

# Dr Jitendra addresses IAS Trainees, points out 'democratisation' of Civil Services

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KEVADIYA: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Friday that in recent years there has been a sort of "democratisation" of Civil Services and other avenues due to technology driven accessibility to preparatory material which has, of late, enabled even the aspirants from remotest parts of India to make it to IAS and other All India Services.

This new trend will have a bearing on our future as well, said the Minister. Technology has been the biggest leveller, with mobile phone and internet penetrating the countryside and everybody gaining access to knowledge, he said. "The demography of the entire Civil Services has changed, - you have now toppers from Punjab, Haryana, even three Civil Services Exam toppers were all girls this year, from different States of India, earlier it was confined to a handful of States," said Dr Jitendra.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the IAS and other All India Service Officer Trainees at the valedictory ceremony of 98th Foundation Course of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Kevadiya, Gujarat.

The Union Minister was addressing the IAS Probationers at the 98th Foundation Course of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), bringing together 560 Officer Trainees from IAS including 16 Civil Services of India and 3 Civil Services of Bhutan, being conducted at Kevadiya, Gujarat.

Dr Jitendra said that the focus of the Government, under the leadership of PM Modi, has been on transparency, accountability and in-time delivery of services by the Government.

"PM Modi has stressed that the age of working in silos is over and today it is the 'Whole of Government' approach," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, Civil

Services officers have to turn into instruments of public service delivery of the Government's citizen centric schemes.

The DoPT Minister said that the three-month mandatory stint of new IAS Officers with the Central Ministries / Departments was a visionary idea by PM Modi in 2015 to expose them to the top echelons of the Government at

the commencement of their training.

"These young officers are privileged because before beginning their posting, they get an opportunity of meeting the senior Secretaries and Ministers in the Government of India, whereas their seniors from earlier years would sometimes never get such an opportunity throughout their career and even if they got an opportunity like this, it would be much later in career during their term of deputation to the Centre," he said.

"With the change of times, with the change of priorities, the accountability having increased, transparency has gone up manifold, technology taking up many of what was not there earlier on, it has to be inevitably evolving all the time," he said.

"In order to give a work friendly environment, it is equally a responsibility of the government so that we can have the best of the potential of the officers," he said.

# Apni Party leaders call on newly posted Director Industries Jammu

Dr Rohit Gupta hopes industrial sector will be revamped

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Apni Party Provincial Secretary and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta today called on newly posted Dr Arun Manhas as Director Industries, Jammu.

As per a press release, Dr Rohit Gupta was accompanied by Apni Party leader Pawan Gupta when he met the newly appointed Director Industries, Jammu, Dr Arun Manhas and welcomed his posting in the Industrial Department.

Gupta said that Arun Manhas is a dynamic JKAS officer whose posting has generated hopes that he would revamp the department with initiative to revive the industrial sector and provide ample opportunities to the aspiring youth who want to open their manufacturing units especially on a small scale.

He demanded amnesty for the industrial sector of J&K for the recovery under cen-



Apni Party Provincial Secretary and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta calling on Dr Arun Manhas, Director Industries, Jammu.

tral excise in the matter of notification no 56/2002 dated 14/11/2002 and waive off the interest and deposit of principal amount in installments.

He further stated that the extension of industrial packages should be given to the existing units as is given to the new industrial units. As per the new Govt policy our local micro and small units are unable to compete with

the manufactures of other states because of their pro-industrial policies.

Besides, he demanded free land hold rights to the SIDCO and SICOP land to the existing unit holds.

On hearing their demands, Arun Manhas assured them that he would look into the demands and accordingly, the issues raised by Apni Party leaders would be resolved.

# MBSCET commemorates Barsi of Srimaan Mahant Bachittar Singh

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: MBSCET Jammu organized series of events to pay tribute to Srimaan Mahant Bachittar Singh on his Barsi on Friday.

At the outset of the function floral tributes were paid by Lakhbir Singh Bawa Advisor, Dr. Jaswant Singh Retd. Director, Animal Husbandry Jammu and Chairman IGNOU Centre Sant Mela Singh College of Education Jammu, Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer Jammu, dignitaries, staff members and students. During tribute session, Dr. Jaswant Singh threw light on the background of Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch. He highlighted the achievements of Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch and specially contributions made by Srimaan Mahant Bachittar Singh Ji during his life time's devotion towards society as a whole and emphasized human values. He also highlighted the achievement of Srimaan



MBSCET Jammu faculty paying tributes to Srimaan Mahant Bachittar Singh on his Barsi.

Mahant Manjit Singh, Sole Trustee MBS College in establishing Engineering College as per the vision of Srimaan Mahant Bachittar Singh. A seminar on the welfare of elderly persons was also organized in which Manjit Singh, Tehsil Welfare officer Jammu and Ranvir Singh Chib, Regional Manager, Indian Pollution Control Association were the main speakers.

Manjit Singh shared his valuable insights about the challenges being faced by the elderly people in our society and we should look

after the welfare of the elderly people.

Ranbir Singh Chib in his address highlighted the dangerous effects of plastics waste and suggested to manage the wastage scientifically to make environment worth living and pollution free.

