

Northern Army commander visits NCC camp in Jammu, lauds cadets for fitness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday visited the ongoing camp of National Cadet Corps (NCC) here and complimented them on their high standard of physical and mental fitness.

Lt Gen Dwivedi was received by Additional Director General of NCC, Directorate J&K and Ladakh, Maj Gen Tejinder Kumar and subsequently the Army commander reviewed a smartly turned out NCC Guard of Honour and also the NCC marching contingents comprising selected boys and girls from Army as well as Naval NCC Units, a defence spokesman said.

Later, the spokesman said he also witnessed an impressive cultural programme con-



Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi during visit to NCC camp at Nagrota.

sisting of a group song and innovative ballet on theme 'Growing with NCC' presented by the cadets.

In his address to the cadets, the Army Commander complimented them on their high standard of physical and mental fitness as well as their 'josh' and dedication.

He acknowledged and complimented the stellar role played by the NCC units of the Directorate operating from Kathua to Turtuk in shaping the personality of

more than 25,000 youth of the region, which has been affected by severe challenges in the past decades.

The NCC provides a large number of opportunities for personal growth and personality development, he said and urged the cadets to make the best use of NCC, aim high, choose the path of growth and grow into responsible citizens of the country.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also highlighted the yeoman service being done by NCC cadets

for several social service activities like Puneet Sagar Abhiyan as well as Nasha Mukht Bharat.

The Army Commander was briefed about the peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh regions on an impressive model showcasing various developmental activities and initiatives of the government.

He interacted with the cadets selected for the upcoming NCC Republic Day Camp and the training staff, complimented them for their high standard of training, and wished them well.

The visit by the Army Commander and his highly motivational words thrilled the cadets and strengthened their resolve for continuing their training with renewed vigour and josh, the spokesman said.

Doors of party always open for secular-minded people: JK Cong chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani Saturday said the doors of his party are open for secular-minded people and closed for those with a communal mindset. He termed the Democratic Azad Party headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad branch of the BJP and claimed it is "collapsing under its own weight".

Wani also extended support to the Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees and Jammu-based reserved category staffers who are on protest strike here since May demanding relocation outside the Valley following targeted killings by terrorists.

"The Democratic Azad Party headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad is a branch of the BJP but those who have gone there from the Congress are secular-minded people.

"Our party's doors are open for them and a decision to rein-



J&K Congress Chief Vikar Rasool Wani briefing media.

duct them into the Congress will be taken at an appropriate time," Wani told reporters here.

He was responding to a question about whether the Congress will accept the recently expelled DAP leaders, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former minister Mohinder Lal Sharma and ex-MLA Balwan Singh, back into the party fold.

"It (DAP) is collapsing under its own weight, sooner than expected. Those who had joined him (Azad) because of some close proximity soon realized

the real game plan of the new party -- to divide secular votes and help the BJP," he claimed.

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief asserted that people with a communal mindset are not welcome in his party. Wani claimed that those who joined the DAP felt "ditched by the fake slogans of the Azad-led group" which is yet to be registered with or recognized by the Election Commission. He said all like-minded people, NGOs, political parties and others are welcome to join the Rahul Gandhi-led

Bharat Jodo Yatra being held against the "politics of hate, record unemployment and unprecedented price rise and other issues the common people are suffering from". The Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief accused the BJP of "using the plight of Kashmiri pandits across the country to garner votes". "Instead of sympathizing with them and resolving their issues, the government is harassing them and threatening to stop their salaries.

"While in opposition, the BJP always forcefully raised the issue of security of Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities in Kashmir. But since 2014 they did nothing and are only shedding crocodile tears for them," Wani claimed.

Demanding immediate release of pending salaries, the Congress leader said the party workers will not hesitate to join the migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees in their protest.

Modi Govt helped India shift from 'women's development' towards women-led development: Priya Sethi



Priya Sethi, Ex-Minister inaugurating exhibition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Priya Sethi, BJP HQ incharge, National Executive Member BJP and former Minister said that chalking out the growth story of the country Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that India shifts its stand from women's development towards women-led development.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after inaugurating

an exhibition titled Christmas Midnight Bazar here at Zone by the Park on Saturday.

Former Minister Priya Sethi, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, was accompanied by Rekha Mahajan, District President Jammu South. The exhibition has been organized by Divya Abrol, woman entrepreneur.

The former minister said that under the grand vision of PM Modi, women have been

re-imagined as architects of India's progress and development, rather than being passive recipients of the fruits of development.

Rekha Mahajan said that, Modi government has implemented multi-sectoral schemes that recognize the true potential of women, empower them and provide them with the platforms to contribute in nation's growth story.

Entrepreneur Divya Abrol dwelled on the various aspects about the exhibition and the efforts she took to make this venture a reality.

Others present include Veenu Khanna, Geetanjali Mahajan, Anita Gandotra, Reema Padha, Neeru Anand, Vaishano, Ritika Trehan, Savita Anand, Radha Sharma, Shalu Gupta and Divya Jain.

AJKSCC to hold Vishesh Gurmat Samagam on Dec 26



Chairman AJKSCC, Ajit Singh addressing media persons.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee (AJKSCC), Ajit Singh, said that a Vishesh Gurmat Samagam will held on December 26 to celebrate Guru's Martyrdom Day and all the preparations and important points related to it will be discussed in this conference.

Addressing a press conference, Ajit Singh informed that Lieutenant Governor of

Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha has been invited to attend the programme of Shahidi Diwas.

He said the Samagam will begin from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Digiana Ashram, Jammu, to commemorate and to pay tribute to the martyrs of Safar-e-Shahadat, Saka Chamkor, Saka Sirhind.

Samagam is being organised under the supervision of Mahant Manjeet Singh.

