

# Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa welcomes Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa met Atal Dulloo and welcomed him for being appointed as Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Atal Dulloo, a 1989 batch IAS officer having vast experience in the UT joined back as Chief Secretary of J&K after his brief stint in Ministry of Home Affairs as a Secretary, Border Management.

Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa during meeting with the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo raised some of the issues of public interest.



Former Legislator and senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa calling on Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo.

He hoped that the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo will do the needful to redress the issues of the public interest. "Earlier, under the super-

vision of Atal Dulloo, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir achieved new heights and I hope the Shri Dulloo will work with adopt

the same work culture in future also", the Former Legislator added.

Randhawa said that Atal Dulloo has played a pivotal role during COVID crisis, adding that Shri Dulloo has been instrumental in devising of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at revolutionizing the Agri sector here and many folds increase in farmers income.

Dulloo being an AGMUT cadre IAS officer has served in J&K for most part of his service. He has earlier been a key person to successfully row the UT amid the lethal COVID-19 crisis as Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education.

Before going to central deputation in June this year

Dulloo was serving J&K as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department and has been instrumental in devising of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aiming at revolutionizing the Agri sector here and many folds increase in farmers income.

Dulloo has also served as Deputy Commissioner of key districts in the erst-while state and has received many honours including state award for meritorious public service on Republic Day in 2013 and silver medal for successfully conducting assembly elections in the in 1996.

# KVK Jammu celebrates World Soil Day 2023

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JAMMU: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jammu, under administrative control of SKUAST-Jammu working under the leadership of Prof B N Tripathi Vice Chancellor and overall guidance of Dr S K Gupta Director Extension, organised World Soil Day 2023 in collaboration with IFFCO Jammu and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd at Gagian, Flora and Sarore panchayats of Jammu district to sensitize the farmers and other stakeholders regarding this year's theme "Soil and Water: A Source of Life. The programme was attended by progressive farmers, including DDC, Sarpanches, Panches and officers from Agriculture and other line departments. The programme was organ-



KVK Jammu officials and other dignitaries at a programme.

ised in continuation to the various activities being undertaken by KVK Jammu for mass sensitization towards importance of Soil health Ecosystem.

At the outset Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Jammu welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the importance of celebrating World Soil Day, 2023 all over the world. Rahul Khattar AMM Chambal Fertilisers

briefed about the judicious use of chemical fertilizers for Healthy soil.

Officers from IFFCO, Jammu stressed upon and application of Nano urea and Nano DAP. Dr Ravneet Kour, Dr Prem Kumar, Er Ashish Katoch and Satbir Singh of KVK Jammu coordinated in the different panchayats where the sensitization regarding Soil Health and different schemes was carried.

# Team 'NATEX K2K 2023-24' enthralles audiences at Airforce Station Jammu during expedition Journey



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Army Microlight flying Expedition 'NATEX K2K 2023-24', which commenced their challenging expedition journey from Army Adventure Nodal Centre (Microlight & PHG), Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (MP), their home base on November 20, 2023, on Tuesday commenced the phase 2 and came to Jammu where they conducted an action packed Aero Show for young and

large audience including school children at the Air Force Station Jammu, which is also celebrating it's Diamond Jubilee.

The pilots of the Army Adventure Expedition, Col Mankanwal Jeet Chawla, Lt Col Aby TM, Lt Col Jitender Siwach and Hav A Saravanan with their young Co-pilots carried out precision manoeuvres including formation flying and display of flags and banners and some adrenaline rushing low flying to the amazement of the crowd.

They will now continue their expedition as per plan to go to the southernmost waypoint at Kanyakumari before overflying the fabled Ram Setu and continue along the western coast to reach Pune and complete the expedition at BEG & Centre, PRO defence said adding that at Pune the expedition will also add to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

# Department of Botany CLUJ marks 'World Soil Day' with Plant Donation drive

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a celebration of World Soil Day, the Department of Botany at the School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), on Tuesday organized a event with the theme "Soil and Water: A Source of Life".

One of the standout features of the celebration was a student-led plant donation drive, where enthusiastic participants generously contributed a variety of plants.

The donated plants, ranging from indigenous flora to ornamental greenery, were collected and organized by the Department of Botany, creating a vibrant display that not only symbolized the diversity of plant life but also served as



Students and faculty of Botany Department during plant donation drive at Jammu.

a visual representation of the students' dedication to environmental conservation. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Prof. Minu Mahajan, Principal of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu who appreciated the efforts of department and said

that the plant donation drive was not only an opportunity for students to contribute to a greener campus but also served as a practical expression of their commitment in creating a more sustainable future. The Coordinator, Dept. of Botany, Prof. Sugandha Mahajan expressed delight at

the overwhelming response from the students, she stated. "It is heartening to see our students actively engaged in initiatives that promote environmental consciousness."

