

# LG inaugurates 'Adopt-A-Park' programme of JMC

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JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the 'Adopt-A-Park' programme of Jammu Municipal Corporation, which will provide opportunity to local communities, welfare associations and other organizations to contribute in upkeep and clean up of neighborhood parks.

As many as 17 public parks have already been adopted by aware and responsible citizens at different places of Jammu city, under the initiative.

While speaking at the event organized at Trikuta Nagar, the Lt Governor called upon Individuals, Businesses and other organizations to adopt a park and make a difference in their neighborhood. He said that people's participation, community support is required to establish beautiful and well-maintained parks, clean and free of litter.

The Lt Governor asserted that it is our collective responsibility to build a resilient ecosystem to address the challenges of climate change. Conservation and protection of trees and plants is embedded in our ancient culture and traditions.

"We must follow our ancient cultural system which propagates environ-



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha during inauguration of 'Adopt-A-Park' programme.

mental protection and talks about our coexistence in complete harmony with the nature", he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated Dr Mitali Gupta and Jammu Municipal Corporation for starting a new revolution with the unique and important initiative. He said that Adopt-A-Park is an opportunity to bring consciousness about environment conservation to every household.

"Instead of slogans, conservation of trees and plants should become a part of our daily life to make our city more

beautiful, pollution-free and eco-friendly", he added.

The Lt Governor said that there has never been a more urgent need to revive ecology than today. He observed that the Prime Minister has made many efforts to give a safe environment to the coming generations and has urged the people to make collective efforts for conservation of nature and its resources.

The Lt Governor also noted that the J&K government is running several campaigns in collaboration with schools, non-government institutions,

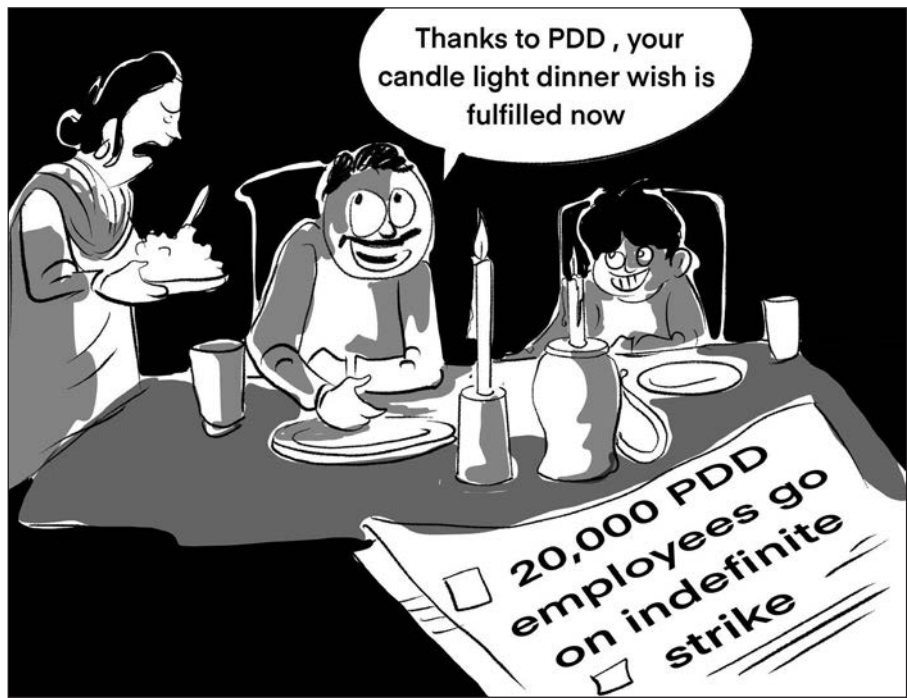
village panchayats and urban plantation committees to combat the challenges of global warming and climate change.

"UT administration has set a target of planting 1 crore 30 lakh saplings this year and this goal can be accomplished only with large scale participation of the responsible citizens" the Lt Governor observed.

Later, the Lt Governor honored the teams who adopted parks under the "Adopt-A-Park" initiative. He appreciated the efforts of various citizen groups, Resident Welfare Associations for their active participation in this campaign.

A documentary video on various herbal plants to be planted in the parks being adopted under the campaign was also showcased.