Dr Surbhi from AOI Jammu becomes First Breast Oncoplastic Surgeon in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: American Oncology Institute (AOI) Jammu added another feather to its cap of honours with Dr Surbhi Kudyar being the first trained Breast Oncoplastic Surgeon in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir region.

She has been conferred with the prestigious Magister Chiruriae (Meh) in Breast Oncoplasty from the University of East Anglia (UEA) (UK).

Dr. Neeraj Bishnoi, Regional COO, AOI, said, "We are delighted and congratulate Dr Surbhi Kudyar on being the first Breast Oncoplastic Surgeon in J&K. The expertise and accessibility will greatly benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir, reducing the



travel to other metro cities. With best-in-class diagnostic modalities and treatment processes, protocols, and standards, AOI is providing the best quality outcomes."

Explaining Breast Oncoplasty, Dr Surbhi Kudyar, said, "Breast reconstruction surgery can significantly boost self-esteem and have a positive effect on the mental health and social life of a woman after going through the entire treatment. With this revolutionizing oncoplastic breast surgery, we at AOI aim to help patients in the J&K region to heal both physically and emotionally. AOI has always

been at the forefront of providing quality healthcare that is on par with state-of-the-art infrastructure and international standards."

Dr Surbhi Kudyar who is the daughter of Dr. R. P. Kudyar who is an eminent Endocrinologist and Diabetologist of UT of J&K and daughter in law of B.D Khajuria Retd. XEn PWD (R&B) has completed her MBBS from Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences, Jammu.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra Director Principal ASCOMS has been a great help in her research work during her course. She has presented various research papers in the international and national conferences highlighting the scenario of breast disease crisis in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates 10 day exhibition- 'Gandhi Shilp Bazaar'



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar lighting the ceremonial lamp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Saturday inaugurated 'Gandhi Shilp Bazaar', a 10 day Exhibition cum sale of Exquisite Handicrafts at Bahu Plaza, Gandhi Nagar here.

The Exhibition has been organised by Rural Artisans Welfare Society and sponsored by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Addressing the participants, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this Shilp Bazar is a first of its kind event being organised at Jammu and therefore it will provide a significant platform for the rural artisans from all over India to showcase their products to the general public. He added that this exhibition will also contribute towards the economic development of Artisans.

The Advisor further said that Handicrafts are part of our rich cultural heritage and reflects our centuries old traditions and values for which our country is known across the globe. He added that the event reflects the vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi under 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

Highlighting about different government interventions of government for development of Handicrafts sector, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the J&K Administration is organising various events and training camps for skilling

the Artisans of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the artisans are being helped in design, marketing as well as in acquiring required skills and techniques.

The Advisor further said that the Government is in process giving GI tagging to different handicraft products which will eventually benefit the artisans at large. He called upon the people of Jammu city to take part in this exhibition and boost the morale of artisans.

Advisor Bhatnagar on the occasion also complimented the Artisans who have come from different regions of India for participating in this exhibition. Assistant Director, Development Commissioner Handicrafts office, Jammu and Kashmir, Ambika Sambyal in her address highlighted about the handholding initiatives launched by Union Ministry of Textiles for the upliftment of Artisans.

She added that the Handicrafts reflect expression of an artist and aesthetic beauty of an artisan is involved in crafting any handicraft item. The Assistant Director further said that around 72 broad categories of crafts are registered with Development Commissioner Handicrafts and around 100 products are GI tagged.

In his welcome address, organiser of the exhibition, Rajiv Pandita gave a brief outline about the broad contours of the 10 day Exhibition and said that around 100 Artisans from

across the country are participating in the event.

During the sidelines of the exhibition, Advisor Bhatnagar also inspected different stalls of artisans and interacted with them about their crafts and techniques.

Among others, Managing Director, Handloom & Handicraft Corporation, J&K, Joint Director, Central Bureau of Communications, officers, large number of locals and artisans were also present on the occasion.

Jagmohan's first e-audio book 'Kahaani Suni Sunaayi' launched

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Kahaani Suni Sunaayi' - the first e-audio book for children in Dogri language - a creative venture of Jagmohan Sharma, a senior news reader of Dogri at All India Radio (AIR) Jammu, was launched here on the occasion of 'Dogri Maanyata Diwas'.

The e-book was launched by R K Raina, Deputy Director and Head DD News and Akashvani News Jammu in presence of Naseer Rather, Shruti Khajuria among others.

Padma Shri Dr Jitendra Udhamपुरi, Padma Shri



R K Raina, Deputy Director and Head DD News & others releasing book in Jammu.

Balwant Thakur, Additional Secretary JKAACL Dr Arvinder Singh Ann, Dogri poet Vijay Verma, president Dogri Sanstha Prof Lalit

Magotra, senior journalist O P Sharma, renowned news readers Narendra Bhasin, Chanchal Bhasin, litterateur Suman Pal and Programme

Executive at AIR Poonch Anjana Badyal virtually attended the launch programme. Author Jagmohan Sharma hoped that the first ever e-audio book for the children in Dogri language - the mother tongue of lakhs of people in Jammu region of J&K UT as well as some parts of Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), would help all of them to connect to their roots. "I feel really bad when children and even the youth in urban milieu prefer conversing in English or Hindi, giving them precedence over

Dogri. There is no harm in learning and speaking other languages but ignoring one's own mother tongue, of course, is setting a bad precedent for others to follow," he opined.

"This is my small and maiden attempt to make children inclined to read, listen, speak and understand their own language Dogri in an easy and interesting way. I want them to listen to it and respond," he explained the objective behind his creative endeavour. R K Raina, while appreciating his effort, described it as a "historical step to popularise Dogri."

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