The teaching staff Dr. Isha Sharma, Dr. Arun Khajuria, Dr Mohd Saleem, Dr. Pankaj Kumar and Dr. Anjali

Sharma shared insights into the significance of soil conservation, the impact of human activities on soil quality, and the role of sustainable agriculture in preserving soil health with the students of MSc Integrated Semester V, VII and PG Sem I.

The Non-teaching staff including Deepika Charak and Parvinder Kour helped students in collection of soil and plantation of saplings.

# Less than eight Assembly seats is betrayal to POJK refugees: Ravinder

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLC and Senior Vice President of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee Ravinder Sharma has said that allocating one seat for over 15 lakh POJK refugees is great injustice and a betrayal of promise by the BJP with them. Reacting to the provision of nomination of one Assembly seat to POJK refugees, Sharma termed it a great betrayal by the ruling BJP against the promise of allocating eight seats to POJK refugees, whose number is more than 15 lakhs today.

Sharma said that it was an open promise of the BJP before 2014 general elections that POJK Refugees would be allocated 1/3 Assembly seats out of 24 MLA seats reserved for POJK residents.

Today only one Assembly seat is being allocated to POJK refugees that too in nominated category, is a betrayal and injustice to them (POJK Refugees).

Again the Kashmiri migrants are being allocated two seats, which too is less for them, but why one seat to POJK refugees whose number is above 15 lakh today, what is the criteria of allocation of Assembly seats in the bill, Sharma questioned, while elaborating that an MLA in J&K, is being elected by an average population of around one to 1.25 lakh, but for KPS & POJK, there is no reference to their population and only a thumb rule is being followed, he added.

A POJK resident himself, Ravinder termed it unjustified that too in nominated category for the displaced community, on this count apart from denial of other rights including non-sanction of full package of Rs.30 lakh per family, reservation to their wards, as recommended by then State Govt.

# Former Dy Mayor starts development work in Ward 56



Former Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria and others at a programme.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Mayor JMC Jammu and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria started the construction work of laying of paver tiles and drains at Ward 56 Gangyal in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that during

his tenure as Deputy Mayor of Jammu, he had got these development works sanctioned to fulfill the demands of the people and today the same development works are being started.

"I am happy that I am getting the privilege to kick start the development works that I had planned", he added.

He said that during his tenure, he tried to get development works done in every ward of Jammu city so that development could be given to the people at their doorstep.

He also stated that BJP is the only party which has taken overall development as the primary task and government schemes have reached out to every house-

hold under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

He said that there are many works that are to be taken up in areas soon so that best possible infra is provided to the masses.

Local people praised Billawaria for carrying out development works in the area.

The people of the area also assured full support to BJP in the upcoming elections.

Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Harbans Choudhary, Jugal Kishore, Surjit Kumar, Rakesh Sangral, Sunil Sharma, Mulkh Raj, Om Nath, Rajinder Singh (Poppy), Punjab Singh, Vinod Sharma, Hardeep Singh and other dignitaries were present.

# ANTF J&K conducts awareness programme at GHSS Jagti Camp



SSP ANTF Jammu and Kashmir, Raj Kumar Sharma speaking at awareness programme in GGHS Jagti Camp.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), ANTF Jammu and Kashmir, Raj Kumar Sharma on Tuesday conducted awareness programme at Govt Higher Secondary School Jagti

Camp, Nagrota in which about 400 students alongwith school staff participated.

The students are briefed to remain away from drugs and utilise spare time in sports activities. They were requested to provide

information about the drug peddlers and smugglers to police for legal action.

Moreover information of drug addicts may be shared with police for their treatment in drug de-addiction centres.

# IIM Jammu Management Development Programme for PNB Metlife India ends

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) marked the valedictory ceremony of the Management Development Programme (MDP) for PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited at its permanent campus at Jagti. The event showcased the culmination of a transformative five-month program designed to enhance managerial acumen among Life Insurance Professionals.

Verma, Associate General Manager, Learning and Development, PNB Metlife, Dr. Kriti Khurana, Manager-Content Development, PNB Metlife and other officials of both the organizations. The Program Directors for this training program were Dr. Ashish Kumar, Dr. Manu Bansal, Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, and Dr. Niti Shekhar, faculty, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Ashish Kumar, Program Director, presented the program report followed by learnings from the program put forward by Mohit Bahugana, Business Head, PNB Metlife, Anjan Jyoti Talukdar, Associate Director and L&D Channel Head, PNB Metlife, Rashmi



Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay speaking at a programme.

