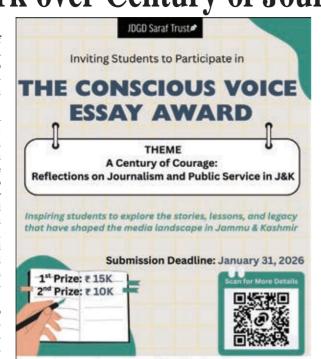
JDGD Saraf Trust announces Student Essay Contest to mark over Century of Journalism in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JDGD Saraf Trust has announced a Student Essay Contest to commemorate over a hundred years of journalism in Jammu and Kashmir. Based on the theme "A Century of Courage: Reflections on Journalism and Public Service in Jammu & Kashmir", the contest invites students to critically and creatively reflect on the historical journey of journalism in the region - its courage, ethical challenges, social responsibilities, enduring relevance in shaping public conscious-

The contest is open to students of colleges, universities, and other higher educational institutions, and aims to foster



For queries contact, info@jdgdsaraftrust.org

informed

dialogue,

research-oriented think-

ing, and responsible

expression among emerg-

Educational institutions

are encouraged to circu-

ing scholars and writers.

UT Administration committed to inclusive development across Ladakh: LG Kavinder



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta listening to public grievances.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Thursday reaffirmed the Territory Administration's commitment to ensuring equitable and inclusive development across Ladakh, with special emphasis on remote, farflung, and border areas. He stressed that development should not be confined to urban centres but reach the most inaccessible regions to benefit all citizens and improve living standards.

Gupta was addressing a public grievances redressal camp at Shakar-Chiktan, where he interacted directly with residents and listened to their concerns and suggestions related to development public welfare. Representatives from sixteen villages of the sub-division raised various region-specific demands. The Lt Governor highlighted that such direct engagement helps the administration understand ground realities and strengthens public trust. He assured that all grievances would be examissued to concerned departments for timely redressal. Recalling Ladakh's progress since becoming a Union Territory in 2019, Gupta noted significant improvements in roads,

healthcare, education, power supply, internet connectivity, and administrative services, enhancing quality of life. He also highlighted recent initiatives in healthcare, including the inauguration of a 3 Tesla MRI facility at District Hospital Kargil. Expressing gratitude to

Prime Minister Narendra Modifor prioritising Ladakh's holistic development, the Lt Governor emphasised youth empowerment through education, skill development, and employment opportunities. He assured the people that demands related to postal and banking services, BSNL connectivity, and civic amenities would be addressed on priority.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, SSP Nitin Yaday SDM Shakar-Chiktan Ravi Shanker, and senior dis-

Secretary JKPAB concludes 3-day tour of Rajouri-Poonch region



RAJOURI: Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Advisory Board (JKPAB) for the development of Pahari Speaking People, Sapna Kotwal successfully completed a comprehensive three-day tour of the Pir Panjal region, covering Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri, Surankote and Poonch. The visit was designed to assess ground realities, review educational and residential facilities for Pahari students and strengthen community engagement with a focus on inclusive socio-economic development. Sapna Kotwal conducted thorough reviews of hostel infrastructure, scrutinizing accommodation, sanitation, food arrangements, basic amenities, and the overall learning environment in Boys' and Girls' Pahari hostels in Rajouri and Poonch. During direct interaction with students and staff, she listened to their concerns and suggestions. Emphasizing the critical importance of quality education and a supportive residential atmosphere, she assured them of the Board's unwavering commitment to enhancing hostel facilities and addressing genuine grievances in a time-bound manner. The tour featured extensive interactions with civil society, legal professionals, youth groups and community stakeholders, reinforcing the Board's outreach efforts.

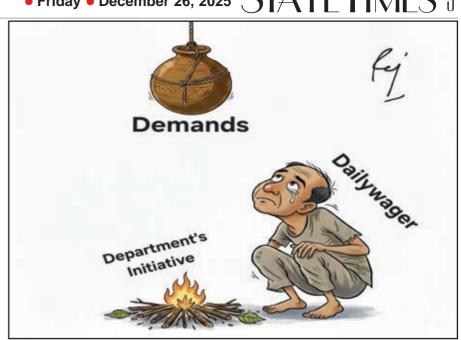
During the tour, several delegations called on the Secretary and shared valuable perspectives on social justice, educational development and legal challenges. Kotwal attentively heard their concerns and reiterated the Board's responsiveness to community needs. Adding a significant dimension to the visit, Kotwal graced a Taekwondo Championship as the Chief Guest. Highlighting sports as a vital tool for building discipline, confidence and a healthy society, she encouraged young athletes to remain focused and positive. She also acknowledged the supportive presence and efforts of Dr. Nitan Sharma and Er. Shubham Kotwal, Media Coordinator and President of ADAPMA for their role in amplifying community voices and facilitating effective communication between the public and the administration. Throughout her tour, Sapna Kotwal consistently reaffirmed the Advisory Board's dedication to improving educational infrastructure, empowering youth and fostering active community participation.

widely and motivate maximum student participation, thereby strengthening awareness about the historical and contemporary significance of jour-

nalism and public service. The JDGD Saraf Trust, founded in 1985 by Lala Mulk Raj Saraf, the Father of Journalism in Jammu & Kashmir, along with Om Prakash Saraf, has been a beacon for promoting conscientious journalism. Through this tinues its commitment to nurturing intellectual inquiry and honoring the enduring legacy of journalism that has shaped Jammu & Kashmir for more than a century.

Comprehensive information regarding submission guidelines, deadline and prizes is available through the QR code provided with this announcement. Any queries can be

info@jdgdsaraftrust.org.



Normalising religious violence is Congress' New Low: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson and Convenor for International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, today launched a sharp critique of the Congress party over its stance on violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, accusing it of rationalising attacks for political convenience. Responding to remarks by senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, Gupta said describing lynching and persecution of Hindus as a "reaction" reflects a mindset that normalises religious violence instead of con-

demning it."This is not an isolated statement. It exposes Congress' longstanding appeasement politics, where Hindu suffering is brushed aside to protect a particular vote-bank narrative," Gupta asserted. He

highlighted reports of homes torched, temples vandalised, and civilians attacked in Bangladesh, calling for strong and unambiguous condemnation from all political parties in India.

"Instead of standing with victims, Congress leaders appear more interested in creating justifications and shifting blame. This selective outrage undermines India's moral voice on human rights,"

said.Gupta emphasised that Congress has repeatedly weakened India's stand on issues of national and civilisational importance, from questioning responses to terrorism to

echoing narratives that indirectly

legitimise radical violence. He praised the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for consistently raising concerns about the safety and rights of minorities in neighbouring countries at diplomatic and international forums. Failure to condemn such acts sends a dangerous signal to extremists. This is not just political insensitivity—it is a moral failure. Congress rhetoric emboldens radical forces and weakens global efforts against religious extremism," Gupta remarked.

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