

CJ visits site for new HC Complex at Rakh-I-Gund Aksha, Bemina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, along with Justice Atul Sreedharan, Chairman, Building and Infrastructure Committee for the High Court, on Wednesday visited the new site for High Court at Rakh-i-Gund Aksha, Bemina, Srinagar, to oversee progress on construction of new High Court Complex, Srinagar being constructed at a cost of Rs. 900 crore (Approx.).

Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Srinagar briefed the Chief Justice about the project and the construction raised, so far.

The Chief Justice impressed upon



Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, during visit to new site for High Court at Rakh-i-Gund Aksha, Bemina, Srinagar.

the executing agency to speed up the pace of progress on the project

ensuring completion of the same within the timeline.

The Chief Justice issued necessary instructions to the Secretary, Health Services, representative of the Law Department, SSP Srinagar, Chief Engineer PW (R&B), Kashmir Division and Nodal Officer from J&K Bank, who were also present, to ensure all allied facilities are made available in the new HC complex.

The Chief Justice was accompanied by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar IT, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Registrar Judicial, Srinagar and Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol.



Veteran journalist M L Kak passes away

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Veteran journalist and noted author, M. L. Kak, breathed his last on Wednesday morning in Gurugram after a prolonged illness. He was 85.

Originally from Naidyar, Rainawari, in Kashmir, after migration from Valley in 1990, he was residing in Jammu and then lived first in New Delhi and then in Gurugram for the last many years.

He started his career as a journalist in The Tribune newspaper after receiving a post-graduate degree in English literature from Kashmir University and a diploma in Journalism from Punjab University, Chandigarh.

As The Tribune's correspondent he worked in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and J&K.

When Emergency was imposed in June 1975, he was amongst the top journalists and political leaders who were arrested and detained in Hissar Jail, after a showdown with the then Chief Minister of Haryana, Bansi Lal.

After spending about 10 days in Hissar Jail,



he was transferred to Central Jail Srinagar on the intervention of the then Chief Minister of J&K, Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah.

The then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, went on record, describing his arrest as "Sheer Misuse of Emergency Powers" and ordered for his immediate release.

Kak was ultimately released from Central Jail, Srinagar, after spending another 60 days there.

Kak authored many books: "Jailed Without Crime (Untold story of emergency)", Waves in Kashmir" (History of Kashmir and political developments), "Away From Homeland" (Plight of Kashmiri Pandits post migration and their aspirations) and "Behind The Veil" (Collection of Writings published in a local English daily in Jammu about the issues related to J&K and Pakistan.)

His cremation will take place on November 29, 2024 in Gurugram as his younger daughter coming from USA.

Sham Lal lays foundation stone for Development Projects in Wards 62, 23

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA and former Minister Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the construction of lanes and drains in Ward No. 63 and Ward No. 62. These projects, with a total allocation of Rs 44.25 lakh, Rs 43 lakh, and Rs 33.65 lakh, aim to address long-standing infrastructural challenges in the area.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, community leaders, and senior officials from the municipal department.

Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal reaffirmed his commitment to fostering development and ensuring



MLA and former Minister Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday laying foundation stone for construction of lanes.

the upliftment of all areas in his constituency.

"These development projects are a testament to our dedication to improving the

quality of life for residents. The construction of these lanes and drains will resolve persistent issues of waterlogging and improve connectivity,

ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone," said Sharma.

He further emphasized the importance of community participation in the successful implementation of such initiatives and urged residents to support ongoing development activities.

The projects are part of a larger development plan envisioned by the BJP-led administration to strengthen urban infrastructure and enhance basic amenities in Jammu North. Sham Lal reiterated that more such initiatives are in the pipeline to address the growing needs of the constituency.

Residents of Ward No. 63 and Ward No. 62 expressed

their gratitude for the much-needed projects and lauded the MLA for his proactive approach to resolving local issues.

The event concluded with a ceremonial laying of the foundation stone, followed by an interaction session where Sham Lal Sharma listened to the concerns and suggestions of the locals.

Other prominent personalities present at the event included Mandal President Suresh Khajuria, Ex-District President Sukhdev Singh, and Ex-Corporators Rekha Manhas, Kuldeep Chib, Dushyant Chib, Rajeev Singh, Rajinder Singh, Kamal Sharma, among others.

