

Two days training programme for Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under NALSA begins

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a two days Training Programme for the Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 which was held on Tuesday at Conference Hall Lawyer's Chamber District Court Complex Janipur, here under the chairmanship of Y. P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Jammu and supervision of Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The resource person of the training programme was Anant Kumar Asthana, Child Rights Advocate, who is practising Advocate in Delhi. The Resource person has an extensive experience in the field of child rights and has dealt with numerous cases involving



Resource person, Anant Kumar Asthana with Y. P. Bourney Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge, Jammu and DLSA members at a training programme.

Children in Conflict with Law. Moreover, the resource person is a Child Rights Lawyer, Practitioner, Scholar and Technical Teacher and Trainer on various Child Protection Laws and Policies and has Specialization in Child Rights Law (Juvenile Justice, Sexual Offences against Children, Child Protection, Child Labour, Human trafficking), Human Rights Law, Public Interest Law, Constitutional and Criminal Law.

Anant Kumar Asthana is also working as Advisor, Delhi State Legal Services Authority on "Victim Compensation to Children" and Rejuvenation of Legal Aid to Children" since July

2022. Member in Committee constituted for drafting bill on Amendments in JJ Act 2000 and for drafting Bill on "Special Adoption Act", constituted by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He was also associated with the process of drafting of this NALSA Scheme.

The resource person was welcomed by Y. P. Bourney Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge, Jammu by presenting a plant sapling as token of affection and regards. Further, Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu in her address to the gathering welcomed the resource person and all the participants.

Secretary DLSA Jammu

highlighted the importance of the training programme in understanding the various provisions of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

The training programme was attended by Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Anil Sharma, Adv. Gurdeep Singh Gill, Adv. Deepali Arora, Adv. Shahla Rafiq, Adv. Upasana Thakur, Adv. Maheen Shah, Adv. Ranjana Manhas, Adv. Rita Kumari are all Panel Lawyers of District Legal Services Authority Jammu and PLVs Bhajan Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Bogal, Sahil Khosla, Joginder Lal, Gourav Sharma, Happy Sharma, Ankush Singh Chib,

Parminder Kour and Suman Lata. The aim of two days training programme is to enhance the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and ensuring access to Justice for Children. The resource person of the programme highlighted the Laws regarding Children and the importance of implementation of child rights to the members of the unit including Panel Lawyers and PLVs. The resource person emphasized while addressing the participants that Children represent the most vulnerable members of the society and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard their rights and provide them with the support they need to navigate the complexities of the legal system.

This new scheme reaffirms NALSA's unwavering commitment to creating a legal framework that is sensitive to the unique needs of children, ensuring they receive timely, compassionate and effective legal assistance.

UP Minister Dharmpal Singh invites Hardeep Puri to Maha Kumbh 2025

SHAHZAD AKHTAR
NEW DELHI: Dharmpal Singh, Uttar Pradesh's Cabinet Minister for Animal Husbandry, met Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Dharmpal Singh extended a formal invitation to Hardeep Puri to attend the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj. On this occasion, he presented a Kumbh Kalash, the logo of Maha Kumbh-2025, Kumbh literature, and other materials related to the event. Dharmpal Singh highlighted the Uttar Pradesh government's efforts, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership to make the Maha Kumbh a historic event with international participation and state-of-the-art facilities.

He emphasized the commitment to creating a divine, grand, and digitally integrated Maha Kumbh. He described the Maha Kumbh as a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual vibrancy, showcasing the unity



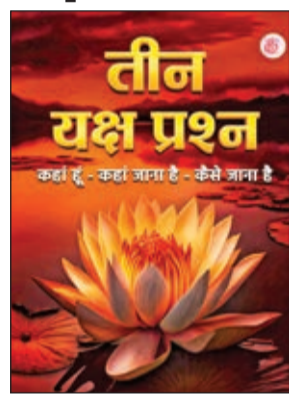
in diversity of the nation. Dharmpal Singh stated that the Maha Kumbh 2025 would attract crores of devotees from India and abroad, making it a unique cultural and spiritual experience.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri accepted the invitation and appreciated the signif-

icance of the Maha Kumbh, calling it a magnificent heritage of Indian culture. He also expressed his gratitude for the invitation and extended his best wishes for the event's success.