Purnima Sharma, Deputy Mayor JMC in her welcome address highlighted the benefits of transforming parks into herbal gardens with facilities like book stalls and Kiosks of refreshments for citizens. Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, H&UDD; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional commissioner Jammu; Arny Lavasa, Commissioner JMC; JMC Corporators, members of Civil Society and citizens were present on the occasion.



# J&K Judicial Academy organises workshop on 'Domestic Violence Act & Sec 125 CrPC'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Judicial Academy, under the patronage of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), guidance of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chairman, Examination cum Judicial Education and Training Programme Committee and Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Members of Examination cum Judicial Education and Training Programme Committee, on Saturday organized One day Workshop on the topic "Provisions relating to grant of maintenance u/s 125 CrPC with special reference to execution of Orders & Critical Analysis of provisions relating to Domestic Violence Act, grant of Shelter and Maintenance under the Act and Rules" at Judicial Academy, Jammu for Sub-Judges and Munsiffs of Jammu Province.

The workshop was inaugurated by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Examination cum Judicial Education and Training Programme Committee. Justice Bansilal Bhat, Former Judge, High Court of J&K, Former Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate



Justice Sindhu Sharma speaking at a workshop.

Tribunal was the resource person in the workshop.

In her inaugural address, Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasised the importance of welfare and protective legislations for the purpose of securing the overall health of women and providing her protection and immediate relief through the process of legislative enactments such as The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Section 125 CrPC. She also underscored the role of judiciary for securing the ends of justice and to see that implementation of the provisions is done in favour of victims of any injustice.

Justice Bansilal Bhat educated the participants on various aspects of the provision under section 125 CrPC. He apprised the participants on the legislative aspect as well as the judicial precedents on the subject. A detailed and critical analysis of Domestic Violence Act was also done by the resource person and the

provision for the grant of shelter was explained in detail by the resource person citing judicial pronouncements on the point. He described the provisions as comprehensive legislations that ensure effective protection to the victims of domestic violence of any kind and emphasised the need for keeping in sight the objective of the legislation while passing orders relating to shelter and maintenance.

Later, an interactive session was held during which the participants deliberated and discussed the various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily settled by the resource person.

M.K. Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme. Vote of thanks was proposed by Swati Gupta, Sub-Judge, J&K Judicial Academy.

# Dr Jitendra for starting GMC Udhampur classes next year, attends 'Devika Utsav'



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh participating in 'Aarti' at Devika Ghat, Udhampur on Saturday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday visited the construction site of Government Medical College (GMC), Udhampur which is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 255 crores at Bailli Udhampur.

Dr. Jitendra emphasized upon the concerned departments dealing with the construction of GMC to start the work without any delay so that the classes could commence from the next academic year onwards.

Dr Jitendra also attended the grand festive event "Devika Utsav" today which was held at the banks of river Devika Ghat.

The event was held to celebrate the completion of development works under "River Devika Abatement and Beautification Project" of National River Conservation Plan.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, River Devika is not merely a project but a matter of faith for all of us. He reiterated that the holy project of Devika does not belong to a particular political party or an individual but it is equally owned by each one of us. Giving full credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Devika Project would have never got approval if Modi was not the Prime Minister. He hoped that the remaining work

of the project will also be completed soon.

Accusing the early governments of having deliberately neglected this region because of vote bank consideration, Dr Jitendra said, in the last seven to eight years, several such demands have sought to be addressed which were pending for the last half a century. He cited the example of demand for a Radio Station in Udhampur which was first raised during the Indo-Pak war of 1965 but the Radio Station was set up only four years back by the Modi government.

Dr Jitendra pointed out that Udhampur Parliamentary constituency is the only one in the

country which has got three Medical Colleges from Central grant. Similarly, the first two Highway Villages of the country are also coming up in Udhampur and Kathua.

To the critics who allege that no development in roads has happened, Dr Jitendra reminded that only last year the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, adjudged district Udhampur as Number One in accomplishing PMGSY road projects. Asia's longest Road Tunnel at Chenani-Nashri, named after Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, is also located in the outskirts of Udhampur, he added.

In the last few years, Dr Singh said, a series of Degree Colleges and Sports Stadiums have been started with Central grants, in and around Udhampur. Many far-flung areas which have never seen motor vehicles are now connected with roads, he said.

Pertinent to mention that the launching of the Devika Project was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu in February 2019.

