

# Fight against drugs a collective task: CS



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a virtual meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday held the 3rd UT Level NCORD meeting to take a comprehensive review of efforts being made to mitigate the menace of drugs here.

that the drug menace is a grave issue spoiling the precious lives of our youth falling its victims. He asked them that the problem deserves a wholesome approach from each appendage of the government. He maintained that the government is sympathetic towards victims and very harsh towards the peddlers.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Agriculture Production; ACS, Home; Principal Secretary, School Education; Divisional Commissioners, Jammu/Kashmir; ADGP, Kashmir/ Jammu; Secretary Health; MD, NHM; Excise Commissioner; State Drug Controller; Zonal Director, NCB Jammu; SSP, ANTF and all the Deputy Commissioners and District SPs.

The meeting was informed that till October, 2022a total of 596 cases in Jammu Zone and 785 cases in Kashmir Zone have been registered under the NDPS Act arresting 815 and 1270 persons respectively. It was also revealed that in the same period about 291 kgs of Cannabis, 200 kgs of Heroin/Brown Sugar, 167115 Tablets/ Capsules/ Syrup and 52 FIRs had been registered against persons cultivating illicit crops over their agricultural lands under the said Act.

# Jammu Sapphire becomes 'star attraction' of J&K Pavilion in IITF 2022

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: An innovative lead of Mining Department in organizing a special display of Jammu Sapphire from Padder mines of Kishtwar, this year, has become a star attraction for millions of visitors thronging the J&K Pavilion in the ongoing India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

gem of world class quality, at IITF this year wherein public has been visiting in huge numbers everyday. J&K Minerals Corporation led by its Managing Director, Vikram K Gupta, took the initiative to install a stall in J&K Pavilion with a live display of originally extracted Jammu Sapphire stones here and it has become a centre of attraction for the visitors.

Secretary Mining, Amit Sharma, on Thursday conceptualize this idea of displaying Jammu Sapphire, a precious

display of live extraction of rare gem Sapphire of Padder hills, apart from literature, is immensely helping to market and brand Jammu Sapphire during the ongoing IITF in a big way. J&K Minerals Corporation also offered to help genuine buyers to have a detailed look at the extracted sapphire stones once the IITF gets over after due verification. Besides, efforts are being made towards GI tagging of this precious gem of Jammu division soon.



Secretary Mining, Amit Sharma informing visitors about Jammu Sapphire at ongoing IITF.

# Sawhney calls on Congress President, discusses J&K's political scenario

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney met with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss important ongoing political issues of J&K. Sawhney congratulated Kharge on his recent appointment as All India Congress President and discussed several matters pertaining to the welfare of J&K people and apprised the President regarding local issues and needs. Sawhney explained that Kharge's initiatives to know and understand local issues will help the party build a better mechanism and strengthen the organisation in Jammu and Kashmir. After meeting with Congress President, Sawhney also met with senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala and AICC Coordinator MP Rajya Sabha Syed Nasir Hussain and discussed important party affairs of J&K. The leaders, who have had a long association since their respective Youth Congress days, also discussed strategy to strengthen and uplift the party in Jammu & Kashmir. Sawhney raised both political and people-centric issues during his visit, attention and work on which will lead to betterment of the party and the people alike. He also expressed his gratitude to the Congress President for his time and interest in hearing the burning concerns regarding political development in particularly Jammu & Kashmir. Sawhney stated that due to the absence of an elected government, the UT lacks in various accounts.

alongwith other Head of Departments and dignitaries visited this Sapphire stall and appreciated this innovative effort of Mining department. He advised that all efforts should be made to polish and make value addition in the sapphire stones inside J&K only so that JKML can fetch maximum value of available gems during the upcoming auction. Meanwhile, the stall was formally visited by Mining Secretary yesterday morning wherein he interacted with the visitors who appreciated live display of Sapphire. It is worthwhile to mention here that LED based screen

display of live extraction of rare gem Sapphire of Padder hills, apart from literature, is immensely helping to market and brand Jammu Sapphire during the ongoing IITF in a big way. J&K Minerals Corporation also offered to help genuine buyers to have a detailed look at the extracted sapphire stones once the IITF gets over after due verification. Besides, efforts are being made towards GI tagging of this precious gem of Jammu division soon.

