

Khatana appreciates NIA's nod for Baisaran Cable Car Project as a major boost to tourism, jobs & global footfall in Pahalgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and BJP Senior Leader Gulam Ali Khatana has welcomed the NIA's approval for the Baisaran Cable Car Project in Pahalgam, calling it a major step towards boosting tourism, creating local employment, and attracting international visitors to Jammu and Kashmir. Khatana expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their commitment to peace, development, and sustainable tourism in the Union Territory. He said the project demonstrates the Centre's vision of transforming

Jammu and Kashmir into a world-class destination for nature and adventure tourism. The upcoming eco-friendly cable car will connect Baisaran with Pahalgam town, enhancing accessibility for both domestic and foreign tourists. Khatana said the project will give a strong push to the homestay culture, which will create local jobs, promote Kashmir's traditional hospitality, and directly benefit tribal and rural families. He added that this initiative will encourage youth and women to participate in the tourism economy by managing guesthouses, showcasing local cuisine, and promoting handicrafts and cultural experiences. It will also help pre-



serve the region's cultural heritage while promoting sustainable, community-driven tourism. Khatana appreciated Home Minister Amit Shah for consistently supporting initiatives that empower local and tribal communities through tourism-led economic activi-

ty. "Such projects ensure that the benefits of development reach the last person, strengthening both livelihoods and local pride," he said. He also commended Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for expediting trekking routes for international tourists, many of which had been suspended after the Pahalgam terror incident. "Restoring these routes will not only bring back foreign visitors but also revive confidence in Kashmir's tourism potential," Khatana noted. He further said that foreign tourists, who earlier faced challenges in obtaining travel permissions, are now getting passes more easily - a development that is helping

rebuild global confidence and increase foreign footfall in Kashmir. Khatana added that the Baisaran Cable Car Project perfectly aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making Jammu and Kashmir a global destination for eco and adventure tourism. "This approval will open new avenues of opportunity for local people, homestay owners, and tribal families, while strengthening Kashmir's image on the global tourism map," he said. He reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to ensuring timely completion of people-centric projects that promote peace, prosperity, and progress across Jammu and Kashmir.

SP Rural Jammu reviews security arrangements at Baba Bhotto Dev Sansthan



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■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In view of the forthcoming Mela of Mahajahan Biradari, where thousands of devotees are expected to visit, SP Rural Jammu conducted a comprehensive review of the security arrangements at Baba Bhutto Dev Sansthan. The SP Rural was accompanied by SDPO Domana, SHO Domana,

IC PP Pouni Chak, IC PPP Sandwan, and members of the Sansthan Committee during the inspection. During the visit, the SP took a detailed assessment of the deployment plan, traffic regulation, parking management, crowd control measures, and coordination among different agencies to ensure a smooth

and secure conduct of the event. Instructions were issued to ensure adequate deployment of police personnel, installation of CCTV cameras, frisking points, and public assistance booths. Emphasis was laid on maintaining proper coordination between the police, civil administration, and the management committee.

CUJ organizes guest lecture on "Demand for Multi-Disciplinary Engineers"



Jatinder Pal Singh, Director of Dhruva Company with CUJ faculty and students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Training and Placement Office of the Central University of Jammu, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, organized a Guest Lecture for B.Tech students on the topic "Demand for Multi-Disciplinary Engineers." The session offered valuable insights into real-life professional scenarios, specialized knowledge, practical skills, and the significance of diverse perspectives and industry connections in today's dynamic engi-

neering landscape. On this occasion, Jatinder Pal Singh, Director of Dhruva Company, graced the event as the distinguished guest and delivered an engaging address to the students. His talk highlighted the growing need for engineers with multi-disciplinary expertise capable of adapting to rapidly evolving industry demands. This lecture series serves as a vital platform for students to interact directly with industry leaders and gain firsthand understanding of professional

expectations and emerging technological trends. Special remarks were delivered by Prof. Dinesh Kumar (Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering) and other distinguished faculty members, who emphasized the importance of continuous learning and industry engagement in shaping future-ready engineers. The Training and Placement Office continues its dedicated efforts to connect students with seasoned corporate professionals through such initiatives.

