

Annual Social Conclave 2023 organised by People's Hut Foundation and NIRBHAY Bharat Foundation

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual Social Conclave 2023 was organised by People's Hut Foundation in collaboration with Nirbhay Bharat Foundation. 'Be The Change' was the main aim of the event of the Social Impact hosted on 30th of December 2023.

Annual Social Conclave is a social conference and meeting held to understand, discuss, and debate the social problems being faced by the NGOs in J&K and how we as responsible social work practitioners can help make society a better place by coming up with solutions to those issues.

In the 2022 edition, we had a stunning 60+ number of participants who provided many amazing and new solutions to tackle those problems, which was held in Jammu. Social Conclave's main aim was to impart Jammu NGO's with ground reality-check knowledge and provide them with an equally beneficial and



People's Hut Foundation and Nirbhay Bharat Foundation members at a programme.

interactive conference where the possible solutions could be discussed for the problems being faced by the NGO's.

The main event of Social Conclave was a Full day conference, with a plethora of events. The agendas for this conference were: Rural Illiteracy and Unemployment, Adoption of SDGs being each NGO for the next 1 Year, Zero Hunger, Youth, Curbing the Drug Menace, Privacy and Social Media, Climate Action etc. The prominent NGO representatives of Jammu province participated in the meeting.

The meeting was facilitated and Organised by Dr. Rohit Koul, Founder Director of People's Hut Foundation along with Tarun Uppal Chairperson of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation. This meeting built on previous meetings that have been convened in the past.

In the meeting the representative speakers deliberated upon How to work in a systematic and well-coordinated manner during the emergencies.

All the participants shared their experiences and learning from the field, challenges they faced and

the plan going forward.

"The efforts of the Jammu NGOs were greatly admired and it was emphasised that their continued support for the underprivileged society is highly valuable", the statement reads.

The delegates said important issues concerning each domain were discussed by the representatives. During this annual meeting of Jammu NGO's the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) related agendas were also discussed and emphasis was laid on how to formulate ideas to promote sustainable growth and prosperity in the

region.

The attendees included Tarun Uppal from Nirbhay Bharat Foundation, Dr. Rohit Koul from People's Hut Foundation, Dr. Raminder Jit Singh from SARA NGO, Rajendra Wanchoo from Kalposh Foundation, Dr. Nidhi Gupta Abrol from Gracious Givers, Dr. Imran Khan from Kanval International Rehab. Foundation (KIRF), Amardeep Singh and Dr. Sandeep Singh from Diva International Foundation, Suresh Kumar from Resolvio Foundation, Vikas Koul from People's Hut Foundation, and the reps. from the other NGO's of Jammu region who also proposed futuristic measures to empower the society.

At the end of the meeting a vote of thanks was given to all the participants by Tarun Uppal from NBF. The NGO representatives were also felicitated with an Appreciation Award and a Shawl as a token of appreciation.

Commandant IRP 11th Bn bids send off to DySP, 3 retiring officers



Commandant IRP 11th Sandeep Mehta, SSP according farewell to retiring police officers and Javaid Ahmed, DySP.

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ANANTNAG: In a heartfelt ceremony held at the Battalion Headquarters Anantnag, the Commandant IRP 11th Sandeep Mehta, SSP accorded warm farewell to three retiring police officers and to Javaid Ahmed, DySP, who has been recently transferred to a new assignment. The event was presided over by the Unit Commandant, was a poignant acknowledgment of the exemplary service and unwavering commitment demonstrated by these esteemed members of the force. The retirees, SI Mohammad Akram, ASI Ghulam Moahmmad Mir and ASI Abdul Hamid of

this unit, have collectively dedicated more than 41 years, 39 years and 36 years of services respectively to ensuring the safety and security of our community. Their tireless efforts and invaluable contributions have left an indelible mark on the working of the police, earning them the respect and admiration of colleagues and citizens alike.

Additionally, Javaid Ahmed DySP, who has been a stalwart member of the battalion, will be embarking on a new chapter in his career as DySP DAR Shopian. The unit acknowledges his dedication and professionalism and extends best wishes for continued

success in his new assignment.

