

Yudhvir urges people to stay connected to their roots

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President laid stress upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the bond of unity, harmony and peace for welfare of the Union Territory.

He was speaking after inaugurating a Bhandara organized by Phari Market Association, Super Bazaar Old City area of Jammu on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Joginder Mahajan, General Secretary of Old Hospital Traders Association was also present. The BJP leader complimented the members of Phari Market Association for upholding rich heritage of society by organizing Bhandara on the Makar Sankranti. This spirit, he said, is not only to be preserved but also passed on to the posterity to sustain the harmonious growth the society as a whole.

Sethi urged people of Jammu city to stay connected to their roots and continue to observe such traditions in a big way that is aimed at strengthening our culture and heritage. "We in Jammu and Kashmir



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and others serving Bhandara on Makar Sankranti.

UT are very much connected to roots and such traditions had always been our way of life," he added. The senior BJP leader said that the society has to grow in unison and spirit of solidarity by isolating all those creating division, either due to ignorance or for vested interest.

For this, he highlighted the crucial need of inbibing the spirit of selflessness and righteoussness, corner-stone of every religion, saying unity and tranquility alone will help in isolating such forces. "We have to fight collectively to all those who promote hate, which is not in

consonance of our pluralistic ethos", he said and urged the people, especially youth, to come forward and play their useful role in this regard.

Yudhvir Sethi laid stress upon maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood in the Jammu region while asserting that these are the hallmark of the City of Temples. He hoped that the people will keep the flag of harmony and amity aloft, as per glorious ethos of the Temple City, adding the unity in diversity has been its time tested and greatest strength.

JTC, SKF urge Govt to enhance cash relief; highlight demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint meeting of Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC)/ Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) and Pradesh Congress Committee Migrant Cell was held at Jagti township, Nagrota under the chairmanship of its President Shadi Lal Pandita and was attended by a number of members.

While speaking on the occasion, Pandita said that condition of residential quarters in Jagti Township is very dilapidated and migrant people are worried about it.

"Rain water drips from roofs of quarters and comes into rooms during rains while leakage of water from bathrooms is going into other rooms," he said, urging Government to repair quarters before Shiv Ratri festival.

Referring to PM package employees, who are on protest from last several

months, Pandita said that it is really said that in place of fulfilling the genuine demands of employees, the Government stopped their salaries, which is not good.

The members urged Government to increase monthly cash relief from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per family per month as soon as possible.

The members also demanded a new employment package for Kashmiri Pandit migrant unemployed youth to ensure that at least one job in provided to families, where none has a government job yet.

The members also demanded property loss of 32 years, pending ex-gratia relief of gutted houses, compensation for over-aged youth etc. They also asked for setting-up three townships in Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla to resettle Kashmiri Pandits.

Deputy Mayor starts development works at Azad Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria on Saturday started the work of construction of the grate wall on the bank of a deep drain at Azad Nagar area of Ward 73, Gadigarh under RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly constituency.

The development work is being undertaken by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department Jammu at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakh.

Billawaria urged the members of the community to cooperate with the authorities during the construction of the wall. The local residents putforth the demand for early construction of the broken bridge in Azad Nagar before Deputy Mayor. Residents demanded that the encroachment on the deep drain near the Air Force Station be removed so that the deep drain can be cleaned properly and people can get rid of the problem of



Deputy Mayor, B.S Billawaria starting development works.

floods.

Deputy Mayor said, "We will prepare report and send it to the administration and very soon the construction work of this bridge will be started."

Later, Deputy Mayor served Khichdi Bhandara on the occasion of Makar Sankranti in Ward 53 Trikuta Nagar of Bahu constituency.

Billawaria said that the festival of Makar Sankranti reminds us of the great pride

of our faith and culture.

Congratulating Corporator Jyoti Devi and her colleagues, he said that this type of event gives many people of the society an opportunity to sit together.

Mandal President Vijay Sharma, Harbans Chowdhary, Satpal Chowdhary, Vicky Singh Bali, Davinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Atinder Pal Singh, Sham Lal, and others were present.

Court rejects bail of woman in NDPS case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Rajinder Sapru rejected bail application of one Rubina Koushar, from whom heroine was recovered.

