

LG attends Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School Mandal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday attended the Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School at Mandal.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released a book titled "Himalaya Naardiya Antarang Bahirang Yog Sadhna" written by Shri Hare Ram Dass ji Maharaj.

The Lt Governor emphasized on promoting balanced education that teaches science, industry 4.0 technologies and also imparts value-based knowledge.

Success for students should not be a race of getting more marks but to achieve the abundant wealth of values in life. Apart from scientific and technological knowledge, we should also focus on value-based education, create an environment for individual growth, observed the Lt Governor.

We are living in the digital-age where we can learn anything through e-learning. But at the same time, there is a need to maintain a perfect balance between



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at the Annual-day function of Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School at Mandal in Jammu.

students and teachers for shaping the young minds through a value-based knowledge system, the Lt Governor said.

Terming learning as a life-long process, the Lt Governor stressed on the need to encourage students as well the teaching community to have thirst for knowledge all along and lead the way for a bright future.

Efforts are being made for consistently reforming our educational ecosystem. New Education Policy focuses on promoting a conducive environment for constant learning and innovation, laying a solid foundation for the youth to address the chal-

lenges of the ever-changing world, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor asked the youth to follow the ideals of great visionary like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and contribute towards growth of the country and restructuring the society.

The Lt Governor congratulated the students, faculty members, and the school administration for celebrating their Annual-day on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami.

He appreciated the people associated with the school for their endeavours to provide better education to the children of

Mandal and the adjoining villages, and also praised the contribution of the locals in the establishment of the school.

Shri Hare Ram Dass ji Maharaj, while speaking on the occasion, expressed hope from the Lt Governor-led UT Government for bringing more prosperity and development in the UT of J&K.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Deewan Bansal; Gangadhar; Abhishek Upadhyay; Sukhdev and Ajay Sharma for their sustained efforts for the promotion of Vedic and organic agriculture, Sanskrit,

Sanatan Culture; social service and other fields.

The Lt Governor also planted a sapling of 'Moulsari' in the school premises to mark the day.

Earlier, the Lt Governor paid obeisance at Shiv Mandir, Mandal and performed special puja on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami.

The annual-day function commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana by the students and Bhajan by faculty members of the school.

Dev Raj Khajuria, Trustee of the School gave a detailed briefing about the functioning of the school and the support being extended to the children belonging to the marginal section of the society.

Ajay Sharma, Pracharya, Sant Hare Ram Dass School presented the vote of thanks. Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; former Legislators; PRI representatives; Religious heads, students & their parents and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.



Adopt multi-pronged approach to tackle unemployment, unemployability in J&K: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Strongly pleading for a focused approach towards tackling burgeoning unemployment, prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday called for a multi-pronged strategy to address the issues confronting the youth due to unemployment and unemployability.

Interacting with people during his visit to Mathwar block of the Nagrota Constituency, Rana said that J&K is plagued with the issue of unemployment since last two decades and so some out of box multi-pronged measures will have to be taken to address this issue.

He said the society as a whole is concerned about it and the J&K Government is also taking some steps to tackle the burgeoning problem but a well-crafted short term and long term strategy will have to be evolved to satiate the urges and aspirations of the youth.

"Though the administration seems to be alive to issues yet measures should be intensified in mitigating the problem of unemployment as well as unemployability", he said and stressed the need for stepping up efforts in generating jobs for the youth and intensifying recruitment process for filling up the vacancies across the



People welcoming prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana at Mathwar in Nagrota.

Union Territory.

He also stressed the need for undertaking special drives for recruitment in police and paramilitary forces in the remote and rural areas. He also urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to draw a roadmap to tackle the unemployment, saying the educated unemployed besides skilled and unskilled workforce are undergoing a difficult phase.

Responding to the issues raised by the people, especially by the youth, during the visit, the BJP leader said he has flagged almost all these points with the Government from time to time in recent months. There has surely been a positive forward movement with the administration taking concrete steps, he said and hoped that the issues will be examined for expeditious redressal by the concerned departments.

In this context, he also referred to demands and issues taken up with the

Lieutenant Governor recently which pertained to the regularization of daily wagers; expediting pending Class-IV recruitment, release of pending payments under MGNREGA; age relaxation issue of the aspirants of Combined Competitive Exams; besides joining issue of compilers and concerns of BSF/CISF, Border battalion, vocational trainers and Rehber-e-Khel.

He said the Lieutenant Governor is an experienced political executive with a positive, proactive approach and he has always been forthcoming for the welfare, wellbeing and upliftment of people of J&K.

Rana lauded the courage and fortitude of the people in meeting the challenges and expressed confidence that the administration will remain agile to respond to the concerns of the people and take proactive measures in ensuring various services, particularly in inaccessible and far-off areas.

Budget 2022 carves out global role for India: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that Budget 2022 carves out a vital global role for India and seeks to usher India @75 into India @100.

