

LG attends Founder's Day Celebration of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the Founder's Day celebration of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala Srinagar at Tagore Hall.

In his address, the Lt Governor lauded the school for its immense contribution in providing quality education to girls from poor sections of the society since its establishment in 1910.

"Strength of the nation is determined by knowledge, culture and values. Educational institutions should focus on building human values, knowledge, social consciousness to enable the young minds to shape their future life and des-



LG Manoj Sinha attending Founder's Day Celebration of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala at Srinagar on Tuesday.

tiny of the nation," the Lt Governor said. Ancient India was centre of learning. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the time has come to reclaim the position of Vishwa Guru, he said.

"Learning in schools should foster educational excellence, equal access to build knowledge society and prepare students for global competitiveness," he added. At the Founder's Day celebration, the Lt Governor commended the role of the

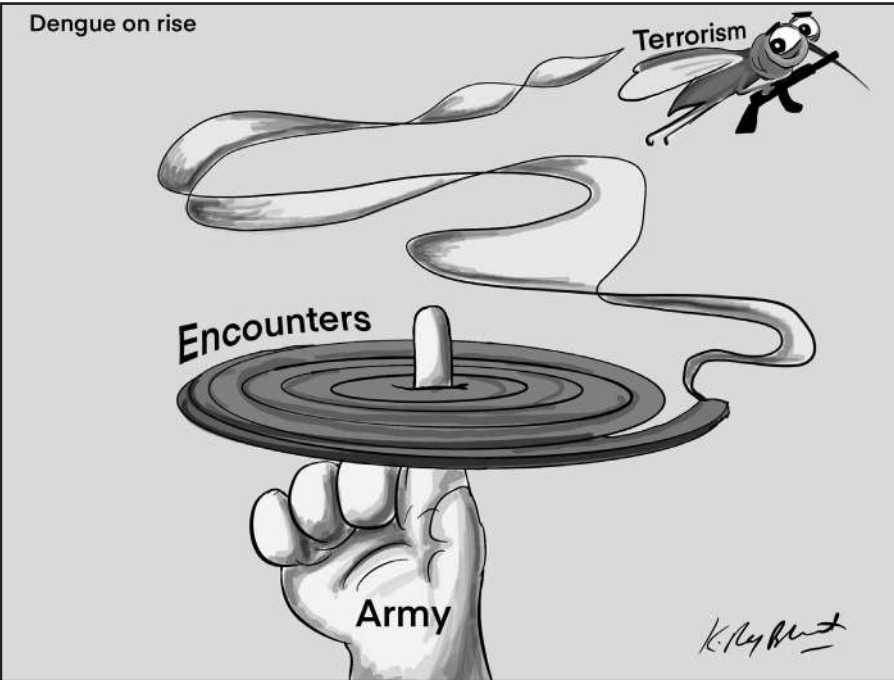
Veena Chandhok, Chairperson of Devki Arya Putri Pathshala, Principal and teachers in guiding the growth of the century-old educational institution. Society should also come forward and contribute to such virtuous endeavours and cre-

ate suitable environment for students to develop their full potential, talents, and achieve their life goals, he said.

Veena Chandhok, Chairperson, Devki Arya Putri Pathshala shared the journey and achievements of the school over the past 112 years.

Performance by Santoor Maestro Abhay Sopori was one of the key highlights of the event besides the soulful prayers and display of martial arts by the school students.

Yusra Mushtaq, Principal DAPP, teachers, parents, guardians and students were present.



Elect honest leadership for work without consideration, says Mayor



Mayor Rajinder Sharma along with students and staff of MAM College during an anti-corruption campaign on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mayor of Jammu City, Rajinder Sharma on Tuesday said that with new vision, honesty and dedication PM Modi took the progress from the soil of our country to the moon.

"From vaccination for COVID-19 to success in G-20 presidency to providing ration, cooking gas etc to the needy people in the times of pandemic and money in their accounts was a brilliant achievement and all this was achieved only because the leadership at national level is working without any consideration," the Mayor said while addressing students and staff at MAM College in Jammu during an anti-cor-

ruption campaign. He further said that the national leadership is only thinking for the welfare of nation and its public.

