

# Part-II of anti-corruption campaign ‘Imandar Jammu, Shandar Jammu’ Mayor reaches out to senior citizens, asks them to be brand ambassadors for the move

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In part-II of his anti-corruption campaign 'Imandar Jammu, Shandar Jammu' (honest Jammu, wonderful Jammu), the Mayor of Jammu, Rajinder Sharma on Thursday met senior citizens of Roop Nagar Club at his office and made them aware about the revolutionary movement.

The Mayor sought cooperation of the senior citizens in making the people of Jammu aware about anti-corruption campaign aimed to putting the system of the governance right.

He said that teams of 10 persons shall soon be constituted across the Jammu to aware the people about the importance of



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma interacting with senior citizens of Roop Nagar Club.

choosing upright, educated and aware candidate having sound knowledge and command over the working of administration and governance.

Sharma also said that people of Jammu should only cast

their votes to a right candidate and should never fall prey to the menace of favouring caste based candidate.

He further said that a voter should not fall to temptations for voting as monetary benefit to a person is likely to give tough time in future so there is a dire need to end political corruption from the country.

"This campaign will soon gain popularity and public support as was gained by the Chipko Movement in Uttarakhand to save green trees," the Mayor said adding that for all he need the serious support from the senior citizens and other masses of

Jammu.

He further said that all this is in-line with the announcement of PM Modi during his Independence Day address wherein he had stated that corruption is a menace eating the very basics of the country and it needs to be eradicated for which support of one and all is needed.

The senior citizens assured full support to the Mayor for the noble initiative.

"Throughout our lives we remained thinking of such a revolution for bringing a change but only after spending few post-retirement years we are witnessing it," a member of the delegation of the senior citizens said assuring that there shall be overwhelming to the anti-corruption campaign.



After decades, sealing of Waqf shops in Lal Chowk resulted in on-the-spot payment of liabilities within a day

## Clear liabilities or vacate them, otherwise we will be sealing, re-auctioning them: Dr Darakhshan to defaulters

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday received the cheques from the shopkeepers whose shops were sealed by Waqf Board yesterday evening.

Waqf Chairperson along with Waqf officers yesterday late evening sealed seven shops in Anuqf Market Lal Chowk when despite many notices and warnings by the Waqf Chairperson to the defaulters, they failed to deposit their outstanding rent amount.

It is pertinent to mention that the whole Market remained closed and protested against the Waqf decision.

But Dr Andrabi rubbished their claims through media that even after the rent hike, the properties at Lal Chowk are rented out at a very marginal rate as compared to the rates in the business hub of Srinagar.

She reiterated her stand that if the allottees don't



JKWD Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi receiving the cheques from the shopkeepers at Srinagar.

deposit the outstanding rent, shops will remain sealed.

Later in the evening, Anuqf Marked traders representatives called upon Dr Andrabi at her office and asked her to accept the part payment today only and agreed to clear all remaining pending rent dues within a month.

Dr Andrabi after agreeing to the traders submission, late evening today visited the market and received the cheques from the shopkeepers and unsealed the shops.

Later speaking to media

Dr Darakhshan said that she was not against any one utilizing Waqf property as per rules to earn his livelihood but she will not allow anybody to grab the finances or assets of the Waqf Board.

"All allottees of Waqf Board properties are informed in clear words that no concession of time will be given to any defaulters. Clear the liability amounts and retain the properties or vacate them, otherwise we will be sealing them and re-auctioning them", said Dr Andrabi.

## Lt Governor Sinha to inaugurates Art Exhibition at SKICC today



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to inaugurate an Art Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Archana Jha Choudhary titled "SANGAM" at SKICC Srinagar tomorrow from 1200 Hrs. As per handout issued on Thursday, the exhibition showcases the confluence of Basohli miniature painting and Madhubani paintings. "Basohli miniature painting considered as first school of Pahari paintings originated in Jammu region. It is known for its vivid, evocative colours, bold lines and deep-set facial patterns. The art form is characterised by bold and vibrant use of colours, intricate patterns and geometric designs. It combines the folk art associated with Hindu mythology and Mougai technique," it reads. It added, "Madhubani paintings (also known as Mithila paintings) originated in the Mithila region of Bihar and trace its antiquity to ancient times. Both the art forms have been instrumental in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of their respective regions of origin." "The two different art forms reflect the life journey of the artist, acquiring Madhubani painting as her heritage and learning Basohli painting on her move to J&K since early 1990's," it further stated. The art lovers, students and general public are welcome to visit and witness the exhibition from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM.

## Stone Crushers Owners Association discusses issues with DC Jammu



President SCOA Jammu Vikram Randhawa and members after meeting with Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President Stone Crushers Owners Association (SCOA) Jammu and Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa accompanied by Association's members met Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

The President of the Association Vikram Randhawa apprised Deputy Commissioner Jammu about the issues being faced by the owners of the Stone Crushing Units.

"We are being harassed by the Mining Contractors (lease holders). The lease holders are harassing us by levying extra charges on us and there is dire need to keep a check over the harassment (gundaism) being adopted by the Mining Contractors", the President said.

"A stone crusher is being installed after taking permission from all the concerned departments and still we are being harassed on one or other pretext", the Randhawa said, adding that

in the development process or basic infrastructure development, a stone crushing unit plays a pivotal role.

He also demanded action against the Mining Contractors, who are indulging in mal-practices and charging extra money from the stone crushing units.

"If no action is taken against the Mining Contractors, we have to close down our stone crushing units, which will hamper the development process, which is going on in full swing under the guidance of supervision of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha.

