

Ritika takes up Bahu constituency issues with Commissioner JMC

Expresses concern over presence of unauthorized hawkers, operating without licenses, serving vegetarian and non-vegetarian items

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan along with Mandal Secretary Rachit Khosla on Monday met the JMC Commissioner to discuss pressing public grievances from the Bahu constituency.

She was accompanied by prominent persons of Bahu constituency. She apprised the Commissioner of local issues and presented a comprehensive list impacting the residential population of the Bahu constituency.

Key among these issues were problems with public utilities like water and electricity. During the meeting, she emphasized the urgent need for remedial action.

The JMC Commissioner listened to these concerns and provided assurance to look into the issues.



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan along with Mandal Secretary Rachit Khosla meeting with JMC Commissioner.

Speaking on the issues, Ritika expressed the demands of the Gandhi Nagar and Green Belt residents mentioning that there is a long list of problematic issues people have conveyed to her during her tour of the area. She underlined direct relationship with the general populace, public outreach programme it was found that the common masses face many hardships

in context with the repair of street lights, sanitation and other related issues. To review the pace of ongoing development and allied works in Bahu constituency, Commissioner informed Ritika of various initiatives taken by Corporation. Ritika however expressed concern over presence of unauthorized hawkers, serving vegetarian food and

non-vegetarian items. This not only poses a threat to the overall safety but also creates an environment of chaos and disorder.

To mitigate this issue, she stressed the importance of designating an appropriate place for rehri zones, allowing hawkers to earn their livelihoods in a safe and regulated environment. This would not only ensure the safety of area but also pro-

vide a stable source of income for the hawkers. Ritika said it was essential to recognize that hawkers are an integral part of our urban landscape, providing essential services and goods to the community. However, it's equally important to ensure that they operate within the bounds of the law, prioritizing the safety and well-being of all citizens.

By providing a designated space for rehri zones, we can create a win-win situation, where hawkers can earn their livelihoods, and residents in the area can feel safe and secure in public spaces. She urged the JMC Commissioner to take concrete steps towards addressing this issue and creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for all.

A M Bajaj Rehari unveils Electric Chetak

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Electric Chetak 2024 was officially launched at A M Bajaj Rehari, Jammu, in the presence of the Chief Guest, Jitender Gupta, Chairman AM Group along with ASM Kamran Sayeed and the AM Bajaj team. The event was attended by a host of local influencers, two-wheeler enthusiasts, and auto aficionados, all eager to witness the unveiling of the much-awaited electric scooter. The event was also attended by Directors Sanjeev Mahajan, Ankur Mahajan, Aryan Mahajan and Adhyan Mahajan.

The Electric Chetak is packed with several segment-first features, offering unmatched value across various customer segments. Designed to ensure limitless exploration, the scooter provides life-proof rides with a robust build, Bluetooth connectivity, tamper alerts, geo-fencing, and Over-The-Air (OTA) updates- all accessible via the dedicated Chetak app. The scooter also features an upgraded color LCD console and body-colored mirrors that perfectly complement its three new vibrant colors.

In addition to its stunning looks, the Electric Chetak is equipped with a 2.88 kWh battery, delivering an impressive range of up to 123 km on a single charge and a top speed of 63 km/h.

The price of the Electric Chetak starts at Rs 99,998 and goes up to Rs 1.47 Lakh (ex-show-



Chief Guest, Jitender Gupta, Chairman AM Group and others at launching ceremony.

room, Jammu). The scooter is available in seven different variants, offering a range of choices to cater to diverse customer needs.

With its cutting-edge features and sleek design, the Electric Chetak is set to redefine the electric scooter segment in Jammu and beyond.

