

Advisor Farooq directs for strict implementation of labour laws in all central projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Thursday interacted with the delegation of Construction Workers Union (CWU), Ramban led by its president. The delegation apprised the Advisor about various issues faced by them and also informed him about the non implementation of labour laws. They also briefed the Advisor about denial of benefits to construction work-

ers engaged by concessionaire companies in executing the works on four-laning of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Railway Line Project. While taking serious note of the issues raised by the Construction Workers, the Advisor directed the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Jammu and Provident Fund Commissioner, J&K to take necessary actions

for strict implementation of the labour laws applicable to all the central projects being executed in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act, Provident Fund Act, etc., in the interest of welfare and safeguard to the rights of labourers. The Advisor also gave patient hearing to other issues raised by the Construction Workers Union and assured them that all of their genuine issues will be resolved on priority.

Slathia re-elected Distt President Udhampur Bar Association



President JD Slathia along with other Bar members.

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UDHAMPUR: JD Slathia elected again as District President of Udhampur Bar Association for second consecutive term on Friday, while Akhil Rajput elected as Secy and Anoop Gupta declared unopposed treasurer.

According to reports, Udhampur Bar Association today hold an election to elect District body in the premises of Udhampur court. Advocate JD Slathia was re-elected District president for

the second consecutive term. Total out of 146 polled votes JD got 91 votes and defeated his rival Advocate Pawan Jandyal who get 38 votes. While Advocate Dinkar Gupta get 16 votes and out of 146 voters one vote stand invalid. However for Secretary post, Advocate Akhil Rajput get 94 votes by defeating Nikhleshwar Singh by margin of 51 votes and one vote here also stand invalid. Advocate Anoop Gupta was declared unopposed District Treasurer.

Col Mahan starts development work on 23 Km long Trimbli-Deotha road



DDC Chairman Col (Retd.) Mahan Singh inaugurating road work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: Fulfilling the long standing demand of the people of isolated hilly region of Hottar, Seri, Kund, Deotha Panchyats, DDC Chairman Kathua, Col (Retd.) Mahan Singh today started earth work of 23 KM long Trimbli-Deotha Road from KM 7 at Hottar amid chanting of slogans by jubilant locals who have gathered in large number from far flung areas.

It is to mention that construction of this 23 KM long road between Trimbli to Deotha had commenced during the year 2025 and earth work for 7 KM road stretch was carried out. However, Forest clearance was not obtained due to negligence on the party of authorities and public representative of that time, as a result work was stalled on the objection of Forest Department. Col Mahan since played a key role in obtaining de facto sanction/clearance for the project and now once again work has re-commenced amid fervent hopes of the people of the area.

He assured the residents for fast track work here onwards on remains 17 KM stretch. Also the 7 KM road constructed earlier is being blacktopped shortly.

Residents gathered on the occasion also highlighted other developmen-

tal issues in the area including problems related to electricity, drinking water supply, functioning of government schools, health care centre etc. The DDC Chairman assured resolution of their problems and gave direction to officer concerned presented on the occasion. Col Mahan also spoke to CEO Kathua, XEn PIHE and other officer on certain issues confronting the residents.

DDC members Tajinder Singh, Bikram Singh, BDC Chairperson Nisa Devi, Social Activist Darshan Singh, Smt Sulekha Devi, Parveen Pathania, Kuldeep Kumar (Ex Bank Mgr), Sarpanchs Jagdev Singh, Kuldeep Kumar, Hans Raj including ladies and youth in large number were present.

SMVDU organises Heritage Walk at Krimchi Temple Complex



Faculty along with students during visit to Krimchi Temple.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, in collaboration with Patnitop Development Authority and Archaeological Survey of India, on Friday organized a heritage walk here at the historic Krimchi Temple Complex, Udhampur.

Held under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of students, historians, artists, administrators, and academicians.

The Heritage Walk up to Krimchi Fort was flagged off by Padma. Prof Ravindra Kumar Sinha, VC, SMVDU, and Thakur Sher Singh, CEO, PDA, from the Krimchi Temples.

