

GDC Marh observes World AIDS Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To commemorate World AIDS Day, Red Ribbon Club, GDC Marh in collaboration with Department of Sociology observed a series of activities from December 1 to 15, 2022, under the guidance of Principal Prof. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

Poster making competition on the theme 'Equalize: Achieving Equality to End HIV' was organised in which 20 students participated and prepared informative and exemplary hand posters depicting the importance of AIDS Awareness.

Rangoli competition was also organised where in about 15 students made beautiful Rangolis highlighting the causes and mode of prevention of AIDS. Video Reels have been made and shared on the social media by the students of BA 1st semester to spread knowledge about HIV myth and promote its prevention.

Short story competition has been performed in which a



Principal Prof Rakesh Kumar Koul posing with faculty and students.

AJKPC opposes preponement of Panchayat polls, seeks 2-year extension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An organisation representing panchayats and sarpanches in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday opposed any move to prepon the panchayat elections and sought two-year extension for existing panchayats in the Union Territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission (SEC) had on Monday issued its schedule for revision of the panchayat electoral rolls in the UT. All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) president Anil Sharma said the term of existing panchayats will be ending in November-December 2023 and there are rumors that the government may dissolve the existing panchayats and prepon the elections to the grassroots level bodies.

"This (preponing of panchayat elections) is not acceptable to us and we will oppose it," Sharma told reporters here.

The SEC released the schedule for revision of panchayat electoral rolls on December 12, leading to speculations that the government is planning to prepon the panchayat elections. As per the schedule, January 1, 2023 has been fixed as qualifying date for the electoral rolls and the final panchayat electoral rolls will be published on February 10.

"Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the Union government should extend the term of the existing Panchayats for at least two years and hold the elections in January 2026," Sharma said.

Justifying the demand for the two-year extension in terms of panchayats, he said the Union Territory remained disturbed for a long period following August

2019 developments when the central abrogated Article 370 and later by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The panchayat members could not concentrate on development work due to the disturbance and it is justified that the term of existing panchayats be extended for at least two years," he added.

The AJKPC leader said under the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India, all three tiers of the panchayats should have co-terminus and as the term of the district development councils shall end in 2025, therefore, there is no logic to end the term of the panchayats prior to that.

"The elections for all the three tiers of the panchayats should be conducted simultaneously and all the PRI members are unanimous in this regard," Sharma said.

He enlightened the students

and faculty about the religious, medicinal and scientific significance of different plants found in the college Campus.

He also discussed with students about lesser known trees of J&K, including the exotic trees which have been introduced in J&K from time to time like Red wood tree in Tangmarg, Pista tree in Srinagar etc.

Principal of the College, Prof. Mim Mahajan appreciated the faculty members for organising the event and said that such activities are important for creating awareness about the traditional plants among the students.

Prof. Mala Bhasin, Head Department of Botany presented vote of thanks.

The faculty members including Prof. Renu Sehgal, Prof. Safia Sheikh, Prof. Indu Khajuria, Dr. Deepika Gupta, Dr. Harjeet Kour Sodhi, Dr. Anju Koul, Prof. Sania Hamid, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Prof. Swarn Singh and Dr. Moein Quadri were also the part of event.

The cloth donation drive which commenced on 4th

November 2022 came to a successful close with the distribution of the clothes to the needy. The Faculty, Staff, and Students actively contributed to the Cloth Donation Drive 2.0. The entire activity was coordinated by the Student Affairs office in association with Kartavya-The Social Responsibility Club of IIM Jammu.

IIM-J conducts Cloth Donation Drive 2.0 to help underprivileged sections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kartavya -The Social Responsibility Club of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the guidance of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, on Friday conducted a Cloth Donation Drive 2.0 for the underprivileged section of society.

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IIM Jammu students donating clothes to needy children.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Condemning killing of two civilians by terrorists outside an Army camp in Rajouri, former Minister and Senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney, in a statement issued on Friday, accused BJP Government of failing to control terrorism. Sawhney demanded that the Home Minister must resign for his failure to protect innocent civilians in the region. The terrorist activity and civilian

killings are on the rise, and BJP has completely failed in handling the law and order in the UT. There is a surge cross-border infiltration attempts by armed

terrorists across and the incompetency of the BJP to bring the situation under control is leading to killings of several innocents, he stated. "Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has created tension among locals concerning their security and safety, and it is the total failure of the Home Minister and BJP Government. BJP is completely incompetent in handling Jammu Kashmir. The entire nation is rattled by this violence and terror,"

said Sawhney.

