

LG presents J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Rajya Puraskar Certificates

Through youth we can ignite flame of transformation: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at Rajya Puraskar Ceremony of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides at Convention Centre, on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Rajya Puraskar Ceremony of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides at Convention Centre, on Thursday. The Lieutenant Governor presented J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Rajya Puraskar Certificates to Scouts & Guides, Rovers and Rangers and extended his felicitations to all the recipients. He said these certificates are recognition of their dedication, selfless service, hard work, and discipline. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the exemplary contribution of everyone associated with the Bharat Scouts and Guides movement towards community services and nation building. "J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides is on the mission to ensure that service to others is a

motto of society before the self. With this vision J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides are doing commendable work in fostering the spirit of national integration and working selflessly for betterment of society," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor called upon the Scouts & Guides to act as the 'Agents of Change' at the grassroots level and inspire the youth to dedicate themselves towards constructive transformation of the society and the nation. "Youth is the only power that we have today to develop a progressive society and a prosperous nation. Through youth we can ignite the flame of transformation. It is important to task Scouts and Guides to tackle socio-economic challenges because they have the potential to provide

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innovative solutions," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor further asked the J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides to create awareness among the people on various socio-economic issues and also work towards preservation and protection of natural resources and environment. "I want J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides to create a network of youth leaders in different sectors, connect the youth with the cultural heritage and traditions, and build a dedicated team of Scouts and Guides who lead the fight against drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor, also the Chief Patron of Jammu & Kashmir Bharat Scouts & Guides, reiterated his commitment to facilitate the smooth operations of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides. Along with the Annual Grant-in-

Aid, whatever kind of support and financial help they require will definitely be provided, he said. He also assured every possible support from the government for the smooth conduct of upcoming National Integration Camp. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the Scout Masters and Guide Captains. Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services and Sports; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Wg. Cdr MM Joshi, National Commissioner, Bharat Scouts & Guides; Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; Administrators, Guide Captains, Instructors, Principals, teachers & students from various schools were present.



Dr Jitendra addresses 'Pension Adalat', reiterates dignity for senior citizens

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a humane and citizen-centric administration, emphasizing the government's ongoing commitment to ensure dignity, ease of living, and financial security for senior citizens. Addressing the 12th "Pension Adalat,"



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking during the 12th "Pension Adalat" at IIPA, New Delhi on Thursday.

Dr. Singh highlighted that the initiative has significantly expedited the grievance redressal process and reinforced the government's focus on pensioners as active contributors to society. "Pensioners no longer have to struggle with bureaucratic delays or wait decades for justice," he said, pointing out that the government is working to make their lives hassle-free through policy reforms and digital interventions. Since its inception in 2017, Pension Adalats have addressed 25,416 cases across 12 sessions, with 18,157 cases successfully resolved. In today's 12th session, 192 cases were taken up by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), with 151 cases resolved on the spot,

demonstrating the efficiency of the initiative. Dr. Singh shared several success stories, illustrating how Pension Adalats have provided long-overdue relief to pensioners. One such case was of Dr. Arvind Kumar, a retired Associate Professor from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, who was denied leave encashment. With his medical bills mounting due to prostate cancer, Dr. Kumar filed a grievance on the CPENGRAMS portal. The Adalat resolved the case swiftly, releasing Rs 26.75 lakh for his treatment. Similarly, Anita Kanik Rani, who had been denied her family pension for 20 years due to a succession certificate dispute, received Rs 22 lakh in arrears,

thanks to the timely intervention of the Pension Adalat. Dr. Singh also highlighted the government's digital reforms, including the introduction of face authentication for digital life certificates, which eliminates the need for pensioners to visit offices physically. These initiatives, he said, reflect the government's commitment to not only ensuring financial security for pensioners but also recognizing their continued role in society. Dr. Singh reaffirmed that the government's pension policies are aimed at upholding the dignity of retired employees, promoting financial stability, and fostering a transparent, efficient, and citizen-centered governance model.

J&K Bank shines at MSME Banking Excellence Awards

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In recognition for its leadership in MSME awareness and empowerment Initiatives, J&K Bank has been honoured with two prestigious awards at the MSME Banking Excellence Awards-2024. The Bank was adjudged as the winner in the category of Best Bank for Creating Awareness among MSMEs (Private Sector) and secured the position of Runner-Up in Best MSME Bank (Private Sector). During a high-profile event organized by the Chamber of Indian Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (CIMSME) in New Delhi, Union Minister of State (Finance) Pankaj Chaudhary presented the



Union MoS Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary presenting awards to the J&K Bank's Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta and Zonal Head (Delhi) Suresh Kumar Chowdhary.

awards to the Bank's Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta and Zonal Head (Delhi) Suresh Kumar Chowdhary in the presence of President (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta and other dignitaries. Commenting upon the achievement, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said,

"We are deeply honoured to receive these prestigious awards from CIMSME that reaffirm our commitment to fostering financial awareness and supporting the growth of MSMEs, which are the backbone of country's economy." "At J&K Bank, we continue to strengthen our

MSME-focused initiatives to empower businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. This recognition motivates us to further

enhance our services, deepen our engagement with the MSMEs and we remain committed to addressing their unique challenges through accessible banking solutions and robust outreach programs", he added. Notably, the Bank has consistently played a pivotal role in enabling MSME growth through its specialized financial solutions and awareness programs, contributing significantly to the economic upliftment of people besides job creation particularly in its core operational geographies.