"With same dedication and by electing the honest team of public representatives will further improve things in Jammu also for which 'Imandar Jammu, Shandar Jammu' campaign has been started," he said.

Rajinder Sharma said that earlier there used to be commission culture and a large part of development funds went to the pockets of middlemen but from the day e-tendering was started, there emerged tremendous improvements in things and developmental works doubled.

"Earlier with Rs. 8482 crore in the year 2018-19 about 9229 developmental works were completed but with the introduction of e-tendering system in 2019-20 about 12637 works were done with Rs. 9998 crore and in 2020-21 about 21943 works were done with Rs. 10532; about 50726 works were done with Rs. 11121 crore in the year 2022-23 and 92648 works were completed with Rs. 10634 crore in the current year as middlemen have been removed in the changed system and every penny is now accountable," Rajinder Sharma said.

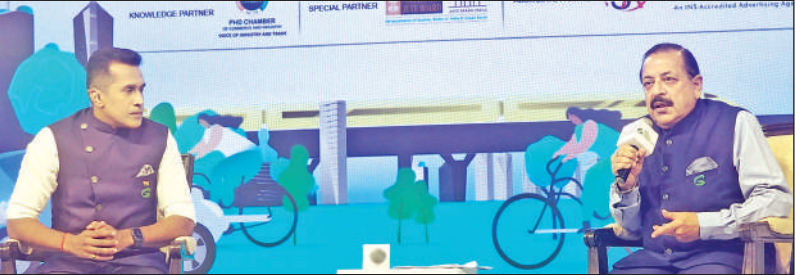
He said if we prefer candidate offering money for votes then consideration

shall not be erased in developmental works due to which such works may suffer.

Sharma said that we should also not give priority to caste candidate ignoring a deserving one to have improved system to work.

"When transparency and accountability improves record developments take place. This is the revolution by e-tendering and proper leadership at work," he continued.

He also visited Ward number 58, Auto Union Rehari Chungi, Trader Association taking the anti-corruption across Jammu and discussed the issue with Trader Association President Yash Pal Gupta.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview during the "Green Ribbon Champions" Conclave, at New Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: "Green Economy" is going to be new addition to India's future growth and StartUp avenues, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview during "Green Ribbon Champions" Conclave.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Industry stake in StartUps and Research & Development ought to be from the very beginning.

"Green Financing with a larger industrial engagement and Industry involvement is required right from the beginning because it is my considered view that otherwise you cannot move forward beyond a certain point," he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said Bioeconomy is going to be a hugely lucra-

tive source of livelihood in the times to come. "In 2014, India's bioeconomy stood at just about \$10 Billion, today it is \$80 Billion. In just 8/9 years it has gone (up) 8 times and we look forward to having \$125 Billion by 2025," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will have huge non-government resources. As a result, the demarcation between the Public and Private sector will be done away with and there will be greater synergy for future growth, he said.

"National Research Foundation will also act as a think tank, it has the mandate of even deciding the themes on which the projects have to be undertaken and funded depending on the requirements or the futuristic visions/projections, also (deciding on) the international collaborations," he

said, adding, "the NRF will have a more scientific approach so that the Innovation doesn't get lost in the din of times.

Anusandhan NRF Act was passed by the Parliament in the recent Monsoon session, with a budget of Rs.50,000 crore over five years. NRF will promote the culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories and give further impetus to Clean energy research in India and Mission Innovation. As much as 70% of its funding will come from non-governmental sources. Dr Jitendra Singh said, one of the greatest revolutions that has been brought in by PM Modi is the National Education Policy, NEP-2020. It will allow students to switch over their stream of higher studies from engineering to Humanities and vice versa based on their aptitude. "It is going to have a bearing on every sphere of our life, even our mental wellbeing. As I said, the citizens or the youth will not be living all their lives as prisoners of their aspirations' which was actually nursed by their parents," he said.

