

Earlier governments deliberately neglected remote areas of Jammu region: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday that the earlier governments had deliberately neglected remote areas of the Jammu region because of vote bank considerations.

He said, the elected representatives of these parties never wanted education or awareness to reach the people in remote areas so that, election after election, the people's ignorance could be exploited to secure their vote.

Addressing a public meeting in this remote hilly area under snowfall conditions, Dr Jitendra said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi changed this self-centred culture to reach out to those who were needy, regardless of whichever party they had voted for.

He said, some day, analysts will seek an answer as to why all the development that happened in remote Machhedhi and Bani area in the last 10 years, could not happen in the earlier six decades.

On the occasion, he announced Rs 20 lakh for Machhedhi out of which Rs 10 lakh had already been allocated for a Community Hall.

When Modi took over as Prime



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at a public meeting in remote Machhedhi area of Bani in district Kathua, on Saturday.

Minister in 2014, the entire country was reeling under the shadow of pessimism and the common citizen had lost all hope.

Today, even people living in remote areas like here feel confident that their elected representatives sincerely care for them and are constantly working hard to get new projects for them, said Dr Jitendra. This change has been possible because we have the Modi government at the Centre, he added. Referring to the massive developments seen in the far flung

hilly regions like Machhedhi and Bani, Dr Jitendra said, Modi had promised that he would raise the neglected and peripheral regions of the country to the same equal level as the more developed regions and he has succeeded in doing so.

He said, Bani which was one of the most inaccessible regions in the Jammu division, had in the last 10 years received a network of roads through Central funds and new Highways are under construction.

Accusing the earlier governments of

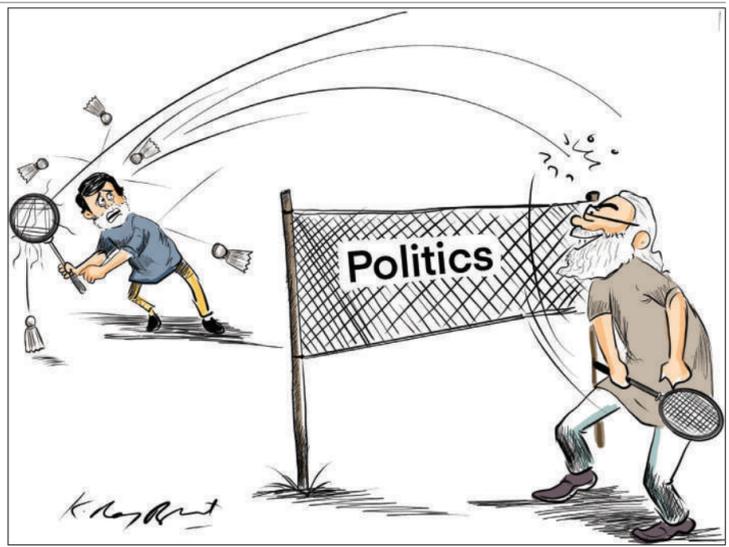
deliberately neglecting the far flung hilly regions, Dr Jitendra said, perhaps the motive was that the people living in these remote areas should remain perpetually deprived of the opportunities unfolding in the rest of the world so that their ignorance could be exploited to extract their votes, election after election.

"Modi Government also provided level playing field to the aspirations of youth from even the remotest area in Jammu and Kashmir", said Dr. Singh.

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh Chhatargala Tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity from Lakhampur through Bani to Bhadarwah which will lead to ease of travel, generate, employment opportunities and harness tourist potential of the region.

Maximum allocation under PMGSY in done in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda to improve road connectivity to villages said Dr. Singh.

"Bani region has location as scenic as Kashmir valley, my aim is to bring in on tourist map of India by increasing road connectivity of the region", the Minister said.



IIM Jammu's HULT Prize 2024 ushers in a new wave of Global Innovation and Collaboration



IIM Jammu faculty and students at HULT Prize event on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM) Jammu hosted HULT Prize event on Saturday, ushering in a new wave of global innovation and collaboration to address pressing global challenges.

This prestigious event witnessed the convergence of 82 teams in Round 1, with 15 teams advancing to present their groundbreaking ideas to the panel of judges in the finale round.

Gurulingappa Koppa-Project Director at Nature Conservancy, Cherryn Dogra-Chief Marketing Officer at Bharti Real Estate, and Dr. Ajeet

Sharma - Assistant Professor at IIT Jammu, provided guidance throughout the event.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu said, "The HULT Prize event at IIM Jammu signifies our commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration on a global scale. It's inspiring to see young minds come together to address pressing challenges and drive positive change."

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, said, "The HULT Prize event serves as a platform for students to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills. It's a testament to the potential of

youth to make a meaningful impact on society."

Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Chairperson of the International Relations Committee in his welcome address mentioned, "The HULT Prize event underscores the importance of global cooperation in addressing complex issues. It's heartening to witness the dedication of participants in finding innovative solutions for a better world."

