

# Lt Governor presents UT-level awards to artisans

**'Important steps taken to boost handicraft, handloom sectors'**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha presented the UT Level Award to the Artisans at Raj Bhavan auditorium on Saturday.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha after presenting the UT Level Awards to the Artisans at Raj Bhavan auditorium on Saturday.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the award winners for their commendable service to preserve and promote priceless cultural and artistic heritage.

The Lt Governor said administration has taken several important steps to boost handicraft and handloom sector.

We are committed to provide training, design, technology, financial and other infrastructure support that will significantly contribute to the growth of this sector and earnings of artisans, he added.

The Lt Governor said an unprecedented growth has been recorded in the last three months and this sector has

registered Rs 729 crore worth export despite the instability in the global market and it shows the collective efforts of artisans and handicraft department.

More than 3 lakh artisans are registered with the department. Number of steps like

enhanced financial assistance, 7 percent interest subvention, training, assistance to 3000 Self Help Groups and cooperative societies have been taken to accelerate the development of this sector, he added. The Lt Governor also spoke of the various other efforts of the UT

administration such as GI tagging, labeling, brand building, incentives to increase exports and ensure access to the global market.

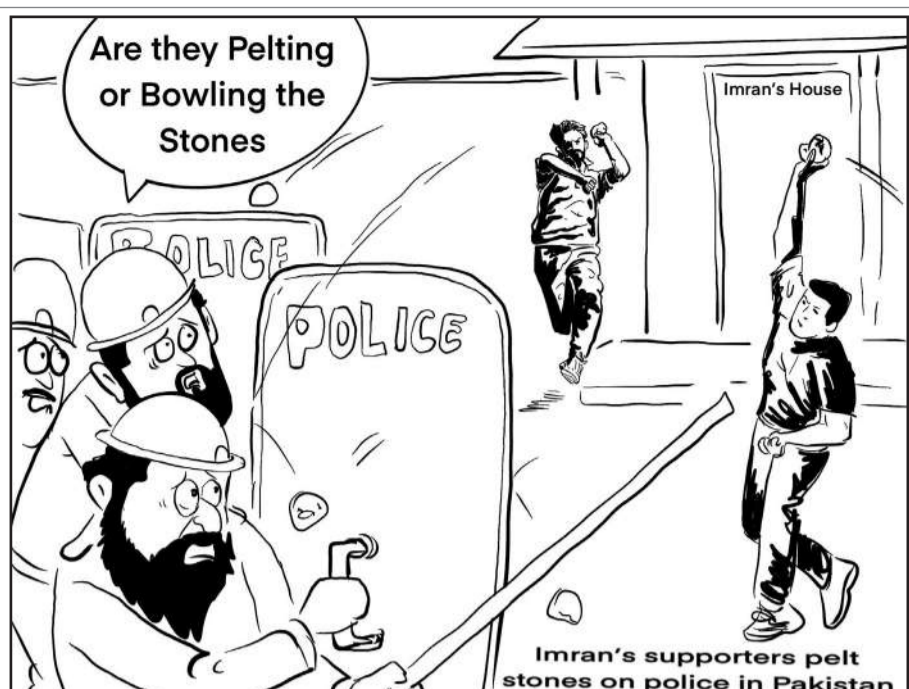
"The Department has launched e-commerce platforms to empower the arti-

sans," the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister, J&K has set a new record in Village Industrial Unit. In the last financial year, 1.73 lakh new jobs were generated under PMEGP alone, he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor directed the Department of Handlooms and Handicrafts to develop a mechanism for further increasing the export in the sector and changing the lives of artisans and craftsmen.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Prashant Goyal, Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce; Vijay Kumar Biduri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; other senior officers of Handicraft & Handloom Department, besides large gathering of awardees and artisans were present.



# CSIR-IIIM-Technology Business Incubator Jammu honored with J&K SEED Startup Enabler Award

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) - Technology Business Incubator, Jammu is honored with "J&K SEED Startup Enabler Award" for supporting the startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.



