

# LG visits Vajr Division's Roshan Mustaqbil, a youth empowerment centre at Zangli, Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited 'Roshan Mustaqbil', a youth empowerment centre at Zangli, run by Indian Army's Vajr Division to channelise local talent into education, skills and livelihood. He was accompanied by Maj Gen K Mohan Nair, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding, Vajr Division and other senior officers.

The centre currently has over 690 youth enrolled, who are building a better future for themselves and the society.

The centre offers classrooms for competitive exam preparation, dig-



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during visiting 'Roshan Mustaqbil', a youth empowerment centre at Zangli.

ital learning and computer labs, a library and reading room, tourism and hospitality training facility, and also entrepreneurship incubation with market linkages. The youth centre has turned out to be a place for amalgamation of sports, Kashmiri culture and modernity of outlook for a brighter future.

Roshan Mustaqbil has achieved notable success in a very short span of time and youth trained at the centre are getting placement across the country. The Centre has also fostered revenue generating startups, women's digital inclusion and strengthening national integration.



## SCERT Jammu hosts 3-day capacity building programme on information retrieval

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, hosted a three-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on "Information Retrieval: Changing Trends in the Age of ICT" from October 13 to 15. The programme aimed at promoting knowledge sharing, innovation and capacity building among library professionals from Jammu Division.

Organised by the Department of Library and Documentation, Academic Unit-I, the event brought together experts from the University of Jammu, Government Degree Colleges, SCERT Jammu and Samagra Shiksha to deliberate on emerging trends and best practices in library and information management.

The CBP focused on enhancing understanding of the evolving nature of information retrieval in the digital and ICT driven environment and familiarising librarians with modern tools, technologies and digital platforms for efficient access, organisation and dissemination of information.



Dignitaries releasing book authored by Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Librarian, GGHSS Mandi, Poonch.

mation.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Anuradha Seth, Chief Librarian, Government Degree College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, who applauded the initiative, describing it as a significant step towards empowering participants to innovate and adapt to changing technological environments.

Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, congratulated the organisers, resource persons and participants. She emphasised fostering a culture of excellence in librarianship, staying abreast of emerging trends and delivering efficient, effective and ethical information services.

The sessions covered

diverse aspects of library development, information literacy and the integration of technology in educational resources. Eminent professionals including Dr. Samita Wadhwa, Department of Botany (University of Jammu), Dr. Pramod Kumar, Department of Library and Information Science (University of Jammu), Dr. Arun Gupta Librarian (GDC Chenani), Dr. Sandeep Sharma (GGHSS Mandi, Poonch), Lakshmi Puri, teacher (Samagra Shiksha), Academic Officers Manu Vasudeva, Bikram Singh, Dr. Bhuvu and Ruchi Mohan

Librarian from SCERT Jammu shared insights on continuous professional development and the need for stronger collaboration among educational institutions.

A key highlight of the programme was the release of the book "School Library Governance: Rules and Policies for Traditional and Automated Libraries," authored by Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Librarian, GGHSS Mandi, Poonch. The book was formally unveiled by Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor who commended the author's scholarly contribution to the field of library science.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma also delivered an engaging session elaborating on the core concepts, objectives and vision of his book, offering valuable insights into modern library governance, policy formulation and automation practices.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Bhuvu, Coordinator of the event, who expressed gratitude to all resource persons and participants for their active engagement and commitment to advancing library excellence.

## Chairman DLSA Jammu chairs 4th UTRC-2025 meeting at Dist Jail Amphalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A team of senior officials on Wednesday visited the District Jail Amphalla, Jammu to review the condition of under trial prisoners, assess jail facilities and conduct 4th meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

The 4th UTRC meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Y. P. Bournay, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority & (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu and was attended by Anusya Jamwal, Additional District Commissioner (Adm), Jammu; Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu; Vivek Shekhar, Superintendent of Police Jammu North; Prashant Mahajan, Deputy Director Prosecution Jammu; Anil Mangotra, Chief Prosecution Officer Jammu; Veerinder Kumar Bhat, Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu; Dharminder Katoch, Superintendent of District Jail Amphalla Jammu and Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu.

The committee reviewed



Chairman DLSA, Y. P. Bournay with others dignitaries during visit to District Jail Amphalla, Jammu on Wednesday.

the status of under-trial prisoners in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). During the meeting, the committee reviewed various cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners lacking proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars.

