

# Sham, Rana for collective efforts to save youth from drug menace

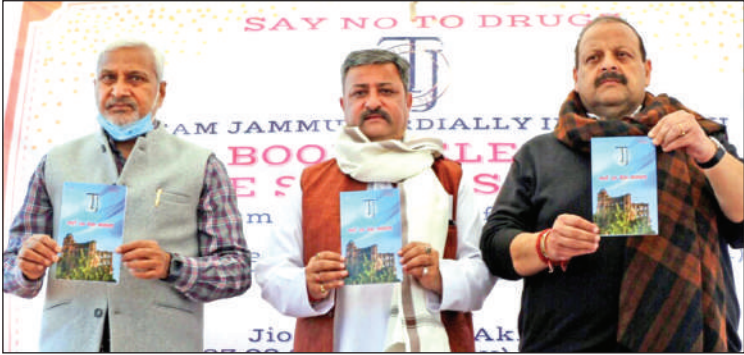
» Team Jammu releases book of Dogri poems against drug abuse «

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Giving literary mode to its campaign against drug abuse, 'Team Jammu' along with former Minister Sham Lal Sharma and Ex MLA Devinder Singh Rana on Sunday released a Dogri Book 'Nashe Sha Desh Bachana' at historic Jio Pota Ghat, on the banks of river Chenab in Akhnour.

The book comprises a number of Dogri poems highlighting the burning issue of drug abuse in the society and a call to young generation to stay away from the deadly menace. Hundreds of volunteers of 'Team Jammu' hailing from at least 100 Panchayat Halqas attended the jam-packed program and took pledge not to allow drug abuse in their respective areas.

These poems include Vijaya Thakur's 'Saade Naumihaal', 'Drugs Daa Nasha' by Inderjeet Kesar, 'Suttley Lok Jagaaey' by Randeher Singh Raupuria, 'Nashaa' by Abdul Qadir Kundriya, 'Nasha Malamat' by Mohan Singh Slathia and 'Aayun Aa Chitta' by young Poet Pawan Verma. The function was also attended by these noted Dogri Poets, whose poems have been compiled in the book. They recited the poems and expressed their concern over increasing drug menace in J&K and particularly in Jammu region. Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma said that Pakistan was hell bent to spoil youth of J&K by pumping drug contrabands towards this side and also fueling terrorism. Appreciating 'Team Jammu's' efforts against the drug menace, he stressed that each individual should also realize his/her responsibility towards the society to ensure that no such anti-social activities take place in



Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal and prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana releasing book.

their respective localities. Sham Lal said that there was need to further strengthen concerned agencies countering drug mafia. They must adopt modern technologies to detect drug peddling and putting anti-social and anti-national elements behind bars with exemplary punishments, he added. He further said that there was also a dire need of setting up rehabilitation centers for drug victims and work on such projects must be expedited.

"While a multi-pronged and syner-gized strategy is necessary to deal with the alarming situation, there is immense need for rehabilitating those hapless ersons who find themselves trapped in addiction" Sham said.

Former MLA, Devender Singh Rana, while addressing on the occasion, said that volunteers of Team Jammu, especially its head Zorawar Singh Jamwal are doing yeoman's service in the society leaving no stone unturned in taking their anti-drugs campaign to every nook and corner of Jammu region.

Expressing serious concern over the drug menace, Devender Singh Rana called for societal response alongside the efforts of the governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations to wean away the youth by persuasion and motivation to bring them to the mainstream life without shame or sorrow.

Devender Rana, lauded the efforts of the 'Team Jammu' in this regard, saying their relentless campaign rekindles a hope and holds a promise to keep the youth away from this vice. Pro-active campaigns with a spirit of love and compassion will surely help in preventing self-destruction of those who have fallen prey to the addiction, he said and hoped that the team will reach out to vulnerable segments in a big way.

