

J&K Govt hosts civic reception in honour of President Droupadi Murmu



The President of India, Droupadi Murmu with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and cultural group at a civic reception programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu attended a civic reception hosted in her honour at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar this evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the President thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the warm welcome on her first visit as the President of India. She was happy to note the presence of eminent personalities of Jammu and Kashmir who have made their mark in different fields. She said that they have enhanced the reputation not only of this region but of the entire country.

The President said that Kashmir has been a major centre of art, culture and education since ancient times. About 2000 years ago, the 4th Buddhist Council was held in Kashmir. Scholars believe that about 1300 years ago, in Srinagar, Shankaracharya had composed Saundarya Lahari and Ananda Lahari to describe the glory of Shakti.

The words of Lal Ded and the advice of Sheikh Nooruddin are still showing the right path to humanity. Rulers like Zain-ul-Abidin promoted etiquette and spirituality. Abhinavagupta who made amazing contributions in both the fields of religion and literature, had explained a very good principle of literature in the 10th century which proves to be true for every aspect of life. He had said that 'Shanta Rasa' is the source of all 'Rasas'. The President emphasised that we have to continuously strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's legacy of considering peace and tranquillity as supreme.

The President said that today's Kashmir is taking a new turn following its heritage. A new era of progress, peace and prosperity has begun. There has been a massive change in infrastructure development, e-governance, healthcare, housing, women empowerment, tribal outreach and inclusive development. She

was happy to note that till September this year, about 1.7 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir, which is a record.

In his welcome address, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said, President's life has been inspirational. "She has devoted her life to empowering deprived sections of society and socio-economic empowerment of women, providing them confidence, sense of self esteem. Her vision and ideals will continue to guide the world's largest democracy," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the developmental journey of UT of J&K since August 2019.

"Growth history of J&K since 2019 is an example of remarkable economic progress and inclusive development. Our focus is high growth rate, infra, industrialization, transforming cities and villages to improve the lives of the people. Well-being of all is our prime objective today.

We have been able to establish an exploitation-free, corruption-free and fear-free society that has ensured social equality and all sections of society are benefitting from the growth and development," the Lt Governor added.

Earlier in the day, the President interacted with the members of local tribal groups and women Self Help Groups at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that the Self Help Groups are playing an important role in the socio-economic empowerment of women in J&K and enabling them to take control of their lives.

"Tribal communities in J&K were marginalized for a very long time. Government implemented Forest Rights Act, key reforms and initiatives have been taken for transformation of tribal society and our focus is on holistic development to provide new strengths and capabilities to the community," the Lt Governor said.



All join hands to make corruption free society: Jammu Mayor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its continues campaign to make corruption free J&K, Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma on Wednesday visited Hari Singh Higher Secondary School, Eidgah Road, Jammu, Golden Age Society Roop Nagar and Mohalla Welfare Association Bahu Fort.

Oath regarding not to support corruption in politics, not to support casteism and to elect our representation who is well qualified, was determined to the students and staff members by the Mayor.

During interaction with the students, Jammu Mayor also stressed upon to make Jammu a polythene free and keep your surrounding neat and clean.

In his address to the Senior Citizens at the Golden Age Society, Roop Nagar, a pledge was taken to make our Society Corruption free.

Ten member ward-wise committees will be constituted who will give their selfless services to the society by organizing awareness campaigns/ camps in each and every ward of JMC.



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma during visit to Hari Singh Higher Secondary School, Eidgah Road, Jammu.

Senior citizens being highly experienced and influential class of the society can deliver the message of corruption free society and can accomplish the mission to fulfill the aspirations of the common mass.

As this is the only way to make our society and J&K as 'Imandar' Jammu, 'Shandar Jammu', the Mayor said.

During visit at Bahu Fort Jammu, the Mayor Jammu addressed the Mohalla Welfare Association and sought their support and cooperation in the ongoing campaign.

All the participants assured to join hands for the noble cause to make a society cor-

ruption free.

Mayor was also accompanied by the Councilors of Ward 47, Shardha Kumari and Ward 48, Sham Lal Basan.

All the participants and Councilors lauded the efforts made by Mayor Jammu for initiating first of the kind campaign in Jammu for making general masses aware for eradicating corruption from the society.

The main motive behind this campaign is to spread the message among all the masses and to bring a change in the age old mind set to eradicate the root cause to corruption from the society, the Mayor said.

Kargil results encouraging for BJP: Sunil Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The result of Ladakh Autonomies Development Council Kargil which has been announced recently has been an encouraging development for Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).