Addressing an academic interaction on Budget 2022-23, organised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and attended by noted economists, intellectuals, prominent leaders of trade and business community as well as other stakeholders, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he has had the opportunity of being present at all the ten budgets presented by the Modi Govt including the Vote on Account presented by Arun Jaitley soon after this government came in 2014 and he can say with confidence that there has been a consistency in approach coupled with conviction and courage, and these three "Cs" have been common underlying determinants in every budget, whereas each successive budget has carried India forward closer to assume a global role.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, if in the Nehruvian years soon after independence India was a closed economy, in 1990s it began to open but Prime Minister has turned it into a dynamic, responsive, forward looking economy and particularly after Covid, the whole world has accepted this fact and is looking up to India.

The world today is ready to



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing an interaction on Budget 2022-23, organised by BJP, at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on Saturday.

be led by us, said Dr Jitendra Singh, but the question is, are we ready to lead the world. And, Budget 2022 addresses this issue by seeking a leap forward for India through technology and innovation based economy which enriches itself by exploring India's unexplored potentials including the deep sea resources, he added.

PM Modi has given us a statesmanly budget which addresses the next generation and not the next election and that is why, the critics and some sections of media are confused because they were anticipating election sops, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

The future economy is going to be the economy of ideas and the economy of imaginative innovation, said Dr Jitendra Singh and added, the Budget 2022 reflects futuristic vision of the Government headed by Narendra Modi visible in every initiative, whether it be Drone

Shakti for StartUps, Kisan Drone 30% tax on virtual transfers, low carbon strategy etc.

To those who say there are no jobs accruing from the budget, Dr Jitendra Singh said, they are prisoners of government salary job.

Giving some examples, he said, increase in Capital Expenditure to Rs 7.2 lakh crore itself will generate atleast Rs 3 lakh crore jobs while construction of 45,000 km highways worth over Rs 130,000 crore will also generate jobs.

Dr Jitendra Singh cited example of StartUp Boatlab youngsters who had been supported by his Ministry to put up Light Show during recent Beating Retreat ceremony and said the drones developed by them are going to be taken by Industry and that too is a source of income, possibly more than Govt job.

He said in Jammu region

itself, the Ministries headed by him are supporting youth in Agriculture/Aroma and Dairy StartUps but unfortunately there is no awareness nor does the media report.

Referring to unexplored areas, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the allocation made in the union budget to Earth Sciences department was to the tune of Rs 2500 Cr that was in addition to 4000 crore already allocated to Deep Sea Mission. Elaborating further about unexplored potentials of the economy, he also made references to Deep Sea Mission and Space Missions to which the Government has given priority and that were neglected by previous governments.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Budget lays stress on chemical-free farming, sustainable start-ups startups, drone technology and various tech-based developments.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, a video of Shri Ram Chalisa, sung by Hira Lal Abrol, Chairman- Healthy India Stronger India (NGO) and video-graphed inside Shri Raghunath Temple Jammu was launched amid sacred chanting of Jai Shri Ram by guests at Raghunath temple in Jammu. The event started with Mata Saraswati Pujan, followed by launch of poster and CD of video by all special guests. Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust attended the ceremony virtually from Delhi and gave his blessings. In the first of its kind video, all shrines, sacred deities and cultural heritage of sanctified premises of Shri Raghunathji Temple have been showcased. Speaking on the occasion, Hira Lal Abrol shared his vision behind creation of the video that it was his ardent belief in Shri Ram which gave him motivation to



Padma Shri Dr Vishwamurti Shastri and other dignitaries releasing video album of Shri Ram Chalisa sung by Hira Lal Abrol.

sing the Chalisa.

On the occasion, Padma Shri Dr Vishwamurti Shastri was also honoured for his distinguished achievements in literature and Sanskrit.

Prominent among those present on the occasion as Special Guests included S P Varma President Gandhi Global Family, Ajay Gandotra President Dharmarth Trust, Kulbeer Handa SP Jammu City, Gopal Sharma Secretary Dharmarth Trust, Dr Shiv Prasad Raina Member

Dharmarth Trust, Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industries and his office bearers, Suresh Kumar Retired Judge, Satish Sharma Retired Income Tax Commissioner Jammu, Raj Dahija Editor-in-Chief STATE TIMES, Satpal Sharma President Yog Sansthan, Anil Sharma President Dharmic Yuvak Mandal, Baldev Khullar President Jammu Civil Society, Raman Suri President Sarafa Association,

Neeraj Anand President Federation of Industries, Anoop Aggarwal President Kanak Mandi Association, Bhubneshwar Gandotra President Heritage Society, Narayan Singh President Rajput Sabha, Raj Kumar Gupta President Gowshala, Romil Sharma Priest Bairon Mandir, Sanjay Gupta President Raghunath Bazar Business Association and General Secretary Amit Goel, Anil Kapahi Secretary Amar Singh Club Jammu, Maj Gen

S K Sharma Retired, Vijay Saraf, Sanjeev Prabhakar, Varinder Puri, Mohinder Gupta, Brij Mohan, Dr Ajeet Angral, Dalbeer Singh, Members of NGO-Darbar Singh Slathia, Subhash Abrol, Davinder Daluja, Neelam Daluja, Savita Abrol, Aakriti Abrol, Gourav Abrol, Kundan Lal Dogra, Ramneek Sharma and Gandeep Singh.