"Thousands of people are working in these stone crushing units and if we get harassed by the Mining Contractors, then we have close down our units and the unemployment ration will rise again", the President warned.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya gave a patient hear-

ing to the issues raised the President and other members of the Association.

"We will call up a meeting with the Mining Contractors to settle the issue as soon as possible, so that the stone crushing units work freely", the Deputy Commissioner Jammu asserted.

He extended all support on behalf of District Administration to the owners of the stone crushing units and assured them that all their issues will be redressed in a time bound manner.

Deputy Commissioner also sought assurance from the owners of the stone crushing units that all the development works in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir should not get hampered due to their any single loop-hole.

Among others present were Vijay Sharma, Chain Singh, Kuldeep Saini, Parveen Singh, Abhey Choudhary, Vinod Sharma, Nazir Khatana, Harman Singh and Iqbal Choudhary.

Force will remain affected on October 20 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Raipur, Mahanpur and adjoining areas will remain affected from October 20 from 11 am to 4 pm.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant legal verdict, Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur, Haq Nawaz Zargar, has handed down a sentence of 10 years of rigorous

imprisonment to two Punjab-based narco smugglers, Harjinder Singh and Senarjeet Singh, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The convicted individuals, Harjinder Singh, residing at Lane no. 5, Mao Sahib, Phillour; Bilga District Jalandhar; Punjab, and Senarjeet Singh, a resident of Talban, Tehsil Phillour; District Jalandhar; Punjab, were apprehended by a Nakka Party at Jakhani in Udhampur, along the

Jammu-Srinagar Highway. They were intercepted while transporting a commercial quantity of poppy straw, weighing 126.5 kilograms, contained in seven white plastic bags, loaded in a Tata Mobile vehicle with registration No. PB08EB-1537. The interception took place on October 15, 2018, while they were en route from Srinagar to Punjab.

Following the investigation, a challan was filed against the accused on December 31, 2018, and on May 27, 2019, they were formally charged with the commission of offenses punishable under Sections 8 r/w 15 (c), 29 of the NDPS Act based on the available evidence.

In the courtroom, Public Prosecutor KoshalKotwal represented the state,

## Navratra Festival 2023: Harmonious celebration of culture, spirituality, tradition

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Navratra Festival 2023, an extraordinary fusion of culture, spirituality, and tradition, has etched an indelible mark in the hearts of all who had the privilege of attending.

This remarkable event, orchestrated through the combined efforts of the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra, and the Divisional Administration Jammu, embodies the enduring essence of cultural heritage.

On the fifth day of the Navratra Festival 2023, the vibrant Shobha Yatra took center stage.

Presided over by Babila Rakwal, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, this colourful procession intricately wove together the rich tapestry of Hindu mythology. The streets resounded with spiritual chants as magnificent tableaux paraded, vividly depicting the spiritual culture and traditions, leaving all onlookers spellbound.

In her address, Babila Rakwal extended her heartfelt congratulations and praised the dedicated efforts of the organizers. She emphasized the profound significance of the Navratra Festival, underscoring its divine aura, enriched by the presence of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

The grand event was graced by a distinguished gathering, including Vipin Chandra, Superintendent of Police Katra; Deepak Dubey, SDM Katra; Arif Lone, AD Tourism Katra; public representatives, prominent citizens of Katra; and officials from the



Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director of Tourism and other dignitaries at Navratra festival.

Department.

In a grand celebration at Bahu Fort, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, hosted the Sharad Navratra Festival. Distinguished guests included Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director of Tourism, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director of Tourism, and Sugandhi Banotra, AD Tourism Jammu.

The event featured enchanting performances, devotional songs, and traditional rituals, leaving a profound impact on attendees.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta applauded the commitment to preserving and promoting cultural treasures.

She emphasized the profound significance of the Navratra Festival, highlighting its symbolism as the triumph of good over evil, while Abdul Jabbar

underscored the importance of celebrating fairs and festivals in preserving heritage, adding another dimension to the event.

Also in attendance were Rajeev Charak, President Bahu Fort Development Committee; Ankush Khajuria, President, Mata Mahakali Shopkeeper Union; Anuradha Charak, State Vice President, BJP, Jammu and Kashmir; Neel Kaanth, President, Matador Union, Bahu Fort; Hardesh Khokhar, Vice President, Bahu Fort Development Committee; various stakeholders; and officials from the Department.

The festival also included devotional movie screenings, enhancing the spiritual ambiance. The event concluded with a grand Aarti dedicated to Maa Durga, fostering a shared moment of

spiritual unity.

The fifth day overflowed with spiritually uplifting events, from the soul-stirring Parbat Pheri in the early morning to an enchanting Bhagwat Katha in the evening at the sacred Durga Bhawan in Katra. Additionally, the festival featured a captivating Ramlila performance at Hr. Sec School, Katra, a laser show, and a Multimedia Exhibition enriched with culturally significant programs thoughtfully curated by the Central Bureau of Communication. Audiences were enraptured by the soulful renditions of folk songs, mesmerizing dance performances by exceptionally talented artists from Jammu and various parts of India, and the inclusion of events such as Mata ki Kahani, All India Devotional competition and Hasaya Vang.

The Navratra Festival 2023, a nine-day celebration, proudly showcased the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the region. The festivities will culminate on October 23 with fervor and enthusiasm, spanning various locations, including Katra, Jammu, Kishtwar, and Kathua.

With the active support of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra and the Divisional Administration Jammu, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu extends heartfelt gratitude to all who played pivotal roles in making this festival an outstanding success. It stands as a true milestone in the celebration of tradition, spirituality and culture.

