

Promotional camps in Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Mantalai-Udhampur-Pancheri Tourism Circuit held

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JAMMU: Steering ahead the 'Tourism Promotional campaign' as a part of 'Jan Abhiyan B2V4' under the active guidance of Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Tourism Department J&K, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu is conducting multi-fold awareness camps in all districts of Jammu division with special focus on 'Homestay' identification and registration especially at the 'Off Beat Tourist Destinations'.

Continuing her week-long vigorous field tour, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta on Tuesday visited Udhampur district and held awareness cum sensitisation camps at Chennai and Udhampur. She laid special emphasis on the identification and mapping of tourist circuits, trekking routes, identification and capacity building of interested Homestay proprietors along with dissemination of information regarding tourism department policies like 'Homestay Registration Policy notified in June 2022', through the 'Tourist Reception Centres, roping on of NRLM self help groups and 'Village cooperatives' formulated



Officials presenting memento to Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta.

through the cooperative department at various tourist destinations.

She was apprised that the Tourism department has recently registered several Homestays at Chenani and has identified around 30 more homestay properties which are under process for registration. She appreciated the formulation of local 'village cooperatives' at Mantalai, Sudhmahadev under the title of 'Universal Tourism' and 'Adventure Tourism', which are the 'Village level Tourism Promotion Clubs' for activating tourism related awareness in local areas.

These village level cooperatives are working actively for tourism promotion and capacity building of local youth volunteers regarding

Homestay registration and sensitization about various tourism products especially themes like 'Agro /Rural Tourism' and 'Eco-Tourism' in Sudhmahadev and Mantalai areas. She appealed to the local youth to come forward to promote tourism of all tourist destinations of the Jammu Division and assured that the 'Village cooperatives' and 'Tourism Promotional Clubs' shall be formulated in all districts especially, the upcoming tourist areas.

She interacted with the BDC Chairman Chenani, BDC Chairman Pancheri, President Hotel Association Udhampur District, Naib Sarpanch Pancheri, local PRI members, travel trade stakeholders and youth volunteers who are interested

in working in the Tourism sector.

During the day-long interactive awareness camps, the Joint Director Tourism elaborated about an action plan for development of 'Tourist Villages' and the 'Off Beat Tourist Destinations.'

"Pancheri, Sudhmahadev, Mantalai, Dudu and Kulwanta will be given special attention by the Tourism Department for their holistic development with regard to tapping the potential of adventure tourism, rural tourism, eco-tourism, heritage tourism among other tourism related activities. Special thrust shall be laid on public involvement in identification of new tourist destinations, trekking routes so

that the demarcation and delineation of these tourist areas and trekking routes is done with a practical and public friendly approach" she informed. She also assured that all necessary support shall be extended to the interested persons for their capacity building as a Homestay proprietor and a Tourist Guide through the Food Crafts Institute Nagrota. The department shall hold such training camps so that all interested Homestay proprietors also get an opportunity to earn livelihood at their own villages and towns.

Prominent among those present during the day long awareness camps were Ambika Bali, BDC Chairman, Pancheri Jeevan Sharma; BDC Chairman Chenani Prakash; Assistant Director Tourism NHW Batote; Jyoti Koul, Tourist Officer Udhampur; President Hotel Association Udhampur; Vikram Singh Slathia; member Hotel Association Udhampur Ashok, registered Homestay owner Omkar Singh among other prominent personalities of Chenani, Sudhmahadev, Mantalai, Shankari Devta, Pancheri and Udhampur.

Azad meets Akhilesh, offers condolences on demise of Mulayam Singh Yadav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former Chief Minister of J&K and President of newly formed Democratic Azad Party, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday met Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav to offer him condolences on demise of his father, Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Besides offering condolences, the former Congress senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad also paid tribute to late Mulayam Singh Yadav and recalled his contribu-



President DAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad expressing condolence with SP Supremo Akhilesh Yadav on demise of his father.

tion towards enriching Indian politics.

Mulayam Singh Yadav, Samajwadi Party founder

and three-time chief minister of Uttar Pradesh died earlier this month in a private hospital.

GMC Jammu gets accreditation by IAP for starting 'Neonatology Fellowship Programme'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In another milestone achievement, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu has successfully received accreditation for starting of IAP Neonatology Fellowship Programme from Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)-Neonatology Chapter.

This is first time in J&K that a Fellowship Programme is going to start in the Medical Colleges. Based on the statistics, at any given time, there are 140-160 newborns are admitted in the New Born Facility in Government Medical College,

Jammu, of which, 60-70 require special skilled in-patient care and 30-40 require intensive monitoring and ventilation under ICU facility, this also includes sick newborns referred by CHCs, District Hospital and also from Private Nursing Homes.

Department of Neonatology, GMC, Jammu is a 200 bedded facility, this includes a dedicated 100 bedded Neonatology facility at newly established MCH Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The IAP Neonatology Fellowship Program will start with the batch commencing on

1st January 2023. GMC, Jammu has been allotted 3 fellowship seats.

Dr. Ghanshyam Saini, Professor & Head Department of Pediatrics, Government Medical College, Jammu is nominated as "Fellowship Coordinator" for running of this program in GMC, Jammu.

Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal & Dean has congratulated the Department for making efforts to get the seats sanctioned. She also thanked the Administrative Secretary Bhupinder Kumar for guidance and support.

CBC organises third outreach programme at Sankoo Education about Govt's welfare schemes first step towards empowering society: Rizvi



Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Aga Syed Ahmed Rizvi along with other dignitaries at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SANKOO: Continuing its outreach activities in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India on Tuesday organised an Integrated Communication and Outreach Program (ICOP) in Sankoo sub division of the Kargil district.

The programme was organised by CBC's Field Office Anantnag at Aga Syed Haider Rizvi Memorial Government Higher Secondary School, Sankoo.

This was the third programme the bureau organised in Ladakh during the month of October as part of a series of awareness programmes being organised in the region which are meant for mass awareness about various schemes and

welfare measures being implemented throughout the country. Apart from this, information about the objectives and vision of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also provided to participants which included the new initiatives of Swaraj Television Series and Azadi Quest Mobile Games.

Aga Syed Ahmed Rizvi, Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, presided over the programme as chief guest. Rizvi appreciated said that awareness of people at the grassroots level is an important part of national development. He urged the people to take advantage of the various programmes being run by the Government of India and the administration of Ladakh for public welfare.

He said that each citizen,

particularly youth, needs to be part of India's developmental journey. Rizvi said that students need to develop inquisitive minds and scientific temper to script the story of a developed India.

In his introductory remarks Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag and Leh said that there are different welfare programmes being run by the government for the socio economic upliftment of the people especially minorities. He said that the success of these programs and welfare measures is in the hands of the public who need to avail the benefits.

Lone, while presenting an overview of the mandate and activities of the CBC in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions, said that no programme or policy is going to be successful until all the stakeholders join hands for its

meaningful implementation.

On the occasion Tehsildar Sankoo, Sajad Ahmad provided details of various programmes being implemented in the sub division.

Nodal officers from departments of Health, POSHAN Project (ICDS) and Rural Development also gave detailed presentations about the schemes being implemented by them.

Medical Officer, Sankoo, Dr. Abul Hassan educated the audience about various programmes run by the department making a special mention of Ayushman Bharat, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK).

Theme based cultural programmes were also presented by cultural parties sending across messages about various welfare schemes as well as displaying the amazing local culture. Students took part in an open quiz, the winners of which were felicitated at the end of the program.

Shahid Lone informed that similar programmes were earlier organised by CBC at Khatli in Leh district and Padam in Zaskar region earlier this month while another such programme will be organised in Kargil on Thursday.

Yudhvir provides water-cooler to Mahasha Community, urges youth to adopt philanthropy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his philanthropic endeavours senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Vice President of the party, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday handed over water cooler to the President Mahasha Community here.

Sethi said that the community members had approached him and conveyed to him that there is a dire need for installation of at least one water cooler at Rehari Chungi and this requirement magnifies especially during the summer season.

The senior BJP said that though BJP Govt stands committed and duty bound to pro-



BJP J&K Vice President, Yudhvir Sethi dedicating a water cooler to Mahasha Community.

vide basic facilities to each and every section of the society, yet the people having enough resources must resort to philanthropy and augment the

Govt in providing essential services to the common people especially the needy ones.

Lauding the philanthropic initiatives of such youth,

Sethi appealed to the people at large especially the youth to be inspired by the aforesaid and make philanthropy an essential part of their routine life style. He stressed upon the need for educating the younger generation about the rich Indian values and culture of which philanthropy is an inseparable component.

Meanwhile, President Mahasabha Community thanked Yudhvir Sethi for providing the much needed water cooler on Diwali. Dr. Akshay Sharma Corporator and Dr. Raman Sharma, Naveen Sharma and Puneet Chawla were also present.

RBI Jammu, SEBI & J&K Bank organise awareness programmes for Ladakh Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: To educate Ladakh police officials about increasing incidences of cyber-frauds and other financially illegal practices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Jammu organised an awareness programme jointly with SEBI and J&K Bank in the District Police Lines Leh and Kargil on 17th and 19th October respectively. The purpose of the programme was to provide training to police officials dealing with the cases of illegal money mobilization by the Unregulated and Unincorporated bodies besides educating them on Cyber Frauds.

DIG Ladakh Sheikh Junaid Mehmood and General Manager (Department of



DIG Ladakh Sheikh Junaid Mehmood and GM (Department of Supervision RBI Jammu) Neeraj Kumar at an event.

Supervision RBI Jammu) Neeraj Kumar inaugurated the awareness programme at

District Police Line Leh on October 17. SSP Leh, PD Nitya and Regional Director (SEBI, New Delhi) Rajesh Kumar Dangeti and J&K Bank CISO Muneer Hassan Konga Wani were also present during the programme. The same programme was again organised in the Police Line Kargil on October 19.

Around 50 police officials of various ranks from districts of Leh and Kargil participated in the programme.

The programme covered sessions on various subjects ranging from illegal money mobilization, banning of Unregulated Deposits Schemes Act (2019), Modus operandi of Ponzi Schemes and growing incidences of cyber fraud etc.

