

LG visits Jhiri Mela; says farmers symbol of hard work, dignity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited Jhiri Mela and paid obeisance at Baba Jitto shrine.

The 10-day long annual event to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Jitto & Bua Kodi is witnessing congregation of lakhs of people from different parts of the country especially Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and UP.

Addressing a huge gathering, the Lt Governor threw light on the life and sacrifice of Baba Jitto.

Supreme sacrifice made by Baba Jitto is exemplary for each one of us to emulate. Our farmers are a symbol of hard work and dignity. An enlightened society should ensure justice to the community, which is playing a vital role in serving and nurturing humanity, said the Lt Governor.

Jhiri Mela symbolizes cultural unity of India and the tradition tied in the thread of social values provides an opportunity to the people to learn about our heritage, culture, art and craft, observed the Lt Governor.

It is heartening to see that this year's Mela is being organized on a larger scale to encourage tourism in the region and to showcase the life and philosophy of Baba Jitto, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor underlined the importance of government-public part-



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Baba Jitto shrine in Jammu.

nership in the development process. "We must focus on community driven development. Locals, PRIs members and other stakeholders of the society should come together to create an institutional mechanism to improve the facilities for devotees visiting this historical Mela," he said.

The Lt Governor said that the UT Government is working with a strong resolve to ensure that every individual gets equal rights, equal opportunities and every stakeholder to be a partner in J&K's development journey.

J&K will progress when our farmers prosper. Dr Mangala Rai-led Apex

Committee on Agriculture provides a comprehensive solution for upliftment of the farming community and we are making efforts to implement the suggestions with the necessary institutional mechanism and support, added the Lt Governor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a new resolution to the country that is to restore the pride of our heritage, our culture. The golden opportunity of the next 25 years is before us. Our youth must contribute to strengthen social and cultural unity for rapid development, he further added.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament, speaking on the occasion

underscored the efforts of the government to develop Agriculture and allied sectors, empowering the farming community and increasing farmers' income.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance of the Jhiri Mela.

Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu briefed on the elaborate arrangements made to facilitate the visiting devotees; awareness campaigns for government schemes & Nasha Mukat and Swachhta campaigns being run, besides sports and culture activities organized during the Jhiri Mela. Till date, more than six lakh devotees have already visited this year's Jhiri mela, she informed.

During his visit, the Lt Governor inspected the stalls put up by the departments showcasing the local agriculture produce. Best performing government departments and winners of various competitions were also felicitated. Cultural performance and mukad natak presented by the artists generated awareness against drug addiction.

Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Vivek Gupta, DIG; Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister; DDC & BDC members, PRI representatives, and people in large numbers were present on the occasion.

Chairman Minorities Commission meets Dr Jitendra, discusses issues of KPs, Sikhs



Chairman National Commission for Minorities, Iqbal Singh Lalpura calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block, New Delhi, on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, Iqbal Singh Lalpura on Friday called on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed the status of security as well as education and employment opportunities for Hindus, including Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) and Sikhs living in Jammu and Kashmir. Lalpura apprised Dr Jitendra about some of the initiatives like providing scholarship, training and extending loan facilities at affordable rates and organising Humar Haat. He said that the Commission will grant more funds for the training of minorities in the UT of J&K. Dr Jitendra said, the Centre is committed to provide fool proof security to all the people of Jammu and Kashmir and trying hard to promote livelihood opportunities with a special focus on the needs and requirements of minorities living there. He asked the Commission to direct its focus for the preservation and enrichment of culture and language of the minorities. Referring to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme designed to address the development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas, Dr Jitendra said, it will continue to support the States/UTs in creating infrastructure to improve the quality of life of people and reduce the imbalances in the identified minority concentration areas to be at par with the rest of the country.

Dr Jitendra noted with satisfaction that under PMJVK, about 20 projects amounting to 320 lakhs have been sanctioned for providing better health, education and other facilities to the people of J&K. He pointed out that under pre-matric and post matric scholarships to the students of Jammu and Kashmir; around Rs 35 crore has been sanctioned and more funds are in the offing.



