

'Viksit Bharat Yatra' addresses common man's aspiration at doorstep: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" at Hiranagar on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
HIRANAGAR: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said, "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" (VBSY) is a means to address the common man's aspiration at doorstep and is a result of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision to secure the life of every citizen in this country.

Describing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra as the first of its kind initiative, Dr Singh stated that earlier, citizens used to go to the government; now, the government is at their

doorsteps. He said the VBSY emanates from the Prime Minister's sensitivity for the common man and his commitment to reach out to those whose needs are yet to be fulfilled. The Minister was speaking during a VBSY event organised at Government High School in Panchayat Gurha Mundian of block Hiranagar in Kathua district.

The Minister categorically stated that VBSY has nothing to do with elections. He said the government is always ready for elections in Jammu and

Kashmir. He said the Prime Minister started rolling out several schemes immediately after coming to power at the Centre in May 2014. Jan Dhan Yojana was one of the first schemes unveiled, he informed, adding that there were no elections at the time. He said no one suffered during the COVID pandemic as the government directly transferred money into the accounts of poor and weaker sections of society. This was also part of the Prime Minister's vision to secure citizens' lives, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that VBSY is in continuation of that spirit of service, and a sequel to the government's campaign of reaching the benefits of schemes to the poor and marginalised sections of the society. The Minister said, previously the government fulfilled people's needs and requirements. Now, it is fulfilling their aspirations, he added. The Minister further said the government's schemes are reaching out to the remotest Panchayat and village, and in fact, the last man in the queue without any discrim-

ination on the basis of caste or creed.

The Minister highlighted that his Lok Sabha constituency holds the distinction of attaining saturation of several government schemes, including those related to sanitation and agriculture.

On the occasion, the Minister presented 'Abhinandan patra' to a few sarpanches for their outstanding work in the implementation of government's various initiatives and schemes.

Later, Dr Singh visited several stalls set up at the event as part of VBSY to offer on-spot services, like free health check up.

Vijay Diwas | PM Modi pays tribute to heroes of India's win over Pakistan in 1971 war



To remain alert, extra vigilant to thwart any nefarious designs of ANEs: ADGP Railways asks officers



ADGP GRP J&K, Sunil Kumar chairing security review meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To strengthen the overall security setup of Railway Jammu, Katra and Kashmir; Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Railways, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunil Kumar has asked officers to brief all the Nafri deployed on ground to remain alert and extra vigilant so as to thwart any nefarious designs of Anti-National Elements (ANEs).

ADGP GRP J&K, Sunil Kumar on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the security of GRP Jammu, GRP Kashmir and GRP Katra in his office chambers at Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Haseeb-ur-Rehman, DIG Railways J&K, Mohan Lal SO to ADGP Railways, Sanjay Kotwal, SSP GRP Katra, Dr. Harmeet Singh, SSP GRP Kashmir, Mohan

Lal Kaith, SSP GRP Jammu, Albeena Malik, SDPO GRP Jammu, Naresh Kumar, DySP GRP Lines Jammu, Akshay Khajuria SO to DIG Railways and SHO GRP Jammu.

The main focus of the meeting was to strengthen the overall security setup of Railway Jammu, Katra and Kashmir.

In the meeting the deployment which is in place at the

Railway tracks and Railway stations for protection of Railway passengers and Railway property was discussed and additional requirement of GRP Nafri for making the deployment more effective was also discussed in detail.

The officers present in the meeting gave the valuable suggestions and feedback on the issues pertaining to the security of Railways in J&K.

NIESBUD, J&K Bank kick-start 3-Week Entrepreneurship Dev Prog

STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Saturday kick-started three weeks Entrepreneurship Development Programme for aspiring and existing

entrepreneurs at Ganderbal J&K.

Deputy General Manager J&K bank, Ashok Gupta inaugurated the programme and also briefed about the importance of such programmes. He also encouraged the participants to work with enthusiasm and ensured further support from J&K bank in future.

Tariq Ahmad (CSR Manager) also encouraged the participants and also

briefed them about the J&K bank's role in creating the resource pool for entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop has been organized to support the young entrepreneurs to aware them about sales and marketing, life skills and employability. The three weeks programme will cover the areas on e-commerce, market linkages, awareness regarding government schemes, entrepreneurship

development, soft and hard skills, product value additions etc. NIESBUD will be providing the basic expertise on how to overcome the challenges facing during marketing packaging.