The meeting underscored the collaborative efforts to ensure a memorable and globally recognized Maha Kumbh in 2025.

Teen Yaksh Prashn, a book of spiritual narratives released



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Spiritual narratives aren't easy to express & put to words but the author has skilfully circumvented this issue by profusely quoting from the teachings of his Spiritual Master, Sadguru Anil Ji Dulani, who is a widely travelled technocrat in the IT sector & has attained spiritual heights at a very young age.

The book 'Teen Yaksh Prashn' by Ravi Bharati Gupta & Pooja Gangotri delves into the journey of the author in the spiritual realm & primarily focusses on three of the most primordial questions. Kahaan hoon (Where Am I) - Kahaan Jaana Hai (Where I Have To Go) & Kaise Jaana Hai (How To Go About It). Another special feature of the book is that it is not divided or classified into straight jacketed chapters.

Rather, the book is like a continuous flow of the river: To be more specific, to me it sounds more like a Relay Race; where the members of a team (chapters) wait for their turn & take the baton to the next runner. Going by the scarce experience of the author in the field of literature, the book is an impressive effort. The philosophy behind the spiritual journey is simply twofold: First & foremost is the unshakable belief of Sh Dulani (addressed as Sadguru at many places in the book) in the principle of "KARMA" & second is the chanting of Ram Ram in a very distinctive way. The author (and his Sadguru) borrows copiously from the teachings of Kaivaly Prapt saints like Satguru Sukhran Ji Maharaj, Sant Kabir, Sant Ravi Dass, Sant Meera Bai, Sant Nabha Dass Ji. The book is a kaleidoscope & contains many question answers between seekers & Sadguru on diverse subjects of Life, Death, Psychology, Sufferings, Behavioural Science, Quantum Physics & on the realms beyond this world. Many answers (coming from such a young Sadguru) really attempt to solve the intricacies of life in such simple & humble words & are really a food for thought & sincere contemplation.

Rahul Sahai calls on LG, advocates for Vande Bharat Train Service from Jammu to Srinagar

Urges LG to take up NCSS industrial package extension with PM, HM



Chairman of Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu, Rahul Sahai calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu, has made a dual appeal to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan here.

Sahai advocated for initiating the Vande Bharat Express and allied train service from Jammu to Srinagar instead of Katra and requested urgent intervention for the extension of the NCSS (New Central Sector Scheme) industrial package for J&K in which at least 40 per cent locals should be accommodated.

Sahai highlighted the critical importance of these two initiatives in bolstering Jammu and Kashmir's economic development.

He urged the LG to take up the NCSS package

extension with the Prime Minister (PM) and Home Minister (HM) of India, emphasizing its pivotal role in sustaining industrial growth and employment generation in the Union Territory.

In his memorandum submitted to LG Manoj Sinha, Rahul Sahai underscored the strategic benefits of initiating the Vande Bharat Express from Jammu instead of Katra.

"As a distribution hub for goods headed to the Kashmir Valley, Jammu's enhanced connectivity to Srinagar would ensure smoother and more efficient transportation of goods, fostering trade and economic growth," he said adding that starting the Vande Bharat service from Jammu would cater to a larger demographic, including traders, tourists, and daily commuters, increasing ridership and utility and strengthened connectivity would bridge the developmental divide between Jammu and Srinagar; reinforcing Jammu's role as a pivotal economic stakeholder in the UT.

Rahul Sahai expressed deep concern over the impending conclusion of the NCSS industrial package and its potential impact on industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

He reiterated the importance of extending the package to ensure sustained industrial momentum and accommodating local populace, economic growth, and employment in the region.