The meeting concluded with a series of recommendations aimed at expediting pending cases, improving coordination between prison authorities and investigating agencies and ensuring that every eligible undertrial receives benefit of speedy justice as mandated by law. The District Legal Services

Authority, Jammu reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the rights of undertrials and promoting access to justice through continuous review mechanisms like the UTRC.

Further, Y. P. Bournay, Chairman DLSA Jammu during the jail visit interacted with inmates to understand their grievances and emphasized the importance of timely legal assistance and inspected the jail premises and assured all necessary administrative and security support for the welfare of inmates. Y. P. Bournay also held interaction with under trial prisoners, detainees and convicted prisoners in the ground area of the jail and took first hand stock of facilities available there. The

inspection covered a wide range of areas, including the Jail Legal Aid Clinic, Virtual VC rooms, interview area, Jail Prisoner calling system, Jail Hospital, Kitchen Area etc. The Medical Centre within the jail premises was also thoroughly inspected. They also checked the quality of the food prepared in Jail for the prisoners and also took stock of medical facilities and listened attentively to the inmates' concerns and grievances and provided them a platform for feedback on the services provided by District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

Later, the jail inmates also organised a cultural programme in the honour of Pr. District and Sessions Judge Jammu.

## From Doubters to Leaders-India Emerges as Engine of World Economy: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir UT, Gaurav Gupta, has welcomed the recent remarks by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, calling them a powerful global endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary economic leadership. He said the IMF Chief's recognition of India as a "key engine of global growth" highlights India's rise as a resilient and dynamic economic powerhouse, even as major world economies face slowdown.

Gupta highlighted that Georgieva, speaking at the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, praised India's bold economic and structural reforms, including the digital identity revolution (Aadhaar), expansion of digital payments, rationalization of GST slabs, and comprehensive tax reforms. Georgieva stated, "India proved doubters wrong," referring to India's



ability to implement large-scale reforms that many once thought impossible, and positioning India as a model for growth and innovation globally.

He noted the IMF's latest projections showing India's GDP growth at 6.5% for 2025 and 2026, in comparison with China's projected growth of 4.8% in 2025 and 4.2% in 2026, the

U.S. at 1.9% in 2025 and 2.0% in 2026, and a global average of around 3%. "While most major economies are slowing, India is growing at more than double the global average, clearly establishing itself as the engine of world growth," he emphasized.

Gupta also highlighted that the Reserve Bank of India has projected an even higher 6.8% GDP growth for FY 2025-26, driven by strong domestic consumption, a favourable monsoon, private sector investment, and sustained government spending. He said this demonstrates the resilience of India's fundamentals and the effectiveness of Modi Ji's reform-driven policies.

Gupta pointed out that despite rising U.S. tariffs and global trade tensions, the IMF Chief's praise underscores the credibility and impact of India's policies. "Even amid external headwinds, India continues to lead with stability, growth, and inclusive reforms," he remarked.

He also responded to recent remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump, who referred to India as "dead economy." Gupta said that the IMF's endorsement completely contradicts and invalidates these remarks. "India is not a 'dead economy'; it is the engine driving global growth. The IMF's projections and global recognition make it clear that India is setting the pace for the world economy," he said.

Gupta further added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold reforms - from modernized taxation to digital infrastructure and ease of doing business - have transformed India into a global example of economic strength and resilience. "Despite global headwinds and protectionist measures abroad, India continues to rise as a beacon of growth, innovation, and stability. The IMF's praise validates Modi Ji's policies and underscores India's role as a trusted engine of global recovery," he concluded.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K Dr. Arvind Karvani on Wednesday chaired a meeting with officers of line departments to review the ongoing development works in the migrant camps and to take stock of the day-to-day issues being faced by the migrants.

Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Vijay Kumar Sharma; Chief Accounts Officer Shiwani Bhan; Assistant Commissioner (Relief) Kailash Devi; Assistant Commissioner (Relief) Sanjeev Kumar and the officers from different Government departments and the Relief Organization attended the meeting.

Dr. Karvani reviewed the damages due to recent incessant rains and the steps being taken to fully restore the same.



He also reviewed the ongoing development works and the works in the pipeline. He emphasised on the importance of adhering to the directions issued by the General Administration Department, wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir has been assigned to the Government Departments with the directions to nominate an officer, not below the rank of Executive Engineer for liaising /coordinating the execution/maintenance of works/projects about their department with the Relief Organization (M).