Amit Sharma disclosed that as per broader vision of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, soon MECL shall begin detailed scientific exploration of Padder Mines on the directions of Union Ministry of Mines, so that proper assessment of quality and quantity of Sapphire mines can be done in J&K.



Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney meeting with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

# JAC delegation calls on Dr Nirmal Singh, demands withdrawal of J&K Universities Bill

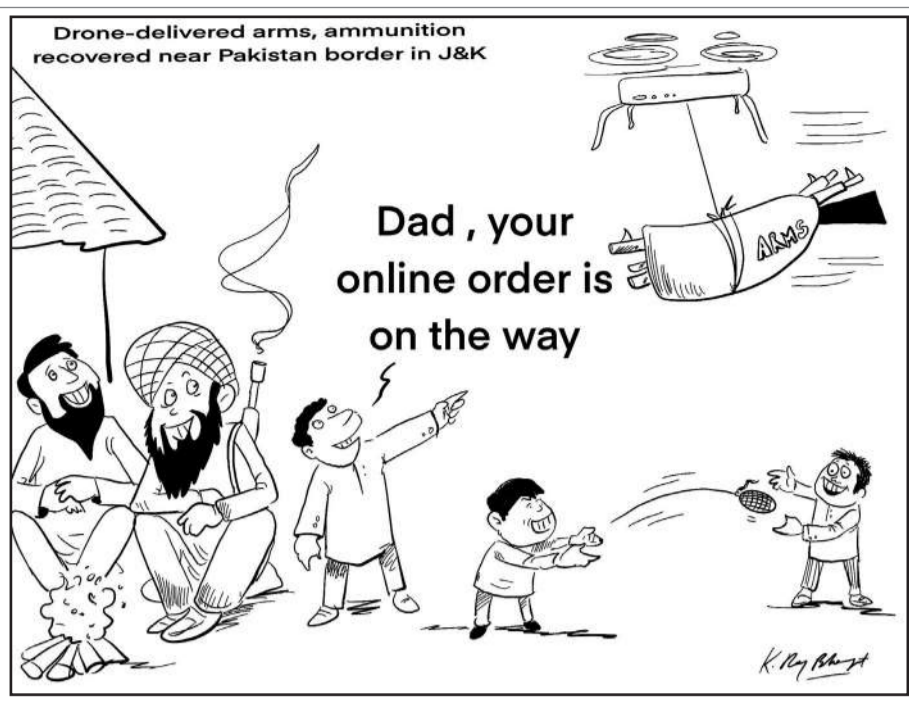
## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Joint Action Committee against the JK Public University Bill - 2022 comprised of Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology - Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ), SSTA SKUAST-Kashmir, Non-Teaching Associations of Jammu University and SKUAST-Jammu met Ex - Deputy Chief Minister, J&K Dr. Nirmal Singh at his residence today in the form of Joint Action Committee and submitted a memorandum demanding withdrawal of JK public universities bill - 2022. President SKUAST-TAJ Dr Vikas Sharma informed Dr Singh that the provision 49 of the bill reads that all the teachers will be considered as Public Servants, which is contrary to the existing rules and many Supreme Court Judgments wherein it has been clearly stated that the teachers of universities are not public servants, the example is not far to seek as Jammu University's active teacher not only contested elections but also remained Deputy Chief Minister of our erstwhile state. After giving a patient hearing to the delegation Dr Nirmal Singh, who himself served University of Jammu as a Professor of History and moreover, worked for the teaching community in the capacity of Secretary Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA), said that Universities are the sanctuaries of innovative ideas, which need special space to grow / nurture and the present bill will prove to be a death blow to the very idea of Universities. The deputation comprised of Dr Rakesh Chib President JUNTEA, Sr: KD Singh President NTEA-J whereas other office bearers of non teaching associations namely Varun Dubey, Dheeraj Rajwal, Arjun Jasrotia, Pankaj Gupta, Ram Singh, and Kewal Kumar were also present on the occasion.

