

# Amit conducts comprehensive Inspection of State Motor Garage Facilities in Ladakh

## STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Secretary Transport cum - Transport Commissioner, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Wednesday conducted a thorough inspection of the Motor Garage building, offices, sheds, workshops, stock stores, and surrounding areas to enhance the efficiency and functionality of the Motor Garage facilities in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Secretary Transport Amit Sharma assessed various aspects of the facilities to ensure the best performance and adherence to quality standards accompanied by the Deputy Director of Motor Garage, UT Ladakh Dr Tundup Namgyal, and his



Secretary Transport, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma during visit inspection of the Motor Garage building.

staff. During the inspection, the Secretary emphasized the need to improve infrastructure and directed the concerned officers to establish proper sheds for vehicles within the departmental

campus. The directions align with the commitment to provide a conducive environment for maintenance activities and vehicle storage. To enhance efficiency, Amit Sharma instructed the offi-

cers to organize mechanical parts systematically on shelves. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of testing and quality assurance for recharging materials, reinforcing the commitment to safety and reliability in motor garage operations. One of the central points of the inspection was the Fast-Charging Station, an important component in the modernization of transportation infrastructure.

Amit Sharma examined the station to ensure its functionality and alignment with the evolving needs of the region. UT Ladakh Administration aims to ensure that the Motor Garage facilities meet

the highest standards of functionality and safety, Secretary Transport stated. The inspection marks the beginning of a series of initiatives aimed at modernizing and upgrading our transport infrastructure to better serve the people of Ladakh, he added. Deputy Director Garages affirmed the commitment of the Motor Garage Department to implement the Secretary's directions promptly.

Secretary Transport Amit Sharma concluded the inspection with optimism for the future, expressing confidence that the improvements outlined during the visit would contribute significantly to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the UT Motor Garage facilities.

# Rajiv Khajuria briefs Chief Secretary on NDF activities

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President of National Development Foundation, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria called on the Chief Secretary J&K Atal Dulloo and appraised him about the activities of the Foundation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Khajuria briefed the Chief Secretary that the NDF is working to promote ECCE and FLN as envisioned in National Education Policy 2020 and on a convergent approach to strengthening Child Protection Mechanism as envisioned in Mission Vatsalya & Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

Khajuria presented a collage to the CS showcasing the work done by the NDF Jammu, formerly known as Modern Culture Club Rajouri, which was patron-



President NDF, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria presenting bouquet to Chief Secretary J&K Atal Dulloo.

aged by the Chief Secretary in 1997 in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the consistency of NDF's work and wished all the best to NDF for the

organisation future plans. He reiterated the commitment of the State Government for promoting all good works being done in the National Interest and in the interest of the poor and needy in Jammu & Kashmir.

# Dr Vikas completes century of successful Joint Replacement Surgeries in 2023

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After having done hundreds of successful Joint Replacement surgeries, Senior Joint Replacement Surgeon SMVD Narayana Hospital Katra and son of soil Dr Vikas Padha achieved another feat of doing 105 successful Joint Replacement Surgeries like Total Knee Replacements and Total Hip Replacements in a single year 2023.

According to Dr Padha, there was a trend of going outside J&K for joint replacement surgeries earlier and this century of joint replacement surgeries in a single year conveys that



such a trend no longer exists and patients from J&K now prefer to undergo Joint Replacement Surgeries in the Department of Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement SMVD Narayana Hospital Katra instead of going outside. "Our Department of

Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement is equipped with adequate infrastructure and skilled manpower apart from having back up of ICU, CCU and support of dedicated physiotherapy team. Our Department of Anaesthesia ensures Painless joint replacement surgeries by using the latest techniques of Anaesthesia. Our Operation Theatre is of top class and is well maintained. As a result, I have done many very complex Total Knee Replacement surgeries successfully that are done in very few select Joint replacement centres in the country and world, apart from doing routine Joint replacement

surgeries," stated Dr Vikas Padha. He further disclosed that the majority of Joint Replacement Surgeries have been done free of cost under Ayushman Bharat Yojna, and many poor patients have undergone successful joint replacement surgeries that would have otherwise cost around Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3 lakh per surgery.