It was informed that the construction of four bore-wells in the Mini Township Jagti and two bore-wells in the Camp Nagrota to address the long-pending demand of the camp inmates shall be completed by mid-November.

The work of installation of 150 street lights in the migrant camps has also started on the ground. The JPDCL was instructed to start the work of fencing and clearance of all transformers in the camp areas, for which approval has also been accorded.

The PWD(R&B) also informed about the renovation works in progress. The meeting was informed that the construction of the Rs 6.5 Cr Multi-Purpose Community Hall is in full swing and shall be completed by March next year. Deputy Commissioner Relief and Assistant Commissioners Relief were asked to ensure weekly visits to the camps assigned as per duty roster and take stock of all development works/ problems of migrants, including grievances related to immovable properties in the Kashmir Valley.

hoods. The DDCs were also instructed to ensure extensive awareness among young citizens regarding various government welfare and empowerment schemes to encourage their proactive participation.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to make youth empowerment a collective mission, integrating efforts of all departments to channelize the energy and potential of the young population towards a vibrant, inclusive, and progressive Jammu and Kashmir.

## IGP Kashmir promotes 650 HCs to ASIs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Departmental Promotion Committee, constituted under the chairmanship of IGP Kashmir V. K. Birdi, for assessing the suitability of eligible Head Constables for elevation to the next rank, has approved the promotion of 650 Head Constables

(HCs) to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI).

IGP Kashmir has felicitated the promoted officials/their families and expressed the hope that they will strive to work hard for maintaining of public peace, tranquillity and law & order in the Union Territory of J&K.

## CS reviews roadmap for mega youth engagement programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday reviewed a detailed presentation by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department on "Youth Engagement: Building Tomorrow's Leaders", which outlines an integrated framework aimed at empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through sports, culture, education, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretaries of GAD, Youth Services & Sports, and Floriculture; Secretaries of School Education, Health & Medical Education, and Skill Development Departments; besides several other Heads of Departments and senior officers.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary termed the youth engagement programme a significant step towards nurturing creativity, innovation, and leadership among



young people across the Union Territory. He emphasized the need to make the initiative multidisciplinary so that every young person is engaged meaningfully in line with their individual talents and aspirations.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon departments including Youth Services & Sports, Culture, School Education, Higher Education, Health, Rural Development, and others to devise strategic departmental plans for engaging maximum youth across their respective sectors. He also directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare district-specific action plans for effective on-ground implementation.

Highlighting the centrali-

ty of coordinated efforts, the Chief Secretary designated the Planning Department as the nodal agency for overall implementation and monitoring of the initiative. He instructed it to develop a unified online platform for uploading and tracking all youth engagement activities across departments. The General Administration Department (GAD) was tasked with framing a Steering Committee to ensure smooth inter-departmental coordination and effective execution of the programme.

Underlining the need to leverage existing national-level initiatives, he called for tapping into schemes and platforms of the Ministry of

Youth Affairs such as My Bharat, NSS, Youth Exchange Activities, and Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, which provide valuable exposure and skill-building opportunities for youth.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took feedback from Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners regarding their proposed strategies for maximizing outreach and participation under the programme. He urged all departments and district administrations to adopt a collaborative and convergent approach, pooling resources and expertise for impactful implementation at the grassroots level. He further enjoined upon the Information Department to create necessary awareness among the public about the youth welfare schemes and other orientation programmes for furthering their career pursuits.

Presenting the framework, Director General, Planning, Satvir Kour, highlighted that the initiative seeks to

harness the creativity and dynamism of youth recognizing them as key drivers of social transformation and economic progress. She said the programme would equip young people with life skills, values, and self-confidence, steering them away from vulnerabilities such as substance abuse, unemployment, and social evils.

The Strategic Action Plan presented covers multiple dimensions of engagement, including Sports and Cultural Development. Revival of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural festivals such as Sufi festivals, classical arts performances, literary gatherings, and visual arts exhibitions promoting J&K's rich heritage while creating livelihood opportunities is going to be the innate part of this programme.

With respect to furthering the Education and Skill Development the action plan focuses on making education and vocational training more accessible, market-relevant, and skill-oriented to enhance employability

