

Congress Refugee Cell holds protest against entry fee of Rs 25 at Flower Garden

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress Refugee Cell Vice Chairman and Block President Amrit Bali on Sunday led a strong protest against J&K Administration for charging an entry fee of Rs 25 for every individual for visiting Flower Garden, located at Bhour Camp in Jammu. He further said that the garden was inaugurated by former MLA Gandhi Nagar, Raman Bhalla, on March 31, 2008, with a hope that it would become major tourist destination of the region, but BJP Govt failed to take proper care of it. "The garden, which was raised after spending crores on 563 Kanals of land, at the pattern of famous Tulip Garden in Kashmir valley, is still waiting for tourists and required promotions. The hopes with which the garden was inaugurated to promote tourism in Jammu completely died because the concerned authorities seem to



Protesters raising slogans during a protest.

be least bothered about its maintenance, completing work and attracting tourists. It is really a matter of grave concern that even after passage of 12 years, flower garden is nowhere in any map or any promotional event. Instead of developing flower garden with every passing year, poor planning and lack of will on part of BJP Govt led to its further downfall. It is unfortunate that on one hand Government claims to promote and boost tourism sector and on the other hand

such gardens and other places of interest are being neglected," he added.

The Vice Chairman of Congress Refugee Cell further said that it is high time that concerned authorities should come forward to promote the garden as it has a potential to attract tourists thereby besides boosting the economy considerably. "As, tourist season is about to begin, I will like to request the concerned authorities to pay due attention towards it besides opening it for tourists," said Bali. He fur-

ther drew the attention of concerned authorities towards damaged portion of bridge and approach road and requested for immediate repair works to avoid any untoward incident.

"Negligence of Public Works (Road & Building) Department can be gauged from fact that a vital bridge at Ward No-2 of Bhour Camp Chatha, which connects several villages, is lying damaged for years and concerned department is least considerate to repair the same thereby putting locals in great distress, as five persons have already lost their lives. Around 3-4 villages are benefitted with the bridge but due to damage, vehicular movement is not possible on it due to which people have to adopt long routes," he said, alleging that a number of representations were presented to the concerned department, but nothing was done to mitigate sufferings of people.

DC Reasi inspects veterinary facilities

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Deputy Commissioner, Charandeep Singh on Sunday conducted a surprise inspection of the office of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Panthal.

The surprise visit was highly welcomed by the locals during which the Deputy Commissioner took stock of basic amenities being provided at the veterinary centre.

The DC spoke with the locals and verified about the basic veterinary facilities being provided by the centre for their livestock. He checked the inventory status and inspected the records being maintained by the centre.

Later, Charandeep Singh inspected the Sheep Breeding Farm at Panthal and its office. The farm was found to be functioning satisfactorily.

The DC directed the staff to pay attention to sanitation and health of the sheep in addition to maintaining the grazing fields in pristine condition.

Upgradation of public health infrastructure our priority: Baru



BJP Senior Leader and Councillor, Sanjay Kumar Baru interacting with residents.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Senior Leader and Councillor, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Sanjay Kumar Baru along with Jal Shakti Vivag Junior Engineer Vivek Kohli and supervisor Dalip Kumar on Sunday visited different localities of Ward-41 to prepare estimate for replacing old pipes with new one to ensure the proper water supply in various Molallas of Ward-41.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Sanjay Kumar Baru said that due to dilapidated conditions of old pipes at different locations in Surya Vihar, Colonel Colony, Wazir lane people of these localities faces crises in water supply and taking cognizance of these problems and to resolved once for all, a roadmap with the proper mechanism with technical help of "Jal Shakti Vibhag" was discussed.

Concerned technical officers were asked for preparing estimates for replacing

old pipes to ensure adequate and clean water supply to every household in a stipulated time frame.

Further in his address, Baru appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Government for the allocation of nearly 5200 Crore for Jal Shakti Abhiyan in our Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the recent budget for 2021-22.

Sanjay Kumar Baru said that one of reason for the irregular supply is the lack of coordination between various departments PHE, PHE mechanical, PDD maintenance and PDD transmission electrical wing, but now after the 74th amendment there are some improvement in coordination between these departments under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation. He ensured that soon these issues will be resolved to the satisfaction of the local residents of our ward.