# Rohit Sharma elected President Young Lawyers Association

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JAMMU: Advocate Rohit Sharma was elected as President Young Lawyers Bar Association Jammu. Adv Gagandeep Singh (Lucky) was elected new Vice President while Adv Yaseer Farooq Khan was declared General Secretary. Further, Karanjeet Singh was declared Joint Secretary and Naresh Kumar as new Treasurer; as both were elected unopposed.

According to Returning Officer Nitin Bakshi, for the post of President, Rohit Sharma secured 227 votes while Adv Arjun Manhas secured 157 votes and Adv Ajay Kumar secured 99 votes.

The Vice President candidate Gagandeep Singh (Lucky) secured 314 votes to win the elections thereby defeating Adv Pawan Bhandral who secured 168 votes. For the post of General Secretary, Adv Yaseer Farooq Khan secured 313 votes while his contesting candidates Jyotsna Ved and Satwant Singh secured 94 and 77 votes respectively.

# Minority rights protected in India like no other country: Dr Darakhshan



Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi during visit to shrine of Hazrat Shah Aalam.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMADABAD: BJP National Executive Member and Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday participated in a series of programmes held in connection with Minority Rights Day.

Dr Darakhshan attended many programmes held in three districts of Gujarat today where she met people in Muslim localities, chaired community meetings and visited Muslim shrines and properties.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi paid obeisance at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Aalam (ra) in Ahmadabad and participated in Public Darbar.

While talking to media persons at Ahmadabad this afternoon after these programmes, Dr Darakhshan said that protection of minorities has always remained the essential part of Indian culture and after independence this spirit of co-existence figured in our constitution too which we have proudly followed and will follow till eternity.

"Minority rights are protected in India like no other country. We in India do not discriminate between people on religious or ethnic basis and our constitution deals with all equally. Prime Minister Modi reiterated this spirit by announcing his governing mantra 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishvas' and whatever discrimination on religious grounds was introduced into the system by the previous regimes were removed to create a real harmonious atmosphere in India for all times to come," said Dr Andrabi.

While addressing the Muslim community representatives at Gandhi Nagar earlier today, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that she was more than happy to learn that the Muslim Community of Gujarat has developed in every sphere of life better than in other parts of India. She said that Muslims like other minorities are progressing in social, economic & educational fields in BJP ruled states much better than those in non-BJP ruled states.

"Minority Welfare Schemes of Government of India have transformed the lives of Muslims in India and now economically backward children of Muslims are acquiring specialised degrees and qualifications from premier institutions and are excelling in their fields. These welfare schemes have long-term sustainable effects," said Dr Darakhshan.

Dr Andrabi was accompanied by Central Waqf Council members Haneeff Ali and Qari Mohammad Haroon.

# NC confirms participation in Delimitation Commission meet

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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) leaders will attend the Delimitation Commission's associate members meeting in New Delhi next week, party MP Hasnain Masoodi said on Saturday.

He, however, said, there was no shift in the party's stand that the exercise offends the spirit of the Constitution.

Seeing the overall scenario, the party has decided that its MPs will attend the meeting, Masoodi, the MP from south Kashmir's Anantnag, told PTI.

He said since the commissions cannot travel to the length and breadth of the Union Territory, they cannot hear what people have to say.

So, we will take the people's viewpoint to the commission, he

said, adding all three MPs from the party -- NC president Farooq Abdullah, Akbar Lone and himself -- will arrive in Delhi.

The NC MP said the party had written to the commission seeking seek its agenda, but there was no response.

We want to know what their agenda is. We had asked them to submit the agenda of the meeting as well as the relevant supporting material. But, they did not. So, we have to go there to see what their agenda is..., he said.

Stressing that the party had not changed its stand on the matter, he said, "...This is not something new. The party (had earlier) met the commission on its Srinagar visit, submitted memorandum saying it is not a permissible route in the

Constitution. We stand by that. There is no shift in our stand that this exercise offends the spirit of the Constitution he said.

He said the right thing for the government would have been to restore the August 4, 2019, position - a day before the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status -- and then proceed with the delimitation.

The NC had boycotted the first associate meeting of the commission in February saying the exercise was an outcome of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019, which the party had challenged in the Supreme Court.

It said participation in the proceedings of the commission was tantamount to accepting the August 5, 2019, changes.

# Have no faith in Delimitation Commission: Mehbooba

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday that she had no faith in the delimitation commission which was "working on the BJP's agenda".