Dr Padha expressed his gratitude to the management of SMVD Narayana Hospital Katra including Facility Director M.M Mathawan, Clinical Director Dr JP Singh and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for their support.

# IGNOU Jammu makes its way deep into rural-tribal belts of region

77% of total enrolled learners from rural-tribal areas, says Regional Director

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Regional Centre Jammu of the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) since its inception in the year 1998 has set several benchmarks over the years in terms of sustainable growth of enrollment and providing quality support services to the learners across the region. Setting yet another benchmark, around 77 per cent learners from the rural and tribal areas have enrolled themselves under IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu for various programmes in the recently concluded July 2023 admission cycle. This is yet another feather in the cap of the Regional Centre to have



Regional Director, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma talking to reporters.

taken IGNOU to the far flung and remote areas of the region", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director. Dr. Verma stated that

IGNOU, over the years, has lived up to the country's expectations of providing quality education to the marginalized sections of society which includes free of cost education being provided to jail inmates across the country and enrolling a large number of SC/ST learners for a number of programmes of the University for which the programme fee is exempted.

He also stated that the University has digitized the study material for different programmes and IGNOU also provides a discount of 15% on the programme fee to the students who opt for digital material rather than the hard copy. The digitized

material is available at eGyankosh, the digital repository of the University.

Dr. Verma also informed about the launch of certain new utilitarian programmes by the University from the ongoing January 2024 admission cycle which include MASL (Master of Arts in Spanish), MAPFHS (Master of Arts in Population and Family Health Studies).

Regional Director called upon those aspiring learners who wish to take admission in any of the IGNOU programmes online for the ongoing January 2024 admission cycle to enroll themselves before the last date which is January 31, 2024.

# Developmental scenario deplorable, works started in NC rule halted: Sadhotra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former Minister has said that the development works started during the National Conference governance in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought to a standstill under the incumbent Govt. Moreover the overall developmental scenario existing today is hopeless and highly deplorable, he added.

He expressed this while addressing a meeting of NC functionaries of District Udhampur Urban held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

The meeting began with the NC District President Udhampur Urban Sunil Verma apprising the senior functionaries of party about the problems being faced by people of the area and failure of the authorities to address the same despite approaching them



Addl General Secretary JKNC, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra speaking at party workers meeting.

repeatedly. Ajay Kumar Sadhotra observed that the development works started during the National Conference governance in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought to a standstill under the incumbent Govt. Moreover the overall developmental scenario existing today is hopeless so much so that the pace of progress on the so called prestigious projects like the much hyped Devika project is quite clumsy and still far from completion.

The senior NC leader said that the Union Territory Administration has been clamoring a lot about its industrial policy bringing a paradigm transformation in industrial sector thus giving a push to economy and employment to just create a false narrative. However, the fact remains that majority of industries in J&K especially in Udhampur are at the verge of closure, while many industries stand already closed. He said that the road project from Ramnagar to Basantgarh

continues to be in dol-drum with its completion nowhere in sight.

He said that the incumbent Administration is not serious even about the health of the people which is evident from the fact that the Health Centres are running without doctors especially in rural and far flung areas likewise the condition of Ration supplies and electricity is also worst. He asserted that the incumbent Govt in J&K exemplifies the worst form of governance leaving the people to the mercy of God.

Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu, in his address on the occasion, accused the Govt of depriving the people of J&K of fundamental rights by not holding ULB, Panchayat and Assembly polls in this Union Territory in which is their constitutional right.

Reacting to JP Nadda's

visit to Jammu on Jan 7, Rattan Lal mocked the BJP National President for confining his visit to Lok Sabha polls while maintaining a criminal silence on holding ULB, Panchayat and Assembly polls which are already due.