First Aid training imparted to inmates of Girls Hostel Pounichak



Senior Consultant, Dr Rajinder Thappa interacting with inmates of Girls Hostel.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: First Aid Training imparted to inmates of Girls Hostel Pounichak of Sewa Bharti Jammu and Kashmir by Dr Rajinder Thappa, Senior Consultant and First Aid Trainer Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of Dwarika Nath Sharma. Topics discussed were types of bandages, simple, pressure bandages, triangular bandages, bandages of mandible, chest bandages and what are the conditions where we don't apply bandages were demonstrated.

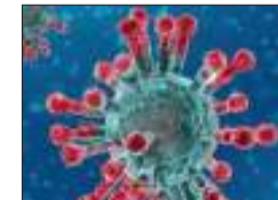
Speaking on the occasion, Dr Thappa said that dressings vary greatly in nature and size, so it is important to select the correct dressing for use on a specific wound. A sterile dressing which is past its expiry date should not be used, he said.

He said that a bandage is used in combination with a dressing where wound is present. A roller bandage is used to secure a dressing in place. A triangular bandage is used as an arm sling or as pad to control bleeding. It may also be used to support or immobilise an injury to a bone or joint or as improvised padding over a painful injury. A tubular gauze bandage is used to retain a dressing on a finger or toe.

Active COVID-19 cases in country decline to 1,22,714

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India logged 10,488 new coronavirus infections taking the country's total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,45,10,413, while



the active cases declined to 1,22,714, the lowest in 532 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll climbed to 4,65,662 with 313 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 20,000 for 44 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 147 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.36 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.30 per cent, the highest since March 2020, the ministry said.

A decrease of 2,154 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

With continuously evolving travel restrictions in different parts of the world,

STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Ahead of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, two photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a stroll with his hand on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's shoulder has created quite a buzz.

Sharing the photos on Twitter, Adityanath also wrote a poem about the commitment of making a new India.

The photos of Modi with his hand on Adityanath's shoulder deep in conversation were snapped at the Uttar Pradesh Raj Bhawan. The prime minister, who is in Lucknow to attend the DGPs' conference, is staying at Raj Bhawan since Friday night.

Adityanath had gone to meet the prime minister on Sunday morning. However, it is not known what discussion took place between them. Along with the photos, Adityanath wrote a

poem in Hindi, which roughly translates to: "We have started a journey with a pledge, dedicating our mind and body, to make the sun rise; rise high above the sky and make a new India". Retweeting the tweet, Uttar Pradesh BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh said, "Moving towards comprehensive victory."

The opposition Samajwadi Party scoffed

at the photos of Chief Minister Adityanath and Prime Minister Modi.

Without a direct reference to Adityanath's tweet, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also wrote a poem in Hindi: "For the sake of the word, it has to be done in politics; unwillingly one has to put a hand over another's shoulder and take a few steps together."

SR College conducts Workshops for IAS & JKAS aspirants

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The SR College of Competitions (SRCC) organised Workshops for the civil services aspirants in the college premises at Gandhi Nagar.

The workshops were organised for Public administration, philosophy and Urdu optionals and the sessions were handled by eminent faculty members who have been teaching Optionals and have wealth of experience.

While interacting with the aspirants, G Meena an expert in philosophy optional emphasized on the advantages of taking philosophy as an Optional. He discussed the syllabus of both the papers and the sources one must refer to while preparing the Optional notes. He also told the aspirants about how to complete the questions so that they can score more in the optional.

The response to the workshops was overwhelming and the attendees appreciated.

He also motivated the students about answer writing practice on regular basis and suggested to attend atleast one comprehensive test series before the Mains exam.

The workshops were organised for Public administration, philosophy and Urdu optionals and the sessions were handled by eminent faculty members who have been teaching Optionals and have wealth of experience.

Public administration optional workshop was taken by Gautam Kumar. He also guided students who are writing 2021JKAS mains exam about how to complete the syllabus within limited time as the JKPSCL has hinted for conducting the mains exam in the month of February. He also emphasized on the dynamic nature of the subject especially the second paper.

The Urdu workshop was taken by a renowned faculty member Arshad who again guided the aspirants about how to approach the questions so that they can score more in the optional.

The response to the workshops was overwhelming and the attendees appreciated.

Corporator kick-starts development works in Ward-3



Corporator Ward-3, Narottam Sharma starting development work.

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Taking a dig at China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said "some irresponsible nations" with their narrow partisan interests and hegemonic tendencies are coming up with wrong definitions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

It is a matter of concern that UNCLOS is being repeatedly weakened by arbitrary interpretation of its definition by some nations, Singh said, after commissioning of Indian Navy's destroyer Visakhapatnam here.

