

Regularise all 2,56,846 evacuee properties in favour of all kinds of allottees in time bound manner: Ankur

'Roll Back Custodian General's Regime: Grant proprietary rights of evacuee property to local allottees too'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: While welcoming the Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to grant proprietary rights of evacuee lands (custodian properties) to Displaced Persons (DPs) of 1947, 1965, 1971, and West Pakistani Refugees, Ankur Sharma, Spokesperson of BJP J&K, emphasized the need for extending these rights to local allottees of evacuee lands, both rural and urban. Addressing a press conference at the BJP Headquarters, here on Tuesday, Sharma referred to this move as a significant step for empowering marginalized communities, including farmers and middle-class sections, particularly the local Dogras of Jammu Province.

He stressed that the conferment of proprietary rights to DPs and West Pakistani Refugees should not be the



Spokesperson BJP J&K, Ankur Sharma talking to reporters at Jammu on Tuesday.

final step but the first.

The second step, he argued, should be the inclusion of local allottees, who were allotted or given possession of evacuee lands under various government orders such as Cabinet Order 578-C, Government Order LB-7, and Government Order Reh 371 of 1971, among others.

Sharma called on the Omar-led UT Government to act without delay in granting these rights to local allottees, pointing out that these peo-

ple have been living on the lands for decades and should now be granted ownership.

He further highlighted that the total number of evacuee properties in Jammu Province is 2,56,846, with urban properties totaling 7,161, whose market value is worth several thousands of crores. In addition to property rights, Sharma also demanded timely and adequate compensation for local allottees whose evacuee lands were acquired by the govern-

ment for public purposes.

He explained that, under the current legal framework, almost 80 per cent of the total compensation should be paid to the allottees, but many collectors fail to transfer the compensation to the rightful owners, particularly in the case of local allottees.

Sharma also criticized the Custodian department's high Operating Expense Ratio (OER), which, according to him, renders the department inefficient and burdensome on the state exchequer.

He argued that the continuous existence of the Custodian department is both financially imprudent and logically unsound, given the shifting political and social landscape. He further noted that the department's current focus on properties belonging to evacuees who supported the creation of Pakistan in 1947 is outdated and no longer relevant.

Sharma called for the repeal of the Evacuee Property Act to eliminate the legal framework of the Custodian system and sug-

gested that a Relief Commissioner from the persecuted community should be appointed to adjudicate on issues regarding ownership rights.

He also hoped the current government would act swiftly to implement these changes, as it would not only benefit the displaced persons but also generate goodwill across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the press conference YV Sharma Spokesperson also expressed his opinion and said that central Govt through LG has already cleared the way for giving permanent proprietary rights to the Displaced Persons of residing in JK UT.

He added that it would save lot of revenue as administration is bearing with lot of expenditure on their maintenance.

Sharma hoped that the present Govt will waste no time in implementing this scheme as it will generate lot of good will throughout the UT.

J&K Bank wins 'Best Digital Sales, Payments' Award at 20th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference 2024

Deputy Governor RBI presents honour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has added one more feather to its excellence cap by winning the coveted 'Best Digital Sales, Payments and Engagements' award in the 'Medium Size Banks Category' at the 20th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference and Citations - 2024. At a event held in Mumbai last week, Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) T Rabi Sankar presented the prestigious award to the Bank's Deputy General Manager (BPR/IT) Mohammad Muzafar Wani, who was accompanied by CISO and Chief Data Officer of the Bank. The eminent jury members who undertook rigorous evaluation to select the awardees were also present on the occasion.

Expressing his pleasure over the achievement, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "This prestigious recognition by the IBA is a testament to our Bank's relentless focus on digital transformation, innovation, and customer-centric solutions. Over the past few



J&K Bank's Deputy General Manager (BPR/IT) Mohammad Muzafar Wani receiving award.

years, we have significantly invested in upgrading our digital capabilities to make banking simpler, faster, and more secure for our customers."

Acknowledging the team's efforts, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee remarked, "I commend the dedication of our team whose efforts have brought us this national level recognition. This achievement also reflects the trust our customers place in us, motivating us to innovate continuously for delivering seamless customer digital experiences. From our state-of-the-art mobile banking app to advanced digital payment solutions, we are committed to empowering our customers and driving financial inclusion deeper into our areas of operations."

The event themed as "Future Ready Banking for Viksit Bharat" featured industry veterans and technology experts participating in panel discussions on topics ranging from core systems & infrastructures, fintech partnerships, building next-gen open banking systems and digital lending.

The achievements of the participant banks were analysed by the jury of eminent experts from IIT Bombay, NPCI and former MD/CEO of NSDL.

Notably, the IBA Banking Technology Awards are renowned for acknowledging excellence and innovation in banking industry, emphasizing the transformative role of digital solutions in redefining the financial services landscape.

Modi era ensures equal development for every section: Yudhvir Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reiterating the BJP's commitment to holistic and inclusive development, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday stated that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every section of society is witnessing equal and unprecedented growth. He asserted that the Modi government has ensured that no region or community is left behind in the developmental journey of New India.