She also accused the BJP of using National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) to demoralise her party because of its moves to expose the saffron party's "false narratives" but said "the PDP is not going to be cowed down by such steps".

"As far as the delimitation commission is concerned, it is BJP's commission. Their attempt is to pitch the majority against the minority and further disempower the people. They want to increase the (assembly) seats in such a way to benefit the BJP,"

Mehbooba told reporters after addressing a youth convention in Rajouri district.

She said the PDP has no faith in the delimitation commission.

Asked for her comment on the decision of the National Conference to participate in the delimitation commission's associate members meeting in New Delhi next week, the former chief minister said, "It is their decision and what else can I say about that."

On the Jammu and Kashmir government's changes in the land use laws enabling conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes, Mehbooba claimed that it is a wrong decision and part of a "conspiracy of the hidden agenda of the BJP".

"They want more and more people from outside to come

and buy land here to engineer a demographic change," she alleged.

About NIA's reported summons to PDP district Development Council (DDC) member and vice chairman DDC Ganderbal Bilal Ahmad to New Delhi for questioning in connection with a case on December 23, Mehbooba said since her party is raising its voice against their narrative and debunks their claim of restoration of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, they are "using ED and NIA to silence the party".

"They don't have anything else against us. They cannot fight us politically and hence they are using ED and NIA to demoralise us. However, the PDP is not going to be cowed down by such moves and we are not going to stop," she said.

# Company Secretaries play pivotal role in promoting cause of Good Corporate Governance: Amit Shah



Home Minister Amit Shah speaking at 21st edition of ICSI National Awards ceremony.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Acknowledging the efforts of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for playing a pivotal role in promoting the cause of Good Corporate Governance, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "The growth of any nation depends on its strong governance structure and Company Secretaries have played a seminal role in India's growth trajectory".

Shah, as the chief guest, was speaking at the ceremony of 21st edition of ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2021, in Mumbai on Saturday.

He further added that "the Government is reposing its faith and is giving the responsibility to Company Secretaries to establish a strong culture of Good Governance in India Inc. Hence, their role is more than just a job position. They have to be the important drivers in structuring the governance framework of the country".

The Guest of honour, Jury Chairman and Former Chief Justice of India, Justice P Sathasivam said "Appreciation is the greatest motivator and keeps the Corporates on its toes. ICSI has been doing a commendable job in ensuring that a strong governance culture permeates all across by introducing new categories every year"

Appreciating the ICSI for weaving in Good Governance in the Indian Corporate Sector, Deepak Parekh said "ICSI has raised the bar of Governance by imbuing good governance through the professional competence of its members.

Acknowledging the leadership in promoting best

Corporate Governance principles, the Institute conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award on Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Founder-Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited.

The 21st ICSI National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance for Best Governed Large Medium and Emerging Company in Listed and Unlisted Category, was presented to the HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (Listed Company: Large Category); Syngene International Limited (Listed Company: Medium Category); EPL Limited (Listed Company: Emerging Category); Mahindra Intertrade Limited (Unlisted Company: Medium Category); and Tata Consulting Engineers Limited (Unlisted Company: Emerging Category);

The 6th ICSI CSR Excellence Award for innovation and sustainability in managing Corporate Social Responsibility was presented to ITC Limited (Large Category); Havells India Limited (Medium Category); and Minda Corporation Limited (Emerging Category)

The 3rd ICSI Best Secretarial Audit Report Award, recognizing the importance of the Secretarial Audit

Report as an effective tool of corporate compliance management, was awarded to CS Pramod Prasad Agarwal, for Secretarial Audit Report of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

This year the Institute introduced the ICSI Best PCS Firm Award to acknowledge professional excellence, based on efforts, ethics and efficiency, of a Company Secretary in Practice. The 1st ICSI Best PCS Firm Award was presented to SVJS & Associates.

The event also witnessed an insightful panel Discussion on "Good Governance - A Business Mandate" with Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman, Happiest Minds Technologies Limited, Prof. M.K Chouhan, Chairman Mahindra & Young Knowledge Foundation and Shyamala Gopinath, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Expressing his delight, CS Nagendra D Rao, President, The ICSI, said, "The Institute has been a pioneer in building a strong governance framework within the country. The ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, further evidences the unwavering efforts of the Institute in powering and promoting ethical, social and ecological responsibilities of businesses and professionals".