Titan Company opens watches & eyewear outlet

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Titan Company Limited, part of the Tata Group, has opened a first-of-its-kind Quadrombo format store in the North region, located at Apsara Road, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The new flagship store brings together four premium brands under one roof: Titan World, Helios, Fastrack, and Titan Eyeplus. The grand opening was attended by BJP State President Sat Sharma, MP Rajya Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana, MLA Vikram Randhawa, and other prominent dignitaries, including Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister. This store offers a comprehensive shopping experience, featuring an exclusive collection of over 40 international, Swiss, and smart watch brands, including Seiko, Michael Kors, Citizen, Fossil, Armani Exchange, and more. Titan World showcases premium



BJP State President Sat Sharma, MP Rajya Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana, MLA Vikram Randhawa visiting outlet.

collections like Titan Edge, Nebula, Raga, Xylis, and Titan Smart. The eyewear section includes renowned brands such as Swarovski, Ray-Ban, Burberry, Prada, Gucci, and Mont Blanc. The store also offers a free eye check-up clinic, a high-quality lens fitting lab, and a watch care center. The owners of the outlet, CA Anil Sharma and Aruna Sharma,

emphasized the store's focus on both affordability and premium offerings, ensuring there is something for every customer. "Our store represents timeless tradition, authenticity, and quality, catering to the evolving tastes of Indian customers," they said. With the trust of the Tata Group, customers can be assured of genuine craftsmanship in every product.

SCERT J&K's Toycathon 2024 finale Exhibition concludes in Kashmir Division

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Grand Finale of Toycathon 2024 Exhibition transformed the SCERT-JK Divisional Office, Kashmir, into a vibrant hub of creativity and cultural pride. The event was a celebration of young minds blending tradition with innovation, showcasing the exceptional talents of students from across the Kashmir division.

Toycathon 2024 saw overwhelming participation, with 1,12,657 students registering across Jammu and Kashmir, including 61,501 registrations from the Kashmir division. Students competed in three categories: 37,390 in Category 1 (Classes 6th to 8th), 18,671 in Category 2 (Classes 9th to 10th), and 5,440 in Category 3 (Classes 11th to 12th). A remarkable 4,675 schools in the Kashmir division conducted School Level Competitions (SLC), followed by District Level Competitions (DLC) hosted by DIETs, culminating



Dignitaries posing for a photograph with winner students.

in today's Grand Finale with 90 top students presenting their innovative toy prototypes.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Sakeena Masood (Itoo), Minister of Education, JK UT and Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, J&K, reflecting their commitment to promoting innovation and excellence among students across the Union Territory. Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director SCERT

J&K, addressed the audience virtually, stating, "Toycathon 2024 is not just a competition but a bridge connecting our glorious past with an electrifying future. The indigenous toy prototypes showcased today reflect the spirit of innovation and cultural storytelling." He praised the students for their exemplary display of indigenous toys and guided them to be resilient as this was the beginning of their career as young innovators. The jury, comprising Controllers from the Office of

the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM), Kolkata, and two distinguished judges from Kashmir, evaluated the projects for their technical merit and ability to integrate Kashmiri heritage with modern innovation. Roshan Lal, Joint Director, SCERT-KD, commended the students for their exceptional creativity, remarking, "These young innovators have crafted more than toys—they've built dreams and showcased the brilliance of Kashmiri youth."

Their work reflects resilience, imagination, and critical thinking, which will shape a brighter future." He also expressed gratitude to the dedicated coordinating team, including Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, M. Sultan Khan, Mohd Lateef Rather, Saima Aijaz, and Farooq Ahmad Najjar, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the event's seamless execution. The grand finale was held in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and NIPAM (National Innovation Foundation - India), bringing national expertise and resources to this impactful initiative. With the successful completion of the Kashmir division's Grand Finale, the spotlight now shifts to Jammu, where 90 more young innovators will showcase their brilliance on December 19, 2024.

IIM Jammu inaugurates fourth batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated the fourth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on Monday.

The inaugural session took place at the institute's permanent campus in Jagti, marking another step in its mission to foster academic excellence and leadership development.

This initiative aligns with the Malaviya Mission's vision of empowering educators and leaders to shape the future of India's educational landscape.