Dy CM asks to expedite implementation of schemes aiming infrastructural dev of Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary held a review meeting to expedite the implementation of various development schemes aimed at upgrading the basic infrastructure of Jammu district. The goal is to transform Jammu into one of the most developed cities in the country, equipped with all essential and modern amenities. The meeting was attended by Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, District Development Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaisya, and several legislators and district leaders. During the meeting, Choudhary emphasized the need for active involvement of elected representatives in the formulation, monitoring, and implementation of development schemes. He urged officers to ensure quick responses to issues raised by these representatives, underscoring the



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary chairing a meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

importance of maintaining the sanctity of democratic institutions. "We must involve grassroots people at every level of governance, ensuring that their concerns are addressed and developmental initiatives align with local needs," he said. Choudhary directed officers to expedite ongoing initiatives, ensuring they are completed within the stipulated time frame. He also stressed the importance of coordination between public representatives and executing agencies to speed up implementation. "This collaboration will not only ensure efficient execution but will also

make development efforts more inclusive and broad-based," he noted. Choudhary called for collective efforts to make the region one of the most preferred destinations in India. He urged all stakeholders to consolidate efforts to further the government's developmental agenda and make Jammu a model of progress. The DC provided a detailed overview of ongoing initiatives, reporting that Jammu district has an approved outlay of Rs 127.76 crore under CAPEX, with 3891 works undertaken, of which 2261 have been completed under the UT component. Similarly, 3646

works have been initiated under the district CAPEX budget, and 2046 have been successfully completed. The meeting also noted that under MGNREGA, 99.44 percent of the labor budget has been spent, with 86,000 job cards issued and 14,737 works undertaken, 3931 of which have been completed. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Jammu has a completion rate of 99.59 percent, with Rs 12.04 crore spent out of Rs 12.09 crore allocated. The SBM has seen the initiation of 48 sanitary complexes, with 18 completed, while 222 communi-

ty compost pits are being developed, 74 of which have been finished. In terms of water supply, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 283 water supply schemes have been initiated, with 78 completed and 177 nearing completion. Additionally, 121,781 households have been connected to tap water, representing 70 percent of the target. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 828.89 km of road has been completed, connecting all 98 sanctioned habitations. The legislators raised issues related to various sectors requesting the immediate redressal of concerns.

IGGDC Jammu gets permission for MDS course in Public Health Dentistry

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development for dental education in the region, the Central Government, IGGDC Jammu, has received official permission to commence a Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) course in the specialty of Public Health Dentistry. This is the eighth subject in which the Central Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu is going to start Post Graduation, out of total nine existing departments, in the college. According to sources, the approval has been granted by the Central Government for the academic session

2025-26, marking the introduction of the eighth postgraduate subject at the institution. As per the official communication from the Central Government, IGGDC Jammu has been sanctioned an initial intake of three seats for this new specialty. The permission has been granted under Section 10(A) of the Dentists Act, 1948, and is initially valid for one year. The renewal of permission will be subject to an annual review, ensuring that the college meets the stipulated expansion targets and maintains the required standards. The renewal process will continue until the institution successfully

completes the enhancement of its infrastructure and resources. The government has also issued a caution regarding adherence to the prescribed guidelines. Any admissions made in violation of the stipulated conditions will be deemed irregular, and necessary action will be taken under the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948, and related regulations. Sources said, IGGDC Jammu's new MDS program in Public Health Dentistry is expected to enhance dental healthcare education in the region, creating more opportunities for postgraduate aspirants and strengthening public oral health services.

Overloaded matadors in Jammu: Growing threat to public safety, traffic management

Public transport in Jammu is becoming increasingly dangerous due to overloaded matadors, which are leading to frequent traffic jams and accidents. Despite having traffic monitoring systems, including cameras and personnel on the roads, violations continue unchecked. Citizens and community leaders are raising serious concerns over the issue, urging the authorities to take immediate action before the situation worsens.



R.C. Bali, President of the Janipur Market Association, has strongly criticized the overloading of matadors. He stated that this is one of the primary reasons for traffic congestion and accidents in the city. According to him, if authorities conduct proper checks, they can control the issue. He also appealed to passengers to avoid traveling in overloaded matadors, as doing so puts their lives at risk.



Rajesh Kesari, President Shiv Sena Hindustan, highlighted that there are clear rules regarding the number of passengers allowed in matadors, but operators are constantly violating these regulations. He pointed out that the situation is even worse in rural areas, where people are often seen hanging dangerously from the back of matadors due to a lack of available transport options. This not only endangers their lives but also increases the chances of road accidents, he says.



Sardar Amreek Singh expressed frustration over the lack of strict enforcement by the authorities. He said that even though the traffic system has improved with the installation of CCTV cameras and the presence of traffic police on roads, matador drivers still violate the rules openly. He questioned why authorities remain silent despite clear evidence of violations happening daily.



Vicky Kumar also raised concerns over the reckless behavior of matador drivers. He mentioned that these vehicles do not follow designated stops and operate at their own convenience, causing chaos on the roads. He urged authorities to ensure that matadors follow proper routes and stop only at authorized locations to maintain smooth traffic flow.



Satpal Hindu emphasized that overloading and overspeeding by matadors are leading to serious road accidents and heavy traffic congestion. He pointed out that instead of controlling passenger limits and enforcing speed regulations, authorities seem to be ignoring the problem. He requested the administration to take immediate steps to regulate public transport and ensure strict penalties for violators.