Accusing the BJP of adopting unconstitutional methods to delay ULB, Panchayat and Assembly polls in J&K, the senior JKNC leader asserted that BJP has adopted delay tactics on the aforesaid polls due to fear of suffering an unprecedented defeat and debacle due to its utter misgovernance in J&K.

He claimed that BJP is not at all in a condition to contest Assembly polls. He accused the BJP of depriving the people in J&K of their fundamental rights by not holding the elections which goes very much against the basic tenets of democracy.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hailing the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to start PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), an initiative aimed at empowering and enhancing skills of artisans and craftspeople from Jammu and Kashmir; Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that this is how promises are kept and lives of millions are transformed.

PM Modi, he added, does what he says and now that this most beneficial central government scheme has taken off from J&K, many artisans and craftsmen are going to be benefited in a big way.

Raman Suri said, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), wherein craftsman community will be imparted training of five to seven days, advanced training of 15 days

or more, a stipend of Rs 500 per day, and a free modern toolkit worth Rs 15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas. This will enhance the skills of craftspeople and other skilled workers, who will then be able to establish their own workstations or businesses.

The BJP leader added that once the artisans and craftspeople will be trained, they can seek credit-based soft loans and marketing support to expand their businesses. This scheme, he added, is going to be quite beneficial for the artisans of Jammu and Kashmir; who are a considerable number. Several people who are into handicrafts, weaving and other such artisan works, can avail the benefits, and set up their own businesses after taking loans and toolkits by subscribing to this government sponsored scheme.

Raman said that the BJP government at the centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working round the

clock for all sections of the society. Right from white-collared jobs to businesses to professionals across the nation to skilled and unskilled labour; PM Modi has a set plan for everyone's growth. He intends to make the nation one of the top three economies in coming years, and such schemes are there to empower professionals in a big manner, who ultimately will contribute in building a strong and economically self-reliant country - Bharat.

By initiating the PMVK scheme from Jammu and Kashmir; the Prime Minister has once again established that the people of this region top his priority list.

He intends to empower the craftsman community through self-employment, which is why this scheme has started from J&K. In the first phase, a batch of 30 artisans in darzi craft will be trained at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Shopian, which was once infested with militancy.

# JKTJAC meets DSEJ, discusses issues



JKTJAC delegation led by President Vinod Sharma calling on DSE Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) led by UT President Vinod Sharma met Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma to discuss various issues concerning the teaching fraternity.

Vinod Sharma raised concerns about the conversion of RREs to Teachers Grade II/III whose files lying in DSEJ, Regularisation of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period successfully, Issuance of mutual transfer lists and DPC of teachers to masters.

Director gave a patient hearing to the deputation and apprised JKTJAC leadership that Divisional level Committee meeting is on job for fast disposal of Conversion cases. He said that on coming

Monday in Divisional level Committee meeting a designated officer from Administrative Department will visit DSEJ and hopefully most of the Conversion cases will be cleared.

Regarding mutual transfer cases the leadership was apprised that the process is going on at rapid pace and very soon district wise mutual transfer list will be issued and DPC of teachers to masters will be completed in this month.

Members of the deputation included Surjit Singh (UT VP), Sham Sharma (UT Chief Advisor), Suresh Khajuria (UT Chief Press and Media Secretary), Khazan Singh (UT Coordinator), Ravinder Manhas (DP Jammu), Sandeep Sharma, Bhoopinder Gupta, and others.

# Director employment inaugurates 2-day Science Festival

## STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Director Employment, Nisar Ahmed Wani on Wednesday inaugurated a 2-day Science Festival in the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Ramban. The programme has been organised by the Technical Education Department in collaboration with the National Council for Science & Technology Communication (Deptt. of Science & Tech.) GOI and J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council.

After inaugurating the festival, the Director inspected an impressive exhibition featuring projects from students of ITI Ramban, ITI Gool and local schools. The projects highlighted the innovative and scientific endeavors of the young minds.

