

Yudhvir urges people to stay connected to their roots



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

■ 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

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,

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 waiting for 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.

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 Digras, Javed Chouhan, Sadek Malik, Irfan Bjrajan,

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

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 Pradeshi 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 is 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 overaged 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



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, Vicki Singh Bali, Davinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Atinder Pal Singh, Sham Lal, and others were present.

Adoption process need to made easy as tough process cannot help childless couples

■ 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 inferiority 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 there 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 2 dozen 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 Matta is Superintendent, Phulwari-Cradle Baby Reception Centre, Srinagar; Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), is the final authority for adoption process. They 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 up to 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 digitizing 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.

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

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 candidates 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 Bharat Kushal Bharat.

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

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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-

RTO Jammu holds series of awareness programmes on Road Safety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing Road Safety Week 2023 under Swachita 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

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 FS Tara Mani Sharma, MVI Ranjeet Bhasin, and Anupam Ghandotra. 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.

Div Com Jammu reviews revenue issues in districts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ramesh Kumar, 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.

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