With a provision of multiple entry/exit option, one of the objectives of NEP-202 is de-linking degrees from education. Academic flexibility will have a positive impact on the students related to the availing of different career opportunities at different times, depending upon their intrinsic learning and inherent aptitude.

J&K Bank participates in nation-wide 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign with zeal



J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash along with other employees carrying out cleanliness drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of Union Government's 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign, J&K Bank wholeheartedly participated in the nation-wide cleanliness drive across its area of operations in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and in rest of the country. MD & CEO Baldev Prakash led the team of General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Syed Rais Maqbool and Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat besides other officials during one such drive wherein the enthusiastic officials swept the surroundings of Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) clean while collecting all the organic

and inorganic trash from the road sides. Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Prakash said, "Responding to the call of honorable Prime Minister, we feel pleased to be part of this symbolic country-wide cleanliness initiative that in substance aims at making the rising India hygienic as well as healthy." Notably, as part of Swachh Bharat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged citizens to join the 'Shramdaan' - a cleanliness initiative.

In Jammu, the cleanliness drive was led by General Manager & Divisional Head Sumit Kumar. Besides various zones, branches also participat-

ed in the campaign by cleaning their precincts and adjacent places to make their ambience healthy and hygienic.

Meanwhile, in all the districts of UT, Lead District Managers (LDM) spearheaded the cleanliness drives and swept clean the public places by mopping the floors and collecting the garbage and other waste. The districts include Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kulgam, Bandipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Shopian, Pulwama, Rajouri and Poonch where J&K Bank acts as the lead Bank besides that of Leh district in Ladakh.

J&K needs to be at par with national average in banking sector performance: CS



CS Dr. AK Mehta chairing 11th meeting of UTLBC at SKICC, Srinagar on Tuesday.

tionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, departmental Heads, insurance companies and Lead District Managers were present on the occasion.

While taking review of employment generation program Swarozgar Utsav- which Chief Secretary launched during the 10th meeting of J&K UTLBC- Dr. Mehta urged upon the banks to put in place a well drilled mechanism for saturating self-employment in J&K.

"By generating employment through Swarozgar Utsav and

other like campaigns we are doing a great service to our young generation, UT and nation in general. Seeing the potential and requirement in the occasion.

J&K at the moment is doing exceptionally well in major sectors like Health, Rural Development but needs to do more to saturate self-employment, he said.

"Bringing unemployment down is our main motive. "Banks need to come forward and provide financial assistance

to the unemployed youth who genuinely need it 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, he stated.

He identified various areas like Pledge Financing for Agriculture Commodities through Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Financing to FPOs by Banks, PM Weavers' Mudra Yojana, Credit Card Scheme for Artisans & Weavers of Handicrafts & Handlooms, Stand Up India & CD ratio where Banks need to improve their performance.

Earlier in his welcome address, Baldev Prakash expressed gratitude to Chief Secretary for his consistent support and guidance to the

forum through a number of well-founded initiatives to address and accelerate the resolutions for long pending issues associated with the forum.

While assuring J&K Government that banks operating in J&K UT will continue to extend all possible support for implementing the programmes and schemes aimed at entrepreneurial development, employment generation and poverty alleviation in the UT, he pointed out that the "Swarozgar Utsav" generated good response and banks have sanctioned loans of Rs.1,032 Crore to 55,756 beneficiaries till date. He stated that the campaign shall continue with full vigour so that the objective of saturating self-employment is realized."

Earlier, General Manager J&K Bank, Syed Rais Maqbool while making presentation on the financial achievements of various banks in different sectors.

Paddy harvesting in full swing across Kashmir Production increases 10 pc compared to last year: Officials

■ MASROOR AHAMAD

BUDGAM: Due to uncontrolled urbanization in the Kashmir Valley, from 1,35,000 hectares of land under paddy cultivation seven years earlier, the land currently under paddy cultivation has come down to 1,29,000 hectares, according to Department of Agriculture.

