

Govt to provide free water tanker service to water deficit areas: Jal Shakti Minister

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a move to address water scarcity and ensure access to clean drinking water in Jammu city, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday announced free water tanker service to the water deficit areas.

This was revealed during a high level review meeting chaired by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Besides the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Department, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairman Jammu Development Authority, Director Tribal Affairs, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Jammu and other senior officers.

"We will provide free of cost water tankers to those areas which are facing water shortage. The leftover areas would also be covered soon under Jal Jeevan Mission or any other water supply scheme," he said, highlighting the situation



Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

ation faced by people due to inadequate water supply. He said that this initiative aims to support vulnerable communities, especially during times of water shortage.

The Minister instructed the officers to visit the areas witnessing water shortage so that water supply plans are formulated accordingly. He also called for incorporating certain measures to streamline and keep the online portal user friendly for common man.

Expressing concern over slow pace of progress on water supply schemes under AMRUT in Jammu division, the Minister called for immediate preparation of pending

DPRs and subsequent approval by the HUDD.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding progress on Jal Jeevan Mission in Poonch district.

The Minister sought details about the plans to be undertaken to ensure adequate water supply in view of continuing dry spell. He also called for inauguration of those schemes which are complete as per DPR saying that they should be dedicated to the public as soon as possible.

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, informed that five schemes each in Mendhar, Surankote and Haveli constituencies will be completed

in next 10 days for inauguration.

Javed Rana also reviewed progress on ongoing development works in Poonch district under CAPEX. He encouraged the officers to work in a mission mode so that all the pending works are completed within shortest possible time.

It was given out in the meeting that out of total 3151, 1878 works have been completed in Poonch under CAPEX.

Regarding delays in execution of developmental works, the Minister asked for expediting works being executed under all schemes, especially in the CSS in Poonch.

Highlighting the plight of those affected by snow storm in the year 2005 at Waltengoo in district Kulgam, Javed Rana impressed upon the administration to make efforts for rehabilitating the victims by establishing a model colony with all requisite facilities for the residents.

During the meeting, focused discussions were also held on construction of Tribal Bhawan in Jammu.

Javed Rana, who also holds the Tribal Affairs portfolio, asked the concerned officers to identify the land for construction of Tribal Bhawan in Jammu. He also assessed implementation of Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), a flagship program aimed at holistic development of tribal villages. He underscored the importance of focusing on critical areas such as education, healthcare, housing and infrastructure to achieve the program's objectives.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on subject-specific teachers under SMAGRA.

Commissioner JMC launches Garbage Hotspot Challenge ahead of Swachh Survekshan 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, on Sunday undertook an extensive tour of various wards under JMC's jurisdiction to assess sanitation measures and ensure cleanliness across the city.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav directed municipal officers to expedite the removal of accumulated garbage, stressing the need for prompt and efficient waste disposal. Expressing concern over improper waste disposal by certain hotels and restaurants in Greater Kailash, he instructed authorities to impose fines of up to ₹50,000 on establishments found dumping garbage into drains.

The Commissioner also visited several localities, including Ganyal, Digiana, Dashmesh Nagar, Kunjwani, Channi Himmat, Deeli, Narwal, Janipur, and Paloura Top, where he interacted with sanitation work-



JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav interacting with officials.

ers and officials. In view of the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2025, he emphasized the importance of maintaining high sanitation standards and instructed staff to work in double shifts to ensure comprehensive cleanliness.

Dr. Yadav urged residents to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness in their respective wards and support JMC's efforts in making Jammu a cleaner and healthier city. He also announced that citizens can report garbage hotspots in their areas, and JMC will

ensure their removal within 24 hours.

To facilitate this, JMC has introduced a dedicated helpline number and an online portal for easy reporting. "Citizens can lodge complaints regarding garbage hotspots in their wards on www.myjammu.in or through the My Jammu Android app," he said, adding that within 24 hours of an online complaint, JMC will clean the reported garbage hotspot and engage Swachhata volunteers to prevent further dumping at the site.