That the party has won two seats out of 26 but it has significantly its vote share.

In a press release, Chief Spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir BJP Sunil Sethi said that the party has not increased his seats to double but has also record about times more vote than what he vote in the last elections. The

significantly the vote share of BJP has increased to around 11 Thousand from about 2500 the last election.

The increase in the number of vote share indicates the positive acceptance the policy of BJP by the people of Kargil and it also signifies that more and more people are joining the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ideology for which BJP stands, Sethi said.

Chief Spokesperson also said that notably the elections signifies the



inroads made by the party in the areas where in the past the party did have large presence. The results also indicates that BJP is creating its own space amongst the people of Kashmir region as also Ladakh Region. The party has narrowly lost on three seats and which indicates for the strengthening of the party at the grass-root level.

Sunil Sethi also said that the Kargil results are encouraging and will be the indicator for the larger vote share of the party in Kashmir region in the elections

which have been held in the near future for Parliamentary Assembly, and local bodies.

The large number of people joining in Kashmir region Bharatiya Janta Party and the large past the party and the leadership the party has create a Kashmir region will significantly increase the vote share of the party in Kashmir region and will result in number of seats coming in the share of BJP in the Assembly Elections or the Local Bodies Elections of the party is already very hopeful of winning the all parliamentary seats also from Kashmir region, Sethi asserted.

Bukhari questions absence of NC-PDP leadership from protest in Jammu



Apni Party President S.M.A Bukhari chairing a meeting at newly opened office.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday inaugurated the Apni Party Office at Sumbal.

The Apni Party Office was inaugurated in presence of the Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hassan Mir; Vice President Usman Majid; Vice President, Zaffar Manhas; Spokesperson Ex-MLA Yawar Dilawar Mir; District President Srinagar, Noor Mohammed Sheikh; District President Bandipora, Qazni; Party leader, Intiyaz Pary and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Altaf Bukhari appreciated the Party leaders and workers for strengthening the party and intensifying the public outreach programmes that is aimed to educate people about the policy and developmental

agenda of Apni Party. "The Apni Party is committed for the social, economic and political upliftment of the people in all the regions," he said.

On the sideline of the function, he raised a question on the absence of National Conference and PDP leadership from a joint protest of opposition political parties in Jammu to demand restoration of democratic system and holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

To another question, he responded that "The BJP has no presence in Kashmir. Similarly, they are nowhere in Kargil that is why in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil they faced defeat. The Council was re-elected because they had done good work."

"However, the Congress Party, PDP and NC are responsible for spreading fear among the masses on the name of BJP which has no ground in Kashmir yet they play divisive politics in Jammu and Kashmir for vote bank politics," he said.

He said that the Apni Party has forcefully raised the demand for the restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and accordingly, held a series of protests in support of our demands.

He said that "Whenever assembly elections are announced, the Apni Party is confident that we will win the assembly elections with a majority in Jammu and Kashmir because the people have pinned their hope with the party and its developmental agenda."

Jammu IGP reviews security at Vaishno Devi shrine ahead of Prez Murmu's visit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: A top police officer of the Jammu division on Wednesday reviewed security arrangements at the Vaishno Devi shrine stop Trikuta hills, an official said.

The review of the security arrangements by Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Anand Jain comes a day ahead of President Droupadi Murmu's scheduled visit to the revered shrine. Murmu, who reached Srinagar on Wednesday morning, is visiting the shrine on the last leg of her two-day tour to inaugurate a remodelled Parvati Bhawan and skywalk on Thursday.



IGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting at Katra.

The work on the much-needed skywalk, which would help separate the incoming and outgoing pilgrims near the Bhawan area, started in August last year. The facility, 20 feet above the track level, will help overcome the problem of multidirectional flow of yatra and a chaotic condition

between Manokamna Bhawan and Gate No-3, the scene of stampede on New Year's Day in 2022 in which 12 people lost their lives and 16 were injured. A police spokesperson said the IGP Jammu conducted a series of important meetings and visited the Police Stations at Bhawan and Katra to

assess the preparedness for the VVIP visit and forthcoming Navratra celebrations. During these meetings, Jain emphasized the importance of remaining extra vigilant for the anticipated visit and urged all the officers and jawans to prioritize security measures accordingly, also keeping in

view the upcoming Navratra festival, the spokesperson said. While interacting with men on ground, he also personally visited and inspected base camp Katra town, both the helipads, venue and other main checking points starting from Moori, the spokesperson said, adding the IGP directed for strengthen the security at necessary points by adding additional manpower. Jain visited both the police stations at Bhawan and Katra and interacted with the officials and the staff.

