

Jammu tourism embarking on extraordinary Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association explores Bhaderwah in exclusive familiarization tour

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, Bhaderwah Development Authority and Tourism Travel Trade Association Bhaderwah, recently organized an exhilarating familiarization tour. The event was marked by the participation of members from the Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association.

The familiarization tour was flagged off from the Directorate of Tourism Jammu by the Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai and Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta on December 1. Besides, AD Tourism NHW



Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Jt Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta and others at an event.

Batote, Mohd Arif Lone, officials of the Department and stakeholders from Bhaderwah were also present at the occasion.

Director Tourism Vivekanand Rai expressed Bhaderwah's mesmerizing natural beauty and the thrilling adventures awaiting participants in the

Familiarization Tour.

From cascading waterfalls to heart-pounding trekking trails and breathtaking paragliding experiences, this tour is an invitation to explore the untamed beauty and adrenaline-packed escapades that define Bhaderwah.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta, while addressing the media, highlighted Bhaderwah is a picturesque destination, offering unparalleled beauty and adventure.

"This Familiarization Tour aims to showcase the diverse attractions it holds, making it a must-visit destination for travel enthusiasts," she said.

On the second day of Maharashtra Tour Organisers Association Familiarization Tour to Jai Valley, participants immersed themselves in spine-tingling adventures, relishing thrilling experiences.

The day was further enhanced by indulging in lip-smacking local cuisine, providing an extra layer of enjoyment to their exploration.

On December 3rd, participants will immerse themselves in the picturesque beauty of Guldanda, surrounded by a serene snow-covered landscape.

Following this enchanting experience, their journey will culminate in Katra, marking the finale of the Familiarization Tour on December 4. They will serve as tourism ambassadors, actively promoting Bhaderwah.

Subsequently, starting from December 5th, the second group of participants from the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India will embark on their four-day tour to Bhaderwah, Patnitop, Jai valley, Guldanda and Katra.

LG releases 2nd edition of "Kartavya Marg"



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing 2nd edition of "Kartavya Marg" annual magazine.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday released the 2nd edition of "Kartavya Marg", annual magazine published by Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan. The Lt Governor congratulated the editor and the publishing team for the excellent work and conveyed his best wishes. The publication is edited by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri

Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust. Trustees and members of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust including R K Chibber;

Deepak Gupta; Nigam Gupta; Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal; Dr Sanjay Sharma; Ashwani Sharma and Naresh Raina were also present.

Make international sports events a regular feature in Jammu: Gaurav urges Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has urged the Jammu and Kashmir government to make international sports events a regular feature in Jammu.

He made this call in light of the recent successful hosting of the Legends League Cricket tournament at the MA Stadium in Jammu.

"The holding of international sports events in Jammu is not just about promoting sports, but also about boosting the morale of our youth and diverting their attention from drugs," Gupta said.

"Such events bring a sense of normalcy and hope to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been plagued by violence and uncertainty for more than three decades."

Gupta emphasized the positive impact of international sports events on the economy of Jammu and Kashmir: "These events attract tourists and generate revenue for local businesses," he said.

"They also put Jammu on the global map and help to change the negative perception of the state." Gupta commended the Jammu and Kashmir government headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for its



efforts in promoting sports and tourism in the union territory. "The government is on the right track," he said. "We need to continue to host these events and make Jammu a hub for sports and tourism."

Gupta made a specific call for the government to host the Legends League Cricket tournament in Jammu on a regular basis. "The Legends League Cricket tournament was a huge success," he said. "We need to build on this momentum and make it an annual event."

He also lauded the Commissioner Secretary Sports Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul for playing vital role in conducting the Legends League cricket event.

Gupta urged the government to work closely with the sporting federations to make Jammu a destination for international sports events. "We have the infrastructure and the passion for sports. All we need is the government's support to make it happen. I hope that the day is not too far when Jammu will witness IPL match in near future," he added.

Modi Govt to soon wipe out terrorism from soil of J&K: Kavinder



Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader interacting with BJP leaders.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The centre led by PM Narendra Modi has been moving dexterously in the direction to wipe out terrorism in all forms from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister in a press release issued here on Saturday.

Citing the statement given by Home Minister Amit Shah that security forces have established domination in J&K, the BJP senior functionary said that the comprehensive strategy made for tackling terrorism by the Modi Government has started bearing fruits and the work has been half done with Kashmir Valley already witnessing activities which other peaceful states in the country witness.

He said that no doubt certain problematic elements are still active in the UT but the Modi Government has several effective plans in the offing to devastate the terror ecosystem in days to come.

