

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 Koli 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.

Anvy Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu briefed on the elaborate arrangements made to facilitate the visiting devotees; awareness campaigns for government schemes & Nasha Mukt 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 nukkad 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.



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

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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).

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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 shared that LG J&K, Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary of Education have given clear-cut instructions that NIPUN Bharat Mission shall be 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.

The 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 foundation

literacy and numeracy in National Education Policy 2020.

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 highlighted the priority given to foundational numeracy and literacy in National Education Policy 2020. He emphasized that future schooling and lifelong learning for children

is impossible without attaining foundational literacy & numeracy.

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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 communiqué sent to Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Jammu, apprised her that the Waqf 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

is totally illogical and unethical.

CCI President further apprised the Chairperson Waqf Board that the small

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 500 per cent to 1100 per cent which is beyond their capacity and available sources of income," he said.

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 500 per cent to 1100 per cent which 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.

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