A blood donation camp in collaboration with Directorate of Health services, J&K was organized in the college campus under the supervision of Dr. Harbaksh Singh along with the team of doctors and para staff from Government Hospital

Gandhi Nagar Jammu, in which about 40 students donated blood.

A cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to clean Tavi River was also organized by the college under the supervision of Prof. Abhijit Saini, convener Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Prof. Ripu Daman Singh, Convener NSS Unit in which about 100 NSS volunteers participated. Prof.(Dr.) Dinesh Kumar Gupta, Principal addressed the gathering and expressed deep gratitude to all the distinguished guests who participated in the event. Prof.(Dr.) Amrik Singh Vice Principal, Prof. Parveen Singh Dean Academics, Hardip Singh Gill DSW, HoD's, teaching, non-teaching faculty members and students remain present during these events.

The programme was anchored by Prof. Surinder Kaur Bali and Prof. Shivangi Gupta and coordinated by Prof. Parveen Singh Dean Academics.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: People on Friday held a protest at Talab Tillo demanding death sentence to the murderer Johar Mahmood Ganai.

A massive protest was held at Talab Tillo, Gol Pul in which people from various religious bodies, Civil society, parents of Dr. Sumedha Sharma, relatives and locals participated and put forward their demand to hang the culprit.

While the protesters were raising loud slogans demanding early justice for the victim of Love Jihad, Dr. Sumedha were also being raised for Justice.

While addressing the protesters, Ram Pal Sharma said that there is anger in the society after the revelations in the 1249-page charge sheet.

The main reason for this anger was the disclosure in the charge sheet that murder accused Johar Mahmood Ganai, apart from Dr. Sumedha, was also making another Hindu girl a victim of love jihad. When Dr. Sumedha revealed this, Johar murdered her. In the chargesheet police



Protesters talking to media during a protest at Jammu.

reveals that Dr. Sumedha murder was gruesome and pre-planned.

Protesters including parents of the deceased Dr. Sumedha said her family will not get justice unless the murder accused is given death sentence.

They said that for justice, the concerned administration

should arrange for a special government lawyer for the aggrieved party along with hearing of the case in a fast track court. Otherwise the family will not get justice. The protesters also demanded the Lieutenant Governor to enact a stringent law to curb the increasing cases of Love Jihad.

# Dr. Vikas of SKUAST-J gets CV Raman Prize 2023

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dr. Vikas Sharma, son of Harbans Lal Sharma and Pushplata Sharma, resident of Channi Himmat, Jammu got C V Raman Prize 2023 in recognition of his outstanding professional and research achievements in the field of Biochemistry.

The award contains a Certificate of Excellence along with lifetime professional membership of Institute of Researchers, a leading organization in the field of academic research activities, that provides financial assistance to researchers to publish and present their novel research.

This prize was presented to Dr. Sharma specifically for his MDPI research paper entitled "Anticancer activity of Cordia dichotoma against a panel of human cancer cell lines and their phytochemical profiling via HPLC and GCMS, published in leading international peer



reviewed open access journal i.e., Molecules with NAAS rating - 10.93 and impact factor- 4.927.

The paper discussed in vitro cytotoxic potential of bark part of Cordia dichotoma (Lasodia) against ten human cancer cell lines and this was the first study to show that the plant's bark has anticancer properties and induced chromatin condensation, confirmed cell death via ROS generation, and significantly decreased colony formation in A-549 cell line from lung origin in a dose-dependent manner. Furthermore, HPLC and

GCMS investigations indicated the presence of a number of bioactive molecules such as gallic acid (144,969.86) uV\*sec, caffeic acid (104.26) uV\*sec, ferulic acid (472.87) uV\*sec, vanillic acid (13,775.39) uV\*sec, palmitic acid (18.34%), cis vaccenic acid (28.81%), etc. and one of the compounds was reported for the first time from the bark.

Working as Associate Professor in the Division of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Sharma has 77 full length publications to his credit.

He published 101 popular articles on anticancer botanicals and guided 09 Ph.D and 07 MSc. students as a Major Advisor.

He is recipient of 54 National and International awards / recognitions from various Govt. Organizations for his contributions in the field of Science.

# DBPS pays tribute to Shaheed Major Som Nath Sharma

Demands naming either airport of J&K on Major Som Nath

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) on Friday paid rich tribute to Shaheed war hero Major Som Nath Sharma who laid down his life while defending the Srinagar Airport from the attack of Tribals in collaboration with Pak army on November 3, 1947.

President of the Sabha, Ved Parkash Sharma and others paid floral tribute to Shaheed Major Som Nath at a function held in the Sabha premises, Parade Ground here where speakers recalled sacrifices of this great soldier.

VP Sharma said remembering martyrs like Major Som Nath Sharma is itself a matter of pride for the nation.

He said after the martyr-



DBPS members paying tributes to Shaheed war hero Major Som Nath Sharma.

dom of Major Sharma, almost his entire family joined Indian Army, thereby setting an example that the sacrifices of one member from family cannot demoralize others.