Despite that there has been a significant increase in rice yield per hectare. "This year, there is going to be a record yield as our estimates suggest that the yield per hectare will be between 63 to 65 quintals this year as compared to last year's 60 quintals per hectare. This is because of the fact that the paddy cultivation was done at the most opportune time this year (before June 15) and was later helped by timely rains and proper temperature for the crop to flourish. As the mornings and evenings grow colder with each passing day, the rice straw in the paddy fields across Kashmir has turned gold, and harvesting of the crop is in full



swing these days.

Officials said that paddy production has increased over 10 percent compared to last year and there is good news for the farmers as the Meteorological Department has predicted dry weather for a week. Mostly during the harvesting, many are desperately following weather-related predictions so that the harvesting will be done safely.

Rice is staple food in Kashmir and the crop has the distinction of being the most extensively cultivated across Kashmir and Jammu divisions. The area under the rice is distributed by both regions of which about 60 percent is from

Kashmir and 40 percent is from the Jammu division. In Kashmir, paddy harvesting normally starts in September and lasts till the end of October. It is an interesting period that changes attitude immediately because of the upcoming season of paddy crops. Farmers are busy with paddy harvesting paddy in various districts including Budgam district of central Kashmir. Men and women are working hard and trying to finish harvest paddy from the fields as clear weather is forecast for a week. "Harvesting is a time-consuming process which needs collective effort rather than a single man's capacity," Nissar

Ahmed, resident of Kuzwera Chadoora Budgam told the STATE TIMES.

"Working together is very important in paddy fields as this work seems a little difficult," he added.

He said that during the season almost all members of the family get involved in this practice. But since few years local people, especially young generation is showing less interest in paddy harvesting, that is why now we are totally dependent on non-local labour force.

"Among the family, the children can't harvest but they fetch food for others working in the fields," he said, adding that the paddy harvesting is the primary step which takes two or three days.

Another farmer, Shafaqat Ahmed said, "This year, the farmers are delighted at the increased production of the paddy and exclaimed that suitable weather aided better production of paddy compared to the previous year, with the help

of new seed varieties the quality and quantity of paddy crop has been increased.

The climatic conditions for paddy this year were almost favourable and the exact percentage of increase in production will come after October 15. Because of the extreme climatic conditions in Jammu Kashmir, rice is only grown once a year.

Experts from SKAUST K said that these days, Kashmir is witnessing vertical growth in rice cultivation because of utilization of resource-efficient technology and our research and development institutions. "Even though it is a sad reality that we are losing agricultural land to built-up areas, I hope this trend stops very soon so that we are able to make good use of our land," he said and added that it is not only about rice cultivation. "We can even grow vegetables on a far greater scale than we do currently if land resources are utilized properly," he added.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA), J&K under the guidance of its President Dr. Amita Mehta, an environmentalist, on Tuesday held a programme to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti at a Government Middle School, Astanpora, here in the peripheries of Srinagar.

During the function the speakers highlighted different aspects of Gandhi's life and thoughts. They explained to students the virtues of truth and honesty with the help of real life events of the father of the nation. They beckoned the students to emulate the teachings of Gandhi regarding the truth and Non-Violence in order to live a successful life. On the occasion, besides Dr Mehta, President



Members of IASOWA, J&K distributing stationery and sports gears among students at Srinagar.

IASOWA, Administrative Secretary, Mining, Rashmi Singh; Director, Family Welfare, Tabasum Ganai; members of association namely Rajini Sinha; Ruchi Gupta; Shweta Alok, Dr. Manisha; Mehak Shahid were also present. They distributed stationery and sports gears among the students. The members interacted with students and advised them to adopt Gandhian thoughts in their lives which shall help them to

make better choices in their lives. They also urged them to popularize these among their friends and acquaintances. The IASOWA members planted saplings to highlight the need for environmental protection. The officers who coordinated the event included Chief Education Officer (CEO), Srinagar, Dy CEO, Srinagar, ZEO, Nishat besides other teachers, students and staff of the school.