Sandeep Mehta, CO of the Bn expressed gratitude for the years of dedicated service rendered by the retiring officers and conveyed the unit's pride in having had such exemplary individuals in its ranks. The ceremony included heartfelt speeches, presentations and a display of gratitude from fellow officers.

He said, as these officers transition into the next phase of their lives and careers, the battalion remains indebted to them for their selfless service and unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice and public safety.

J&K Grameen Bank unveils e-calendar for year 2024



CGM NABARD Bhallamudi Sridharat and others unveiling e-calendar of JKGB.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Grameen Bank launched its e-calendar for the year 2024 for its esteemed customers and general public at large. e-Calendar of the bank was unveiled by Chief General Manager, NABARD Bhallamudi Sridharat Bank's Head Office at Narwal, Jammu in the presence of Chairman J&K Grameen Bank Sanjay Gupta. Also present on the occasion were General Manager JKGB Suresh Chander Sharma and other senior officials of the Bank. Speaking on the occasion, CGMNABARD Bhallamudi Sridharat congratulated Bank's management for the seamless launch of the e-calendar 2024 and lauded the efforts of the Bank for its digital initiatives.

He recognized the bank's outstanding commitment to

adopting digital initiatives, exemplifying a forward-thinking and progressive approach. He emphasized the significance of digital tools in not only streamlining the process but also in elevating the overall productivity of the workforce. Sanjay Gupta, Chairman JKGB greeted the dignitaries present on the occasion and acknowledged the support & guidance received from NABARD in various accomplishments of the bank during the past year.

He also apprised that the focus of the bank shall always remain to expand outreach to poor and marginalized sections of the society and help them to avail benefits of various Government Sponsored Schemes which are tailored to meet their economic needs.

Chairman JKGB also highlighted that this year Bank decided to launch e-calendar

with a unique feature - a QR code.

This QR code embedded in every page of e-calendar will lead customers directly to information about the mentioned scheme.

Additionally, customers will also be able to download the calendar directly through the QR code that will be published in the newspapers and shared on other social media handles, ensuring widespread accessibility and awareness. The e-Calendar is easy to download and the PDF of the same has been made available on the website as well as social media handles of the Bank.

The e-Calendar can be accessed by anyone with a smartphone, tablets, computers making them convenient to use. Bank shall also send SMS to its registered customers containing link for downloading the e-calendar 2024. In conclusion, Chairman JKGB extended warm wishes for a happy and prosperous new year 2024.

Bank's e-Calendar 2024 in PDF format is available on the Website of the Bank (<https://www.jkgb.in>) as well as on Social Media Handles of the Bank.

Crores of families across country receive benefits of schemes launched by Modi led Govt: Randhawa

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa said that crores of families in villages across the country have received the benefits of schemes launched by the Narendra Modi led government without having to visit any government office again and again.

He underlined that the Government identified the beneficiaries and then took steps to extend the benefits to them.

Randhawa made these remarks during Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra programme at Nihalpur Simbal (Lower) Panchayat, here on Saturday.

On the occasion, Former MLA Prof Gharu Ram, Block Development Officer (BDO) RS Pura Gurjeet Singh, DDC member Vidya Motten, Sarpanch Ashwani Kumar, Bahadur Lal and officers and staff of different departments, beneficiaries of different schemes along with general public were present.

While speaking, the beneficiaries briefed about the benefits being procured by them from various Modi led



Former Legislator, Vikram Randhawa and others taking pledge.

Government.

They expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for launching various flagship schemes for the benefit of the poor and marginalized people.

Some people present on the occasion expressed their anguish of not getting even a single benefit of the schemes launched by the Government, to which Former Legislator assured them early redressal.

Randhawa directed the departments to redress the grievances of the people and provide them all the benefits of the schemes launched by the Government.

"No one should remain deprived of the schemes and re-assure that all the eligible

people will get the due benefit", he said while directing the officers. Randhawa in his speech further said that Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being undertaken across the country to attain saturation of flagship schemes of the Modi led Government by ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

He underlined the government's endeavor to ensure that every person in the village must reach the 'Modi Ki Guarantee' vehicle when it arrives so that the resolution of saturation of government schemes can be fulfilled.

