Rajouri Deaths

CS for enforcing stringent containment measures to stop further loss of lives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday held a meeting of the Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts and Police Department to take assessment of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious deaths reported from village Badhal in district Rajouri here.

The meeting besides Secretary Health & Medical Education Department was attended by ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; DC, Rajouri; SP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Rajouri; Director, Health Services, Jammu besides some experts from the national health institutions.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing meeting of the Divisional, District administrations along with health experts.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned from Health and Police Departments to take stringent containment measures in consultation with the Divisional administration to ensure that there is no further loss of any life.

He advised the concerned to frame a proper SOP for monitoring the population of the village. He asked them to deploy sufficient manpower from both the Health department and Police to enforce the Do's and Don'ts set in the SOP. Dulloo further enjoined upon the divisional and district administration to not let down their guard and allow only tested edibles and non-edibles to be used by the persons under quarantine. He stressed that till the actual causes of these deaths are not known both the Police and Health professionals should carry on their investigations as required as per the set procedures.

He also urged them to study the reports received from the national diagnostic institutions that had taken samples from the village. He directed them to take every possible measure to protect the lives of these villagers till the toxicology reports point out the actual causes of these deaths.

He also took note of the work done so far by the SIT constituted by the Police Department and other investigation agencies including the Ministerial team sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He enquired from the experts the possible preventive measures that could be taken to control the further damage.

The Secretary H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah informed the meeting that every measure has been taken to isolate the families and provide them food and water after testing the same.

It was given out that the health teams are stationed there to keep surveillance for any of the symptoms appearing in any person. It has further been added that the local PHC/CHC has been kept in a state of readiness besides it is ensured that no food or eatables are exchanged as the families had been removed from their homes and kept under continuously monitored to safeguard their lives.

Samvedna Society organizes Aadhaar Enrollment Camp for children

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman of Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, organized a two-day Aadhaar Enrollment Camp at JK Montessorie School, Talab Tillo, in collaboration with Aadhaar Sewa Kendra Jammu.

The camp offered services such as new Aadhaar enrollments, biometric updates for children, corrections, mobile number updates, and photograph changes.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav Chopra emphasized the society's mission to provide doorstep Aadhaar services to the needy, particularly school children, to spare them the inconvenience of traveling in cold weather. He announced plans to extend such camps to other schools, ensuring maximum children benefit from these services.

Chairman Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra and others at Aadhaar Enrollment Camp.

Dean Academics Apurv Gupta expressed gratitude to the Samvedna team for their thoughtful initiative. Operational Head of Aadhaar Sewa Kendra Peer Mubassir Shah, along with team members Shubham Tandon, Anju, Vikas Kumar, Manoj Tandon, and Sourav Gupta, were present during the camp.

IIM Jammu inaugurates Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers

Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. B. S. Sahay posing with NTPC's young leaders at the Prahalad Classroom and other dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's dynamic young leaders at the Prahalad Classroom on Tuesday. This leadership training program, conducted from January 20 to 23, 2025, is designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the picturesque lower Himalayas. The

program features seven carefully curated sessions aimed at fostering personal and professional growth. The inauguration commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, graced by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Sahay provided insights into the effort involved in building IIM Jammu and shared highlights of his professional journey.

He emphasized the significance of lifelong learning, self-reliance, and continuous growth, encouraging participants to explore opportunities for academic and professional development.

He underscored the Institute's strategic location, rapid progress, and dedication to fostering excellence. He stressed the value of pursuing higher studies, stating that such learning is never wasted.

Reflecting on IIM Jammu's achievements, he encouraged participants to leverage the program to gain transformative insights that not only benefit individuals and their organizations but also contribute to nation-building.

Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Chair, IIM Jammu delivered the welcome address, outlining the program's objectives and its alignment with NTPC's leadership vision.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE &C), IIM Jammu provided an insightful overview of the program, emphasizing the innovative integration of trekking as a tool for leadership development.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rambalak Yadav, Program Chair, followed by the National Anthem.

The program includes field-based experiential learning activities such as trekking in the Himalayas, empowering leadership, team building, sustainability and good governance, conflict resolution, negotiating solutions, intrapreneurship skills, strategic thinking, mastering communication for leadership, and digital transformation.

Through initiatives like these, IIM Jammu reaffirms its role in shaping future-ready leaders who can make meaningful contributions to society and industry.

Div Com inaugurates first ever Sarthal Winter Festival in Bani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a significant stride to promote tourism and highlighting the scenic beauty of the region, the District Administration organized the first-ever Winter Festival at the breathtaking Sarthal Valley in the Bani Subdivision.

The festival was inaugurated on Tuesday by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, amidst an electrifying atmosphere with over 3500 visitors gathered to celebrate the occasion.