J&K to achieve Foundational Literacy & Numeracy at end of Grade-III by 2026-27: Kanethia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Project Director Samagra Shiksha School Education Department, Er. Deep Raj Kanethia while addressing a workshop at Jammu, said that J&K UT will achieve Universal Foundational Literacy & Numeracy at the end of Grade-III by 2026-27 through a National Mission, i.e. the National Initiative for proficiency in reading with understanding and numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).

He was speaking in a dissemination workshop of Foundational Learning Study 2020 organised by the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K in collaboration with the National Development Foundation J&K Jammu and UNICEF at Tawi Conference Hall, Udhaywala Jammu.

The Officers from SCERT, CEO Offices and DIETs of all the districts of Jammu Division participated in the workshop. Ajeet Sharma, coordinator Quality Samagra Shiksha and Syed Fayaz, Assistant Coordinator of Samagra Shiksha, acted as Resource Persons and disseminated the outcome of the foundational learning study 2022.

In his address, Rajiv Khajuria, President/CEO National Development Foundation, highlighted the priority given to foundational numeracy and literacy in National Education Policy 2020. He emphasized that future schooling and life-long learning for children



A dignitary speaking at a programme.

is impossible without attaining foundational literacy & numeracy.

Fayaz Ahmed Fayaz I/c Joint Director SCERT, in his address, called upon the field officers to take the learnings of the FLS Study at the ground level and assured that SCERT would wholeheartedly support all interventions and content development about foundational numeracy and literacy.

He informed that SCERT has already developed TLM and content, some of which is already in use, and the remaining will be disseminated shortly to facilitate the foundational literacy and numeracy for all children in J&K UT.

Project Director Er. Deep Raj Kanethia elaborating further said that research indicates that 80 to 90 % of the brain develops in children by the time they attain the age of 6 to 7 years.

He appealed that all education officers and functionaries should focus on building a strong foundation for better growth in the early years so that children attain founda-

tional literacy and numeracy, which has been accorded the highest preference in National Education Policy 2020.

He shared that LG J&K, Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary of Education have given clear-cut instructions that NIPUN Bharat Mission shall be a great success by ensuring that all children in Jammu & Kashmir attain proficiency in learning with understanding and numeracy. This is also a flagship programme of the Government of India and will help achieve SDG 4.1.1.

The project Director complimented the rule of civil society, particularly the National Development Foundation and UNICEF, for joining the Education Department to ensure foundational numeracy and literacy a reality for the children in Jammu & Kashmir.

He detailed that National Education Policy 2020 also promotes voluntarism and the rule of Civil Society Organisations to ensure inclusive and quality education for all children.

CCI resents arbitrary hike in rent of Waqf shops



President CCI Arun Gupta chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu, on Friday expressed resentment against the unethical enhancement of rent of properties allotted to shopkeepers.

President CCI Arun Gupta, in a communicate sent to Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Jammu, apprised her that the Anqaf Department had allotted shops in 1984-85 on a fixed rent basis in various locations of Jammu.

From the last three decades, a fixed rent on these properties was charged with 10 per cent increase after every 3 years, he said adding that this

practice of revising rent after every 3 years was suddenly done with after 4th Meeting of J&K Waqf Board held on July 21, 2022 in terms of the Rent Recommendation Committee 2015-16.

The occupants are being served with notices where in the user charges have been enhanced at exorbitant rates contrary to the laid down provisions or enhancement in lease Rent Agreements, Arun said adding that this decision has led to the steep hike of rent @ 500 per cent to 1100 per cent which is totally illogical and unethical.

CCI President further apprised the Chairperson Waqf Board that the small

businesses are just struggling to recover from the successive setbacks occurred due to abrogation Article 370, lockdown of business due to Covid 19 and discontinuance of Darbar move.

Besides most of the businesses are under heavy debts of loans from banks and all are trying to come out of these slums, he added.

"The decision taken by the Waqf Board is arbitrary and beyond the scope of stakeholders majority of whom small shopkeepers having their shops in congested by lanes and markets. The payment of rent at such a hike is beyond their capacity and available sources of income," he said.

Arun Gupta appealed to the Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board to sympathetically reconsider the decision of increase of rent and take steps for review of same by taking into confidence all the parties involved.

Office bearers of CCI present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta Treasurer.

NEP of Waqf Board being drafted, MoUs with Govt & Private Sectors will boost institutions: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday visited more than a century old educational institute 'Faridiya Higher Secondary Institute' at Kishtwar and inspected the working within this historical educational centre.