Sethi was speaking while initiating developmental work worth Rs 16 lakh for land leveling and drain construction adjoining Khatika Talab, Jammu. This much-needed project will improve drainage infrastructure, enhance hygiene, and provide relief to local residents who had been facing difficulties due to poor civic conditions.

Addressing the gathering, Sethi said, "The Modi government believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.' Unlike previous regimes that focused on selective development, the BJP has ensured equal benefits for every section-whether it be urban or rural areas, underprivileged communities, or neglected localities."

He highlighted how infra-



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi starting development work.

structure projects, welfare schemes, and civic improvements are being implemented across Jammu & Kashmir without any bias.

Later, Yudhvir Sethi interacted with the residents of Khatika Talab, listened to their concerns, and assured them of immediate action on various civic issues. The locals expressed their gratitude to the BJP leadership for bringing tangible changes to their area and addressing long-pending demands.

The BJP leader also spoke about flagship schemes of the Modi government, including Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas

Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and Jal Jeevan Mission, which have transformed the lives of millions in Jammu and across India. "We are committed to making Jammu a model city with world-class infrastructure and facilities," Sethi asserted.

Sethi urged the people to continue backing the visionary policies of PM Modi, assuring them that Jammu's transformation is unstoppable under BJP's leadership.

The event witnessed the participation of BJP leaders, local representatives, and enthusiastic residents, all echoing their support for the party's development-driven governance.

Samagam 2.0: IIM Jammu paves way for formalization of its Alumni Association

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) hosted the Alumni Reunion, "Samagam 2.0," at its campus on January 25-26, 2025.

The alumni event witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni across various batches, offering an opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater, including MBA, MBA (HA & HM), and EMBA alumni, as well as faculty and students.

The reunion featured alumni introductions (both online and offline) and reflections, followed by faculty introductions.

A special video highlighting IIM Jammu's journey was also presented. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

In his address at IIM Jammu's Samagam 2.0, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the importance of mutual expectations between the students, alumni, and the Institute. He stressed the need for alumni to take pride



Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay with others dignitaries at a programme.

in their association with IIM Jammu and foster a sense of belonging and commitment.

He spoke about the Institute's ongoing efforts to engage alumni, mentioning alumni meets in major cities like Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, and the strong participation witnessed in these events. He encouraged alumni to stay connected, grow, and elevate the Institute's reputation, thus creating more opportunities for the IIM Jammu community.

During the interaction, he shared exciting news about a grand event to formalize the IIM Jammu Alumni Association as per the Society Act and the launch of Alumni Chapters across

India.

The dates for these events will be announced soon. He also invited suggestions from alumni, emphasizing that sincerity, commitment, and collaboration are the key to success. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the attendees and reaffirmed IIM Jammu's vision of contributing to governance and policy development, ensuring the Institute continues to be a beacon of excellence.

The event began with a warm reception and campus tour, allowing alumni to relive cherished memories and witness the institute's remarkable growth. A formal event at Patanjali Classroom was started by lighting the lamp by Prof. B.S. Sahay,

Director, IIM Jammu.

A formal PowerPoint presentation on the roadmap for formalizing the Alumni Association of IIM Jammu was put forward by Dr. Vinod Durge, Associate Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu, on this occasion. Prominent attendees included Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Dr. Ravij Sethi; Prof. Pankaj Maheshwari; Prof. Prashant Mishra; Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development and Chairperson of IIM Jammu Srinagar Campus; Dr. Mahesh Gaddekar, Chairperson, Centre for Diversity and Inclusion and Centre for Small Business

Development Units; Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy; Dr. Sumit Maheshwari; and Dr. Sourav Mondal.

Dr. Pradeep K. Tarei, Chairperson, Alumni Relations gave a welcome address and shared updated on alumni relations activities.

Dr. Jaganth G., Co-Chairperson, Alumni Relations gave a vote of thanks. The inaugural event was followed by a group photograph, leaving attendees with lasting memories and a renewed connection to the IIM Jammu family.

The faculties at IIM Jammu shared their experiences and emphasized their roles as members of the alma mater, highlighting the significant contributions they make toward the progress of the Institute and the students.

They reflected on the importance of maintaining strong connections with alumni, fostering a culture of continuous learning, and ensuring that IIM Jammu remains a hub for innovation, leadership, and excellence.

Dr Sudhaa elected President IMS



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: It is a matter of great pride for UT of J&K that Dr Sudhaa Sharma, former Professor Gynae & Obst. GMC, Jammu has been elected as National President, Indian Menopause Society (IMS) 2026-27, a very rare & distinct National Honour.

Dr. Sudhaa, Senior Consultant Madaan Hospital Jammu, is presently National Vice President IMS and was Secretary General IMS for the year 2021-22.

She was awarded Fellowship of IMS (FIMS) for her meritorious academic biodata and immense, extraordinary contributions for the growth of IMS, research and medical education at national and local level for more than 25 years. She was a resource national faculty in formulating National Guidelines for the management of different aspects of Menopause and osteoporosis.

She is part of many research projects of IMS as Principal Investigator, remained as Editor-in-chief of JMH, Journal Midlife Health (Pub Med Indexed), an official Journal of IMS. Dr Sudhaa is currently Editor-in-General of JK Science Journal.