Demanding resignation of the Home Minister on account of his failure to protect people, Congress leader said that every resident of J&K wants peace and safety which they have miserably failed to provide. The families of the deceased people will spend their whole lives with this loss, while the BJP government will comfortably fail to act against and on such acts of terrorism, he asserted.

The devotional song (Bhajan) has produced by Pathan Dawa under the banner of Maa Bawee Wali Records, sung by Rajveen Manni, music composed by

Ash K, Lyrics by Sonu Raipura and video by KK Malhotra. The Starcast include Pandit Makhan Shastri, Maithily Sharma,

Meenakshi Sharma. Special thanks to Sahil Mahajan.

Speaking on the occasion, Nitish Mahajan said that in

Jammu and Kashmir, the devotional songs of Gods and Goddess are played everywhere during every religious ritual or function be it Jagrata, Langar Seva, Pooja or any other religious ritual. He appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to support and encourage the local artists of the UT so that they can also grow and achieve new heights in their respective fields of art and will make every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir feel proud.

Poster of devotional album 'Jitto Roye Mandi Par Teri' released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Nitish Mahajan, Executive Member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory today released a poster of devotional song album 'Jitto Roye Mandi Par Teri' during a function here on Friday.

The devotional song (Bhajan) has produced by Pathan Dawa under the banner of Maa Bawee Wali Records, sung by Rajveen Manni, music composed by

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Court can't reject application for production warrant on grounds that no case is pending before it: DB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohan Lal in a significant judgment held that Criminal Court, within whose jurisdiction the crime is committed and in respect whereof a production warrant is sought, cannot reject the application for production warrant simply on the ground that no case is pending before it. This order has been passed in an appeal filed by National Investigation Agency against the order of NIA Court whereby Chief Investigating Officer of National Investigating Agency (NIA) Sanjay Nagpal along with public prosecutor filed an application under Section 267 of CrPC before the Court of Special Judge under section 11 of NIA Act (3rd Additional Sessions Judge) seeking production warrant against one Abdul Jabbar @ Jabbar, son of Abdul Habib, resident of House No 3919, Urdu Bazar near Jagat Cinema, Chandni Chowk lodged in judicial custody in District Jail Bilaaspur in FIR 288/2017.

The case relates to large scale transfer of funds from Pakistan to India through the import of California almonds and

other items via cross LoC trade facilitation centres located at Salamabad, Uri, and Chakkan-da-Bagh, Poonch, for their purported use for fomenting terrorism in J&K.

It was claimed by the appellant herein in his application that during investigation, Abdul Jabbar has been found to be involved in the said LoC trade and is aware of several incriminating facts relating to the mechanism adopted by the accused to facilitate transfer of funds illegitimately for fomenting terrorism in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was also averred in the application that during his examination in the jail, Abdul Jabbar had expressed his willingness to make his statement under Section 164 CrPC with regard to his acquaintance with the facts and circumstances of the case under investigation. It was thus pleaded that the statement of Abdul Jabbar was required to be recorded under Section 164 CrPC for taking the investigation further. The application was considered by the trial court and the same was rejected solely on the ground that the Court was not competent to issue production warrant under Section 267 CrPC during investigation and when no

case is pending adjudication before the Court against the person against whom warrants have been sought to be issued. The trial court vide its order dated 6th May 2022 passed on the application of the appellant for issuing production warrants against Abdul Jabbar for recording his statement under Section 164 CrPC before the competent Magistrate in connection with case RC-17/2016/NIA/DLI. It is this order of the trial court which is appealed against before us under Section 21 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 [NIA Act]. The appellant also prays, in the alternative, to invoke the inherent jurisdiction of the court vested by Section 482 of the CrPC 1973 for setting aside and quashing the order dated 6th May 2022 passed by the trial court.

DB after hearing Deputy Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma for the NIA, observed that Section 267(1), it clearly transpires that a Criminal Court, in the course of an enquiry, trial or other proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure, can direct a person confined or detained in a prison to be produced before the Court for answer-

ing to a charge of an offence or for the purpose of any proceedings against him. The criminal Court is further empowered to direct the officer in-charge of the prison to produce any person who is required to be examined as a witness for the purpose of giving evidence. DB further observed that "other proceedings" which occurs in Section 267 CrPC includes investigation and, therefore, a Criminal Court within whose jurisdiction the crime is committed and in respect whereof a production warrant is sought, cannot reject the application for production warrant simply on the ground that no case is pending before it. The order of the trial Court, therefore, is not sustainable in law. The order impugned passed by the trial Court, as held above, cannot be termed as mere interlocutory and, therefore, we hold the appeal under Section 21 of the NIA Act maintainable against the impugned order.

