

Prpl Secy SED assesses winter residential coaching classes in UT Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Principal Secretary School Education Department (SED), Sanjeev Khirwar on Sunday chaired a meeting to assess winter residential coaching classes for 10th and 12th grades in UT Ladakh with Principals and Headmasters of Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) and High Schools (HS).

The primary focus of the meeting was the preparation of students for the upcoming CBSE Board exams.

During the meeting, the Director of School Education Tsering Paldan briefed the Principal Secretary on the widespread implementation of winter residential classes in Leh districts, and the substantial participation of schools in Kargil district. There are 10 centres (winter friendly) established in each district where students of these two classes are being accommodated. Directly engaging

with Principals and Headmasters, the Principal Secretary discussed the facilities provided to students, including the quality of food, heating arrangements, and mentorship within the residential winter coaching programs.

The challenges faced in running smooth winter residential coaching classes in remote and far-flung areas were also addressed during the interaction.

Expressing a keen interest in the students' well-being, the Principal Secretary interacted with students from various schools, discussing exam stress and challenges.

The students openly shared their study experiences, and the Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of self-awareness, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and diligent practice to achieve success.

Students from HSS

Panikhar and Nyoma conveyed their gratitude to the Principal Secretary and the entire School Education Department for providing the invaluable facility of winter classes.

They expressed that, for underprivileged students in the remote areas of Ladakh, winter coaching was once just a dream, but the School Education Department has made it possible.

Acknowledging the dedication of Heads of Institutions (Hols) and staff members, the Principal Secretary appreciated their efforts in making winter classes a reality despite the challenging climatic conditions and limited resources.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to ensuring the success of winter residential coaching programs and providing students in Ladakh with the necessary support for their academic achievements.

Azad aims for positive change, employment revolution: Yatoo

Several prominent political activists join DPAP

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) General Secretary for Kashmir and Incharge Charar-i-Sharif Constituency, Er. Nazir Yatoo, on Sunday undertook a significant visit to the Charipora area of Pakherpora. The purpose of this visit was multifaceted, encompassing interactions with locals, understanding their concerns, and strengthening the party's presence in the area. During interactions with the locals, Er. Yatoo emphasized the pivotal role of Gh Nabi Azad in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He lauded Azad as the only leader who genuinely holds the best interests of the people of J&K at heart.

Er. Yatoo further added that Gh Nabi Azad's tenure as the Chief



DPAP General Secretary for Kashmir, Er. Nazir Yatoo with newly joined members.

Minister of the erstwhile state, highlighting the remarkable development initiatives and progress witnessed during his leadership.

In a significant turn of events during Er. Yatoo's visit, several prominent political activists from the area expressed their faith and allegiance to the DPAP. Their decision to join the party reflects the growing momentum and trust that DPAP continues to garner among the political circles of Jammu and Kashmir:

Impressive 'Nagar Kirtan' taken out on birthday of Guru Gobind Singh

Contribution of Sikh Gurus not limited to society, played pivotal role in nation-building exercises: Randhawa

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An impressive 'Nagar-Kirtan' was taken out by the Sikh community in connection with the birthday (Prakash Parv) of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, in the Model Town area of Gangyal here on Sunday. The programme was organized by Model Town Gurdwara Sahib Committee Gangyal.

On Prakash Parv (Gurpurab) of 10th Guru of Sikhs—Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, a large number of Sikh community members, including children from various schools and Ragi Jathas from J&K and outside, participated in this grand religious procession.

Since morning, a large number of Sikh community members, including women and children besides students from various schools, started assembling at Model Town Gangyal to participate in this religious procession.



Senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa greeting Sikh devotees at Nagar Kirtan.

A vehicle had been highly decorated and converted into a chariot, where Holy Guru Granth Sahib had been placed.

As per Sikh religious traditions, five warriors of the great Guru ('Panj Piyaras'), holding swords in hand and

attired in traditional dress code, were leading the chariot, followed by Sikh Sangat and other devotees.

Chanting religious slogans and sermons, the 'Nagar Kirtan' kept on moving slowly through many internal routes of the Model Town Gangyal.

Display of martial art (Gatka) by the Sikh youth was the main attraction of the procession. Many Sikh youth were displaying different feats, during the display of martial art.