During the guided tour followed by Heritage Baithak, the participants were made aware about the prominent historical,

architectural and cultural aspects of the sites at Krimchi that are being maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The group of ancient temples located in Krimchi, in Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir, is believed to have been built around 11th and 12th century AD, and popularly identified as Pandava Temples given their Mahabharat connection. These temples, designed on stone structures, with a stream flowing nearby, take one to the magnificence of a bygone era. Jai Karan Singh and other experts from ASI, J&K Circle, briefed everyone about the historic essence and architectural grandeur of the temples. Anil Paba and Ashok Sharma, heritage experts, provided a detailed insight to the rich and royal past of Jammu region, and emphasized on the importance of pre-

Commissioner Secretary Forests launches plantation drive, interacts with VPPCs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Carrying forward its campaigns under "J&K Green Drive" and "Har Gaon Haryali", Social Forestry Department on Friday organized a plantation drive and interaction programme at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur near Reasi.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment Department, Sanjeev Verma was the chief guest on the occasion.

The event was attended by members of District Development Council and Block Development Council and Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) of the area.

The plantation drive was kick started with plantation of "Putranjiva" sapling by the Commissioner Secretary followed by interaction session with VPPCs.

Sanjeev Verma, while speaking on the occasion, said that the department is organizing such programmes across J&K to ensure participation of VPPCs. He appealed the

PRIs to provide all logistic support to Social Forestry department in creating the plantation assets and identification of vacant lands for mass plantation in future so that the needs of the locals are met besides mitigating the climatic issues. These "Green assets" will generate financial resources to such panchayats besides generating livelihood and employment avenues for locals.

Principal Chief Conservator Forests/Director, Social Forestry Department, Roshan Jaggi, informed that the department is receiving cooperation from village Panchayats, BDC and DDC representatives who are actively getting involved in plantation drives. The department is organizing such programmes with multiple activities in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir regions to give impetus to J&K Green drive initiative with active participation of local communities.

As per directions of Chief



Commissioner Secretary, Forests Ecology and Environment Department, Sanjeev Verma planting a sapling.

Secretary, the Social Forestry department is going to take up fodder and medicinal plantation on large scale and about 2000 gram panchayats shall be taken up next year under this "Fodder augmentation programme".

On the occasion, members of VPPCs, BDC and DDC including Former Minister and District Development Commissioner, Reasi, Jagjeevan Lal, expressed their views and gave their

suggestions to give further impetus to plantation drives being launched by Social Forestry Department.

Several Panchayat members expressed their desire to spare sizable chunk of Panchayat/Village Common lands for establishing Village Wood Lots (VWLs) as these would be assets of Panchayats. This will help in producing fodder, fuel wood and timber besides raising revenue for Gram Panchayats.

Senior officers of Forest and allied departments including T S Ashok Kumar, Director Soil Conservation, B M Sharma, Additional PCCF Jammu, Mohinder Kumar Gupta, Regional Director Social Forestry Jammu, Anoop Soni, DFO Jammu, Jyotsana, DFO Reasi, Abinav Ramyotra, DFO Social Forestry Udhampur/Reasi, Sanjay Kotwal and DSCO Udhampur/Reasi were also present on the occasion.

Baba Jatinder Pal Singh Sodhi, Gaddinashin, Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, thanked the social forestry department for organizing the programme there.

Around 100 saplings of different indigenous ornamental fruit bearing saplings were also distributed among the local farmers during the event.

Later, Commissioner Secretary visited the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Katra created by Municipal Council Katra for segregation and processing of municipal solid waste on scientific basis on pilot scale.

SSP Reasi pitches for better police-public relations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: As a part of public outreach programme, Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting was held by Reasi Police at Dak Bungalow, Arnas, while scrupulously following COVID 19 protocols. The meeting was chaired by Amit Gupta, SSP Reasi. SDPO Arnas Prithpal Singh and Inspir Ashwani Sharma, SHO P/S Arnas were also present in the meeting. The meeting was attended by DDC, BDC members, Sarpanches, Civic Society members and respectable citizens of the area. During the meeting, participants highlighted various issues of public importance, and they were assured that their genuine grievances pertaining to Police will be resolved on priority and that of Civil Administration will be taken up with the concerned departments for their early redressal. While speaking on the occasion, it was reiterated that policing at grass root level in the District would be revamped to enhance proficiencies of the cops and to develop confidence among the people.

SSP Reasi while further speaking on the occasion said that "Community policing is mandatory to boost public confidence which would help in fighting against crime and social evils. Referring to the criminal activities in the area, it was stressed upon the officers to brace up with a missionary spirit to fight against drug abuse and other social evils from the society and to take a pledge for serving the society with missionary spirit and maintain the dignity of force. While urging for better policing, it was exhorted that public grievances at grass root level would be dealt on priority and patiently, and were assured that such meetings would be held in every nook and corner of the district to further strengthen the police-public relations for achieving better results.