She has been a Guest Speaker in various National,

International, Zonal conferences and National CME's for more than 25 years and has 90 scientific publications, 8 book chapters and edited three books.

Dr Sudhaa, Honorary Prof. Indian Medical Association & Managing Committee Member PCOS Society of India, has been founder President of Jammu Menopause Society, President JOGS (2018 -- 19), was Organising Secretary of IMSCON - 2008, National Conference of IMS, held in Jammu. Besides, Dr Sudhaa has been awarded various prestigious Fellowships like FICOG, FICMCH, FIMSA, FRCP (Edinbergh, UK) FIMA-AMA, MAMS for being a meritorious Gynaecologist and Obstetrician and promoting women health.

KK Gandhi to showcase Buddhist-Themed Painting at Bodh Mahotsav 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned artist K.K. Gandhi, a son of the soil and global art luminary, has been invited to participate in the prestigious Bodh Mahotsav 2025, taking place from January 31 to February 2, 2025 at the Kalachakra Ground, Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

The event, organized by the Government of Bihar in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, India Council of Cultural Relations, and Nalanda University, will celebrate Buddhism's profound legacy in philoso-



phy, art, and history. Gandhi will present an exquisite painting inspired by Buddhist traditions and philosophy, adding his unique perspective to this

cultural extravaganza. The Bodh Mahotsav will also host academic exhibitions, cultural displays, and captivating performances by renowned artists and scholars from India and abroad. This festival is a vibrant platform to honor the Buddhist ethos while fostering global dialogue and artistic exchange.

K.K. Gandhi's participation reaffirms his standing as a torchbearer of cultural and artistic expression, showcasing the enduring influence of Buddhist philosophy through his celebrated works.

High-Level & Zonal-Level Drug Disposal Committees destroy huge quantity of seized contraband

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move to combat the menace of drugs, the High-Level Drug Disposal Committee and Zonal Level Drug Disposal Committee have destroyed a massive quantity of seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as part of a special fortnight drive.

The drugs, including heroin, charas, ganja, and poppy straw, were seized by the district police of Udhampur, Rajouri, and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Jammu.

The disposal of these drugs was carried out after ensuring compliance with all formalities under Section 52-A of the NDPS



High-Level Drug Disposal Committee and Zonal Level Drug Disposal Committee destroying massive quantity of seized narcotic drugs.

(Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act, and in accordance with the procedure laid down in GSR 899 (E). A total of 741.685 kg of seized narcotic substances

was destroyed through an incineration process.

The event took place under the supervision of the High-Level Drug Disposal Committee, with IGP Crime J&K, Dr. Sunil

Gupta, serving as the Chairman, and included key members such as SSP Benam Tosh, DySP Tanvir Jeelani, and Sr PO Naveed Anjum.

The Zonal-Level Drug Disposal Committee was chaired by SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh, with Tanvir Jeelani and Naveed Anjum as members.

The destruction was carried out in the presence of the Executive Magistrate Ist Class, officers from the Regional Pollution Control Board Jammu, CID, ANTF, and other relevant agencies.

This operation highlights the ongoing efforts to rid the region of illicit drugs and ensure a safer environment for the public.

HRIO Chairman demands action against illegal hot mix plant on Tawi River Bank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Pardeep Singh Chib, Chairman of the Human Rights International Organisation (HRIO), has raised concerns over the illegal construction of a hot mix plant at Nandpur Rakwalan, Tehsil Phalian Mandal, District Jammu, situated on the banks of the Tawi River.

Despite multiple complaints and media coverage highlighting the environmental risks, the authorities have taken no effective action to halt this illegal construction, Advocate Chib said.

He emphasized that the plant is causing significant environmental harm by polluting the Tawi River, which is essential to local farmers and the surrounding community.

"The hot mix plant's operation without the necessary permits and environmental clearance is a clear violation of environmental laws. Local farmers have raised concerns about the threat this poses to the river's ecosystem and their livelihoods, but their appeals have largely gone unaddressed," Chib said.

Advocate Chib urged the

authorities, including the Pollution Control Board, to take immediate action and stop the construction of the hot mix plant.

He has also called on the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and the Lieutenant Governor to intervene and ensure that strict measures are implemented against those responsible for this environmental violation.

In his appeal, Advocate Chib stressed the importance of protecting the Tawi River and the well-being of the local community, who rely on its resources.

Keshav Chopra meets Lt Governor



Chairman Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra meeting with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

JAMMU: Chairman of the Samvedna Society and prominent social activist, Keshav Chopra, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir,

Manoj Sinha, to discuss various issues of public importance.

During the meeting, Keshav Chopra briefed the Lt Governor on the initiatives and achievements of the Samvedna Society, highlighting its efforts to serve different sections of society.

Chopra emphasized the society's commitment to promoting the rich culture and local artists of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also shared insights into the society's future plans aimed at fostering social welfare and cultural development.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha commended the Samvedna Society for its dedication and impactful work in supporting the underprivileged.

He reiterated the government's commitment to holistic development and assured the society of full support and cooperation in its endeavors.