According to case, FIR 306/2022 of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, Jammu was registered against applicant/accused for the commission of offences under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act and in the course of investigation of said case. 875 gm Heroin like substance is alleged to have been recovered from the possession of applicant/accused. 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Rajinder Sapru after hearing APP DP Singh for UT observed that in case, evidently applicant/accused is not alleged to have committed an offence under Section 19 or 24 or 27-A of NDPS Act,

therefore, only thing which this court is required to appreciate is to see as to whether the quantity of the contraband alleged to be recovered from the applicant/accused falls within the category of 'Commercial Quantity' prescribed under the notification appended to NDPS Act or not. As per police report submitted, applicant/accused is involved in illegal possession of 875 gm Heroin like substance. Since the quantity of the drugs/contraband recovered from the applicant/accused falls within the category of Commercial quantity to which rigour of section 37 of NDPS Act is attracted and at this stage, this court has no reason to believe that applicant/accused has not committed the alleged offences. "Apex Court in case titled Union of India Vs Prateek Shukla Crl. A. No. 284/2021 decid-

ed on 08.03.2021 has categorically held that provision of section 37 of NDPS Act is to be applied strictly while deciding the case for grant of bail. Apex Court in another recent judgment titled State Vs Lokesh Chadha Crl. A.No. 257/2021 decided on 02.03.2021 has observed that the judgment of State of Kerala Vs Rajesh is to be followed while deciding bail application involving Commercial quantity of Contraband. Even otherwise also, the offences alleged against applicant/accused are heinous in nature and at this stage, it cannot be ruled out that applicant will not repeat the commission of similar offences, therefore, the application of the applicant for grant of bail cannot be allowed which accordingly, is rejected," the Court observed.

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The burdensome process of adoption in a country wherein out of a population of three crore (30 million) orphans, only four thousand get adopted annually is not an appreciable date.

From wearisome paperwork to anomalies in government departments, the chances of orphans leading and surviving a healthy life gets questioned, which is a bone of contention in the judgment. Moreover, there is a stigma that hovers over adoption because it indicates infertility among the adopting couple.

Last year the Indian Apex Court in Temple Healing v Union of India, directed the Union Government to simplify the adoption process in India. This comes as a requisite decision considering the tough and long process of adoption

It has also been seen that that are some Irregularities in Adoption Governance and Process which result that there are lakhs of babies who are living an abundant life.

In Kashmir valley there are also approximately 2dozen of abundant babies in baby care homes. Most cases are come from LD hospital and in these cases mothers are herself minors.

Recently a 14-year-old girl was raped and impregnated by one of her relatives who is married and has kids. As per reports, parents of the minor were unaware about their daughter's pregnancy and soon after their daughter complained about the pain and uneasiness. They brought her to the hospital where doctors confirmed her pregnancy after a proper examination.

This is not the only case, there are many other minor girls who have recently delivered babies at the hospital. Police have also registered FIRs in some cases. According to the official data at least 11 new born babies have been abandoned at the Child Welfare Centre Srinagar, of which, most of the cases are from LD hospital . A social worker at the child care help desk at Lal Ded hospital told the STATE TIMES Correspondent that all the abandoned babies are being taken care of by "our team ."She said that some new-borns are delivered by minors and other babies, mostly female new borns are being abandoned by their parents due to their gender. Another social worker at the child care help desk told that these cases of minors who had delivered babies come from different districts of

the valley. "Mostly, recent cases are from Kupwara, Bandipora, Tral and Kulgam, Shopian. Few cases were from Srinagar also. We get such cases from other districts as well," she said.

The officials said that some childless couples come forward and adopt these new-borns. "If anyone wants to opt for adoption. Then the couple has to go through a proper legal procedure for it. Then only they can adopt these new-borns," officials said.A senior doctor at the hospital told that gender discrimination, moral degradation are the reasons for the baby abandonment menace. Social worker said that "Shaffaq Azim Mattu is Superintendent, Phulvari - Cradle Baby Reception Centre, Srinagar, Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), is the final authority for adoption process . shetold,we have two centres where we take care of these newborns , one is at Nowgam, Srinagar which has registered 11 abandoned babies and another centre is at Bandipora which has registered five abandoned babies."