"I earnestly request Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to escalate this matter to the highest levels in Delhi, advocating for its extension with the Prime Minister and Home Minister," said Sahai.

Billawaria launches drinking water pipeline work at Gangyal



Former Dy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurating drinking water pipeline work in Gangyal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria on Tuesday inaugurated the work for laying a drinking water pipeline in Gangyal.

The project, which is part of ongoing development works, will see an investment of around seven lakh rupees and is being carried out under the supervision of the Jal Shakti Department.

During the launch, Billawaria addressed the long-standing issue faced by the residents of two lanes in the area, who had been struggling with a lack of portable water. He assured the locals

that the newly laid pipeline would provide drinking water to every household in the area, effectively solving the water scarcity problem.

He also mentioned that efforts would soon be made to fix any issues related to water supply lines in other parts of the constituency.

Billawaria emphasized that the development work was initiated under the guidance of RS Pura-Jammu South MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, who has been actively addressing the needs of the people.

He instructed the contractor to repair the roads in the lanes once the pipeline installation was completed, ensur-

ing minimal inconvenience for the residents.

Furthermore, Billawaria urged the officials to identify areas with leaking water pipes to prevent the wastage of clean drinking water.

He stated that providing essential services like roads, electricity, and potable water is the government's responsibility, and the BJP workers are committed to fulfilling these basic needs.

Billawaria also appealed to the youth to stay away from the growing problem of drug addiction, encouraging them to engage in sports to keep themselves and their peers away from harmful habits.

The locals expressed their gratitude to Billawaria for addressing their long-pending water issues.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Mandal President Ranjeet Singh, Rakesh Sangral, Mulkh Raj, Hardeep Singh, Punjab Singh, M K Raina, Makhhan Lal Raina, Om Nath, Kuldeep Kumar, Rajsh Kachru, Ramesh Chaudhary and others.

JU organises engaging Interaction-cum-Lecture Session



Ph.D scholars of JU interacting with Prof. Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, scholar from GNDU Amritsar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Economics, University of Jammu, organized an engaging Interaction-cum-Lecture Session for its Ph.D scholars on Tuesday in the department's seminar hall. The event was part of the department's ongoing efforts to foster academic discourse and provide valuable insights to its scholars through interactions with eminent experts. The session com-

menced with a warm welcome and introductory remarks by Prof. Virender Koundal, who introduced the distinguished guest speaker, Prof. Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, an eminent scholar from Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, Faculty members and scholars. Prof. Koundal highlighted Prof. Dhillon's contributions to the field of economics and expressed gratitude for his presence at the event.

Prof. Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, a renowned academician known for his expertise in macroeconomic policies and global economic trends, delivered an enriching lecture focusing on the dynamics of the Indian economy and the world economy. His lecture provided a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Indian economy in the context

of global economic shifts. During his address, Prof. Dhillon emphasized the importance of understanding evolving economic paradigms and highlighted the role of research in shaping economic policies. He drew on historical and contemporary examples to illustrate how India can leverage its strengths to emerge as a key player in the global economic landscape. Following the lecture, an interactive session was held where the Ph.D. scholars engaged in a lively discussion with the guest speaker. Prof. Dhillon provided practical advice and shared his experiences to help scholars refine their research approaches and align their work with current economic challenges.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Apoorva Jamwal, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Dhillon for his thought-provoking lecture and valuable interaction.

Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum holds protest, projects demands



Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners raising slogans during a protest at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A protest was held at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, under the leadership of Ajit Singh, Chairman of the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum.

The protest aimed to raise several critical issues related to the discrimination faced by retired police pensioners and J&K Fire Services personnel in pay anomalies and other welfare matters.