In his address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, mentioned that the valediction of the first batch of PNB MetLife MDP is a testament to the commitment and diligence of the participants.

During his address, he reiterated on creating a position of Professor of Practice in the Institute for Industry leaders along with sending faculty of IIM Jammu for

industry interaction leading to a unique two-way blend of academia and industry.

He mentioned IIM Jammu remains steadfast in its mission to provide industry-relevant education, empowering professionals to navigate the complexities of the business landscape. We believe that the skills and knowledge acquired during this MDP will not only benefit the individuals but also contribute to

the growth and success of the rapidly growing insurance industry.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu stated that IIM Jammu is committed to providing education that goes beyond traditional boundaries. The MDP for PNB MetLife exemplifies our dedication to creating programs that not only equip professionals with essential skills but also foster a deeper understanding of industry dynamics.

He mentioned that valedictory session does not mean the closure but it the start of the new journey and emphasized on the need to have peer competition, collaborating for knowledge accumulation,

sharing, and taking the key takeaways from the session for their journey ahead. Lastly, he extended his congratulations to the participants on their successful completion of this transformative journey. The program, led by the faculty of IIM Jammu, aimed to equip participants with essential skills in entrepreneurship, finance, strategy, design thinking, innovation, and communication. The valedictory ceremony featured insights from participants and program directors, highlighting the value gained from the comprehensive curriculum. The participants expressed gratitude for the practical knowledge and

strategic insights provided during the course. This was followed by certificate distribution. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Pratik Maheshwari, Program Director and Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE &C), IIM Jammu.

The success of this MDP further solidifies IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering industry-relevant learning experiences. The institute continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of leaders in various sectors. The entire program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy (EE &C), IIM Jammu.

# Dr. Vikas Sharma gets prestigious NAHEP Fellowship to visit Korea

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Vikas Sharma, son of Harbans Lal Sharma and Pushplata Sharma, resident of Channi Himmat, Jammu has been awarded prestigious fellowship under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project-Institutional Development Plan (NAHEP-IDP) for his exposure/short visit to Jeju National University, Republic of Korea.



Research (ICAR) that aims to promote excellence in higher education and research via international training of Scientists of SKUAST-Jammu in

Overseas Institutions.

During his visit to Korea, Dr. Sharma will participate in an intensive training at Phenomics Laboratory of Jeju National University of Korea and the programme is expected to provide him with valuable insights and exposure to the latest developments in identification of anticancer drug targets using phenomics and machine learning.

The prestigious award is conferred to Dr Vikas Sharma on the recommendation of selection com-

mittee headed by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu. Working as Associate Professor in the Division of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Sharma has 77 full length publications to his credit and guided 09 Ph.D and 07 MSc. students as a Major Advisor.

He is recipient of many National and International awards / recognitions from various Govt. Organizations for his contributions in the field of Science.

# Disillusioned after polls, key INDIA Bloc members to abstain from crucial meeting: Kavinder

Rudderless opposition's only mission is to oust PM Modi

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has said that disillusioned after the recent poll outcome, several key constituents of INDIA Bloc have decided to part ways as they conveyed publicly not to attend the crucial meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

In a statement issued to media fraternity, the BJP stalwart maintained that the only agenda of the opposition parties is to oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi as their amalgam viz INDIA Bloc is a rudderless entity with no other vision or mission to ensure welfare of the people of the coun-



try. "The biggest drawback of INDIA Bloc is its lack of policy or plan to steer the country to attain progress and that is one of the main reasons of debacle of Congress in Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh", Kavinder said,

adding, on the contrary the Bharatiya Janata Party's ideology solely addresses the issues which the people of the country are confronting and above all, PM Modi's vision to make India's economy a vibrant one touching 5 trillion target and enabling it to join the elite club of top three economies of the world.

Referring to the reports about Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar and now Akhilesh Yadav abstaining from crucial meeting of INDIA Bloc, Kavinder said that members of this amalgam have by now gauged very well the fate of this venture and that is the reason behind show-

ing disinclination. The senior BJP leader said that this is the beginning of end of the aforesaid group as sooner than later more of these will join the tirade and will say goodbye to this 'misadventure'. He said that whatever was promised by the BJP in election campaigning trails during 2014 and 2019 has been fulfilled and party leadership is clear about future course as people-friendly and futuristic policies of the party have already given final shape and the beginning of the third term of PM Modi in 2024 will ensure India surfacing as the world power standing along other nations of same stature.