Dr Andrabi chaired the first ever parents-teachers convention held in the Institute. She was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Panchayats & Administrator of Waqf in Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Wani & Chief Executive Officer Waqf Board Dr Syed Maajid Jahangir.

Dr Andrabi felicitated the meritorious students for their outstanding performance in different departments.

In her address, Dr



Chairperson JKWB, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi posing with faculty and other officials during visit to Faridiya Higher Secondary Institute at Kishtwar.

Darakhshan said that Waqf Board is working on a reformatory programme for the education sector of the Waqf Institutes by virtue of which we have the target of driving out education sector in Waqf from its huge losses which affects the creation of basic infrastructure and modernisation within these educational centers.

"A holistic modern educa-

tional development programme is being formulated so that we are able to transform our educational institutions. Possibility of MoUs with many departments and private institutions is being studied by an expert committee so that we are able to modernise our education infrastructure and create updated facilities required in the modern world", said Dr Andrabi.

use plastic in future so that Air pollution level can be brought down.

Anuradha, Senior Scientist JKSPCC Jammu also addressed gathering and asked all stakeholders to contribute their bit for containing the pollution. The programme ended with distribution of cloth bags among participants. Vice President MPDA Jaswinder Singh presented vote of thanks. Others present on the occasion included Harpreet Singh, Mohan Singh Bhati, Romesh Kumar, Mangal Singh and Parvinder Singh.

SPCB, MPDA hold awareness programme on rising pollution

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K State Pollution Control Board South division Jammu organised a pollution control awareness programme at Transport Nagar, Narwal in association with Motor Parts Dealers Association (MPDA), Transport Nagar. Welcoming guests and participants, Rajinder Parshad Kakkar President MPDA Jammu said that Air pollution has risen above danger level in Transport Nagar. Arshad Malik, Divisional Officer South JKSPCC Jammu pre-



Arshad Malik, Divisional Officer South JKSPCC Jammu and others during awareness programme.

sented future action-plan of department to deal with the problem in active association of all stakeholders in transport Nagar like transporters,

mechanics, scrap-dealers, tyre retreaders and automobile dealers. They were asked not to burn their daily waste besides avoiding use of single-

5-day 'Multimedia Exhibition' on AKAM organised by CBC J&K at Jhiri concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The five-day 'Multimedia Exhibition' organized by Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India at Jhiri, Jammu on Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav (AKAM) concluded on Friday.

The 'Multimedia Exhibition' was organized alongside 10-day-long annual 'Jhiri Mela' that commenced this week after a two-year gap due to the pandemic with thousands of devotees from across the country thronging the fair to seek blessings at Baba Jitto temple.



Students visiting CBC's Multimedia Exhibition at Jhiri.

The exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of 'Photo Exhibits' as well as audio visual medium.

Apart from this, special

section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 Years of Seva Sushasan- Garib Kalyan, wherein the achievements of the government across various sectors in the

last 8 years including in Jammu and Kashmir have been highlighted. Separate corner for Azadi Quest- recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj- 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the Exhibition display.

During the concluding day, the exhibition witnessed a large gathering being visited by large number of students from different schools and colleges of Jammu Region, officials of civil administration, ICDS workers and devotees across the northern region.

Bhalla demands restoration of old pension scheme for all Govt employees

Joins protesting employees at Jammu Railway Station



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing protesting railway employees at Jammu Railway Station.

demands were not fulfilled, then railway employees across the country will go on a nationwide agitation, the responsibility of which will be on the Ministry of Railways and Government of India.

Speaking on the occasion,

Bhalla said that ruling Government has attained expertise in making big claims but on ground its performance is dismal with people suffering on all counts as civic edifice, healthcare, education, employment, tourism, busi-

nesses are all passing through an abysmal phase. He said that people of the country have committed a big mistake by voting BJP to power and the need of the time is to root it out as soon as possible and install Congress Government to ensure good governance in country. "BJP cannot offer anything except big hollow promises like bringing back black money, eradicating corruption, teaching a lesson to China and Pakistan, etc," said Bhalla demanding immediate restoration of old pension scheme, for all the Government employees, across the country.