JAC delegation presenting memorandum to Ex-Dy CM J&K. Dr. Nirmal Singh.

While rejecting the closure report, Court observed that Vigilance Organization, Jammu (VOJ) presented a closure report in terms of Sec. 173(3) CrPC in case FIR No. 04/2007 Police Station, Voj titled State Vs Dr Falendra K. Sudan. As per the said report prepared by SSP Voj, Jammu, the case was 'not proved' against the accused. This court, while concurring with the findings of the Voj, accepted the closure report and ordered the case to be closed as 'not proved', as recorded in the order of this court dated 17-05-2008. Feeling aggrieved by this order, the complainant in the case challenged the same before the High Court at Jammu. Court further observed that pursuant to the said direction of the High Court, the complainant was put on notice to appear before this court in the case at hand. Finally, she appeared before the court on 03-07-2022 and her statement with regard to

the closure report was recorded. In her statement so recorded she has once again reiterated her stand and revealed at length all those facts whereby she was demanded Rs. 20,000 by her supervisor, the accused herein, for meeting the expenses of visit of the external expert for conducting her viva and also to present gift to him as stated by the accused to her as a part of tradition in University of Jammu to be followed. However, there was no such rule or written order of the university in this regard. That as she belonged to financially low profile family, it was difficult for her to arrange the entire amount instantly. Therefore, she requested the accused to take Rs. 5000 as first installment and rest of Rs 15,000 to be paid well before the viva. That he agreed to the same. That she brought this matter in the notice of the Vigilance Organization, Jammu, which gave her a diary containing audio recorder for recording this whole deal wherein the accused agreed to take first installment of Rs. 5000. She did the same and got the whole conversation recorded between him and her. Thereafter, as per the deal she carried the said money to the office chamber of the accused and kept the same on the office table. However, as her visit was pre-planned by the Voj, so trap team of Voj was very much there to catch hold of the accused red handed. By the time, team went inside Chamber of accused, he fell on the feet of complainant, started weeping and tendered an apology. Then they both were separately



# Project 'Zimmedari' transforming schools into impressive learning centers: Dr Darakhshan

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: The Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday visited Kupwara and met the Deputy Commissioner Doifode Sagar Dattatray and discussed the details of the novel project 'Zimmedari' with him.



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Doifode Sagar Dattatray.

She also met the team of Parimal Foundation who is executing the 'Zimmedari' project in Kupwara District. Dr Andrabi hailed the efforts of the Deputy Commissioner for beginning this novel project in Kupwara district.

"Project Zimmedari is transforming schools into impressive learning centers with uplift in infrastructure, creation of inspiring environ & schooling results. The vision of Deputy Commissioner Dattatray is praiseworthy. The project has the plan & potential to upgrade our curricular & extra-curricular activities in our schools," said Dr Darakhshan. She hailed the concept of innovation & digitization modules for skill orientation for our youth. Dr Andrabi said that Kupwara will serve as a centre of inspiration for other districts to follow.

'Zimmedari' is a project of filling the infrastructural gaps in schools and also regarding uplifting the academic environment in the rural schools. This project has been launched in Kupwara District in collaboration with the famed Parimal Foundation. Accompanied by the team of Parimal Foundation, Kupwara District Education Department teams, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi & the Deputy Commissioner D S

Magistrate of Waqf Board Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin also accompanied the team. Dr Andrabi visited Boys Higher Secondary School Kupwara, Girls High School Drugmulla & Boys Higher Secondary School Sogam and took stock of the Project assessment, vision of transformation and upliftment of schools. She talked to teachers, educational experts, students, parents & district administration representa-