Dr. Aijaz Mir representing NIESBUD in the UT of J&K thanked the officials of J&K bank for making the workshop a success and also ensured further hand holding and support for participants and aspiring entrepreneurs in future.

Construction of Shri Ram Temple is symbol of National unity: Krishan Gopal

Distribution of 801 Akshat Kalash of Shri Ram Janam Bhoomi Teerth Kshetra started in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vishwa Hindu Parishad is organizing distribution of Akshat Kalash across the country.

Under this, the distribution of 801 Akshat Kalash started in Jammu and Kashmir province on Saturday in a Ram-filled atmosphere with the chanting of Jai Shri Ram and a huge gathering of people.

In this context, a grand program was organized in the Ved Mandir complex grounds of the city in the presence of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Seh Sarkaryavah, Krishna Gopal.

In the Akshat Kalash distribution program, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's provincial Sanghechak Dr. Gautam Maing, VHP's state unit president Advocate Leela Karan Sharma, Sanatan Dharma Sabha Jammu Kashmir President Purushottam Dadhichi, Swami Hridayanand Giri, etc. and other officials and workers were present.

On January 22, the doors of Prabhur Shri Ram Temple will open for all the Hindus living in



RSS's Seh Sarkaryavah, Krishna Gopal and others with Akshat Kalash at Jammu.

the world for the darshan of Shri Ram Lala. On the same day, the program of consecration of Ram Lala ji will also be held in Ayodhya.

Before starting the process of distribution of Akshat Kalash, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Seh Sarkaryavah Krishna Gopal in his address said that the same spirit in which the Kar Sevaks made sacrifices and arrests in the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi movement, that dream is going to come true on January 22, 2024 and just as the workers of the organization had reached out to the people and

collected money for the construction of Shri Ram Temple. Similarly, Akshat should be reached to every person in every section and village and he was also invited to participate in the consecration of Ram Lala Ji at Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Tirtha area.

Sah Sarkaryavah Gopal Krishna said that the consecration program of Shri Ram Lala in Ayodhya will be unprecedented in the history of the world.

In this, more than 5000 saints and more than 3000 dignitaries engaged in various activities in social life have been

invited for this program. Due to the small space, only a certain number of people have been invited on January 22. Krishna Gopal said that our country continued to struggle for 1000 years. We consider the entire world as our brotherhood. Hindu society considers all the paths of the world as sacred. But there are some people in the world who consider only their own path as sacred. Everyone should respect everyone, this is the philosophy of India. This is the thought of every Hindu. But not everyone in the world is like this. Such people created a lot of terror in the country. Our country continued to struggle

against such people for 800 years. Our ancestors suffered a lot. Our 20,000 religious places were demolished, we used to build temples again and terrorists demolished the temples. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was a very good writer; he was also a member of Rajya Sabha. Dinkar has written the book 'Four Chapters of Culture', he had written that the invaders used to destroy the temples, but the Hindu society would then wait for the temple to be built and would build the temple after getting the right time. Dinkar has written that the invaders used to destroy temples but they could not break the perception of Hindu society towards temples and Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra is proof of this. He said that the construction of Ram temple is a symbol of national unity. After this the process of distribution of all 801 Kalash started. All 801 Kalash were handed over to the officials of the respective sections and blocks. Before the program, the Kalash were also worshipped amidst chanting of Vedic mantras in the Ved Mandir complex.

Forces alert to foil any infiltration bid on LoC in J&K: IG BSF

Over 250 terrorists at launchpads are waiting to infiltrate



IG BSF Ashok Yadav along with other officers after the meeting at Srinagar.

SHAKEELA ANDRABI
PULWAMA: Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BSF) Ashok Yadav on Saturday said that the force has heightened its vigilance along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir to foil any potential infiltration attempts.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of Civic Action Program in Pulwama, the IG BSF, said that BSF along with Army have dominated all the vulnerable patches to avert any infiltration bid.

He said that intelligence reports suggest that there are 250-300 terrorists pres-

ent at the launchpads waiting to infiltrate, while security forces are alert to foil their attempts.