While speaking on the occasion, Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa paid tributes to Guru Gobind Singh and other historic Sikh leaders, stating that it is because of their sacrifices, penance, and courage that India's faiths and territorial integrity is safe today. He said, the contribution of Sikh Gurus is not just limited to society and spirituality only, but they have also played a pivotal role in nation-building exercises, contributed with their wisdom towards fleshing out the modern idea of India, and ensured Indie faiths and integrity of the nation were safeguarded from foreign invaders.

Breaking Bread, Building Memories: Breakfast Langar organised by GGF Women Wing Jammu



GGF Women Wing Jammu members at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) Women Wing Jammu in collaboration with Bharat Abrol

hosted a Breakfast Langar, that seeks to weave a tapestry of warmth, community, and remembrance.

On this occasion, Padma Shri Dr. S. P. Verma, Bharat Abrol, Dinesh Gupta, A. A. Najar, Sumi Sahi, Inderdeep Singh, Priya, Dr. Alka Sharma and others were present to serve the people. More than 600 people were served on the occasion.

Women Wing Jammu believes that this nourishing breakfast mirrors the generosity and kindness and this gathering aims to celebrate enduring spirit and create a space where attendees can connect and find solace in each other's company.

Natrang stages Munshi Prem Chand's famous short story 'Kafan'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang staged a dramatic presentation of Munshi Prem Chand's famous short story, 'Kafan' here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its Sunday Theatre Series. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant. Though written many years ago by country's most celebrated visionary writer, the story appears timeless and still has a lot to convey to the present generation and even generations to come and it is a very precise satire on the degradation of human values.

The play revolves around a father and his son who work as labourers in a village. The son's wife is near the end of her pregnancy and is in need



Natrang artists performing in a play at Jammu on Sunday.

of medical attention, which the family certainly cannot afford. The poor lady cries in pain as 'Ghisu' and his son 'Madhav' watch helplessly. She eventually dies dur-

ing childbirth, adding to the problems of the father and son. Driven to extreme poverty and despair, they have no money or means to perform the funeral rites for

the unfortunate woman. They cannot ignore the dead body lying in their hut, and set out to ask the villagers for some monetary assistance which they get after some effort but when it comes to the purchase the shroud for her, they change their mind and rather buy liquor out of that charity money, giving consolation to their sinful souls that what would a dead woman do with that piece of cloth, she does not need anything but blessings. The play very emotionally exposes the monster of alcoholism and the story seems to be so relevant and close to the contemporary times. The play shows that people ruin their life and lives of their dependents in

lust of alcohol and those who are captured in its trap may have nothing to eat and feed their family but will go out of ways to muster resources for the acquisition of liquor. Kafan which translates to a shroud in English describes the degradation of human beings to the lowest level possible.

Natrang young actors who performed in the play included Sanket Bhagat, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanaya Shekhar, Abhimanyu Choudhary and Harshul Kaul . Lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas Kananpreet Kaur rendered the music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Director Agri inaugurates awareness prog on quality control of fertilizers



Director Agri Kashmir, Ch Mohd Iqbal chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal on Sunday inaugurated an awareness programme on quality control of fertilizers/pesticides at Town Hall Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Kashmir (who was the chief guest) highlighted the importance of quality control of fertilizers/pesticides in the region.

He said that the quality of different inputs including fertilizers, pesticides, seeds etc is of paramount importance to the overall success of an agriculture enterprise. He underscored the need for awareness among the farmers about the quality parameters of different agricultural inputs.

Director Agriculture asked the stakeholders to work with more coordination. He said the quality of fertilizers, pesticides would decide the future of the agriculture sector in the region.

He asked the farmers to minimise the use of chemical

fertilizers and adopt an organic way of cultivation. He said the trend is changing and it is shifting towards the organic cultivation of different agricultural crops.

Later, Director Agriculture Kashmir visited Shopian and chaired an interactive meeting with fertilizers and pesticides dealers. He took a review of the stock, supply and distribution position of insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers in the district.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra transforms lives through PM SVANidhi in Anantnag

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: In the heart of Anantnag, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra unfolds a tapestry of transformative stories, showcasing the impact of the PM SVANidhi scheme on resilient street vendors. From Mattan to Qazigund, from Seer-Hamdan to Kokernag, lives are being reshaped, businesses are flourishing, and hope is rekindled.

Mohammad Amin Mir, Mohammad Nawab Faridi and Punkaj Mandal's stories are the shining examples of street vendors in Mattan. From starting their businesses with minimal resources, these entrepreneurs flourished with financial aid under PM SVANidhi. Their success stories echo the experiences of millions across India, illustrating the Yatra's



unwavering commitment to inclusive development.