"Some irresponsible nations, with their narrow partisan interests, hegemonic tendencies are coming with wrong definitions of international laws," Singh said. Indigenously-built stealth guided missile destroyer Visakhapatnam, packed with an array of missiles and anti-submarine rockets, was commissioned in presence of top naval commanders.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that residents of the ward were complaining a lot regarding difficulties faced by them in respect of drinking water supply and accordingly, the matter was taken up concerned

authorities of PHE, who agreed to the proposal of laying new water pipes in the area. People of the area expressed gratitude towards Sharma for fulfilling their long pending demand.

Prominent amongst others present on the occasion included Vijay Gupta XEN, PHE, AEE Ratneesh Kohli, Sunil Sharma JE, Kuldip Sharma, Yash Abrol, Lucky Sharma, Ram Lubaya, Ashok Kumar, Jeet Kumar, Chaman, Raja Miyan and Sandeep Bhasin.

to add 10-12 destinations to our network as soon as we can," he added.

Without sharing any specific numbers on the growth in yield and revenue as well as in passenger volume in the first half of the current fiscal, Kannan said the first few months were extremely tough.

Just when the industry had started seeing a marginal increase in passenger volumes, the second COVID-19 wave brought it down significantly with passenger load factors averaging around 50 per cent in April and May 2021, he said.

Further, he said that only since June 2021 that we have started observing a return of demand which led to the load factors going up to 72.4 per cent in September.

"We have also been able to effectively leverage commercial cargo and charter flights which has significantly contributed to the bottom line," Kannan said.

With the ongoing festive season and year-end holidays coming up, he said Vistara was hopeful that passenger traffic will continue to rise and normally returns gradually.

In October, domestic air traffic rose 70 per cent year-on-year to 89.85 lakh passengers, as per the latest DGCA data.

On expenses, Kannan said Vistara has been nimble in its approach from the beginning and took several measures to reduce non-customer-facing operating expenditures while making every effort to conserve cash whenever possible.

The airline, he said, continues to leverage opportunities such as commercial cargo, charter flights, and introduce multiple ancillary services in our effort to generate additional revenue.

Prolonged suspension of international flights impacting airlines' financial health: Vistara



"recovery of demand in international segment still has a long way to go", he noted.

Scheduled international air services to and from India remain suspended since late March 2020 due to the pandemic. India has air bubble arrangements with more than 25 countries for operating overseas flights.

For now, the suspension is till November 30 and there is no clarity on normalisation as discussions are going on against the backdrop of spike in the number of coronavirus cases in some countries.

The full-service carrier, which started flying to eight international destinations during the pandemic, has embraced a "nimble" approach amid the dynamic and unpredictable situation in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic as some countries are now witnessing rising infections.

Vistara CEO-designate Vinod Kannan said most predictions about recovery of the aviation industry have been proven wrong in these times of great unpredictability, and it might be too early to conclude that the country's aviation sector is out of the woods.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has been below 20,000 for 44 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 147 consecutive days now.

The active cases comprise 0.36 per cent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.30 per cent, the highest since March 2020, the ministry said.

A prolonged suspension of scheduled international operations is definitely impacting the financial health of most airlines, thereby adding to the pressure (on the revenue)," he told PTI.

In an email interview, Kannan, who is currently the airline's chief commercial officer, said that though administration of vaccines across the globe has brought a lot of positivity and hope to the industry, the situation continues to be dynamic and unpredictable.

With continuously evolving travel restrictions in different parts of the world,

"We aim to keep up the momentum that we have gained in the last one year on international expansion and have our plans in place

to add 10-12 destinations to our network as soon as we can," he added.

Without sharing any specific numbers on the growth in yield and revenue as well as in passenger volume in the first half of the current fiscal, Kannan said the first few months were extremely tough.

Just when the industry had started seeing a marginal increase in passenger volumes, the second COVID-19 wave brought it down significantly with passenger load factors averaging around 50 per cent in April and May 2021, he said.

Further, he said that only since June 2021 that we have started observing a return of demand which led to the load factors going up to 72.4 per cent in September.

"We have also been able to effectively leverage commercial cargo and charter flights which has significantly contributed to the bottom line," Kannan said.

Regarding starting flights to the US, he said operations to the US have several requirements and approvals that "we are currently working on".

"We aim to keep up the momentum that we have gained in the last one year on international expansion and have our plans in place