Following the captivating presentations and intense deliberations, Dr. Somu Gorai, Co-Chair of the International Relations Committee, delivered a vote of thanks.

Guru Ravidas Jayanti celebrated with religious fervour

Bhalla asks people to follow path shown by great Guru for humanity and equality

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 647th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Maharaj was celebrated at Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Krishna Nagar Jammu under the chairmanship of Piran Ditta President All J&K Guru Ravidas Sabha (Regd) HQ, Krishna Nagar, here.

Raman Bhalla, Ex Minister and Working President JKPCC was Chief Guest and BR Kundal Ex. Minister was Guest of Honour. Besides Neeraj Kundan CWC Member and NSUI former President, Rajesh Wazir General Secretary and President Hotel Association BJP Minority Cell Chairman Ranjot Singh Nalwa, and



Working President JKPCC, Raman Bhalla and others paying obeisance at Guru Ravidas Temple.

Latish Sharma were also present.

Both leaders also paid floral tribute to Guru ji and stressed need of unity and brotherhood. Several leaders of the political parties and social organisations paid visit to the Temple and also attended the function.

Earlier Sangat from all

parts of Jammu Province started reaching Gurudwara Krishna Nagar from early morning to seek the blessings of Guru Sahib, along with families.

Gurudwara Bhawan was highly decorated by Sabha and Bhajan Kirtan started continuously.

Dharmic Dewan and

Shardhanjali samaroh started at 11 AM with large number of devotees attending the function.

Children presented cultural programmes and vow to Guru ji with their beautiful dances and Bhajans which was highly admired by sangat.

Bhalla, while greeting the people on this occasion, recalled the teachings of great Guru and asked people to follow the path shown by the great Guru for the humanity and equality.

He said the teachings of Guru Ravi Dass ji are most relevant even today.

The message of Guru regarding love, peace, equality and respect to all should be followed by every human being. Raj Kumar Raja, Dr. Raj Pal Hans, Mulkh Raj, Romesh Hans, Darshan Rana, Deepak Bangotra, Banarsi Dass Digra, Joginder, Digra, Chaman Lal, Om Parkash, Krishan Sangral President Kunder Colony and Sham Sunder Basson were also present.

Swift settlement of insurance claims relieves families of J&K Bank customers



Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar displaying symbolic cheque of Rs 3.60 Cr.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major relief to the affected families, J&K Bank facilitated quick settlement of MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) insurance claims of its deceased borrowers who had their accounts in different branches of the Bank's Rajouri Zone. Since last few months, the claims worth Rs 3.60 Crores were paid to the family members of the deceased customers.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar displayed the symbolic cheque worth Rs 3.60 Cr

handed over to the nominees/legal heirs of the deceased customers with the Regional Manager (Credit Life - PNB MetLife) Nisar Ahmad in presence of Branch Heads and other officials of PNB MetLife. Expressing gratitude to the Bank and its insurance partner PNB MetLife, the recipients described settlement of claims as a big relief for the kith and kin of the deceased.

"We are very thankful to the Bank for covering these loans under insurance. We are also grateful

for the timely settlement of the claims, which has relieved our families of such huge financial burdens", they said.

Speaking on the occasion, officials from the Bank and the insurance company highlighted the significance of getting loans insured. "With a single-premium option alongside the bank finance available for the customers, the families of borrowers can be safeguarded in case of such unforeseen eventualities", the Zonal Head said, adding that the Bank shall continue to educate people about the benefits of getting their loans insured for the financial protection of their own families.

Representing PNB MetLife, Nisar Ahmad Khan reminded the customers of the goodwill of J&K Bank, which always advises its clients to get their loans insured so that their loved ones are taken care of in case of such unforeseeable eventualities.

Justice Tashi inaugurates orientation prog for Legal Aid Defence Counsels

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, on Saturday inaugurated a one day orientation programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.

Being organised by J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with J&K Judicial Academy, the event was inaugurated in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy. Besides, Yash Paul Bournay, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Rajinder Saproo, Registrar Rules, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Prem Sagar, Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee who were the resource persons for the event.

Delivering the inaugural



Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, HC of J&K and Ladakh speaking at orientation programme.

address, Justice Tashi emphasized the importance of the programme in training and equipping Legal Aid Defence Counsels with the necessary skills and qualities to provide enhanced quality legal services. He stressed the need for an effective workforce committed towards ensuring the best interests of underprivileged and marginalized.

Justice Tashi highlighted the importance of professional legal aid services and the need for effective monitoring and accessibility saying that these programs contribute significantly towards promoting justice, ensuring fair trials, and upholding the

principles of legal aid and representation.

