

## Team Jammu chief meets LG, submits memorandum for strengthening anti-drug measures

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman of Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal called on Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, here on Wednesday and sought immediate as well as stronger action against the rising drug menace in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory.

Team Jammu chief submitted a memorandum to the Lt Governor and highlighted an urgent need to reinforce existing laws besides strengthening mechanisms to prevent the destruction of J&K's youth by drug addiction.

Zorawar said that in recent years, drug abuse has intensified across the Union Territory, with seized narcotics worth crores indicating an organized attempt by adversarial forces, often across the border; to destabilize J&K through "Narco-Terrorism."

He said that this crisis is impacting every facet of society, with both young men and



Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal calling on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

teenage girls increasingly falling prey to drug abuse. Despite existing enforcement efforts, Team Jammu believes the current legal framework is insufficient to curb the influence of a powerful drug mafia exploiting systemic loopholes, Zorawar added.

Team Jammu chief emphasized the social consequences of this menace and stated

that families are reluctant to report overdose-related deaths due to social stigma, while addiction has also been linked to a rising number of road accidents in the state. He emphasized that drug addiction in J&K is not only a criminal issue but a public health crisis that requires compassion, comprehensive treatment facilities, and accessible rehabilitation.

"We recognize and appreciate the Government's efforts, including the recent establishment of a Rehabilitation Centre in Jammu and the creation of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF). However, much more needs to be done. The absence of fully-equipped Drug De-addiction Centres in Jammu, combined with the high cost of out-of-state treatment, leaves families struggling to provide care for affected loved ones," Zorawar explained and also called for the introduction of "Ill Effects of Drug Abuse" as part of the mandatory school curriculum to enhance awareness from an early age.

Jamwal urged the Lieutenant Governor to direct law enforcement and social agencies to adopt a multi-faceted approach in tackling the drug menace crisis.

"This includes equipping the ANTF with advanced technology to combat drug

trafficking through digital channels, installing body scanners at high-risk areas, and updating the drug schedule to address new synthetic drugs," he added and also sought amending protocols to treat drug addicts as victims rather than criminals, especially in cases involving small quantities. This shift would ensure rehabilitation over incarceration, helping to decriminalize addiction and create a more humane and effective approach to the crisis, Zorawar said.

"Team Jammu pledges to continue our fight against the drug menace, and we stand ready to support the Government's efforts in every possible way to make J&K a Drug-Free Zone," Zorawar Singh Jamwal concluded and hoped that the Lieutenant Governor's office will take swift action to save J&K's youth from the clutches of drug addiction, fostering a safer, healthier future for all.

## Imran Goni led delegation meets Dy CM to address key development issues

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards addressing long-pending public grievances, a delegation led by Imran Goni, Senior Vice President of Jammu District National Conference, along with Muzamil Malik, Provincial Secretary Youth YNC, and Saqib Showket Ganje, Youth Leader National Conference, met with the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Choudhary, at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The delegation, under the leadership of Imran Goni, presented a comprehensive list of issues plaguing the people of Jammu since 2014. Key among these were the dilapidated condition of Bathindi Road, highway construction delays, inefficient drainage systems, and the urgent need for macadamization of roads across the region. These issues have caused immense hardships for the public and



Delegation led by Imran Goni, Sr Vice President Jammu District NC meeting with Dy CM Surinder Choudhary.

require immediate attention. The team also highlighted additional challenges faced by residents and emphasized the need for efficient and timely solutions to improve infrastructure and public amenities.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation of the government's commitment to resolving these problems.

He stated that necessary measures are already being planned and expedited to

ensure tangible improvements in the near future.

Speaking about the meeting, Imran Goni said, "Under the National Conference's vision and commitment to public welfare, we will continue to raise the concerns of the people and work tirelessly for their resolution. The Deputy CM's assurances today are a step in the right direction, and we will ensure these promises are fulfilled."

## RBI Jammu organizes awareness camp at Jhiri Mela



### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, conducted a two-day awareness camp during Jhiri Mela, Jammu on November

19-20, 2024.

The event was organized by Issue Department, RBI, Jammu under the theme of spreading awareness about Currency Management,

security features of banknotes, and Note Refund Rules. This initiative was conducted under the aegis of RBI@90, commemorating 90 years journey of RBI.

The event saw active participation from the general public. As a part of the engagement, a quiz on Currency Management was also conducted, wherein the participants were suitably rewarded. Additionally, fresh notes/coins counter was operated by Jammu & Kashmir Bank wherein, all denominations of fresh notes/coins were distributed to the public. The initiative received widespread appreciation from the public, who praised the efforts of the RBI.

## BJP induced sense of safety, security among people: Sat

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP has induced a sense of safety and security among the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the changed situation is itself a proof.

Sat Sharma, president, J&K, BJP, said this while addressing a meeting of the prominent activists of Jammu South District at party headquarter.