The leadership training program is one of the unique residential programs designed to develop the leadership skills of educators at different levels and create a pool of potential leaders for generational transition. The program, scheduled from 16th to 20th December 2024, will be con-



Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director IIM Jammu lighting ceremonial lamp.

ducted by the faculty of IIM Jammu to help institutions evaluate and enhance the leadership potential of their faculty members.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the inaugural ceremony. The fourth batch consisted of 29 participants from Institutes across India and is fully funded by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. The participants shared their introduction providing insights into their academic and professional journeys. The event commenced with the lamp lighting ceremony. Prof. Sahay welcomed participants to the program,

emphasizing IIM Jammu's commitment to excellence and innovation in education. Highlighting the acute shortage of leadership in academia, he praised the Ministry of Education's transformative initiative to cultivate academic leaders as agents of positive change. He encouraged active engagement, networking with peers and faculty, and open discussions to address institutional challenges collaboratively. He urged participants to explore IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art infrastructure and expressed enthusiasm for personally interacting with them, wishing everyone a productive and

enriching experience. Present on the occasion were Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu. Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu welcomed participants to the Nurturing Future Leadership Program, emphasizing its focus on developing academic leaders. He provided an overview of IIM Jammu's Executive Education initiatives, its diverse portfolio of online, offline, and hybrid programs, and its innovative offerings in machine learning and artificial intelligence aligned with industry trends. Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the program's mutual learning opportunities and networking possibilities while providing an overview of Jammu as the city of temples and sharing insights about Kashmir. He spoke about IIM Jammu's growth from 45 to 1100 students, its diverse programs, and its distinction as the only region in

the country hosting three Institutes of National Importance, making it a vibrant hub for academic excellence.

The residential training program will be divided into four broad themes, such as leadership, communication, skill development, and recent government initiatives, and will feature four sessions each for the next five days. These sessions will include lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises to ensure active engagement and application of concepts. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with prominent experts from reputed Institutions and IIM Jammu faculty. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Niti Shekhar, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Finally, the inaugural program culminated with the National Anthem, filling the room with a sense of unity and pride. The participants were then taken for a campus tour of the Institute.

Doon International School celebrates Annual Day MLA Randhawa emphasizes role of education in building prosperous society



MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa and DIS faculty at lamp lighting ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Doon International School, Jammu, hosted its Annual Day function with grandeur and enthusiasm at the prestigious Gen. Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The event, celebrated under the theme of excellence and talent, was graced by the presence of MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, as the Chief Guest. The auditorium was alive with energy as stu-

dents, parents, and dignitaries gathered to celebrate the achievements of the young learners. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing knowledge and wisdom. In his address, MLA Vikram Randhawa applauded the efforts of the school in shaping the future of young minds and emphasized the role of education in building a prosperous society.

"It is truly inspiring to see the students of Doon International School excelling in academics, sports, and cultural activities. Institutions like these are laying the foundation for a brighter and stronger nation," Randhawa said and encouraged the students to dream big, work hard, and remain dedicated to their goals, assuring them of his continued support in their endeavors. The Annual Day featured a variety of cultural perform-

ances, including vibrant dances, thought-provoking skits, and melodious songs. Each performance reflected the creativity, talent, and hard work of the students and their mentors. The highlight of the event was a theatrical presentation on national integration and environmental sustainability, which received a standing ovation from the audience.

Principal of Doon International School, in her address, expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest for his gracious presence and motivation. She also commended the students and teachers for their relentless efforts in making the event a grand success.

The function concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where Vikram Randhawa felicitated meritorious students for their exemplary achievements in academics, co-curricular activities, and sports.

