### 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 anticorruption 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



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 cor"This campaign will soon Movement in

gain popularity and public support as was gained by the Chipko 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

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 vears 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 Auqaf 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 closed and remained 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, Augaf 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

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

Dr Darakhshan said that

she was not against any one

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 reauctioning them", said Dr

### 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 Mougal 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.

discusses issues with DC Jammu

President SCOA Jammu Vikram Randhawa and members after meeting with

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

in the development process

or basic infrastructure devel-

opment, a stone crushing

He also demanded action

against the Mining

Contractors, who are

indulging in mal-practices

and charging extra money

from the stone crushing

"If no action is taken

 $_{
m the}$ 

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 super-

vision of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and

"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

Jammu Sachin Kumar

Vaishya gave a patient hear-

Commissioner

Kashmir Manoj Sinha.

against

Mining

unit plays a pivotal role.

# Modi Govt committed to welfare of general public: Yudhvir

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to the welfare of people and the Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is very particular to mitigate the sufferings of the masses in every aspect.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President while listening to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan in Kacchi Chawni, Jammu. Jaideep Sambyal, District Vice President; Vipin Sharma and Arun Sethi, General Secretaries, Anuradha Sharma Mahila Morcha President East adn Shobha Rani, Sarpanch Aithem were

Yudhvir Sethi said that BJP has decided to provide all the administrative and facilities at the doorsteps of Jammu people. He said that the aim of conducting such camp is to

ing to the issues raised the

President and other mem-

with the Mining Contractors

to settle the issue as soon as

possible, so that the stone

crushing units work freely",

the Deputy Commissioner

He extended all support on

of

Administration to the own-

ers of the stone crushing units and assured them that

all their issues will be

redressed in a time bound

Deputy Commissioner also

sought assurance from the

owners of the stone crushing units that all the develop-

ment works in the Union

Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir should not get

hampered due to their any

Among others present were

Vijay Sharma, Chain Singh,

Kuldeep Saini, Parveen

Singh, Abhey Choudhary,

Vinod Sharma, Nazir

Khatana, Harman Singh

and Iqbal Choudhary.

single loop-hole.

District

Jammu asserted.

behalf

manner.

"We will call up a meeting

bers of the Association.



grievances at Jammu on Thursday.

conduct this type of programmes on a regular basis where public can come and approach for any type of problem.

The camp witnessed an overwhelming response from residents across Jammu city, as people flocked to the party office to discuss their concerns with senior BJP lead-

A diverse range of issues were raised by various deputations, seeking sought resolution on matters related to ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, development, and personal issues. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient

hearing to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer. He added that BJP is committed to uphold the treasured mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by ensuring all segments of society, irre-

spective of caste, religion and

region, on the path of

progress and development.

### Stone Crushers Owners Association Punjab-based narco smugglers sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment by Udhampur Court and the prosecution presented the testi-

### **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

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

The convicted individuals, Harjinder Singh, residing at Lane no. 5, Mao Sahib, Phillour, Bilga District Jalandhar, Punjab, and Semarjeet 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 vas filed against the aggreed 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 evi-

In the courtroom, Public Prosecutor KoshalKotwal represented the state, mony of ten witnesses. One witness was excluded by the prosecution, and the defense counsel accepted five witnesses.

During the sentencing, Principal Sessions Judge Udhampur, Haq Nawaz Zaroar remarked that the crimes for which both convicts were found guilty are heinous and affect society as a whole, particularly young individuals and other ulnerable sections. Therefore showing leniency to the convicts would be unjust to the innocent public, including children, who could be harmed by this menace. Taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances, the court imposed sentences on both

5, Mao Sahib, Phillour, Bilga District Jalandhar, Punjab, has been sentenced to ten years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 1.00 lakh for the commission of offenses under Sections 8/15 of the NDPS Act. Similarly, Semarjeet Singh, the son of Kewal Singh and a resident of Talban, Tehsil Phillour, District Jalandhar, Punjab, has been sentenced to ten years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 1.00 lakh for offenses under Sections 8/15 of the NDPS Act. In the event of their failure to pay the fine, both convicts will serve an additional one-vear term of rigorous imprisonment.

This verdict serves as a significant step in addressing narco smuggling and its Harjinder Singh, residing at Lane no. associated challenges within the region.

## 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 attend-

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 Vipan Chandra, Superintendent of Police Katra; Deepak Dubey, SDM Katra; Arif Lone, AD Tourism Katra; public representatives, prominent citizens of Katra; and officials from the



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 dimen-

sion 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

The fifth day overflowed with spiritually uplifting events, from the soulstirring Parbhat 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 Ramleela 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 nineday 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, 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.

# **Power shutdown**

warned.

Deputy

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: President Stone

Association (SCOA) Jammu

and Former Legislator

Vikram Randhawa accompa-

nied by Association's mem-

The President of the

Randhawa apprised Deputy

Commissioner Jammu about

the issues being faced by the

owners of the Stone

"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",

"A stone crusher is being

installed after taking per-

mission from all the con-

cerned departments and still

we are being harassed on one

or other pretext", the

Randhawa said, adding that

the President said.

met

Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

Commissioner

Association

Crushing Units.

bers

Deputy

Jammu

Vikram

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Hansa, Satraiyan, Flora, BOP, Tanda, Kirpind, Seed Farm, Ward No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (R.S Pura), Paper Mill, Badyal, Dablehar, Chowalla and its adjoining areas will remain affected from October 20 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Tanda, Balli, Gulaba, SungalDori Dager, Basava Gagel, Maira Mandrian and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 20 from 8 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Battal Ballian, Air Force will remain affected on October 20 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

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