BJP national secretary & MLA RS Pura, Dr. Narinder Singh, District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, State Secretary and District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, former Deputy Mayor Baldev Billawaria, DDC Geetu Aulakh, DDC Vidhya Mottan, State Membership Incharge Munish Khajuria, former District President



President J&K BJP, Sat Sharma and other leaders at a meeting on Wednesday.

Brijeshwar Singh Rana, District General Secretary Akash Chopra, District Membership Drive Incharge Rohin Chandan, and others were present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma said that having associated with and working in the world's largest political party is a matter of pride for its activists. One feels pride to be BJP karyakarta as it

treats nation first, party second and self last. The well being of every citizen remains among top agenda of the party.

Sat Sharma, referring to numerous initiatives of BJP government under PM Narendra Modi, said that there has been vast changes in Jammu and Kashmir in security scenario. The people here are today living in an atmosphere with no inci-

dents of stone pelting, no Bandh calls. In Kashmir in particular, schools, markets, business establishments remain open without any fear. Record number of tourists are visiting valley. In other words, the days of uncertainty are gone and people feeling as secure as never before.

Dr. Narinder Singh emphasized the party's commitment to take all

together and strengthen every section of society through its welfare schemes. He asked the party activists to get connected with the youth, promote their active participation and highlight the party's inclusive approach.

Rekha Mahajan asserted that the BJP's mission is to empower all sections of society, ensuring equal opportunities for growth and development. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party has implemented various initiatives aimed at transforming India into a vibrant and self-reliant nation.

Akash Chopra conducted the proceedings of the programme and vote of thanks presented by Rohin Chandan.

## CBP on Incorporating Bhartiya Knowledge Traditions in Teaching and Research begins at CUJ

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The School of Languages, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), in collaboration with Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu Kashmir, and Ladakh Prant, inaugurated a two-week Capacity Building Programme titled 'Incorporating Bhartiya Knowledge Traditions in Teaching and Research: Perspectives, Challenges, and Way Forward'. The program, sponsored by ICSSR, was launched on Wednesday at the university campus.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Govt. of J&K, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while



Dr. Rashmi Singh, Commissioner Secretary Higher Education Dept speaking in a programme.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor of CUJ, and Prof. Geeta Singh from the University of Delhi were the Guests of Honour.

Prof. Suresh Kumar Agrawal from Central University of Gujarat delivered the keynote address.

Dr. Rashmi Singh praised the relevance and timeliness of the program,

emphasizing the depth and timeless nature of India's knowledge traditions, which span multiple disciplines.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain shared the vision of CUJ Jammu, aligning it with the theme of the program, stressing the university's role in promoting research and education that reflects India's profound contribution to both mate-

rial and spiritual aspects of human evolution.

Prof. Geeta Singh encouraged participants to move beyond colonial perspectives and reimagine India's rich knowledge systems in the context of contemporary needs.

Prof. Suresh Kumar Agrawal's keynote address highlighted the interconnectedness of Bhartiya knowledge traditions, urg-

ing participants to recognize India not merely as a land of maharajas and snake charmers, but as a land of enlightened thinkers like Buddha, Nanak, and Sankara.

In her welcome address, Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean of the School of Languages, outlined the objectives of the program, aiming to foster collaborative ideas around Bhartiya knowledge systems. Participants from various disciplines of Social Sciences from across India, Jammu & Kashmir, and the university are taking part in the two-week program. Dr. K. Rajesh, Head of the Department of English, delivered the vote of thanks.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its pursuit of developing & optimally utilizing the available hydel potential of the state to provide cheaper & reliable power to all its consumers, JKPCCL had a meeting with PTC India to explore the possibilities of optimizing its power procurement costs through various technical interventions. PTC shared its experience of working with other similar utilities for helping JKPCCL for optimised scheduling and procurement of power through various power market channels including short term bilateral, power exchanges, medium term and long term solutions.

Meeting was chaired by Chaudhary Md. Yasin, Managing Director, JKPCCL. Harish Saran, Executive Director, PTC India, Neeraj



Chaudhary Md. Yasin, Managing Director JKPCCL chairing a meeting.

Sharma, Chief Engineer were present during the meeting with other officers from JKPCCL and PTC India.

It is worthwhile to mention that JKPCCL is procuring power to the tune of 3150 MW from all sources to cater the load of UT of JK, achieving a peak load of 3133 MW in winters of 23-24 and 2924 MW in summer of 24-25 with an average load of 2450 MW.

Commenting on the occa-

sion, Chaudhary Md. Yaseen, Managing Director, JKPCCL said, "JKPCCL remains committed to optimising the power procurement costs for supply of power to the consumers of J&K and development of sustainable infrastructure for the consumers. We will continue exploring avenues for optimising Power procurement costs and improving the reliability of the power supply to the consumers."