Khoda releases CGPWA's Newsletter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The President Central Govt Pensioners' Association, Jammu (CGPWA) Kuldeep Khoda & Patron S S Wazir formally released the first edition of the Association's Newsletter- Jammu Pensioner's Post at its Monday meeting here. Henceforth, the CGPWA will be issuing quarterly Newsletter listing activities of the Association. Besides activities of CGPWA & orders of Pension Deptt & CGHS, the first Edition of the Newsletter carries two articles written by Dr Manu Arora, HOD of the Deptt of Psychiatry, GMC, Jammu, and Dr Parul Gohil, Consultant, Anesthesia & Pain Physician of SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital on 'Aging with Dignity: - Understanding Mental Health in Later Years' and Beyond the Aches: Strategies for Managing Chronic Pain' respectively. It also carries one page of Hindi poetry con-

tributed by the members. The General Secretary of CGPWA, K B Jandial said that besides quarterly Newsletter; it is proposed to issue at the yearend a compendium of the orders of the Department of Pension & Pension Welfare, Govt of India and CGHS for the use of the pensioners. Kuldeep Khoda complimented the initiative of the Association in publishing Newsletters to highlight the activities of the Association besides creating awareness on preventive measures on diseases commonly affecting the senior citizens. The Association also celebrated the historic victory of the Indian Women Cricket Team at the World Cup last night. Complimenting the Indian team on their memorable victory and said that India Women Cricketers have made history and the entire nation ruptured late night into unprecedented jubilation across the country. On the occasion, sweets were distributed.



The CGPWA Patron S. S. Wazir & President Kuldeep Khoda releasing first Newsletter of the Association on Monday.

DBPS pays tribute to Shaheed war hero Major Som Nath Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) today 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 Jammu where speakers recalled sacrifices of this great soldier. While speaking on the occasion, VP Sharma said remembering martyrs like Major Som Nath Sharma is itself a matter of pride for the nation. He said after the martyrdom 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, Tavi 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 Para-military 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, DBPS Chairman P.C. Sharma Advocate, Soujanya Sharma Retd. JMC Commissioner, NMC President Subash Shastri, B.S. Janwal Retd. DC and other said the real tribute to Major Som Nath will be to take pledge to keep our self prepared for challenges which threaten to unity and integrity of our country. Sabha Executive Members Nanak Chand Sharma, M.L. Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, M.L. Padha, Vijay Sharma, Bartia Ram, Shiv Ram Sharma, K.L. Sharma, Gurdas Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Ritiz Khajuria, Devinder Sharma (Babu), Girdhari Lal, Sr. Verinder Singh Bhatia, Ramesh Sharma, Raman Sharma and other also paying rich tribute to Major Som Nath Sharma.

Prof Yash of JU delivers talk at International Symposium at NEHU Shillong

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prof Yash Pal Sharma, Dean faculty of Life Sciences delivered a lead lecture in the XLVIII All India Botanical Conference of The Indian Botanical Society & International Symposium on Biology and Biotechnology of Plant Diversity for Bioeconomy organized by the Department of Botany and School of Life Sciences North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. Delivering his talk titled "Wild Edible Mushrooms of Cold Desert Ecosystems: Diversity, Chemo-Profiling, and Ethnomycological Insights from Kargil, Trans-Himalayan Region of Ladakh," Prof. Sharma captivated the audience with his account of ground-breaking discoveries from the high-altitude cold deserts of Kargil. He spoke about the iden-

tification of several novel edible mushroom species thriving in one of the harshest environments on Earth. "These mushrooms not only survive but truly flourish amid the extreme cold and aridity of the Trans-Himalayan landscape," Prof. Sharma remarked. The research, he explained, revealed that Ladakh's rugged terrain supports an astonishing diversity of wild mushrooms, many of which form a distinctive fungal community specially adapted to the cold desert ecosystem. Among the notable discoveries are two new species, Pleurotus shentelli and Lactarius drassinus, both unique to the region and of economic significance to local inhabitants. These have been thoroughly characterized through morphological, taxonomic, and molecular analyses, confirming their novelty. Chemical profiling of

these species showed high levels of stress-related sugars and unsaturated fatty acids, compounds known to help organisms maintain cellular balance under extreme conditions. In his concluding remarks, the learned mycologist from Jammu & Kashmir emphasized that these findings not only highlight the adaptive genius of wild mushrooms in extreme climates, but also open exciting new avenues for exploring their culinary and medicinal potential. Organized under the aegis of the Indian Botanical Society (IBS), the international symposium brought together an impressive array of research scientists and academicians from across the globe. Eminent speakers from Japan, Germany, Israel, Poland, and Australia shared their cutting-edge insights, while distinguished Indian luminaries

including Padma Shri Prof. Sudhir Sopory, Padma Shri Prof. Pramod Tandon, Padma Shri Prof. Veena Tandon, and Padma Shri Dr. Eklabya Sharma graced the occasion with their presence and expertise. The event, attended by over 250 delegates, served as a vibrant platform for scientific exchange, collaboration, and the celebration of recent advances in botanical research. The mega event was held under the presidency of Prof. S. K. Barik, former Director of the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), while the plenary sessions were coordinated by Prof. Seshu Lavania, Secretary of the IBS. The symposium concluded on a note of optimism and renewed commitment toward advancing botanical sciences and fostering global research partnerships.