Observing that the impact

of the government's efforts can be witnessed in every village, Randhawa informed that nearly 1 lakh new beneficiaries have applied for free gas connections under the Ujjwala scheme, more than 35 lakh Ayushman cards have also been given on the spot, health checkup of lakhs of people is being carried out, and a large number of people are now heading to Ayushman Arogya temples and for various tests.

"We have established a direct relationship, an emotional bond between the central government and the people of the country", Randhawa remarked.

The Former Legislator emphasized that the oaths taken during this Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra should become life mantras. "Be it government employees, public representatives or citizens, everyone has to unite with full devotion. India will develop only with Sabka Prayas", he concluded.

In the end, BDO RS Pura Gurjeet Singh, who organized the programme, expressed gratitude to one and all for attending and making the programme a grand success.

2,274 cadets to take part in NCC Republic Day Camp 2024, with largest participation of 907 girls

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2024 commenced at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt with Sarva Dharma Puja on Saturday. This year, a total of 2,274 cadets from all 28 States and eight Union Territories will participate in the month-long camp. With 907 girls, this year's camp will see the largest participation of girls cadets.

This diverse participation includes 122 cadets from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, apart from 171 from the North-Eastern Region, effectively portraying a microcosm of 'Mini India'.

As part of the Youth Exchange Programme, the camp will also witness the participation of cadets and officers from 25 friendly countries -

Argentina, Botswana, Bhutan, Brazil, Czech Republic, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Mauritius and Mozambique.

In his address, DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh called upon the cadets to participate wholeheartedly and derive maximum benefits from each activity in the camp.

He advised them to display the highest qualities of Character, Integrity, Selfless Service, comradeship and teamwork cutting across the barriers of religion, language, caste in the spirit of nation first.

The Republic Day Camp holds the fundamental aim of instilling a sense of patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities among the cadets. This annual event serves as a platform to offer cadets valuable opportunities for training, engaging in cultural activities, and participating in social service initiatives, thereby nurturing unity and pride.

Modi Govt is committed to enhance accessibility and connectivity across India: Rekha

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JAMMU: Modi gov't is committed to enhance accessibility and connectivity across India this was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. The public gathering was held in Trikuta Nagar Mandal of Bahu Constituency in District Jammu South in connection with public Booth Jan Samvaad Abhiyaan in the presence of Ex-Councillor and Trikuta Nagar Mandal President Neeraj Puri, Ward President DP Arora, Speaker Ayush Sawhney were present on the occasion. Rekha Mahajan addresses the common masses and highlights the quality of a country's infrastructure is a key determinant in shaping its economic trajectory. She added that the Narendra Modi-led Govt has kept infrastructure at the front and center of its development agenda includ-



BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan speaking at a programme.

ing the union territory of J&K. Rekha said in the upcoming future the nation will witness the "victory chariot" of PM Modi-led government for the third consecutive term in 2024 parliamentary election. Rekha hails that Indian railways witnessed a massive capacity expansion through line doubling and electrification and the "Vande Bharat Express", India's first indigenous Semi High-Speed trains, is a major 'Make in India' success story. 15 Vande Bharat trains are already operational and

400 Vande Bharat express trains are to be manufactured in the next three years. Rekha also added that PM Modi's visionary and vibrant leadership also introduced the new Vande Bharat Express train in J&K and Indian Railways has allocated the 49th Vande Bharat Express train to the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) in Jammu & Kashmir. Rekha Mahajan emphasized that Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced that the USBRL will be completed by December 2023 or January 2024, and a Vande Bharat metro train will be operated between Jammu and Srinagar once the project is fully operational. Rekha enlightened that in the last nine years, the metro rail projects have reached 20 cities. In the aviation section steps were taken to make it affordable and accessible through the Udan project. Rekha said that the country also witnessed major constructions during this period like the World's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge, the World's longest highway tunnel, the Atal Tunnel, further the completion of many long-pending projects like the Saryu Nahar Irrigation Canal, Eastern, and Western Peripheral Expressway, etc. The recently implemented infrastructure development projects are accelerating the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, she added.