The festival showcased an array of engaging activities. The Marquee event 'Bani Got Talent' show received an overwhelming response with youngsters displaying their skills. The event provided a perfect platform for showcasing local talent and engaging the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar expressed his admiration for the initiative, emphasizing the importance of such festivals in promoting lesser-explored tourist destinations like Sarthal Valley. He said, 'The Winter Festival is not just a celebration of culture and adventure but also a step towards realizing the immense tourism potential of this region. We aim to put Sarthal Valley on the map as a sought-after destination for nature and adventure lovers."

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and other dignitaries witnessing cultural programme at Sarthal Winter Festival.

The Divisional Commissioner informed that the Sarthal Winter Festival now on will be a calendar event which will gradually get larger in coming years. He further disclosed that Bani is going to host inaugural Summer Festival in Dhagger; another picturesque valley of Bani which ultimately will give huge fillip in the tourists footfall of the region. The highlight of the festival was a spellbinding performance by internationally acclaimed singer Sonali Dogra, who captivated the audience with a soulful blend of Dogri Hindi, Punjabi folk songs. Her performance left the crowd mesmerized, setting the tone for an unforgettable event.

Adding to the charm was the authentic Pahadi cuisine, which offered visitors a taste of the region's culinary heritage. From tug-of-war contests to thrilling varied fun activities, the vibrant atmosphere was further enhanced by fun-filled activities against the backdrop of snow-clad mountains.

MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, lauded the efforts of the district and sub-divisional administration in organizing the maiden festival. He remarked, "This initiative will go a long way in showcasing the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of Sarthal Valley while boosting the local economy through increased tourism."

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr Rakesh Minhas in his address, highlighted the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders and assured the public that more such events would be organized to promote the region. He stated, "This festival is just the beginning of our journey to transform Sarthal Valley into a hub for winter tourism. We are committed to developing the infrastructure needed to attract tourists from across the country."

The mela also featured Paragliding, Snowskating, Volleyball and other sports activities besides the Sarthal Valley buzzing all day with a host of fun activities.

The Winter Festival at Sarthal Valley marked a perfect blend of culture, adventure, and natural beauty, leaving visitors with cherished memories and a renewed appreciation for the region's tourism potential. The event is expected to be a cornerstone for future tourism initiatives in the district.

Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta, ADC Kathua Ranjit Singh, CEO LSDA Ajit Singh, SDM Hiranagar Rakesh Kumar, SDM Bani Gias ul Haq, Prateek Anil, CPO Ranjit Thakur and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Community awareness programme on Rabies Prevention held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Surveillance Unit, Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu, in collaboration with the Information Department and with support from the National Health Mission (NHM), organized a Nukkad Natak at Village Arnia in Block Bishnah, to raise awareness about Rabies prevention under National Rabies Control Programme(NRCP) on Tuesday. The Nukkad Natak, presented by a group of artists from the Information Department, was a key component of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities under the National Rabies Control Program (NRCP).

The performance focused on educating the community about crucial aspects of rabies prevention, including the importance of immediate and thorough wound washing after an animal bite, timely administration of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Anti-Rabies Serum (ARS) and responsible pet ownership and regular vaccination of pet dogs. In addition to providing accurate information, the Natak effectively dispelled common myths related to vaccination and rabies prevention.

Group of artists from Information Department presenting Nukkad Natak at village Arnia in Block Bishnah.

It also emphasized important Do's and Don'ts, such as Wash animal bite wounds immediately with soap and water for at least 15 minutes,seek medical attention promptly after a bite, don't rely on unverified traditional remedies and don't ignore minor scratches or assume all pets are vaccinated.

The program also highlighted the free availability of ARV and ARS at government health facilities, ensuring accessibility to life-saving interventions for all. The event saw active participation from local community members, school children, local chemists, health staff, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). Their involvement further enhanced the impact of the awareness drive, fostering a better understanding of Rabies prevention measures at the grassroots level.

The activity served as a significant step in building community awareness about Rabies prevention and control, aligning with the National Goal of Dog Mediated Rabies elimination by 2030.

The initiative, organized under the guidance of Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services Jammu, and the supervision of Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer/State Nodal Officer NRCP, received significant support from Dr.Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Jammu, and Dr. Ghanshyam, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bishnah.

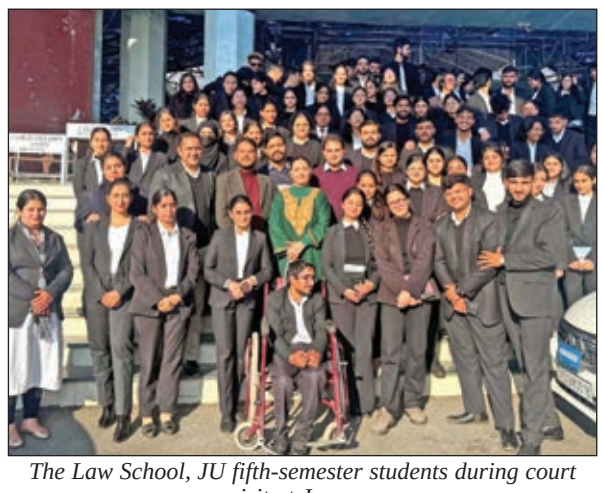
JU organizes court visit to foster experiential learning for students

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To promote experiential learning and provide students with hands-on educational experiences, The Law School, University of Jammu organized a court visit for its fifth-semester students. This visit offered a unique opportunity for onsite learning as students observed both civil and criminal proceedings in real time.