# Bribe demand by University official: Anti-Corruption Court rejects closure report of Voj, directs carrying out probe

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina rejected the closure report of Vigilance Organization Jammu (now ACB) in FIR No. 04/2007 Police Station Voj, for offences under sections 5(2) PC Act 2006 BK read with Sec 161 RPC. Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina while rejecting the closure report, directed SSP, Vigilance Organization, Jammu, (now ACB - Jammu) to go for further investigation into the case and submit the report within two months.

the closure report was recorded. In her statement so recorded she has once again reiterated her stand and revealed at length all those facts whereby she was demanded Rs. 20,000 by her supervisor, the accused herein, for meeting the expenses of visit of the external expert for conducting her viva and also to present gift to him as stated by the accused to her as a part of tradition in University of Jammu to be followed. However, there was no such rule or written order of the university in this regard. That as she belonged to financially low profile family, it was difficult for her to arrange the entire amount instantly. Therefore, she requested the accused to take Rs. 5000 as first installment and rest of Rs 15,000 to be paid well before the viva. That he agreed to the same. That she brought this matter in the notice of the Vigilance Organization, Jammu, which gave her a diary containing audio recorder for recording this whole deal wherein the accused agreed to take first installment of Rs. 5000. She did the same and got the whole conversation recorded between him and her. Thereafter, as per the deal she carried the said money to the office chamber of the accused and kept the same on the office table. However, as her visit was pre-planned by the Voj, so trap team of Voj was very much there to catch hold of the accused red handed. By the time, team went inside Chamber of accused, he fell on the feet of complainant, started weeping and tendered an apology. Then they both were separately

taken to the Vigilance Office where she also handed over CD of recorded voice to the VO. That thereafter her signatures were taken on 2-3 blank papers. In the meanwhile the university authorities also constituted the committee in context of conducting an enquiry in this regard. However, on asking as to why she did not present said documents to the IO, she stated that for 1-2 times she went to the Voj where she was told that it was a long drawn process and she would be called when required. Later on the accused, along with his friend Prof Jasbir Singh harassed her a lot in her pursuit of Ph.d and finally they managed the closure of this case by the Voj. That she is not satisfied with the investigation done in the case.

ing his opinion in the case. Court observed that fact remains that the court has not to act as the post office of the Voj to treat their every word as a gospel truth. Though there is a symbolic band on the eyes of goddess of justice, but judge presiding over the court is not blind. People have reposed their full faith in the courts as neutral institutions of administration of justice and courts have to live up to this faith to their fullest. However, this court has to uphold its sanctity, majesty, faith, uprightness et al, purely and squarely by resorting to the due process of law and justice, unaffected and un-influenced of any personal whim and wish of the judge. Court did not find itself in agreement with the conclusion drawn by the SSP, Voj in the instant closure report and as put earlier, the demand or acceptance of the money by the accused should have been appreciated by the IO as put in the foregoing paras. For that to acknowledge in its true perspective, the best piece of evidence to corroborate this fact was the CD which was given to Voj by the complainant. Had it been considered and subjected to scientific test, probably the conclusion drawn might have been different. With these observations, Court rejected the closure report and returned to the SSP, Vigilance Organization, Jammu, (now ACB - Jammu) with a direction to go for further investigation into the case and submit the report within two months.

Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina observed that a very crucial piece of evidence, which is the part of the charge sheet is CD, based on the alleged recorded voice of the accused. It is alleged by the complainant that it contains pre-trap conversation between her and the accused, wherein he is demanding the said money for bearing expenses of the visit of expert for conducting viva of the complainant. Fact remains that when this recording was made by the very instrument provided by the Voj itself to the complainant, then why the IO ignored the same and did not get its veracity tested by the FSL. It was an important piece of evidence which stands ignored by the IO in formulat-