Martand Singh hails inclusion of Dogri Language in Parliament

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Martand Singh, the great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, has warmly welcomed the decision of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to extend translation services in Parliament to six additional languages, including Dogri. Hailing this move as a historic step towards linguistic inclusivity, Martand Singh emphasized that the inclusion of Dogri in parliamentary proceedings is a matter of immense pride for the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Dogras worldwide. He stated, "This recognition of Dogri at the national level strengthens our cultural heritage and ensures that the voice of Dogras is heard in the highest democratic institution of the country." Notably, Lok Sabha



Speaker Om Birla has recently announced the extension of translation services to six more languages- Dogri, Bodo, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit, and Urdu. Until now, translation services were available in ten regional languages- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, and Telugu-along with Hindi and English. Martand Singh fur-

ther highlighted that Dogri, one of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, has a rich literary and cultural legacy. "This decision will encourage greater representation of Dogri-speaking parliamentarians and foster a deeper connection with our heritage," he added. He also expressed gratitude to the Central Government for recognizing the linguistic diversity of the country and reaffirmed his commitment to promoting and preserving the legacy of the Dogras. "This decision marks another significant milestone in acknowledging the cultural identity of Jammu & Kashmir and reflects the government's continued efforts to strengthen regional languages in national discourse," he added.

Shiv Sena demands to expel illegal Bangladeshis, Rohingyas from country Expresses grief over Delhi stampede accident

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir has strongly criticized the US for repeating its humiliating behavior on the return of illegal immigrants and has also demanded immediate strict action to expel illegal Bangladeshis and Rohingya Muslims from our country.

While briefing the media at party centre office state chief Manish Sahni strongly criticized the continuation of the humiliating behavior by the US for removing illegal immigrants. Yesterday, 116 Indians, including residents of Jammu and Kashmir, were once again sent back to the country in military planes and shack-



Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir raising slogans during a protest.

les, which is highly condemnable.

Sahni has demanded the Modi government at the Center to take strict cognizance of the insult and summon the US ambassador and register strong

protest and stop the humiliating behavior. Although this time the women and children were kept free from shackles.

Sahni has demanded from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate

and strict steps to throw out illegal Bangladeshis, Rohingyas Muslims from Jammu & Kashmir and across the country, including former President of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Pakistani woman Seema Haider, who are camping in the country.

Earlier, on 5 February, 104 Indians were brought to Amritsar from America in US Air Force plane Globemaster. They had handcuffs on their hands and chains on their feet. Sahni said that today i.e. on 16 February also, third plane is reaching India from America late tonight.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has expressed deep grief over

the stampede incident (in which 18 people died) at Delhi railway station late last night. Sahni said that questions were constantly being raised about the mismanagement at railway stations and trains to deal with the huge crowd of people going to Maha Kumbh, the stampede incident in Delhi is a painful picture that speaks volumes about the continuing chaos.

Eyewitnesses of the accident have also accused the railway and police administration of flaws in the system. Sahni has demanded a thorough investigation and strict action against the accused.

Along with this, he has also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

AJKSCC to start maiden Sikh Cricket Premier League today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee (AJKSCC), under the leadership of its Chairman, Ajit Singh, in collaboration with the Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club Jammu, announced the start of the first-edition of T20 Sikh Cricket Premier League (SCPL).

"The landmark event will commence on 17th February 2025 at the University of Jammu, with the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir graciously consenting to inaugurate the event at 10:30 AM," Ajit Singh said in a press conference here on Sunday.

Besides, senior officers of the civil and police adminis-



AJKSCC Chairman, Ajit Singh addressing a press conference.

tration shall grace the occasion along with prominent community members and religious leaders.

"The SCPL is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering a spirit of sportsmanship, promoting healthy lifestyles, and rais-

ing awareness about critical societal issues such as drug addiction among the youth. By providing a platform for youth to showcase their talent and engage in constructive activities, the league seeks to strengthen community bonds and

inspire the next generation to contribute positively to society," Ajit Singh said adding that the SCPL is not merely a sporting event but a cultural and social initiative that reflects the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee's unwavering commitment to holistic community development.

By emphasizing the values of unity, discipline, and collective effort, he said, the league aims to address challenges and build a brighter future for the Sikh community in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

Through innovative programs like the SCPL, the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee continues to play a pivotal role in empowering the Sikh community, preserving its rich

heritage, and fostering a sense of pride and responsibility among its youth.

The league is a testament to the committee's dedication to creating opportunities for young Sikhs to excel both on and off the field.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee said, "The Sikh Cricket Premier League is a historic step towards nurturing talent, promoting healthy competition, and addressing critical issues facing our youth. We are grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for his support and to the Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club for their collaboration. Together, we aim to inspire the next generation to embrace sportsmanship, unity, and community service."

Pertinently, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee is a leading umbrella organization dedicated to the welfare and development of the Sikh community in Jammu & Kashmir.

Through various initiatives, the committee strives to preserve Sikh heritage, promote education, and empower youth to become responsible and active members of society.