While paying rich tribute to Major Som Nath Sharma, Tawi Andolan president and senior BJP leader Chander Mohan Sharma said that present situation in the State

demands that the people should take inspiration from the supreme sacrifices of the brave soldiers and stand by Army and Paramilitary forces to give a befitting replay to Pakistan for its acts of cease fire violation and firing on border. Sharma also demanded naming either airport of the state on Major Som Nath Sharma.

Describing Maj Sharma

as the great hero of India, Former V.C Jammu University Prof. R.D. Sharma, Former Dy. Mayor JMCJ Purnima Sharma, Former Senior bureaucrats Former DC BS Jamwal, advocate PC Sharma, former JMC Commissioner Soujanya Sharma, DBPS Hira Nagar unit President Ram Paul Sharma said that the real tribute to Major Som Nath

Sharma will be to take pledge to keep our self always prepared to face challenges which pose threat to the unity and integrity of the motherland.

Sabha vice president Virendra Mohan Magotra, Satyanand Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, Subash Shastri president NMC, Nanak Chand Sharma, ML Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Shiv Ram Sharma, Pt Barita Ram Sharma, ML Padma, Gurdas Sharma, SS Baru, Prem Balotra, Shanker Dutt, Sunil Sharma, Raman Sharma, Sham Mishra, Rajesh Badgotra, Ritiz Khajuria, Devinder Sharma (Baboo), K.L Sharma and others also paying rich tribute to Major Som Nath Sharma.

# Controversy surrounds KPS Elections: Allegations of Unconstitutionality and lack of transparency

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a recent turn of events, the upcoming Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) elections have found themselves embroiled in controversy, with allegations of unconstitutionality and a lack of transparency casting a shadow over the proceedings. Prominent Kashmiri Pandits, including ex-JMC commissioner Kiran Wattal, Dr. Agnishekhar, Prof. Ashok Aima, and Sadhu, have voiced their concerns regarding the conduct of the elections and the current composition of the KP Sabha.

One of the primary points of contention revolves around the present body's tenure, which these community leaders argue is in violation of the Sabha's constitution. According to the constitution, the tenure of

an elected body is limited to two years, yet the current body has extended its stay for six years, a move deemed as "totally unconstitutional and unacceptable."

Furthermore, the absence of duly recognized Mohalla Committees of Kashmiri Pandits, a fundamental aspect of the Sabha's structure, has raised questions about the legitimacy of the Sabha itself.

The statement asserts that in the absence of elected representatives of these committees, the current body is manipulating the situation to its advantage. Allegations of unconstitutional amendments to the Sabha's constitution have also been made.

The statement highlights concerns about the non-political nature of the Sabha's office bearers, with specific reference to the "so-



Dr. Agnishekhar addressing a press conference at Jammu.

called" Sabha President, K K Khosa, who had previously contested assembly elections on a different party's ticket. It is argued that his electoral participation is in total violation of the Sabha's constitution.

The allegations extend to membership issues within the Sabha, with claims that membership has become exclusive and limited to the president's own relatives,

office bearers, and associates since 2018, without any public notification. This exclusivity is characterized as "undemocratic," and genuine voters are alleged to have faced harassment.

Additionally, it is noted that approximately 700 votes of displaced Kashmiri Pandits have been deleted from the Sabha's membership rolls. The statement questions the competence of

the Sabha president to add new members, given that he ceased to hold the presidency after 2018.

Professor Ashok Aima elaborated on the Sabha's function as a socio-cultural institution with a rich legacy of over 100 years, providing a platform for religious discourses unique to the Kashmiri Pandit ethos.

The statement emphasizes the need for scrutiny by the Kashmiri Pandit community and raises concerns about the Sabha's registration status, which, it claims, was not re-registered after 2016 due to the non-submission of financial accounts and approval of the General Council.

In light of these controversies, the recent public advertisement of KP Sabha elections for the post of President has been met with scrutiny. It is pointed out

that while nearly 3 lakh displaced Kashmiri Pandits reside in Jammu, only around 250 registered members, mostly family members, are associated with the Sabha. Furthermore, Nearly 700 term members were terminated from the voters' list without prior notice, denying them an opportunity to register as permanent members.

The allegations and concerns raised by these prominent community members have sparked a renewed debate about the governance and transparency of the KP Sabha, an institution with a century-old history. It remains to be seen how the community and Sabha officials will respond to these issues and whether any corrective measures will be taken to address the current controversies surrounding the organization.

# K.K Khosa elected as President KP Sabha for 2022-27 term

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: President KP Sabha, Ambphalla, Jammu, Krishen K. Khosa has been

vide his letter dated November 2, 2023 to be held on November 5, 2023 against Notification No: 6,

dated October 20, 2023. He has mentioned in the letter "As such I am no longer a candidate for the said election".

"As such only one candidate Krishen K. Khosa (K.K. Khosa), son of Lt. T. N. Khosa, resident of Shakti Nagar, Jammu, Membership No: 580 remained in the contest for the Post of President, KP Sabha, Ambphalla, Jammu. Being only one candidate in the contest, he is declared elected as President KP Sabha for the term (2022-27)," it further reads.