With these observations, the Division Bench allowed the appeal and quashed the order passed by the Trial Court and directed trial Court shall consider the application of the appellant afresh and pass appropriate orders that may be warranted in law.

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All legal disputes are subject to exclusive jurisdiction of Jammu Courts only.

Tourism Deptt organises Bird Watching, Photography Competition at Gharana Wetland



Sunaina Sharma, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu flagging-off group of participants to Gharana Wetland.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu under the active guidance of Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Tourism Department, on Friday organized a Bird Watching and photography Competition to promote the Gharana Wetland which is home to more than 150 species of birds like bar-headed geese, gadwalls, common teal etc and is also an eco tourism paradise among potential travel markets.

It was also disclosed that many more promotional events are in pipeline, especially in border destinations like the Nowshera Folk Festival, Frozen Fiesta in Pooneh, Winter Carnival Sanasar/Patnitop etc in com-

Tourism, while flagging off the group of participants, briefed that the motive of organizing Bird Watching and photography

ing days. During the visit, Gul dev Raj, Head M/S. Himalayan Avian and several other experts from Wildlife department & other institutions explained the participants regarding the time of arrival/departure of the migratory birds, Food habits, suitable climatic conditions and their role in maintaining the ecological balance.

The participants of the Bird Watching and Photography Competition included Wildlife experts, Researchers of wildlife, Photographers, bloggers/Vloggers and other stakeholders of Travel Trade.

Abdul Jabbar, DDT Jammu, informed the participants that there was a dire need to conserve the migratory birds' habitats in the interest of biodiversity. "While we enjoy the pleasant sight of various species of migratory bird from Central Asia, the event shall also encourage tourism activities in the region," said Dheeraj, a participant.

Later in the evening, a musical evening was held at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh. The chief Guest of the function was Vivek Srivastav, Commandant, 165 BN, BSF, Octroi Post Suchetgarh.

The vibrant performances of the musical bonanza included local dance forms like jagarna, Geetra etc. The whole ambience was festive and patriotic as both the Jawans as well as visiting tourists danced to the beats of Bollywood songs.

Also present on the occasion were Sheena Sahni, Assistant Director, Tourism Jammu, Pradeep Sharma, Assistant Commandant, BSF, Suchetgarh Octroi Post, besides other stakeholders of the Tourism Department and prominent citizens of the area.

JKPEECC vows to struggle for redressal of issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A number of Power Employees and Engineers under the banner of JKPEECC-an amalgam comprising of various Unions of PDD led by Sachin Tickoo, President JKEEGA and Convenor PEECC, Jaipal Sharma, Chairman JKPEECC & President DEA, Shakti Gupta Chairman PPEU, Koushal Sharma PPEU, Tarun Gupta President Youth Wing, Ashiq Hussain President, Lineman & Workers Union, H D Singh President TEF, Gurmeet Singh CNGEU, Akhil Kumar President PDL/TDL Workers Union held a meeting here in Jammu and discussed status of the issues that were committed to be resolved by Government as per agreement signed between JKPEECC and administration.

While welcoming move of Chief Engineer JPDCL to issue combined seniority of the PDL/TDL and other workers on basis of their dates of engagement as per the rules and vogue, the participants sought that maximum vacancies should be filled through DPC at an earliest so that no further delay is done. The

members also welcomed framing of seniority of Tech-III by Chief Engineer, JPDCL and sought completion of the same. Further JKPEECC appealed to the Principal Secretary PDD that a number of vacant positions of ministerial and executive cadre are vacant. Due to non-availability of Managing Director JKPT-CL, from last 3 months, DPC of the UT level cadres has not been done and people are on verge of retirement despite vacancies. Despite creation of posts of the CPAO/AOs, none of them have been deputed to the Corporations overburdening existing CPAOs and affecting Finance related matters. Re-constitution of PDD Employees Welfare fund disbursement committee has not been done till date, despite fact that the employees own salary contribution of over 5 crore is lying with the department and next to kin of deceased are still suffering. The participants further said that 20,000 employees of Power Development Department on deputation to these various carved-out corporations and further requested for resolving all genuine issues on priority.

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