In his Special address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar underscored the primary aim of the Legal Services Authority to provide access to justice for all sections of society. He commended the Public Defender system in the United States and Argentina, citing their infrastructure and work as examples to emulate.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar explained that the Legal Aid Defence Counsel provides legal representation to individuals who cannot afford to hire private attorneys. He gave thrust on the systems' effectiveness in ensuring that

everyone, right up to the most vulnerable members of society, receives competent legal representation. He urged upon the LADCs to work with zeal and full dedication to defend the poor and marginalized and strive to be good defenders, highlighting that contentment in their duty would compensate for their work.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Yash Paul Bournay, gave an overview of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel Scheme. He highlighted some of the perceived advantages of the LADC vis-à-vis the Assigned Counsel System. He highlighted that the objectives of the LADC

system are to provide qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to eligible persons and to manage and implement a legal aid system professionally in criminal matters.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, proposed the vote of thanks and also conducted the proceedings of the day-long programme.

The inaugural session was followed by interactive sessions during which the participants deliberated and discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily settled by the resource persons who successfully engaged the LADCs and emphasized their potential to make a positive impact through free legal aid.

The Resource persons also highlighted that the Orientation Programme is poised to empower LADCs with the knowledge, skills, and techniques essential for effective legal aid advocacy.

Apni Party represents politics of truth, transparency: Bukhari

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday reiterated that Apni Party represents politics of truth and transparency, and hoped the people will bring the party to the power in the upcoming assembly elections.

Talking to reporters at Chanapora Srinagar, Bukhari said, Apni Party came into existence at a time when there was absolute darkness on political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the aim of Apni Party is to carry out politics of truth and transparency

and make people aware of the deceit they got from traditional political parties during the past seven decades.

"The traditional political parties carried politics of deceit for the past 70 years and cheated innocent people on unachievable slogans. But on the contrary, Apni Party has come out with a politics of truth and transparency. We will talk on those issues which can be achievable," Bukhari said.

He sought people's cooperation in the upcoming elections, both Parliamentary and Assembly, and hoped the Apni Party will form the

next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

To a query, Bukhari said Apni Party will field its candidates from all Parliamentary constituencies and added, "Once Election Commission of India (ECI) will finish its J&K visit, the party will make list of candidates public".

He also hoped that Parliamentary and Assembly elections in J&K may take place simultaneously.

"I don't know who will support to whom, but it is apparent that Altaf Bukhari will contest election from Chanapora constituency", he added.

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with NGOs, and Aryans Group of Colleges, organised a seminar titled "Koshish." A Seminar on: Substance Abuse, Problem in School, Role of Teachers and Counselors at the ADR Centre, District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The event witnessed a convergence of esteemed dignitaries, representatives from various sectors, media personnel, influencers, and passionate volunteers.

The seminar was attended by Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ), Srinagar, Rajiv Omprakash Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir, Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, members of print and electronic media, influencers, staff and para-legal volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, vol-



unteers of Kashmir Concern and White Globe.

Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ), Srinagar, underscored the indispensable role of the judiciary in addressing the complexities of substance abuse within the framework of law and justice. He also stressed upon building adequate infrastructure for dealing with the challenges of substance abuse. He explained the legal consequences that individuals face if they engage in drug-related activities, including severe penalties such as imprisonment and fines in place to deter drug trafficking and possession and the consequences of violating these

laws. He also highlighted the legal remedies available to victims of drug abuse and their families.

The DLSA Chairman urged school teachers and parents to play their role in curbing the drug menace. He said that if the teacher plays a role like a guide and friend, then the child can get out of this trap as most of the children want to be alone at home and they do not want to talk to anybody and in that case teacher will help the child.

Rajiv Om Prakash Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir, emphasized the crucial role of law enforcement agencies, outlining strategies for effective intervention and enforce-

ment. He highlighted the importance of media in amplifying the message and building a drug free society.

"Kindly take this message from J&K Police, from the DLSA and the Civil Society of J&K to the people that those who get trapped in drug abuse tell them to say no even to 'first try'... Never ever go for the 'first try', because it is a trap."

"If you do so, you are going to get trapped into this and this (trap) will lead you towards a very dangerous kind of end to your life," Pande said while urging the media to take this message to the people.

Reiterating, Pande said, "Don't simply go for even try on the persuasion of your friends on any other relative, regarding any synthetic drug or any other drug, kindly refrain from any such act. Tahir Magray, Revenue Officer to Divisional Commissioner, stressed

insightful perspectives on the vital contributions of administration department and various initiatives for fostering a supportive environment for prevention and rehabilitation.

Other speakers emphasized the devastating impact of drug abuse on individuals, families, and communities. They highlighted the alarming rise in drug addiction among youth and the urgent need for collective action to address this crisis.

They encouraged participants to actively participate in these efforts, such as awareness campaigns, counseling services, and rehabilitation programs, to create a supportive network for students struggling with substance. During the seminar experts stressed the imperative of collaborative efforts among NGOs and stakeholders to address the root causes of substance abuse and provide comprehensive support to affected individuals.