spot redressal.

Amit further assured that all genuine demands have been noted and shall be addressed as soon as possible. Regarding a particular issue regarding rehabilitation of Stone Quarry Holders of Safapora Quarry Belt, it was assured that the problem shall be redressed within shortest possible time in order to ensure availability of raw material to the nearby stone crusher holders and general public. The public present on the occasion appreciated the efforts of mining department in introducing such revolutionary services in order to procure the minor minerals through online mode.

Before culminating the tour; Amit Sharma assured public that 100% e-Challan is being implemented as a major deliverable during this Jan Abhiyan fortnight and similar kinds of camps and programmes are going in all districts / tehsils / panchayats of the Union Territory and assured that there shall be total focus towards reaching out to public and redressing their issues during upcoming Back to Village 4 programme in the last week of this month.

Restoration of statehood & employment to youth essential in J&K: Tara Chand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Stating that restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is essential for giving boost to development, the senior leader of Democratic Azad Party (DAP), Tara Chand said on Wednesday there is equal need to create more employment opportunities for all sections of youth and to curb the price rise of essentials. Statehood to J&K is essential as it can only empower the legislature to take strong decision for development of all areas across Jammu and Kashmir divisions, he said while addressing a huge public meeting in Udhampur District. "Without fully-fledged state legislature, major decisions cannot be taken for the growth and development of matters concerning the state", he said, adding otherwise the pace of such forward movement retards as being experienced in other Union Territories of the country. Therefore, our demand is and shall continue to be that J&K should be given full statehood before holding assembly elections, Tara Chand, the former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K said. Chand, who is also Chairman of the Central Zone of DAP, referred to unrest among youth and said that the authorities should take fast-track measures to provide employment to all categories of youth. The unemployment figure has been increasing day-in and day-out in Jammu and Kashmir and it is a cause of worry as they can be led away in asocial, anti-social and anti-national activities, he said.

Tara Chand also urged the authorities to redress the grievances of those employees who have been protesting for their genuine demands. Simultaneously, the government needs to take stringent measures against the price rise of essential commodities.

Other senior leaders of DAP who also addressed the meetings included former Minister Jugal Kishore Sharma, Choudhary Garu Ram and former MLA Balwan Singh, former MLC Subhash Gupta, Sotib Ali Choudhary Corporator, Vinod Mishra, Ashwani Khajuria, Brij Mohan Sharma, Dubay, and other prominent leaders.



Senior DAP leader, Tara Chand addressing a public meeting.

hood before holding assembly elections, Tara Chand, the former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K said. Chand, who is also Chairman of the Central Zone of DAP, referred to unrest among youth and said that the authorities should take fast-track measures to provide employment to all categories of youth. The unemployment figure has been increasing day-in and day-out in Jammu and Kashmir and it is a cause of worry as they can be led away in asocial, anti-social and anti-national activities, he said.