Pertinent to mention here that HISI is an NGO founded by its Chairman, Hira Lal Abrol, running a 'Free Training Centre' for skill development of needy and poor children from BPL families. The training center offers 3 months free courses in Computers' Basic; Cutting & Tailoring Classes; Beautician Course, Vocal Music, Dance besides providing free Library facility for students. Nearly 4000 students have passed out, after successful completion of courses from this center.

Jammu Bar condemns UT administration for withdrawing referred posts to PSC, SSB

Seeks withdrawal of decision forthwith

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu condemned the decision of the UT administration for withdrawing the posts referred to JKPSB and JKSSB prior to October 31, 2019.

Chairing a meeting here on Saturday, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Senior Advocate M.K Bhardwaj strongly condemned and expressed against the arbitrary and illegal withdrawal of posts referred to JKPSB and JKSSB.

Bhardwaj warned the government not to play with the career of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention here that there is already dearth of job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is quite shocking that this blunder would create further chaos among the youth as they will be deprived of their legitimate right of employment," he said adding that the youth is future architect and they are future of any nation but by depriving the youth of their



Jammu Bar President M.K Bhardwaj talking to reporters.

legitimate right of participation in the selection process has been said to be unconstitutional, improper, inappropriate action on part of the UT administration."

Bhardwaj further condemned the action of the UT administration whereby the selection process which is pending prior to October 31, 2019 have been declared to be withdrawn.

Whereas, as a matter of fact that number of litigations are also pending before the High Court/CAT wherein specific directions have been issued by the High Court time to time but this arbitrary and illegal order has superseded the powers of the High Court and with one stroke of pen the future

of the youth has been ruined by the government, he said.

Bhardwaj warned the UT administration to immediately withdraw the illegal and arbitrary order and fill up all the vacant posts for which the youth is striving hard.

The meeting was also attended by office bearers of the Association, namely M.P.Singh Palli (Vice President), Surjeet Singh Andotra (General Secretary), Aditya Sharma (Joint Secretary), Amandeep Singh (Treasurer), Rohit Sharma (YLA President), Gagandeep Singh Lucky (YLA Vice President) and Yaseer Farooq Khan (YLA General Secretary).

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The daily-wagers working as linemen in Power Development Department (PDD) have been risking their lives in Kashmir to ensure uninterrupted power supply and essential services to people, but it appears that PDD authorities have learnt no lesson from its follies that claimed lives of hundreds of daily wagers, besides leaving many others physically-disabled over past two decade.

Throughout the year, these casual labourers remain at risk of life, clinging to electric poles repairing damaged wires or rectifying snags in electric transformers in cities, towns, and villages. However, in absence of a compensation scheme for accident victims and lack of adequate safety gears, these casual labourers contin-

ue to suffer unheard and unnoticed. Showing highest degree of official apathy, thousands of PDD daily-wagers continue to work without any safety gear thereby risking their lives to keep power infrastructure intact in the UT.

Three PDD employees received an electric shock while repairing a service line in Rawalpura area early on Friday morning. The trio, identified as Nazir Ahmad, Tariq Ahmad and Ghulam Muhammad, was immediately rushed to SMHS hospital for treatment. Earlier on January 5, one Shabir Ahmad Dar got grievously injured after falling from an electricity pole in his native village Bogund of Kulgam district. It was 4th such incident in South Kashmir during January 2022 as just two days back another daily wager, Javaid Ahmad

Despite serving on frontline, PDD daily-wagers facing risk of life

Sofi of Nowgam in Awantipora sustained injuries after falling from an electric pole in Khandaypora Panzgam village of Awantipora in Pulwama district. "In past decade, we lost about 68 of our men - who were electrocuted to death while 280 others became handicapped for life," said President of Anantnag Daily-Wagers Electrical Employees Union.

In December 2021, one Salwat Bashir of Kokernag, a PDD daily-wager lost his life while repairing a high voltage line in Lisser-Kokernag, leaving behind wife, and two daughters, aged 12 and 6 months. More importantly, the victims were denied 'adequate' compensation or relief by the department as all initiatives to provide insurance cover to them failed to see light of the day till date. The daily-wagers also lamented that

their services are not regularised even after decades of service. The irony is that there is no provision with the department to extend even nominal financial help to families of victims.

More than 400 casual labourers of PDD have died due to electrocution in J&K so far, revealed the official data. "On an average, three casual labourers die every month due to electrocution while repairing faults or carrying repair and maintenance of infrastructure," said a senior official, contradicting claims of daily wagers that some workers had been provided necessary safety equipment, but they did not carry their safety kits while rectifying technical snags and repairing electricity lines. The official held non-adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) as major reason for rise in mishaps.