He also stressed upon the efforts to ensure the overall safety and security of the region, the spokesperson said.

Votaries of Art 370 were its biggest abusers: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has said, votaries of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir were its biggest abusers.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, by using the alibi of Article 370 and 35A, both Congress and National Conference had for decades together denied the common man the benefit of Central Laws like property rights for women, voting rights to refugees from Pakistan, the



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releasing the book "Jammu & Kashmir - a Wounded Paradise" by Padamshri Jawaharlal Koul, at India International Centre, New Delhi.

Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 in order to appease

certain sections of society for vote bank.

The same votaries however

never felt shy of extending the term of State Assembly to 6 years and refusing to revert back even after the constitution amendment was brought in by the Morarji Govt, which they refused to extend to J&K citing Art 370 because it ensured their continuance in power, he said.

Releasing the book "Jammu & Kashmir - a Wounded Paradise" by veteran journalist Padamshri Jawaharlal Koul, Dr Jitendra described the book as a non-political narrative putting the record straight for posterity so as to dissuade biased accounts about the recent history of J&K from creating confusion in the minds of the new generation.

"Jammu & Kashmir suffered a long nightmare of blunder, blackmail and deceit propagated by vested interests,... You hold the powers that be in Delhi to ransom, and the powers, at different times, were also ready

to appease. And this appeasement went on and on till they arrived at a situation where you could not, (since) you were riding a tiger and you could not get off it," he said.

Dr Jitendra, who is an elected MP from Udhampur constituency of J&K Union Territory, said redemption came in the form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he abrogated Article 370 in August 2019 and liberated the people of Jammu and Kashmir and integrated the UTs of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh into the national mainstream.

"This ensured equitable distribution of resources and the change has brought about socio-economic development in both the new UTs. Empowerment of people, removal of unjust Laws, bringing in equity and fairness to those discriminated against since ages who are now getting their due along with comprehensive development. More than 800 central laws have become applicable to J&K after it got the Union Territory status," he said. Veteran author Jawaharlal Koul quoted concluding remarks in the book, "birds will return home one day". Justice Pramod Kohli, Ram Bahadur Rai and Prof Manta Yadav also spoke on the occasion.

Yudhvir, Priya inaugurate medical camp at Ward 8 Medical camps play a pivotal role in ensuring well-being of community: Yudhvir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP, along with Priya Sethi, National Executive Member of BJP and former minister, and Dr. Akshay Sharma, Councillor of Ward No. 8, on Wednesday inaugurated a medical camp at 19-B New Rehari, near VHP Shakti Ashram, Jammu.

This medical camp, organized by Dr. Akshay Sharma in collaboration with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Arogya Jeevan Sansthan Hanumanagar, Rajasthan, is a noteworthy effort to provide crucial medical services to the local community. District



Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP, along with Priya Sethi, National Executive Member of BJP inaugurating medical camp.

President Parmod Kapahi, Corporator Suneet Raina, Mandal President Raman Sharma were also present.

Yudhvir Sethi, while addressing the gathering, stressed the

lighted that regular health check-ups are essential for early detection and prevention of diseases. He encouraged individuals to take full advantage of this medical camp, stating that good health is the foundation for a prosperous and fulfilling life.

Sethi reiterated the importance of the medical camp, which offers a wide range of healthcare services to address the various health concerns of the local population. He said such medical camp stands as a testament to the commitment of individuals and organizations to the betterment of the community's health and quality

of life, ensuring that accessible healthcare is available to all.

Priya Sethi, in her address, emphasized that health should be a top priority for every individual. She underlined the significance of community-driven healthcare initiatives in promoting a healthier society. She pointed out that preventive healthcare measures, such as regular check-ups and consultations, can significantly contribute to a higher quality of life. She lauded Dr. Akshay Sharma's initiative and encouraged community members to participate in the camp, ensuring their health remains

a priority.

Dr. Akshay Sharma extended his gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi and Priya Sethi for sparing their valuable time for this medical camp. He informed the attendees that the camp will continue its services until October 15, urging residents to take full advantage of this opportunity to maintain their health and well-being.

Among those who were present include Suresh Salgotra, Navin Sharma, Ashok Salgotra, Rohit Gupta, Sharda Devi, Puneet Chawla, Romesh Kumar, Vipin Verma, Raman Dhiman, Swati Bakshi and Ashok Naidu.