Rana exhorted the people to remain steadfast in meeting the challenge posed by the alarming drug addiction and said the societal response in generating awareness holds the key to controlling and eradicating the menace. The challenge becomes more formidable in view

of mafias active in trafficking and sale of drugs in Jammu and Kashmir: The narco-terrorism too is a matter of concern and there is need to combat it with iron fists for saving the generations, he added. Rana complimented Zorawar Singh Jamwal and his 'Team Jammu' for stepping in supplementing the efforts of curbing the drug-menace by launching an awareness campaign through various modes of communication. Such efforts are silver-lining in the otherwise grim scenario wherein the affected youth are passing through a phase of helplessness and despondency. They are to be retrieved from this passé so that they play their useful role in nation building, he added.

Team Jammu Chief Zorawar Singh Jamwal lauded the cooperation extended by Dogri Sanstha Jammu and other literary organizations in compiling the book of Dogri poems on drug abuse.

Reiterating 'Team Jammu's' commitment to eradicate the drug menace from society, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that every section of the society, including literatures, artists, businessmen, employees, students, workers, Ex-ser-vicemen and politicians etc need to come together to save our young generation from this slow poison of drugs.

Referring to the alarming data about the menace spreading its tentacles in Jammu and Kashmir, Zorawar Singh Jamwal strongly advocated for a syner-gized drive to bring back the youth from dark tunnels. He noted with concern the involvement of nearly six lakh people in drug related issues, saying this constitutes 4.6 per cent population of the Union Territory.



## Food Safety Deptt, Legal Metrology should support, not harass food industry operators: Neeraj

Delegation of eatables manufactures raise several concerns with CTF



Eatables Manufacturers Federation members felicitating CTF-Jammu President Neeraj Anand.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking up the issue related to the food industry, a delegation of Eatables Manufacturers Federation (EMF-Jammu Province) led by its chairman Shiv Kumar Gupta met Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF-Jammu) president Neeraj Anand and apprised him about their concerns related to the industry.

Shiv Kumar Gupta is also president of Bakers Association (Jammu).

The delegation raised the issue related to the problems faced by the traders from the Food Safety Department and Legal Metrology Department.

CTF office bearers Raman Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Ajay Gupta and Parag Abrol were also present on the occasion.

Other members of the delegation included EMF president, Bodh Raj Dogra (Dabha Association president), EMF General Secretary,

Sanjeev Gupta, Halwai Association President, Rajinder Gupta and members of Milk products manufacturers.

On the occasion EMF also honoured CTF president Neeraj Anand and presented him with a shawl in recognition of his contribution for the welfare of the traders.

Threadbare discussions were held and the delegation apprised the CTF president Neeraj Anand about certain flaws in the working of Food Safety Department and Legal Metrology Department which is creating problems for the traders.

Delegation alleged that certain officers from both the departments are harassing the small shopkeepers and shopkeepers manufacturing eatables on various pretexts which is not in favour of the government's policy to allow free trade and business.

Delegation also raised concern over the Packing and Labeling Act.

Responding to the issues raised by delegation CTF president Neeraj Anand assured the delegation that the concerns expressed by the member will be taken up with the concerned officers.

"We will convey to the officials of concerned departments and try to have meetings with them so that Ease of Doing Business in true sense will prevail. I appeal to FSSAI officers and the Legal Metrology department to direct the officers to take appropriate steps and hold awareness drives after regular intervals instead of penalizing the traders due to none of their faults", Neeraj Anand said.

Anand said that thousands of people are dependent on their livelihoods via small trades dealing with bakery products, operating Dhabhas and Milk and its products. Department should have a pro-traders policy and not impose heavy fines on them.

## J&K Branch of ICAI elects 'Mission Wapsi' going on in Srinagar to save youth from drug menace



Newly elected Managing Committee of J&K Branch of ICAI posing for photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Sunday elected its new team of office bearers of Managing Committee for the term 2022-25. CA Nakul Saraf was unanimously elected as Chairman, CA Vikas Puri as Vice-Chairman, CA Vineet Kohli as Secretary, CA Ayush Sawhney as Treasurer, CA Sourav Pargal and CA Priya Seht as Executive Members.

During election process, six members participated and were declared elected unopposed for the term 2022-2025 by Returning Officer CA Pardeep Gandotra.