While endorsing the policy of the Modi Government being adopted in J&K, the BJP stalwart ruled out holding any dialogue with Pakistan and asserted that the Narendra Modi government will wipe out terrorism from the region and make it the most peaceful place in the country.

He said that morale of security forces is high today as they have started showing consistency in eliminating terror mongers.

He said that those raise the issue of frequent encounters in J&K should see by themselves that these operations are the result of effective and proactive intelligence network which the BJP government has evolved by inspiring the concerned quarters of security forces and the police and every encounter with the terrorists is the testimony to the fact that intelligence in J&K has attained highest degree of efficacy and shall not stop until the last man involved in terrorism is either eliminated or put in dark dungeons.

Pradeep Dutta unveils Shemford School's latest venture: Shem News Channel

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a strategic maneuver aimed at honing communication prowess and nurturing the aspirations of budding individuals in the realm of media, Shemford Futuristic School has unveiled its bespoke news channel, Shem News.

The channel's inauguration was officiated by Pradeep Dutta, the distinguished war journalist and Senior Editor of Times Now, within the esteemed confines of the school premises at Birpur Road.

Commending this groundbreaking initiative, Pradeep Dutta affirmed that Shem News Channel is poised not only to cultivate creativity but also to instill an innovative spirit, foster a problem-solving mindset, nurture a proclivity for risk-taking, and fortify resilience among the youngsters.

He eloquently expounded



Pradeep Dutta, the distinguished war journalist and Senior Editor of Times Now unveiling Sham News Channel.

on how the regular exposure to news within the school environment will coalesce into a community of globally aware, news-literate young minds.

"These erudite individuals, armed with knowledge and confidence, will be empowered to articulate their perspectives while upholding the virtue of compassion, actively listening to, and respecting the diverse opinions of their peers," reiterated Pradeep.

During his insightful

interaction with students, Dutta generously shared valuable insights and offered tips for those shouldering the responsibility of crafting a weekly news capsule.

Dutta also underscored the imperative for youngsters to exercise caution regarding communally insensitive posts, urging them to refrain from sharing any such material encountered on social media.

Prior to the inauguration,

College on Wheels accorded warm, affectionate reception on return at JU

Comprehensive compendium on students' experiences, projects to be published: Prof Rai

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai on Saturday said that a comprehensive compendium would be published on the project reports prepared by the students of College on Wheels and their experiences of the transformative educational odyssey. "The train journey might have come to an end but penning down the experiences by the enterprising participating students of their two long odyssey must now begin", the Vice Chancellor said while felicitating 700 female students, mentors and other supporting staff on their return at the JU Campus this evening.

Expressing gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his vision and initiative of organizing the challenging visit to various parts of the country, Prof Umesh Rai, the Vice Chancellor of the nodal varsity, credit goes to him for introducing the students to soul of India during their

visit to various iconic places and institutions.

He said empowering girl students in terms of knowledge is the vision of the nation and this is what the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned. He said that possibilities would be explored to get the three-tier College on Wheels converted into air-conditioned bogies to enable students of Jammu and Kashmir to have comfortable visits in future.

He also lauded the Mentors, Nodal Officers, other supporting staff and IRC/TC for ensuring best possible services and facilities to the students. He also felicitated the students who attained distinction in the Onboard Charkha Competition. Some students and mentors also shared their experiences of College on Wheels journey.

The proceedings at the reception function were conducted by Dr Garima Gupta.

This warm reception accorded by the scholars,



VC, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai felicitating a winner student.

students and senior officials from the University of Jammu symbolized the acknowledgement of the enriching experiences accumulated over the past two weeks, to the contingent.

This also marked a return to the starting point and celebration of the rich experiences, newfound knowledge, and the transformative impact of the College on Wheels journey.

The 14-day odyssey broadened the horizons of the participants but also

fostered lasting connections between them and the educational institutions they came from.

On day 14 of the College on Wheels initiative, the contingent arrived in Jammu, marking the conclusion of a transformative educational odyssey.

The journey, spanning diverse destinations, provided the eager participants with a unique blend of education and exploration.

Iconic landmarks, including Rashtrapati Bhavan, the

old and new Parliament Houses, Sabarmati Ashram, and significant naval establishments such as the Naval shipyard and Naval Base in Mumbai, were part of the comprehensive itinerary. Additionally, visits to the naval air base and dockyard, Karwar air base, and the picturesque Karwar beach in Goa added a layer of experiential learning.

The educational expedition further delved into the realms of cutting-edge

research and space exploration with visits to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and IISc (Indian Institute of Science). These experiences provided invaluable insights, expanding the horizons of knowledge for the participating students.