The child care desk revealed a shocking story; they said that all the process is going through the online system on CARA website ,but we are trying to

make sure that the couple who want to adopt a child must be upto 40 years of age,and only doctors engineers,professors or high class businessman couples are appreciated.

The Supreme Court said that it is important to streamline the child adoption process in the country, as there are many young couples waiting to adopt, while there are lakhs of orphans, but the process is very tedious.

On April 11, 2022,the Supreme Court issued notice on the plea seeking a direction to the Centre for improving the number of adoptions in the country and also a direction to the Ministry of Women and Child Development to make adoption procedures simple, and digitising the registration of orphans.

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) of India doesn't have a department to follow up with prospective parents on these matches. In absence of a separate division to follow up, CARA lacks the means to check if these parents would be interested in adopting a child who does not 'exactly' meet the original specifications, leading to a sharp decline in domestic adoption as already noted by the Delhi High Court also while hearing a case.

Aggrieved students call on HR activist, highlight issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A number of aspirants of nursing, paramedical, and various other courses called on Lawyer and Human Rights Activist Nikhil Padha to apprise him about their grievances on Saturday. The students are suffering for last two consecutive sessions because of delays in selection processes by BOPEE every year. Giving details, they said that students of B.Sc. nursing, who appeared for the examination in June 2022 and whose counseling was scheduled for September 2022 are still awaiting the selection list and the delay by JKBOPEE will have serious consequences on them as last date for admission stipulated by Indian Nursing Council was October 31, 2022. "The administrative failure on the part of BOPEE compels the students to either waste one year or opt for courses in other states, due to which students of J&K are suffering the most. Moreover, the delay has put the careers of thousands of students at peril and has almost cost them years of hard work.

The BOPEE rejected request of association of colleges regarding the filling up of vacant seats at the institution level after BOPEE counseling which has further resulted in the wastage of seats, as students who are eligible, are forced to go out of J&K.

Students aspiring for these courses come from different backgrounds, with many of them coming from rural and hilly areas, and officials from BOPEE have known to be arrogant towards the students.

Other than the present issues faced by the students, one of the already existing issues is regarding the validity of the SRO 505, i.e. the SRO which resulted in giving powers regarding the admission to various M.Sc./B.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing and various other Para-Medical courses in government and private institutions of J&K to BOPEE. As a Human Rights Activist and a citizen of J&K, Nikhil Padha has decided to intervene in the matter and help students in their genuine cause.

Mayor inaugurates Evergreen Makeup Studio

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Evergreen Education Trust on Saturday organized a programme to commemorate inauguration of Evergreen Makeup Studio at their head office Dogra Hall Kachi Chawni in presence of Chief Guest, Mayor Jammu Rajinder Sharma.

This beauty and wellness centre is the initiative of Evergreen Education Trust to facilitate the local youth of Jammu with opportunity and motivation to start their own ventures and be self employed which may have been indulged and experienced in, for past more than two decades.

Evergreen Education Trust with experience in skill development and related placement linked training programmes has trained more than 20000 candidates all over the country. The said Evergreen Makeup studio would be run by some of those candidates who were trained at Evergreen



Evergreen Makeup Studio member presenting bouquet to Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma.

Education Trust under PMKVY scheme the target of which was given by J&K Skill Development Mission (JKSDM). The beauty and wellness centre would be equipped for all types of makeup and trainings of the same. Rajinder Sharma discussed the importance of Skill Development and its proper dissemination for the benefit of society.

He said that Skill Development is the benchmark that helps in growth and development for every sustainable livelihood.

He also briefed the candi-

dates regarding establishing the Evergreen Education Trust on 17th July 2002 and its twenty years of experience in field of skill development and education. He also said Skill India is a big dream of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the slogan of Kausal Baharat Kushal Baharat.

Puneet Mahajan BJP In charge of Health and Medical Education, Dr Akshay Sharma, Cooperator Ward No. 8 and other dignitaries were also present.