In addition to providing insights into courtroom dynamics, the visit also allowed students to explore various career paths within the legal profession.

A key aspect of the visit was the students' interactions with judges, prosecution officers, alumni, and members of the bar association. These engagements proved valuable in shaping students' early career perspectives, especially in areas such as judicial decision-making, research, and advocacy. Notably, the students had the chance to interact with Rekha Sharma and Shafiq Mushtaq Lone, both judicial officers and esteemed alumni of The Law School.



The Law School, JU fifth-semester students during court visit at Jammu.

During their discussions, the students raised questions on topics ranging from the preparation required for judicial examinations to the various stages of trial and procedures in civil cases.

A highlight of the visit was an interactive session with the Bar Association Jammu, led by its President, Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal. He emphasized the importance of hard work, punctuality, honesty, and consistency in achieving success in the legal profession.

The visit was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Rajneesh Khajuria, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Dr. Hamid Rasool, and Dr. Nitan Sharma, all faculty members of The Law School, with the support of alumni Advocates Anuj Malhotra, Rameshwar Thakur, and Rahul Aggarwal.

Earlier, Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Director of The Law School, highlighted the significance of this visit. She noted that studies have shown that students who engage in hands-on learning experiences, alongside classroom activities, tend to retain material better, remain more motivated, and achieve higher academic performance in their courses.

CDOE, JU to organize Job Fair on January 23

JAMMU: The Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the District Employment & Counselling Centre and Model Career Centre, Jammu, is set to organize a Job Fair (Rozgar Mela) on January 23, 2025. This initiative aligns with the contemporary mandate of the UGC-DEB Regulations 2020, aiming to provide enhanced placement opportunities for students enrolled in distance mode..

Under the visionary leadership of Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director, CDOE, this pioneering event is open to students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, B.Ed, and diploma programs. The fair will witness the participation of over 20 reputed companies from within Jammu and Kashmir and across the country, offering diverse job opportunities.

JKGEAC (R) delegation meets CS, discusses employees' issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees Action Committee (R), led by President Babu Hussain Malik and accompanied by senior trade union leaders, met with Atal Dulloo, the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, to address critical issues affecting government employees in the Union Territory. The delegation presented a comprehensive list of demands to improve the welfare and working conditions of employees across various sectors.

Key demands included the regularization of services for daily wagers, casual laborers, contractual employees, and workers such as home guards, Anganwadi staff, ASHA workers, and employees under the National Health Mission (NHM). They highlighted the financial insecurity and job instability faced by these workers, urging swift action to secure their employment status.

The delegation also raised concerns about delays in releasing retirement benefits, including General Provident Fund (GPF), leave salary, commutation, and pensioner benefits, which have led to financial hardships for retirees. They requested the release of 18

JKGEAC (R) delegation calling on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo at Jammu on Tuesday.

months' Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears withheld during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has added to the financial burden on employees.

Other demands included an increase in medical allowances and House Rent Allowance (HRA), in line with other Union Territories, to meet rising living costs. The delegation also pushed for the removal of pay anomalies in the clerical cadre, the restoration of two additional increments for Secretariat Assistant Examination course graduates, and the release of withheld annual increments for employees under SRO-202.

Further, the delegation advocated for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and the creation of a separate department for the clerical cadre to streamline career progression. They also called for the immediate holding of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and the filling of vacant posts in various departments.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo assured the delegation that their demands would be reviewed, emphasizing the government's commitment to addressing the grievances and improving employee welfare.

Yash Paul Sharma, Sewa Ram Rathore, Bharat Bhushan Kotwal, Kamla Sharma, Ansuiya Gupta, Vijay Kumar, Mohammad Arif, Jagroop Singh, S.K. Ganjoo, Kartar Chand, Budhi Singh, Shakti Koul, Sajid Wan, Ashwani Gandotra, Mukhtar Ahmad were also present in the delegation.

Security tightened in J&K for Republic Day celebrations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Multi-tier security arrangements would be put in place for the smooth conduct of the Republic Day celebrations in Kashmir, Inspector General of Police V K Birdi said here on Tuesday.

The main Republic Day function will take place in Jammu which will be presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as the chief guest. "The security preparations for January 26 are in full swing. Multi-tier security arrangements will be in place so that the people will enjoy the function and parade," the IGP said.

In the Kashmir valley, the main event is scheduled at Bakshi Stadium here where Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary will preside over the function.