The journey also embraced historical significance with a visit to Sewagram Ashram at Wardha, enriching the participants' understanding of India's cultural and historical tapestry. Commencing the return journey from Sewagram Ashram, the wheels turned toward Jammu, where the contingent was met with a heartfelt reception by senior officials of the University of Jammu.

As the College on Wheels concludes its journey, it leaves behind a trail of inspiration, learning, and camaraderie, showcasing the potential of innovative educational initiatives in shaping the future of aspiring students.

Yudhvir accuses Valley-based parties for neglecting Jammu for 70 years



J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi addressing public meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi on Saturday accused valley-based parties of neglecting the Jammu region for over 70 years, saying they have done nothing for the welfare of the people except give hollow sermons.

Addressing a gathering of general public at Lower Gummat here today, Sethi said, "It is disheartening to see Valley-based leaders mislead the people of Jammu with baseless accusations." He asserted that the successive regimes headed by the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and the Congress did nothing for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Ladakh regions, except giving hollow sermons.

He highlighted the mistreatment of PoJK refugees, Gorkhas, Civic Safai Karamcharis, and others who had lived in Jammu and Kashmir for over 70 years without receiving basic amenities, let alone their rights.

Sethi asked Valley-based political leaders to explain why the successive regimes had discriminated against the Jammu region and failed to accomplish any transformative progress over the last 70 years of their rule. He asserted that the BJP's actions have actively worked towards equitable development, breaking historical barriers and disparities in the region.

"The people of Jammu are well aware of how Valley-based parties have prioritized Kashmir-centric policies while neglecting the Jammu region for continuously over seventy years," Sethi declared. "The BJP is the true secular party that has dismantled discrimination against Jammu and its people."

The senior BJP leader urged all stakeholders to unite for the holistic development of the entire Jammu and Kashmir region, irrespective of geographical divides, and to embrace the BJP's inclusive and progressive approach under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Addressing the first-ever meeting of the BRIC Society after its registration on 10th November, 2023 after getting the Cabinet approval, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that time has come for defining "Bio-vision" for Bharat.

Dr Jitendra today said that the new Apex Autonomous Society called Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) will fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision for Atma Nirbhar Bharat in areas like healthcare, food and energy needs by scaling biotech research and innovation.

He said, in the last eight years, the biotech sector has

grown eightfold times.

The Minister quoted PM Modi as saying, "India is not too far from reaching the league of top-10 countries in Biotech's global ecosystem". He added that BRIC is going to be a testimony to this and again by inculcating the spirit of Sakba Prayas, the government is bringing together the best minds on a unified platform.

Dr Jitendra that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology is functioning as the nodal agency for promotion of Biotechnology in the country.

It was accorded the Cabinet approval for rationalization of its 14 Autonomous Institutions (AIs) by subsuming them under one Apex Autonomous Society viz. Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC),



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the first-ever meeting of the BRIC Society at New Delhi, on Saturday.

for centralized and unified governance to maximize impact of biotech research across the country.

Dr Singh described the BRIC meeting as a historical event in India's Biotech Ecosystem, where elite institutions are consolidating their efforts to impact the biotech R&D ecosystem. He expressed hope that BRIC will prospectively enrich India's progress in

every front including economy and employment. The Minister said, as accomplished institution-builders, he would like to seek their views for defining the Bio-Vision for Bharat in this significant meeting, as they are supposed to bring in tremendous value to this noble mission.

Dr Jitendra also pointed out that this is one of the first Departments in the

Government of India to have successfully executed "Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies" for process and performance enhancement of its Autonomous bodies.

Dr Singh said, some of the significant changes that will be driven by BRIC include that each of the 14 subsumed BRIC Institutions will maintain their distinct research mandates, governed by one Governing Body, at BRIC. He said, Institutes would be allowed utilization of institutional lab space, not exceeding one third, for researchers from outside DBT institutes and their collaborators (from industry or other institutes) to carry out R&D for start-ups emerging out of institutional research.

Dr Jitendra also underlined that BRIC and its Institutes can engage in public-private

research partnerships and receive endowments including funds from non-Governmental resources for research-related activities.

Dr Singh also added that new Ph.D programs across BRIC institutions with a common course curriculum at RCB and immersion training for field or experimental studies for validating research hypotheses prior to thesis work. During the Immersion phase (for about 3 months) students will get additional fellowships from Grand Challenges India program. Additionally, to enhance the scientific character of the institutions, additional 120 scientific positions are being brought in. Parity across levels and cadres are also being pursued. Further improving service prospects for scientists are also being taken up, the Minister added.