RTO Jammu holds series of awareness programmes on Road Safety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Road Safety Week 2023 under Swachhta Pakhwada, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra organised a series of awareness-cum-sensitisation programmes on road safety.

The first programme was a symposium competition held on Saturday at Government Degree College Paloura, where 200 college students were educated about road safety and traffic rules and regulations. In his address, RTO Bhagotra urged students to be responsible citizens and obey traffic rules to ensure safety on the roads. He also highlighted the Good Samaritan Law. The winners of the competition were later felicitated by the chief guest.

The symposium was followed by an awareness rally led by NSS volunteers. The second programme was a health-cum-eye check-up camp held at Mini Bus Stand



RTO Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra distributing helmets among commuters.

Channi Himmat, where 150 drivers and conductors participated and were educated about personal health and hygiene, as well as given medical check-ups. The camp also included general body check-ups, particularly for sugar, blood pressure, and eye check-ups for drivers.

The health check-up camp was followed by the distribution of helmets to commuters by the RTO and his team. As many as 50 people found riding two-wheelers without helmets were distributed helmets in the special drive. The

programme ended with an enforcement drive by the team of MVD officials at various chowks of the city. During the drive, two vehicles found plying without HSRP were booked and a fine of Rs 1.88 lakh was imposed on the spot from the traffic violators.

The awareness programmes were attended by ARTO BoI (P) Esha Chib, ARTO HQ Mohd. Saleem, ARTO F'S Tara Mani Sharma, MVIs Ranjeev Bhasin, and Anupam Ghandotra.

JKTA delegation calls on DSEJ, highlights issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Association (JKTA) led by president Bhupinder Singh met Director School Education Jammu, Ravi Shankar Sharma and highlighted several issues pertaining to framing of a transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme, especially females, who have been working in same schools for last more than 22 years. Others issues highlighted on the occasion included DPC of teachers to Masters, creation of Master grade posts in upper Primary Schools, clearing pending cases like transition of Grade



JKTA delegation members presenting a memorandum to DSEJ, Ravi Shankar Sharma.

II/III Teachers, EVS and ReTs, inclusion of 5 years services, removal of pay disparities, Earned leave for teachers, release of MDM grant, etc. The delegation also put forth suggestions regarding NEP 2020, early childhood care education and inclusion of local languages

and dialects. The Director gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation that necessary measures would be taken to resolve all highlighted issues at the earliest. The delegation comprised of Akhter Abass Naik, Joginder Dighra, Javed Chouhan, Sadaket Malik, Irfan Bajran,

Kuldeep Singh, Pawan Kumar, Hemait Wani, Charan Dass, Ishaq Khayal, Sudesh Kumar, Vikram Singh, Sajjad Malik, Poonam Devi, Madhu Sanbyal, Narinder Nagra, Afraz Ahmed, Subash Lal, Tahir Tantray and Shamim Ahmed Wani.

Div Com Jammu reviews revenue issues in districts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday conducted a meeting to review various revenue-related issues, including digitisation of land records, status of online revenue services, status of revenue court cases, vacancy positions, conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees, and Delineation of Khads.

Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners to expedite the progress of writing of Jamabandis and other related works and complete the process at the earliest. He also reviewed the online revenue services and took stock of dis-

trict-wise disposal percentage.

He exhorted the revenue officers to work with zeal and dedication to provide the best services to the public and alleviate the hardships of the common masses. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to ensure prompt disposal of online applications seeking services in accordance with the provisions of PSGA. He also emphasised the importance of conducting regular monthly meetings with Tehsildars to discuss issues and progress made in the implementation of online services. Ramesh Kumar directed the Deputy Commissioners to dispose of all pending applications for change in land use



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a virtual meeting.

(CLU) and ensure disposal of pending applications within PSGA days. He also reviewed revenue court cases, vacancy positions, and the conduct of meetings of Departmental Promotion Committees, instructing the Deputy Commissioners to conduct DPCs regularly as per set guidelines.

He also reviewed the functioning of e-offices and asked the Deputy Commissioners to ensure the functioning of e-offices at tehsil levels as well. Discussions were also held on various important revenue issues such as transfer of land, land acquisition for development projects, and delineation of Khads.