CEPC showcases Indian handmade carpets at Bharat Tex 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) proudly participated in Bharat Tex 2025, a global textile mega event held from 14-17 February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. With more than 70 member exporters, CEPC exhibited a diverse range of carpets and floor coverings in Hall 1A, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship of Indian artisans. Apart from CEPC's participation, several carpet exporters also showcased their products independently in the same hall, reinforcing India's leadership in the global handmade carpet industry.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, and Minister of State for Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, in the esteemed presence of senior officials, including Neelima Shah, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles; Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Shubhira, Trade Advisor; Ministry of Textiles; Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles; and Chairmen and Executive Directors of various Textiles



Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh interacting with participating CEPC members.

Export Promotion Councils.

CEPC set up an exclusive Theme Pavilion in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IIC), Bhadohi, showcasing a live weaving demonstration. This initiative attracted significant attention, allowing visitors to witness firsthand the intricate artistry and skill of Indian carpet weavers.

On the second day of the event, Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, visited the Carpet and Floor Covering Hall, engaging with exhibitors and appreciating their efforts.

The Minister was particularly pleased with the exhibitors' enthusiasm and the impressive display of handmade carpets featuring a wide range of innovative designs and new collections.

Exhibitors expressed their satisfaction with the platform provided by Bharat Tex 2025, which facilitated strong networking opportunities and business prospects with international buyers.

The event successfully reinforced India's position as a global hub for handmade carpets and floor coverings.

A moment of pride for the entire industry, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, formally inaugurated the event on Sunday, further emphasizing the Government's commitment to promoting India's textile and handicraft sectors on the global stage.

CEPC remains committed to supporting its members and promoting Indian handmade carpets worldwide through such prestigious platforms.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba'



Natrang artists performing in a play.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang presented Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba' here on Sunday under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'.

The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and directed by Neeraj Kant. Coated with humor, the play presented some debatable issues which are faced by many theatre groups because of lack of commitment of a few artists which spoil the whole performance. But still it was more inclined towards comedy than being didactic.

The play opens at the home of one 'Anokhe Lal'

who has converted it as rehearsal space as he is the director of the play which is scheduled to be staged within a few days.

The drama erupts as the play proceeds as it appears that no one is serious in doing rehearsal other than the director. The artists who used to plead for a single entry in the play have turned pricy now and come up with different excuses to skip rehearsals. At the top of it, the newly appointed servant adds to the confusion as he comes up with a new problem every time he enters the room. 'Anokhe Lal' was very much worried

about the performance of the play as nothing was going right, actors were forgetting the lines, people were coming late in the rehearsal and on the top of it, the tickets of the show have already been sold.

The ultimate crisis occur when the director comes to know that the actor who was doing the role of father of hero is not doing the play as he has to go out of station for some personal work. Shattered by this untoward news, he decides to prepare his newly appointed servant to do the character of father in the play, who reluctantly agrees but real trouble erupts when the real father of 'Anokhe Lal' arrives to whom the servant introduced himself as the father of 'Anokhe Lal' on which both the servant and Anokhe Lal received a thorough beating from the real father.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Kananpreet Kaur, Aadesh Dhar, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma and Sanket. The lights of the play were executed by Mohd. Yaseen whereas the sound of the play was scored by Kartik Kumar. The presentations were done by Aryan Sharma.

Sat participates in Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Katha at Bishnah

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP participated in the week-long Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Katha by Ashok Shastri ji with religious fervour and gaiety.

Week-long Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah started at village Shapur Chakra, Bishnah which was organized by Ex Sarpanch Vijay Saini.

Former MLA Ashwani Sharma, former District President B-JP Sunil Dutt Shastri, Padamdev Singh, Sohan Lal Bittu, Prem Sadotra, Satish Bharti, Kuldeep Sodhi, Master Prem Sadotra, Subhash Saini, Jaideep Sambhal



Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and others participating in the Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Katha at Bishnah on Sunday.

and others were amongst the prominent persons present on the occasion.

During the religious discourse, Ashok Shastri

delivered religious sermons and disseminated the teachings of Shrimad Bhagwat. He prompted the people to follow the pious

way of life and to love all the beings of Earth. He said that all worldly things are the source of worries, sufferings and grip the peo-

ples in the activities which lead them to the recycle of birth and death.

Sat Sharma while praising the path shown by the Bhagavata Katha, said that one gets the opportunity to listen to Bhagwat Katha with good fortune that have been earned with good deeds. He thanked Pujya Maharaj Ashok Shastri for his dedication in teaching the people the eternal path to the Almighty. This confluence of divine knowledge and devotion provides purity and peace to the soul, he said.

Sat Sharma also distributed blankets to the people on the auspicious occasion.