## Shrimad Bhagwat Katha begins with "Kalash Yatra" at Roohi Morh By listening Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to large extent: Swami Vishwatamanandji

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A huge "Kalash yatra" was taken out with great enthusiasm and religious fervour at Roohi Morh, RS Pura with full religious fervour.

The yatra started from Indira Nagar, headed by His Holiness Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati ji Maharaj accompanied by scores of devotees hailing from different parts of JK UT. During the entire yatra route, devotees performed various dance with drum beats and chanted bhajans in favour of Lord Krishna with zeal and gaiety.

The Yatra passed through various locations and covered areas like Indira Nagar Bridge, Soodan Heart Care, Police Naka, Balol Bridge, NITS College and finally culminated at Roohi Morh where "Shrimad Bhagwat Tatva Gyan Yagya (Bhagwat Katha)" is being organised starting from 20th to 27th November.

The members of temple Committee Kotranka wel-



Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati ji Maharaj leading Kalash Yatra.

comed Swamiji and devotees by showering flowers. Later, parshad was distributed among the devotees.

While speaking during the inaugural function, Swamiji briefed the gathering about the importance of Bhagwat Katha in everyone's life and how one can take the path of self-realization by reading and listening to the religious discourses.

Swamiji started the Katha by saying that by listening to the Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to large

extent. Swamiji further said that our expressions only give birth to falsehood and makes the world untrue ultimately. To carry forward the story, Swamiji said that God is in all, but he is also the most different, he is with us every moment.

The Bhagwat Saptah involves reading, preaching, interpretation and singing of verses of the Shrimad Bhagwat and it was filled with colours of devotion, laughter, tales of separation and union with almighty.

## Will do everything to make Bahu Constituency top in edifice, amenities: Randhawa

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA from Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa, reiterated his commitment to enhance infrastructure and public amenities across the Bahu constituency.

In this regard, Vikram Randhawa along with officials of Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) on Wednesday conducted a tour to Nanak Nagar's Ward 44, Sector 11, wherein he took stock of the condition of the Nallah flowing through the locality.

Randhawa emphasized the urgent need for the redevelopment of the Nallah. This Nallah starts from Bathindi and extends to Jeevan Nagar via Landoi Choi.

The filthy water from the Nallah has been entering people's homes during the rainy season, creating significant inconvenience and health hazards.

He directed the UEED officials to prioritize the project, ensuring proper construction and a comprehensive redesign of the nallah, particularly in



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa conducting tour to Nanak Nagar's Ward 44.

the stretch from Chowadi to Jeevan Nagar.

Stressing the importance of timely action, Randhawa urged the officials to complete the work before the onset of the upcoming rainy season to prevent any recurrence of flooding that has caused significant inconvenience to the residents.

He pointed out that the overflowing of filthy water during the monsoons poses a severe risk to public health and disrupts daily life. Randhawa reiterated that safeguarding the well-being of the community remains a top priority and assured residents that every necessary measure would be taken to address this

persistent issue effectively.

Calling for cooperation from residents, Randhawa appealed to individuals to voluntarily remove encroachments along the nallah, enabling smooth redevelopment. He also instructed the department to retrieve encroached land and erect a robust retaining wall along the nallah to contain water flow and prevent future flooding.

"Development of robust infrastructure and resolution of civic issues are key to making Bahu constituency a model region in Jammu. I will ensure that no stone is left unturned in this pursuit," he said.

## Liberal financing to J&K entrepreneurs is need of hour : Wazir

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rakesh Wazir, Chairman of the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) for the Jammu Region, addressed critical issues affecting the MSME sector during the Empowered Committee meeting on MSMEs, chaired by Chandrashekar Azad, Regional Director of the Reserve Bank of India for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The meeting was attended by representatives from various banks to review credit flow to MSMEs in the region. Wazir highlighted the urgent need for liberal financing for entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that the unique challenges faced by the region-ranging from prolonged militancy to geographical isolation-warrant special considerations. He urged the government and financial institutions to offer flexibility in banking regulations specific to the UT, emphasizing that sustaining business and industry in such challenging circum-

stances requires significant government support.

He called for increased awareness efforts, suggesting the organization of camps and programs to educate the public about government schemes. Additionally, Wazir voiced concerns over certain banks imposing charges on unutilized credit limits and advocated for the cessation of such fees. He criticized banks in the region for acting as mere money collection centers, urging them to ensure that funds collected through deposits are made available for loans to local businesses, particularly in remote areas.

Chandrashekar Azad, Regional Director of RBI, listened attentively to the concerns raised and issued immediate instructions to bank representatives present at the meeting. He assured that other issues would receive sympathetic and comprehensive consideration, aiming to foster a more supportive financial environment for the growth of MSMEs in Jammu and Kashmir.