He said that the BSF has always remained alert to foil any attempt of infiltration and they will continue to do so. "People were always connected with forces, however, it has increased over the last few years and if the public will continue to cooperate, developmental activities can be taken forward in a much better way," he said.

He said that the army and BSF maintain that despite the fresh ceasefire agreement between India and

Pakistani armies along the Line of Control and border since February 2021, several infiltration attempts and ceasefire violations have been reported from across the LoC and border but Security forces successfully thwarted an infiltration attempt last month in the Uri sector along the LoC in which two terrorists neutralised by vigilant security forces and recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunitions.

The IG said that the BSF has been working to provide different skills to youth and women so as to make them financially independent.

JU's DSW in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organises Short Play Competition



Winner students posing for a photograph with faculty members at JU on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Students Welfare in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organised a Short Play Competition through its Red Ribbon Club for awareness about HIV and AIDS at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Antahal complemented Dr. Samir Mattoo, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society for the successful completion of this impactful idea to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS amongst the youth. The effectiveness of the same can be apparently seen through the zestful participation of around 200 students from dif-

ferent Colleges/Campuses and Teaching Departments of University of Jammu.

Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, apprised the participants about the importance of this event. The first position alongwith a Cash prize of Rs. 15,000 was clinched by the team of PG Integrated students, The Second Position and Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000 was secured by the team of GCW, Parade. The team of DD&OE secured Third Position and Cash prize of Rs. 5,000. The Certificates of Merit were awarded to the teams of Stephens Nursing College, UIET Kathua and Dogra College of Education. Janak

Khajuria, Suresh Sharma and Neeraj Kant were the adjudicators of the event.

The winners were felicitated in presence of Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Prof. Monika Chadha, Rishesh Khajuria, Assistant Director (IEC) JKACS, and Dr. Hema Gandotra, Coordinator Red Ribbon Club, JU. The events of DSW were conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal, Prof. Monika Chadha, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Dr. Pritam Singh Dr. Garima Gupta, Dr. Shaluu Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Proctors), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer).

CEO Shrine Board reviews Yatra preparedness ahead of new-year

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: To have a comprehensive review of security and operational preparedness of Shrine for hassle-free pilgrimage prior to onset of New Year-2024, Chief Executive Officer, Anshul Garg today presided over a meeting with security agencies and other stakeholders at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

He emphasized that New Year-2024 is approach closer and the Board is anticipating a significant influx of pilgrims from various parts of the country and abroad to holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, besides, at the base camp Katra, thus stressed the need of synergy between all stakeholders.

In compliance to the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), CEO said that apart from deployment of security personnel, CCTVs will be acting as watchdogs enroute Bhawan and Katra. Besides, the stakeholders shall ensure that the pilgrims before embarking on the Yatra, wear



CEO Shrine Board, Anshul Garg reviewing Yatra preparedness ahead of New-Year.

the valid RFID card at all times as they are linked with various facilities during the yatra and no pilgrim shall be allowed to start the yatra without a valid RFID card. He further enjoined upon representatives of security agencies deployed at all entry points to remain more vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

Chief Executive Officer stressed for action on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage by effective crowd management, augmentation of

holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the area at Parvati Bhawan at Bhawan having facilities like lockers, washrooms and waiting halls, strict regulation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 decongestion of the crowd on the track of the disaster cameras.

A slew of directives were also issued by the Chair to the concerned quarters for movement of vehicles, sanitation

and drinking water arrangements and illumination of dark spots at Katra town, besides, physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination. He further stressed the security agencies and other stakeholders to verify and conduct census of pony porters to thwart any suspicious element on the track.

In the meeting, Mohd Suleman Choudhary DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range highlighted major challenges for the deployed security forces in coming days for managing the

expected influx of pilgrims on New Year. He briefed that additional forces as per request shall be deployed in and around Katra and on the track enroute Bhawan in coordination with other security agencies to ensure fool-proof security and effective Yatra management.

SSP Reasi and Commandant, CRPF presented a detailed security grid to be put in place and discussed various security measures going to be placed on the onset of New Year enroute to the Holy Shrine, besides deployment of QRTs (quick response teams) and a multi-tier security grid comprising police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces.

Among those present in the meeting were, Additional CEO, Jt CEOs; Dy CEO, Asstt CEO SMVDSB, SDM Bhawan; SP Katra; SDPO Katra, and officers from Army, IB, CID, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.