A notable feature of the festival was an awareness stall by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Officials from SDRF conducted demonstrations on life-saving techniques, including Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and rescue operations. The students actively participated in a slogan writing and poster making competition, showcasing their creativity and understanding of scientific concepts. A



Director Employment, Nisar Ahmed Wani inaugurating Science Festival in the ITI Ramban.

vibrant cultural program followed, featuring skits, flute playing, folk music, and dance, providing a glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of Ramban district.

Addressing the gathering, the Director emphasized the importance of skill development for enhanced employability. He encouraged students to embrace a curious and innovative mindset, citing the vast opportunities available for skilled individuals in the current era. The Science Festival at ITI Ramban stands as a testament to the region's commitment to nurturing scientific curiosity and fostering skill development among its youth.

During the event, the Chief Guest also distributed certificates to 25 trainees, including 10 women, who successfully completed a 3-month IT Automation training organ-

ised by the Employment & Counselling Centre in Ramban at ITI Ramban.

The festival also encompasses a seminar, offering diverse sessions on Cyber Security, Career Counselling, and Personal Management on the second day. Day 2nd agenda includes a Quiz Competition, enhancing the intellectual engagement of participants. These sessions aim to provide valuable insights and guidance to the attendees.

Among others present at the event included Principal of Government Polytechnic College, Chanderkot, Vivek Mahajan, and Assistant Director of Employment & Counselling Centre in Ramban, Dr. Sushant Mahajan and Superintendent of ITI Ramban, Pervez Iqbal Bhat and various officers and staff members.

# KVK Poonch conducts training programme on natural farming

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: To motivate farmers to adopt chemical free farming and to boost the spread and scope of natural farming, KVK Poonch under the project "Out scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs" conducted its fourth successive two days training programme w.e.f. 02nd -03rd January, 2024. The training programme was conducted as per the guidelines of the project and under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Dr. B. N. Tripathi, and Director Extension, Dr. Amrith Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu.

While delivering the welcome and inaugural remarks during the first day through virtual mode, Sr. Scientist & Head KVK Poonch, Dr. Ajay Gupta said that the success of Natural farming in real terms demands the behavioral change in the farmers so as to shift to cow based and other formulations envisioned under Natural Farming and as such demands continuous awareness and training of the beneficiaries. In order to ensure sustainability and food security, it is important to understand the ideology behind the Natural Farming, only

then we can be able to reverse the ill effects of chemical fertilizers and restore the soil fertility, he emphasized.

Dr. Muzafar Mir Fruit Scientist deliberated on how Natural Farming can help the vegetable and fruit growers to reduce the input cost besides increase in quality production and better economic returns. In his lecture, Dr. Mushtaq Guroo Nodal Officer NF said that Natural Farming is a cost effective and regenerative agricultural practice and this type of farming is required for biodiversity conservation and can emerge as an entrepreneurship model which can motivate youth and generate rural employment.

Dr. Ramandeep Kour SRF also delivered a lecture on Integrated Pest Management under Natural Farming during the said training programme. The participating farmers thanked the KVK officials for conducting such type of training programmes for the betterment of farming community. The two days programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Mushtaq Guroo.

# 3-month skill development training programme concludes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The 3 Month Skill Development Training Programme (Associate Electrician training course) organised by District Employment & Counselling Centre concluded today with a valedictory function organized at ITI Udhampur.

Three Month Skill Development Training in (Associate Electrician) was imparted to 28 candidates of Udhampur District. The "Associate Electrician" training programme aimed to equip individuals with the essential skills and knowledge required in the field of Electrical Sector; a sector witnessing rapid growth. Joint Director Employment Jammu, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik was the Chief Guest, who also presented the certificates to the candidates and blessed them for a bright future. He further said that such courses should be conducted in future also to uplift, upgrade and upskill the youth and assured that participants would be given priority in the upcoming Mega Job Fair at Jammu.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Engineer Ravinder Singh Bhatti Superintendent ITI Udhampur and a ceremonial plantation drive was carried out by the dignitaries.