The members of outgoing Committee namely CA Vinay Jamwal, CA Lalit Kumar Gupta, CA Arvind Dev Jamwal and CA Shalay Razdan congratulated and welcomed the new Managing Committee members and wished them good luck and trusted that incumbent Committee will work for the furtherance and betterment of the Chartered Accountancy profession.

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: To curb menace of drugs and to break its supply chain in the district, the District administration has launched a massive crackdown against drug peddling and raided several hotspots of drug consumption in various parts of city. The raids were carried out at Zero bridge and other locations in Raj Bagh area wherein some persons found in substance abuse were rounded up. Based on input given by them, several shops were sealed after incriminating material was found there. According to United Nations office on Drugs & Crime, Jammu & Kashmir has six lakh drug addicts and during last three years, an increase of 1500 per cent has been registered in drug usage.

Speaking about raids, the District Magistrate Srinagar said that operation was carried on receipt of specific inputs. Pertinent to mention here that district administration Srinagar has launched a 'Mission Wapsi' with an aim to save and safeguard youth from

dangerous exposure to different types of substance/ drug abuse.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal said that operation against drug peddling and consumption shall continue to tighten noose over drug dealers and peddlers, for the greater good of society.

It will be worth mentioning here that parents of some youth were repeatedly visiting office of District Magistrate Srinagar, with a request to keep their child in detention so that they can get rid of substance abuse.

With number of people getting addicted to drugs on steep rise in J&K, the Government has decided to initiate a process of first-ever district-wise survey to assess magnitude and out-lines of drug abuse in the UT.

In June 2019, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and AIIMS New Delhi carried out a survey to measure extent of drug abuse in J&K. The figure that survey provided was not just shocking, but called for

urgent steps to curb growing substance dependence in UT. As per the report, 4.9 percent of population, which amounts to over 6 lakh individual (as per Census 2011), was abusing opium derivative drugs including 'Doda, Bhukki, Poppy Husk, Heroin including brown sugar and other pharmaceutical drugs'. It was also found in the survey that J&K was among top five states and UTs in terms of drug abuse.

In order to have a clearer picture and devise better strategies to address it, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved a proposal to carry-out district-wise drug abuse survey. Additional Chief Secretary to J&K administration (Health and Medical Education), Vivek Bhardwaj has said that the survey would start soon and advertisements for recruitment of human resource to carry out the same has already been floated. The survey will be a collaborative effort of Directorate of Social Welfare (DSW), Government Medical Colleges of J&K and health directorates of J&K.

## With remnants of civic infra gone missing, Transport Nagar gasps for breath

■ SANJAY SHARMA

JAMMU: The decades old Transport Nagar, which witnessed good and bad times, and dispensations of all the political hues is testimony to the fact that all the Governments remained apathetic to this important spot in Jammu catering to more important transport sector, which is lifeline of the Union Territory of J&K and even UT of Ladakh because it is on this sector's shoulder that necessary amenities and goods reach the places, which are far and wide across the region.

What is disappointing is the fact that unlike other parts of region which also have dilapidated infrastructure there are still remains of roads, drains, lanes or damaged poles but as far as Transport Nagar is concerned there are no signs of macadamized road, proper drains, damaged bulbs on poles as replacements have never taken place in vicinity for reasons best known to those who are the stakeholders of the same. Driving a car or a loaded truck on Transport Nagar roads is a herculean task as drivers never know that what is in offing because there are no pot-holes rather entire road is a big pot-hole which cannot be expressed by words as dictionary has no such words. As the place is one of the busiest trade centers in J&K, such kind of indifference is beyond understanding and calls for introspection of those who are sitting at helm and boasting of making Jammu a business hub and what not.

Rajinder Kakkar, President Motor Parts Dealers Association (MPDA),



Transport Nagar said that since its establishment in 1989, no one has seen authorities carrying out any kind of maintenance work. "Roads are pathetic; sewage, drainage and sanitation are on mercy of God as drains or sewage pipes have gone missing, though rain water finds path due to steep gradient," he said.