Writ of mandamus to respondents can't be issued by Court for acting contrary to rules: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in a petition filed by Green Valley Sumo Taxi Stand Union, observed that Court cannot issue a writ of mandamus to respondents for acting contrary to the statutory Rules. It is true that Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is empowered to grant exemption having regard to the relevant facts and circumstances and provide reasonable time to the petitioner to have their Public Service Vehicles fitted with the requisite devices to comply with the Rule 125-II of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. This is however, left to be determined by the Competent Authority having regard to the attending facts and circumstances. That apart, the petitioner has lost its right to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this Court by being unfair and attempting to play with the process of law. In a petition filed by Green Valley Sumo Taxi Stand Union seeking direction to the respondents

to grant fitness certificates to the petitioners following the mandate of Govt. orders dated 31.10.2018 and 15.01.2020 and also seeking direction to respondents to implement the order issued by Govt. of India, Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways dated 31.10.2018 with regard to fitment of Vehicle Location Tracking Devices implementation of Development, Customization and Deployment of State wise vehicle tracking platform for safety and enforcement as per the AIS-140 specifications in States/UTs dated 15.01.2020, whereby Public Service Vehicles (All four wheeled or Higher Passenger Carrying Vehicles) W.E.F 1st April, 2018 be given exemption.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, while dismissing the petition, observed that from reading of the Rule 125-II, it is clear that all Public Service Vehicles except Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers, E-Rickshaw and a Transport vehicle for which no permit is required under the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, are

required to be equipped with or fitted with VLTD and one or more Emergency Buttons. It is true that with a view to give sufficient time to the owners of Public Service Vehicles to comply with the provisions of the Rule 125-H and equip their vehicles with VLTD and one or more Emergency Buttons, the time line for its compliance was extended up to 1st April, 2019. This obviously was in respect of the vehicles which were registered prior to 1st of April, 2019, and were not fitted with the aforesaid devices. True it is that in terms of S.O 5454(E) dated 25th October, 2018, the Government of India in exercise of powers conferred by Clause (a) of Sub-Section 3 of Section 110 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and in suppression of S.O 1663(E) dated 18th April, 2018, exempted all the Public Service Vehicles registered up to 31st day of December, 2018, up to 1st day of January, 2019, for complying with Rule 125-H and equip their vehicles with the requisite devices. It is true, by virtue of aforesaid

S.O the States or Union Territory Governments, were given power to notify the date for compliance of requirement after the expiry of time period of exemptions specified in the S.O, in respect of Public Service Vehicles registered up to 31st December, 2018. However, no notification of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has been brought to my notice, whereby the exemption to comply with Rule 125-H has been granted by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Rather one would find a copy of Minutes of Meeting chaired by Transport Commissioner dated 1st April, 2022, whereby in respect of "installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Devices", a decision has been taken to direct all the RTO's and ARTO's to ensure the strict compliance of S.O No. 5453(E) dated 25th October, 2018. It was also made clear that process of fitment VLTD and one or more Emergency Buttons, would be completed within a period of four months and the Public Service Vehicle owners are

free to choose or install VLTD and one or more Emergency Buttons of their choice from any of the manufacturers as long as it is type approved as per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

Court further observed that this Court cannot issue a writ of mandamus to the respondents for acting contrary to the statutory Rules. "It is true that the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is empowered to grant exemption having regard to the relevant facts and circumstances and provide reasonable time to the petitioner to have their Public Service Vehicles fitted with the requisite devices to comply with the Rule 125-II of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. This is however, left to be determined by the Competent Authority having regard to the attending facts and circumstances. That apart, the petitioner has lost its right to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this Court by being unfair and attempting to play with the process of law," the Court observed.

Apni Party outlines plan to strengthen party at grass-root level



Apni Party Chief Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party held a district-level review meeting in Anantnag to assess the performance of the party cadre and chalk out the strategy to strengthen the party at the grass root level in the district.

The meeting was presided over by the party chief Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, while Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Chief Coordinator Abdul Majeed Padder, Additional General Secretary Hilal Ahmad Shah, District President Anantnag Abdul Rahim Rather, District Secretary Tariq Veeri,

District President for Youth Wing Anantnag Anees-ul-Islam, Ch. Abdul Hameed, Intiyaz Hussain, ST Wing leader Gul Mohd Kully, Salman Infas, and others were present in the meeting.

Bukhari urged the district-level leaders and senior workers of the party to boost their public service activities in terms of helping people to get public issues and grievances resolved by the concerned authorities.

He said, "To serve the people must be your key activity. People are in desperate need to get their grievances and problems resolved by the concerned official and your duty is to highlight the issues and

grievances that people are facing in your respective area."

He added, "Unlike other political parties, Apni Party does not believe in deceptive policies. We are committed to keep striving for the development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir and the propriety of its people. Our job is to play a role to make Jammu and Kashmir a better place to live and ensure people, especially the youth get equal opportunities."

During the meeting, party leaders discussed several important party issues and chalked out a plan to strengthen the party further in the Anantnag district.