Kaisar Ahmad Bhat's story from Qazigund is heart-touching. Facing the brink of closure during the harsh times of COVID-19, the PM SVANidhi Scheme became his lifeline. With successive tranches totaling Rs. 80,000, Kaisar not only revived his

fruit-selling Rehri but stands today as a successful street vendor, a testament to the scheme's transformative power. In Seer-Hamdan, Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie, Bikram Mandal, and Kadar epitomize the success spurred by PM SVANidhi. Starting from scratch, they expanded their businesses

with financial assistance, leading to increased income and a better lifestyle. Their unique stories resonate with the Yatra's commitment to leave no citizen behind.

Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, a graduate from Kokernag, faced challenges accessing credit for his business. PM SVANidhi changed the game, providing a loan that fueled business growth and enhanced income. His story inspires unemployed youth across India, showcasing the Yatra's dedication to inclusive development.

In Dooru Verinag, Mohammad Ashraf Mochi's fruit and vegetable vending unit faced setbacks during COVID-19. The PM SVANidhi Scheme revived his business, availing all three tranches and boosting daily income. His satisfac-

tion reflects the scheme's impact on businesses, irrespective of education or qualification. The Central Government's PM SVANidhi scheme emerges as a beacon of hope for street vendors nationwide. Providing working capital loans, incentivizing repayment, and promoting digital transactions, it goes beyond financial assistance, becoming a catalyst for economic resurgence and uplifting lives.

As Viksit Bharat strides forward, these success stories illuminate its commitment to a future where every citizen is an integral part of the nation's journey towards progress and prosperity. This isn't just a promise; it is Viksit Bharat in dynamic action, fostering inclusivity and transforming lives at the grassroots level.

Kulgam Administration accords warm farewell to outgoing DC, Dr. Bilal

STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The District Administration Kulgam on Sunday organised an impressive function to bid farewell to outgoing

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on his transfer as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

Extending their best wishes to the DC, the officers and officials applauded the working of Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and also shared that during his time as DC, Dr Bilal spearheaded numerous initiatives that not only addressed pressing concerns but also laid the foundation for a brighter future.

They said that from spearheading infrastructure development projects to fostering social welfare programs, his leadership brought about a tangible transformation in the district.

The officers, officials and PRIs present in the function lauded Dr. Bilal's working style, leadership qualities and his responsiveness and dedication toward the service of the people and extended their best wishes for his new assignment.

The DC appreciated the officers for putting in their best efforts in carrying out the official duties and assignments and also for their active support and cooperation during his three years tenure as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam.

He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Kulgam for the respect and love showered by them on him.

Later officers presented gifts to the outgoing DC as a token of love.

Empowering progress in Pulwama: Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues its transformative journey

STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, an unwavering force for holistic development, continues to weave a narrative of positive transformation in District Pulwama. Since its launch on November 25, 2023, the Yatra has transcended boundaries, resonating not only in Panchayats and Municipalities but also ingraining itself within the fabric of Pulwama's villages.



A dignitary addressing gathering under VBSY at Pulwama.

Today, the Yatra reached six villages, igniting vibrant

celebrations and fostering a sense of community spirit.

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) vans, like messengers of change, traversed these villages, delivering the visionary message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the mission behind the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. The residents of these villages wholeheartedly embraced the Sankalp pledge, embodying the ideals of the Yatra with enthusiasm.

Cultural programs unfold-

ed, showcasing the essence of the Yatra through captivating performances by students and locals alike. Government departments actively participated, setting up stalls to display their schemes and providing on-the-spot services. This engagement not only highlighted the initiatives but also opened avenues for the community to explore diverse opportunities.

The "Meri Kahani Meri

Zubani" segment brought forth heartfelt stories from beneficiaries, illustrating the tangible impact of Government interventions on their lives.

The Yatra has undeniably achieved its core objective - ensuring the saturation of government schemes, reaching the unreached, and laying a robust foundation for Viksit Bharat. It goes beyond rhetoric, turning aspirations into reality and

ensuring that the benefits of Government schemes touch the life of every individual.

As the Yatra progresses, it solidifies its role as a catalyst for positive change, instilling hope and progress throughout District Pulwama. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra stands as a beacon, not just as a journey of promises but as a transformative force, empowering progress in the heart of Pulwama.