Dr. Karan Singh mourns demise of Ustad Zakir Hussain

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Member of Parliament, Dr. Karan Singh has expressed profound grief over the passing of legendary tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, who breathed his last in San Francisco. In a heartfelt statement issued today, the former Member Parliament Dr. Karan Singh said, "I was shocked to learn that the great percussionist Ustad Zakir Hussain has passed away in San Francisco. His

father, Ustad Alla Rakha, was from a village near Jammu and always cherished his association with the Dogras. I knew Zakir Hussain from the time when he was a young boy and saw him with great pleasure growing into perhaps the greatest tabla player we have produced. In fact he and the late Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma are two great musicians that Jammu has given to the nation in recent years. My condolences to Zakir Hussain's family."

Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan State Level Camp concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Level Camp (SLC) of Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) 2024-25, India's largest digital science talent search program, was successfully held today at RRL High School, Jammu, with the prize distribution ceremony and valedictory programme conducted at the CSIR-IIM Jammu Auditorium. This one-day camp witnessed the participation of 131 students, winners of the first-level exam, carefully selected from over 2,500 participants who appeared for the online exam conducted in October 2024. These top-performing students advanced to participate in the State Level Camp, showcasing their aptitude and talent in science and technology.

The State Level Camp was inaugurated by dignitaries, including Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, CSIR-IIM, Jammu, who served as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests included Prof. B. N. Tripathi,



Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, CSIR-IIM, Jammu and others at a competition.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J and President, VP, J&K; Prof. Rajnikant, Patron, VP, J&K; Prof. Parveen Kimar Lehana, Vice President, VP, J&K, and Coordinator, VVM; and Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Secretary, VP, J&K. The program featured sessions such as the introduction to Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM), a report on the camp activities, and Vibha initiatives, culminating in the presidential address by Prof. B. N. Tripathi and an inspiring speech by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed. The chief guest Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM, Jammu, in his address highlighted that Vidyarthi Vigyan

Manthan is a significant initiative that encourages scientific curiosity and critical thinking among young minds. He emphasized the role of such platforms in inspiring students to explore the immense potential of science and technology, thereby enabling them to become future leaders and innovators. He praised VIBHA for its tireless efforts in discovering inquisitive and talented minds throughout India and invited students to have deeper connect with CSIR-IIM. The president of VVM, Prof. Parveen Lehana, Vice President, VP, J&K, in his welcome address, introduced the distinguished guests and gave the details of the programme. Prof. Praveen Lehana, Vice President, VP, J&K, in his address, highlighted the VVM and its role in searching the talent in sciences. The SLC

report of the VVM was presented by Tinny Sawhney, VVM co-ordinator. The event concluded with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Samir Vohra, Organizing Secretary, VP, J&K. A total of 18 students were declared state level winner with ranks 1st, 2nd and 3rd from each class VI to XI. Out of which 12 students were selected to represent Jammu & Kashmir in the upcoming national level camp scheduled for 17th and 18th May 2025. The name of the top three students include Soham Singh, Syed Hansa, Goransh Singh for 6th class; Paras Gupta, Mohd Umair Malik, Sweksha

Singh for 7th Class; Chirag Luthra, Mhotsav Gandotra, Jayendra Singh Jasrotia for class 8th; Ayanna Khajuria, Taransh Mahajan, and Arjunvir Singh for class 9th; Radhika Verma, Tarini Gupta, Aditya Narain Singh for class 10th; Danish Talwar; Adhiraj Singh, Manasvin Mahajan for class 11th. The top three ranking students from each class were also honoured with cash prizes of Rs 5,000 for 1st Rank, Rs 4,000 for 2nd Rank, and Rs 3,000 for 3rd Rank. Other dignitaries who attended the function include, Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Vice President, VP; Prof. Vivek Arya, SKUAST-J; Prof. Manish Sharma, SKUAST-J; Prof. Vikas Sharma, SKUAST-J; Mr Pankaj Gupta, treasurer; Er Deepak Bayotra, Joint Secretary; Vikas Langer and Subash Sharma, VVM, Co-coordinators, Ajay Verma, District co-ordinator; parents, principal and teachers of RRL high school and several others important persons.