Sat urges BJP cadre to intensify campaign for Devyani Rana in Nagrota

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, along with senior party leaders, held a series of organizational meetings across various areas of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, including one at Panchayat Patta Rakh, as part of BJP's campaign for the upcoming Nagrota by-election. The meetings aimed to strengthen booth-level coordination and mobilize grassroots workers to ensure a strong and coordinated outreach to voters. Prominent leaders who accompanied Sat Sharma included District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, Sunil Sharma Raka, Surinder Singh Gilli, Kuldeep Singh Chib, President Chib Biradari, Sarpanch Dalbir Singh, Madan Singh Chib, K.L. Sharma (Sarpanch), Rajat Sudan, Nazir Ahmad (Ex-BDC), and Kashmir Singh



BJP J&K President Sat Sharma addressing public meeting.

(Retired Subedar). Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, Sat Sharma urged the BJP cadre to intensify door-to-door campaigning in support of BJP candidate Devyani Rana, ensuring that the party's message of development, progress, and good governance reaches every household in Nagrota. He emphasized that "every vote for BJP is a vote for progress, stability, and a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir."

Highlighting the Modi Government's inclusive policies, Sharma stated that the BJP stands for development, not division, and the government has worked tirelessly for the welfare of all communities, whether urban, rural, or remote. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every section of society has witnessed visible transformation," he said. Reiterating the party's core philosophy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka

Vishwas, Sabka Prayas,' Sharma called upon workers to uphold these principles while connecting with people. He expressed confidence that the people of Nagrota have deep faith in the BJP's commitment to transparent governance and equitable growth and asserted that, with the collective efforts of dedicated party workers, BJP candidate Devyani Rana will secure a decisive victory in the forthcoming by-election.

Ashok Koul leads intensive booth-level campaign in Budgam for Aga Syed Mohsin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BUDGAM: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul led an intensive booth-level campaign across the Budgam Assembly Constituency to mobilize support for BJP candidate Aga Syed Mohsin in the upcoming by-election. During his visit, Ashok Koul held interactive meetings with party workers at Badgam Arith-A (Booth No. 15), Badgam Narbal-B (Booth No. 10), and Badgam Sozeith Goripora-A (Booth No. 3), in addition to addressing several local-level gatherings. He was accompanied by District President Hakeem Ruhullah Ghazi, former District President Naseer Loon, Fida Wani, Farooq Ahmad, and other senior



BJP J&K General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul addressing booth-level workers.

BJP leaders. Addressing enthusiastic party workers, Ashok Koul said that Budgam is undergoing a visible political transformation, with people increasingly embracing the BJP's vision of peace, progress, and good governance.

He noted that residents who once felt neglected are now placing their trust in the BJP as the only party capable of ensuring transparent governance and holistic development. Koul emphasized that the BJP stands for honesty, stability, and progress, and

under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed unprecedented growth and transformation. He urged the cadre to strengthen booth-level communication, connect with every household, and spread the BJP's development-cen-

tric message focused on inclusive growth and empowerment. Expressing confidence in Aga Syed Mohsin, Koul said that his clean image and dedication to public service have earned him immense respect, and he will secure overwhelming support from the people of Budgam. He added that the BJP's grassroots network is working tirelessly with full energy and coordination to ensure a historic victory in the constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Hakeem Ruhullah Ghazi highlighted the growing enthusiasm among the people of Budgam, saying there is a strong wave in favor of Aga Syed Mohsin, as BJP workers reach every home with the message of development, unity, and progress under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

SBI donates Rs 1.55 Cr to CM's Relief Fund; Omar lauds gesture



SBI deputation presenting a cheque to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A deputation of the State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and presented a cheque of Rs 1.55 crore as a contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief

Fund. The delegation was led by Jayant Mani, Deputy General Manager (Business and Operations) and Controlling Head for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his gratitude to the SBI employees

for their generous contribution, describing it as "a noble gesture of solidarity and service beyond banking." He said the donation reflects SBI's continued commitment to social responsibility and its deep bond with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.