ing his opinion in the case. Court observed that fact remains that the court has not to act as the post office of the Voj to treat their every word as a gospel truth. Though there is a symbolic band on the eyes of goddess of justice, but judge presiding over the court is not blind. People have reposed their full faith in the courts as neutral institutions of administration of justice and courts have to live up to this faith to their fullest. However, this court has to uphold its sanctity, majesty, faith, uprightness et al, purely and squarely by resorting to the due process of law and justice, unaffected and un-influenced of any personal whim and wish of the judge. Court did not find itself in agreement with the conclusion drawn by the SSP, Voj in the instant closure report and as put earlier, the demand or acceptance of the money by the accused should have been appreciated by the IO as put in the foregoing paras. For that to acknowledge in its true perspective, the best piece of evidence to corroborate this fact was the CD which was given to Voj by the complainant. Had it been considered and subjected to scientific test, probably the conclusion drawn might have been different. With these observations, Court rejected the closure report and returned to the SSP, Vigilance Organization, Jammu, (now ACB - Jammu) with a direction to go for further investigation into the case and submit the report within two months.

# DB accepts oral & written undertakings of Advocates, discharges notices of contempt

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice M A Chowdhary accepted oral and written undertakings of Advocates and discharged notices of contempt issued against them by the Court in 2019 when Advocates were on indefinite strike.

mon law countries which is characterized by a neutral adjudicating authority, which, on the basis of the arguments and evidence placed before it, arrives at a conclusion. The role of an Advocate in an adversarial system, therefore, is to represent the case of the client before the adjudicating authority. As a professional, the functional role of an Advocate, in essence, is comparable to that of a legal technician. An Advocate is specially trained in the technical profession of 'law', and with his grasp over the subject matter; professional function consists largely of providing counsel for clients about how to escape or mitigate the incidence of the law's obligations, availing of the loopholes and the ambiguities of law. Furthermore, being a responsible officer of the Court and an important adjunct of the administration of justice, the Lawyer also owes a duty to the court as well as the opposite side. The Bar and the Bench constitutes the two wheels of the carriage of justice. The success of the judicial process often depends on the services of the legal profession. The function of both the Bar and the Bench in an adversarial system of dispute resolution are clearly made out, and the need for a dynamic relationship of co-operation between the two is acute. Advocates, as members of the Bar and officers of the Court, have the responsibility of 'keeping the stream of justice pure and unadulterated' so also to enable it to administer justice fairly and to the satisfaction of all concerned. This involves two aspects - firstly, to uphold the dignity of the judicial office and maintain a respectful attitude towards the Court, and secondly, to ensure that under no circumstance, any illegal or improper means is used to mislead the Court. The primary duty of the Lawyer is to inform the Court as to the law and facts of the case and to aid the Court to do justice by arriving at correct conclusion. Since, the Court act on the

basis of what is presented by the Advocates, the Advocates are under the obligation to be absolutely fair to the Court. All statements should be accurate, and the Advocate is under a sacrosanct obligation to ensure that he does not, through any act or omission lead to the possibility of misrepresentation, or mislead the Court or obfuscate the case in any manner. As observed, the Advocate owes a duty to his client in the capacity of a professional, and towards the Court in the capacity of an officer and the friend of the Court. However, this may and often does lead to a conflict. In cases of conflict, as far as possible, the Advocate tries to balance his competing obligations. However, where the conflict is irreconcilable, as an officer of the Court concerned in the administration of justice, he has an overriding duty to the court, to the standards of his profession, and to the public.

DB further observed that it can be said that the Lawyer is indeed the channel through which the general public can access the law, and avail of the protection of the law, in the shrine of justice. In the light of the above detailed analysis and discussion made hereinabove, DB observed that the Advocates against whom the contempt proceedings are initiated shall ensure adherence to their unique role in administration of justice as detailed out in several judicial pronouncement, taken note of in this order and the undertakings with reference to maintaining dignity, honour and respect of the Court at all times and not causing any obstruction shall also form the basis for discharging of the rule. DB further observed that additionally, the basis for dropping the proceedings has reference to submissions made by senior Bar members and President of the Bar Association and Advocate General.