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JAMMU: President CCI, Arun Gupta expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for giving much needed relief to the pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi by starting the second Vande Bharat Express from New Delhi to Holy town Katra from 30 December 2023 which will have brief stoppage at Udhampur and Kathua.

Arun Gupta also thanked Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MOS in PMO Office Dr. Jatinder Singh and Hon'ble LG UT of J&K Manoj Sinha with whose efforts it has become possible to start this new train. Arun Gupta said that this train will be a big relief to the business community besides the pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi and the General passengers.

He also said that Jammu Railway Station being the



most congested station, the stoppage time for Vande Bharat trains should be at least five minutes instead of two minutes.

Arun Gupta further said that Jammu is a major hub for railway operations for interstate and intrastate transportation. There is ample need to upgrade the Jammu Railway Station by giving it the Divisional Status although it has been announced earlier but on ground nothing has been done in this regard, as such urgent steps be taken to develop the infrastructure

which is necessary for establishing a new Railway division.

Arun Gupta further pointed out that there is urgent need to establish a rail engine workshop between Jammu and Kathua as at present the nearest rail engine workshop is at Patiala which is far away from Jammu.

Moreover the rail network is extended upto Baramulla in Kashmir Valley which is more than 300 KM from Jammu. The present rail engine workshop at Patiala shall prove to be insufficient to meet the requirement of repairs as the number of rail engines has increased manifold.

Arun Gupta also said that few new trains and some existing ones be restricted upto Jammu Railway Station and the visitors be encouraged to visit this city of temples in order to give boost to the economy of UT of J&K.

Balwant Thakur conducts exclusive session with children

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Theatre director Padamshree Balwant Thakur who is also known as the magic man of Indian theatre, today conducted an exclusive theatre workshop with children at Natrang Studio Theatre.

Termining theatre as the ultimate art of transforming personalities he emphasised on the optimum use of this magical art by the schools and colleges.

Art of theatre empowers a child with unbelievable

extraordinary abilities like public speaking, self-confidence, eidetic memory, and outstanding leadership qualities.

Natrang introduced children theatre in Jammu in 1990 and till date the Natrang's children theatre initiatives have drastically transformed the fate of thousands of the youngsters. Natrang can proudly claim that majority young achievers of Jammu are the products of our unique theatre training initiatives.

Every year Natrang conducts three workshops for children which include 'Summer Theatre Camp', 'Winter Theatre Workshop' and 'Spring Theatre Workshop'. Balwant Thakur has developed a new training methodology for children using the latest developed techniques of human transformation and development.

Being a globally exposed person, he acquired this out of the world art while working with top professionals and trainers of children theatre of



Theatre director Padma Shri Balwant Thakur conducting session with children.

Europe, America, Japan, South Korea, China and South Africa. It may be

recalled that he introduced his kind of theatre with his play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' in

the Republic of Mauritius which was staged repeatedly in Mauritius in French,

English, Creole and Hindi languages. Natrang is perhaps the only Children Theatre group of India which has the credit of having travelled and covered the entire length and breadth of the country with its children plays.

Natrang is currently conducting a 15 day children winter theatre camp which will culminate with the presentation of play 'Rang Badalti Duniya' written and directed by Balwant Thakur.

The lucky children who are a

part of this winter workshop are Araiya Shan, Eva Saini, Noor Abrol, Anadika Pandoh, Supria Gorka, Aarjav Jain, Niddha Mahajan, Mehak Chib, Hriday Vashishth, Audvik Badyal, Evana Sawhney, Nitaara Sawhney, Jayaditya Singh Jamwal, Samrat Sharma, Ruhaan Chandan, Trivit Mahajan, Advik Sharma, Daivik Gupta, Prial Ashok Gupta, Deshna Jain, Anaadi Abrol, Shriyan Jandial, Shrunya Jandial, Adeesha Singh and Aarya Mahajan.