Dr Jitendra informs LS about India's new Bioeconomy related 'BioE3' policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, informed the Lok Sabha about the launch of the country's new Bioeconomy policy, titled "BioE3".

The objective of the BioE3 Policy is to establish a framework that promotes the adoption of advanced technologies, aligning research innovation for the growth of biomanufacturing in India, he said.

"This policy aims to revolutionize the biomanufacturing process to enhance efficiency,



sustainability, and product quality, while also accelerating the development and production of bio-based high-value products," Dr. Jitendra said adding that the BioE3 Policy is closely aligned with India's Green Growth vision, outlined in the Union Budget

2023-24, and complements the Prime Minister's call for Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).

"It also aligns with the broader goal of achieving a Net-Zero carbon economy. The biomanufacturing initiative is part of the Government's interim budget for 2024-25, focusing on setting up Biofoundries and Biomanufacturing Hubs to support this ambitious growth trajectory," Dr. Jitendra said.

Dr. Singh highlighted the remarkable achievements of India's bioeconomy over the past decade. As of December

2023, bioeconomy contributed 4.25% to India's GDP, valued at \$3.55 trillion. From 2014 to 2023, India's bioeconomy grew from \$10 billion to \$151 billion, surpassing the projected target for 2025. Furthermore, the number of biotech startups in India surged from 50 in 2014 to 8,531 in 2023.

The Minister also discussed a joint call issued by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), inviting proposals for setting up "BioEnablers"

Biofoundries and Biomanufacturing Hubs across the country. These hubs will serve as key facilities for advancing the development and scale-up of bio-based technologies.

In addition, the policy will establish Bio-AI Intelligence Hubs, aimed at fostering data-driven research, AI-powered analytics, and predictive technologies for biomanufacturing. These hubs will also provide training and internship opportunities to build a skilled workforce, essential for advancing India's biomanufacturing sector.

Adarsh Pal Gupta appointed as media advisor of AcSIR

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Adarsh Pal Gupta



CEO, Pir Panchal Newslines Media Group has been appointed

as the media advisor of the Academic of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), an institute of National Importance situated at Gaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Gupta, who is also a renowned editor, has been remained as the treasurer, Executive member the Press Club of Jammu, besides Chairman, Jammu Newspaper Editors Association, Chairman, Jammu Journalists Housing Colony, Broadcaster, Penalist DD Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that AcSIR is an institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament during 2012. AcSIR is an overarching arching encompassing 82 National Institutes of CSIR, ICMR, DST wherein more than 6500 students are registered for PhD degree with AcSIR.

CS inaugurates 'Hot House' at Floriculture development scheme Lalmandi



CS, Atal Dulloo inaugurating "Hot House" at Floriculture Development Scheme Lalmandi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday inaugurated "Hot House" at Floriculture Development Scheme Lalmandi here.

He inspected different sections of the Floriculture development scheme and held interaction with the concerned officers. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of commercial cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He said that "promotion of commercial cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants" is one among the 29 projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Program.

While addressing on several aspects of Floriculture development scheme, Atal Dulloo impressed upon the officers to increase awareness among the educated youth regarding the commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. He said that development of Medicinal plant sector in J&K has a great scope for providing employment to the people as there is a huge market for medicinal and aromatic plants in the country. The Chief Secretary also distributed PGS certificates among the beneficiaries.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, along with florist Dr. Anjum Rashid briefed the Chief Secretary regarding various initiatives for development of Floriculture development scheme. He also informed the Chief Secretary regarding the progress made under HADP projects, CSS and other programs.

Scores of deputations call on Dy CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Scores of deputations from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary.

A deputation of All Employees Joint Association Kashmir (AEJAK) and All Sikh Minority Employees Association Kashmir (ASMEAK) led by their chairperson Jagmeet Kour Bali discussed various important issues concerning the minority community, particularly the employee community of Jammu and Kashmir.



AEJAK delegation calling on Dy CM Surinder Choudhary.

The Chairperson highlighted the need for effective representation and support for the minority community.

The meeting also discussed employment opportunities, education, healthcare and social justice.

The Chairperson also emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment for the minority community to thrive and reach their full potential.

A deputation of Trikuta Nagar Traders Association raised the issue of upgradation and renovation of public spaces and utilities.