Kakkar said, "Former LG G C Murmu had sanctioned Rs 50 crore for development of Transport Nagar but the fate of the area is in front of all and that of sanctioned money is still a secret," he said, adding that he has taken up the matter with Divisional Commissioner Dr Raghav Langar who also visited the Transport Nagar and sanctioned Rs 25 crore for development but on ground the same is missing as was the case in last nearly thirty years. He said that during tenure of former VC JDA, Vikas Kundal, a project was prepared including construction of Transport Nagar roads, plantation of

1,000 saplings, street lights, pathways, etc. but except news nothing concrete was seen on ground and like the earlier cases, Transport Nagar was left for decaying with people visiting or running businesses facing troubles as ever and no one giving an ear to the ordeal which starts the moment anyone enters the area.

"Later, I took up the matter with new VC JDA Pankaj Magotha who informed that on directions of Divisional Commissioner, tenders have been floated and work will start soon but again there is no change on ground and it seems that the project is shelved again", he said, adding that there is no hope left as Administration has deceived him a number of times with bogus promises. He also alleged that JMC despite taking Rs 200 from each business establishment in vicinity never takes care of sanitation or cleanliness, which is uncalled for and annoying.

Suresh Sharma, a local shopkeeper

while decrying the administration's despotic behaviour towards the issue said that for last over 20 years the condition of Transport Nagar is like this only and no one bothers to at least provide basic civic edifice, which is the right of shopkeepers and transporters as they pay taxes in different forms. He said that it is unfortunate that LG Manoj Sinha is also not taking cognizance as under his rule also, the things have not improved and people are facing multiple problems on account of dearth of mere basic facilities.

Councillor Ward No 49, Kamal Singh Jamwal also raised the issue and said that it is unacceptable that Government is not paying the due attention towards the Transport Nagar: He asserted that the matter was also taken up Jammu Mayor but his intervention remained confined upto assurance level as no change was accomplished. He added that what message the Government wants to give to outsiders who somehow visit ISBT established in vicinity as the dismal condition of roads and other civic edifice exposes the pitiable condition and the phlegmatic attitude of the government, which on one side is boasting of making Jammu a Smart City and on the other, has failed to even provide concrete roads. The Councillor emphasized that main lanes of Transport Nagar should be developed so that the commuter can get a sigh of relief. In this regard, VC JDA should also take interest and at least provide basic amenities in Transport Nagar despite collecting huge revenue from the area.



Former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad's nephew Mubashar Azad with supporters after joining BJP.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Big jolt to Congress Party as Mubashar Azad, youth leader from Doda who is also nephew of former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad joined Bharatiya Janata Party along with his supporters at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by former MLA Dalip Parihar and BJP ST Morcha President Haroon Choudhary welcomed Mubashar Azad who was closely associated with Congress Working President Rahul Gandhi for a long time.

J&K BJP Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and Sanjay Bakshi were also present on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina welcomed Mubashar Azad along with other new entrants into the party fold and said that the parties like Congress, National Conference and

PDP did nothing but to enjoy the luxuries of power.

He said that it was only the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government that took "substantial steps" to make sure that the democracy is strengthened at the basic level in Jammu & Kashmir giving rights to every community living here. He added that the policies of the BJP leadership were being appreciated by one and all and that is the reason that almost daily, active social and political personalities were coming forward to embrace the party to serve the masses.

Raina added that these new entrants led by Mubashar Azad will not only strengthen the party in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and other areas but will encourage the youths from the whole region of Jammu & Kashmir to work for the Nation and the society. He appreciated the efforts of senior BJP leaders

Sunil Sharma and Shakti Parihar along with Dalip Parihar, for their efforts in strengthening the party with these young and energetic faces.

Addressing the media persons, Mubashar Azad, said that he was deeply hurt over the disrespect of his uncle, former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad by the present Congress leadership in Jammu & Kashmir and the Centre.

He said that the way Congress party treated Ghulam Nabi Azad, one of the charismatic leaders of Congress party, has hurt the sentiments of the common masses and stressed that PM Modi has given recognition to the efforts of former CM.

He added that while there is total selfish infighting within the Congress Party, Modi has gained the trust of common masses and thus he pledge to stand with Modi and BJP in the interest of the society and the Nation.