The forum emphasized that the effect of the pay anomaly order is being applied only

prospectively, starting from the date of the order October 17, 2014, instead of being applied retroactively from 1996, when the 5th Pay Commission was implemented. This has left many pensioners without due benefits, and some have even passed away. Surviving pensioners are seeking these benefits. The forum demanded that medical facilities, similar to those provided to paramilitary forces, be extended to the Jammu and Kashmir State Police, as the police now come under the Union Ministry of

Home Affairs following the formation of the UT.

A request was made for a 10% reservation in professional colleges and recruitment for the children of police personnel. The forum sought the implementation of the recovery process for commuted pensions in line with the policies of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, and the Jammu High Court, which stipulate the cessation of recovery after 10 years instead of 15 years. This delay causes financial hardship for retirees who are unable to access their

pension and benefits immediately upon retirement. Many retirees have not received their leave salary and gratuity for over a year; and the forum urged the government to expedite the disbursement of these funds. Despite the Central Government announcing a 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) increase for July 2024, J&K UT pensioners have not received it. Additionally, the DA increase for January 2025 is also pending, while Leh UT has already received its increase.

The forum highlighted a disparity in medical allowances between J&K UT and Leh UT. Leh UT increased the medical allowance to Rs. 1000, while J&K UT pensioners still receive only Rs. 300.

Ajit Singh called for immediate attention to these issues and stressed the importance of fair treatment for retired police personnel and their families.

Director Jammu Airport SK Garg visits CUJ



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ) hosted S.K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu for an insightful and collaborative visit to its campus. During the visit, Garg was warmly welcomed and taken on an extensive tour of the university's state-of-the-art facilities, including the prominent ISRO, DRDO, and other advanced buildings that showcase CUJ's commitment to cutting-edge education and research. S. K. Garg, Airport Director, Jammu engaged in fruitful discussions with Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu, exploring avenues for collaboration between the Central University of Jammu and the Airport

Authority of India (AAI). These discussions emphasized potential partnerships that would provide CU Jammu students with hands-on exposure to advanced technologies, operations, and industry practices. The shared vision aims to bridge academia and industry, creating valuable opportunities for students to gain real-world experience while fostering innovation and mutual growth. Prof. Sanjeev Jain highlighted the importance of synergies between educational institutions and industry leaders to enhance learning outcomes and equip students with practical skills essential for their future careers.

S.K. Garg expressed his admiration for the university's infrastructure and commitment to excellence in education, noting the significant role it plays in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals. As a gesture of appreciation, S.K. Garg was felicitated by Prof. Sanjeev Jain. This visit marks an important step toward building strong collaborations that benefit both CU Jammu and its industry partners. The university remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships that bridge the gap between academia and industry, ensuring mutual growth and innovation.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting was convened on Tuesday under the chairpersonship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Anusya Jamwal to evaluate the performance of banks in the district, with special focus on clearance of credit linked self employment schemes cases and the achievement against set targets.

The meeting was attended by RBI Manager-LDO Amit Kumar; Lead District Manager Ramesh Chander; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh along with representatives from different banks and district officers.

The meeting prioritised

Performance of banks reviewed at DLRC meeting



ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal chairing a meeting in Tuesday.

discussions on sectors such as education, entrepreneurship and agriculture. A comprehensive review of departmental performances was conducted, focusing on schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Prime Minister's Employment Generation

Programme and PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

ADC Anusya Jamwal emphasised the imperative for all banking institutions to enhance their efforts to elevate the district's financial performance. She highlighted Jammu's status as

an economic hub, underscoring the necessity for superior banking operations to support this standing.

The ADC called for regular monthly monitoring to evaluate progress, urging the adoption of standardised procedures to ensure efficiency. She stressed the

importance of timely loan disbursements to sustain the momentum of government schemes, thereby fostering economic growth and development.

The ADC also evaluated the activities of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), emphasising the institute's role in promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship within the district.

In her address, the ADC reiterated the need for collaborative efforts among all stakeholders and encouraged banks and departments to work in unison, ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes and the timely provision of financial services to the public.