IG Registration J&K reviews work process in Rajouri, Poonch districts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/POONCH: Inspector General Registration J&K, Arshad Ayob visited Rajouri and Poonch to review the process of registration of documents in the twin districts.

Chairing a meeting in Rajouri, the IG Registration said that ADCs, SDMs have now been authorized to register land deals and asked the officers to inform the people about the same.

He further asked the concerned to go through the guidelines of the Registration Act and ensure the accuracy of the documents, while finalizing registration.

Officers who attended the meeting included Registrar, Sachin Dev Singh; ADC



IG Registration J&K, Arshad Ayob chairing a meeting.

Nowshera, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; Sub Registrar Rajouri, Inuran Rashid Kataria and SDM Thanamadi, Vikas Dhar.

Earlier, the meeting held threadbare discussion on various aspects of the process of registration.

At Poonch, the inspector General Registration reviewed registrations execut-

ed by the Sub-Registrars Haveli-Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote. He also visited the Office of SDM Surankote, who is also holding the charge of sub-Registrar Surankote alongwith ADC (Registrar) Poonch.

The IG conducted thorough inspection of the Office of Sub-Registrar including all sections related to registration work,

examined the registers and other connected files/records pertaining to registration.

Later, the IG chaired a meeting at Headquarter Poonch to review the registration work in the District in presence of Deputy Commissioner Poonch Inder Jeet.

The meeting was apprised that online registration is being done by all the three Sub-Registrars of Haveli-Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote.

It was informed that a total 2732 Registrations have been conducted, while Registration fee amounting to Rs 17259244, Stamp amounting to Rs 26868780, Search fee amounting to Rs 216186 has been collected in the district.

Moreover the sub-registrar raised several issues and sought more computers/scanners, furniture and uninterrupted internet services.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch Inder Jeet suggested installation of monitors outside the offices of Sub-Registrars/Registrar for the smooth and effective execution of registration work.

Responding to the issues raised in the meeting, IG Registration J&K said that CCTVs may be installed in the Offices of all Sub-Registrars and their registration sections so as to maintain transparency and ensure effective monitoring. He further said that Water Purifiers and seating arrangements are needed to be installed outside the Offices of the Sub-Registrars for the convenience of the General Public. He asked the Registrar to submit a proposal to the Deputy Commissioner Poonch for providing basic minimum facilities at the Registrar/Sub-Registrar Offices.

Samoon reviews functioning of ITIs, Polytechnic College



Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon reviewing functioning of a college.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Principal Secretary, Skill Development Department, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, on Friday reaffirmed government's commitment towards infrastructural expansion and imparting advance training to youth in job oriented trades in all Technical Education Institutions.

Principal Secretary, during his visit to Ramban district, visited Polytechnic College Ramban, Industrial Training Institutes at Ramban and Banihal besides taking stock of progress on construction works being executed in ITI Hostel at Banihal and Polytechnic College building. He directed the executing agencies to complete the projects within timeline to facilitate the trainees.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam, Director Technical Education Jammu, Sudarshan Sharma, ADC, Harbans Sharma, ACR, Dharendra Sharma, SDM Banihal, Zaheer Abbas Bhat, Principal GPC, Ramban, Suket Gupta and concerned officers were present on the occasion.

While reviewing functioning of ITIs and Polytechnic College, Principal Secretary also interacted with the trainees of all trades enquiring them about the facilities they are

being extended there. Principal Secretary directed the DC to explore possibilities of providing jobs to trained local youth in the national projects being executed in the district. He directed the Director Technical Education to start crash courses in different trades which have potential in creating job opportunities for local youth.

After inspecting trades and workshops there, Principal Secretary directed the Superintendent and Instructors to conduct exposure tours for trainees to impart them advanced skills in their respective trades.

Principal Secretary directed the Director Technical Education and ACR Ramban to complete land acquisition process of identified land for construction of new ITI building at Ramban.

Talking to media persons, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon said that the Bus service for Banihal ITI will be started soon for convenience of trainees.

Deputy Commissioner urged upon the Principal Secretary for introduction of new trades pertaining to Tunnel and Railway maintenance works in ITIs to provide more job opportunities to youth of the district in completed and ongoing national projects.

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