The Horticulture Non-Gazetted Union projected the

issue of Removal of Pay Anomaly. The Union also demanded for amendment of Service Rules 1998 and upgradation of departmental quotas in district and divisional Level.

Deputations from Banihal, Talwara, Rajouri, Paddar and Samba also raised several issues related to development of their respective areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with the deputations, assured them of timely redressal of their issues and development needs.

2-day Hindi Conference inaugurated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, on Wednesday inaugurated a two day Hindi conference on the theme "Jammu Kashmir Ka Hindi Sahitya - Kal, Aaj Aur Kal" at K L Saigal hall, Jammu.

The event is being organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL).

Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kaur; Dr. Agnishakhar; Professor Raj Kumar and Professor Neelam Saraf besides others were present on the inaugural ceremony.



Principal Secretary, Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, speaking at two-day Hindi conference.

Suresh Kumar lauded the speakers for their insightful contributions. He shared personal anecdotes and emphasized that language is a cornerstone of identity.

Highlighting Hindi's global appeal, the Principal Secretary urged the people to take pride in their own language. Dispelling fears about AI, he reassured the audience that it could never replace human intellect. He also announced upcoming government initiatives to promote and preserve the art and literature of Jammu and Kashmir.

Professor Raj Kumar delivered the keynote

address, exploring the historical trajectory and future possibilities of Jammu and Kashmir's Hindi literature. He provided an in-depth analysis of its evolution and relevance in contemporary times.

Guest of honour, Dr. Agnishakhar expressed concern over diminishing imaginative capacity in modern writers, urging the inclusion of diverse groups such as the military, bureaucrats and bloggers in literary endeavours. He stressed the need to recognize and celebrate bloggers for their contributions towards Hindi literature.

Chairperson Professor

Neelam Saraf emphasised the significance of reading books in an era dominated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). She expressed concern over the declining number of students opting for Hindi as a subject at the university level and underscored the importance of preserving traditional tools like pens and notebooks.

Dr. Chanchal Sharma, program in-charge, concluded the inaugural session with vote of thanks.

Following the inaugural session, the conference proceeded with paper presentations session which was chaired by Dr. Kiran Bakshi.

Dr. Shiksha Shaan presented paper on "Novel Writing: Past, Present, and Future" while Dr. Praveen Kumari read paper on "Children's Poetry and Stories: Past, Present, and Future."

The second session chaired by Shyam Bihari Juneja and Professor Raj Kumar was based on the theme: Essence of Stories and Poetry. Sheikh Mohammad Kalyan presented paper on "Poetry: Past, Present, and Future."

While Anita Pagotra, Kalpana Jasrotia, and Rajendra Kumar Narang presented their stories.

The conference is part of JKAACL's ongoing efforts to promote Hindi literature and provide a platform for intellectual and creative exchange. It aims to delve into evolution of Hindi literature while celebrating its rich heritage and promising future.

The Academy has invited the literary enthusiasts, scholars and students to attend and engage in this vibrant celebration of Hindi language and literature.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Anand Jain on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive security review meeting of District Samba.

Officers and representatives from Army, Paramilitary forces, various intelligence agencies and J&K Police attended the meeting to evaluate the security measures in place and discussed strategies to counter infiltration, smuggling, and other unlawful activities along the border.

ADGP Jammu zone also chaired a crime review meeting of district Samba. Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JKSR Range; Virender Singh Manhas, SSP Samba; and other police officers of district Samba were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the ADGP took stock of the crime situation in the district, focusing on recent crime trends, with a special focus on cases related to narcotics smuggling, illegal cross-border activities, and organized



ADGP Jammu zone, Anand Jain interacting police officer.

crime. He reviewed the status of investigation and prosecution, and emphasized the importance of timely and effective investigation to ensure justice for victims.

The ADGP directed the officers to develop a robust database for tracking habitual offenders, increase vigilance at vulnerable points, including border outposts, and reiterated the commitment to gather actionable intelligence, enhance community policing, and foster public trust.

"Remain vigilant and

strengthen intelligence-sharing mechanisms to thwart any attempts by anti-national elements to disrupt peace and tranquility. Work on actionable strategies to overcome challenges in evidence collection, and operational bottlenecks identified," remarked the ADGP.

The ADGP Jammu also gave operational directives, whereby clear guidelines were issued to investigating officers (IOs) for enhancing efficiency, maintaining transparency, and prioritizing cases of sensitive nature.