Officials presenting memento to Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

The first J&K Start-up Event for Entrepreneurial Development (SEED-1) was organized by MIET in collaboration with FICCI FLO JK&L to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship & startup culture in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist CSIR-IIIM, Jammu & Principal Investigator, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator and Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator were felicitated with the award by Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Director JKEDI, Ritu Singh, Founding Chairperson FICCI FLO JK&L & Prof Ankur Gupta, Director, MIET during the ceremony held at MIET College, Jammu.

ecosystem in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

He informed that 82 start-up companies have registered with the IIIM-TBI since 2018 as inhouse, virtual and outside incubates whereas 15 inhouse incubates of IIIM-TBI have reached to the product development stage and out of which 5 startup companies have successfully completed the product development cycle and launched their products in the market.

CSIR-IIIM under the leadership of Director, IIIM is continuously conducting various road shows, awareness programs, city camps, hackathons in the region.

The specialized incubator is also organizing startup expos from time & again to outreach local people including youth, farmers, women, budding entrepreneurs and help them to meet their dreams by launching their products in the market. The overall purpose of IIIM-TBI is to generate jobs & create wealth in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

While presenting the award lecture, Dr. Saran, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu informed the gathering about the work taken by the incubator in promoting startup

Er. Ankush Varma, Coordinator, IIIM-TBI emphasized that IIIM Incubator is committed to creating awareness among the local population of Jammu & Kashmir by promoting a biotech based startup ecosystem.

Earlier, Prof Ankur Gupta, Director, MIET, welcomed the dignitaries, startups, entrepreneurs & students for participating in the event.

# BJP National General Secretary meets Lt Governor



Kailash Vijayvargiya, National General Secretary, BJP and Sukhnanand Choudhary, former Minister calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Kailash Vijayvargiya, National General Secretary, BJP met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, here on Saturday.

Vijayvargiya discussed with the Lt Governor various matters with regard to

the development of Jammu and Kashmir and welfare of the people.

Later, Sukhnanand Choudhary, former Minister apprised the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance.

The Lt Governor assured the former minister of

appropriate redressal of the genuine demands based on merit.

Trideep Rai, former captain of the Indian Basketball Team also called on the Lt Governor and discussed the promotion of sports culture amongst the youth.

# Rahul should get chance to speak in Parliament: Farooq

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAIPUR: Amid the Government-Opposition standoff in Parliament over Rahul Gandhi's remarks in London, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that the Congress leader should be given an opportunity to speak in the House. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister stressed that democracy is about letting people speak.

"Rahul Gandhi said this and said that if he has said something wrong, then he should get a chance to speak in Parliament. When he speaks (in the parliament) and something wrong is seen then question him that is what democracy is all about," Abdullah said at a programme here.

The first week of the budget session's second half was disrupted following protests by both the treasury and the opposition. While the ruling BJP-led alliance has demanded an apology from Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in London, the Opposition has been demanding a JPC probe into the Adani issue.

Abdullah said that Parliament is for discussing the issues of the people. "We cannot topple the government, but we can raise the issue and seek answers from the government, and some solution can be found," he said at a conference of Muslim leaders where Congress leader Salman Khurshid and party MLAs Rafeek Khan and Amin Kagzi were on the dais.

# Sangh work progressing continuously in J&K: Dr Gautam

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Stating that while many countries have respect and goodwill towards India, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on Saturday some powers of the world are not able to accept this 'self' based resurgence of India.



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh J&K members talking to reporters.

"Sangh work progressing continuously in J&K while many forces opposing the idea of Hindutva, within and outside the country, are hatching new conspiracies to create mutual distrust, disloyalty to the system and anarchy in the society by raising vested interests and differences," Dr Gautam Mengi, Prant Sanghachalak, RSS here told reporters at a press conference. "While being aware of all this, we have to thwart their intentions as well," he added.

Pratinidhi Sabha of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh at Haryana, he said that the RSS and the entire society will continue to work to remove all the obstacles coming in the way of the nation's upliftment.

Maharaj's ascension and 2550th year of Lord Mahavir Swami's Nirvana. According to the resolution passed in the meeting, he said, the world is accepting the innovation based on the eternal values of India.

Apart from the resolution in the meeting, he said, three statements were also issued on completion of 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, 350th year of Chhatrapati Shivaji

Based on the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India is moving forward to play its role for world peace, world brotherhood and human welfare, he said adding that for the upliftment of the nation, we have

to make special efforts to achieve the objectives of strengthening the family institution, building a harmonious society based on fraternity and developing entrepreneurship with indigenous spirit.

The Akhil Bhartiya Pratinidhi Sabha, through this proposal, called upon the entire society including the enlightened class, that in the light of Indian thought, the whole power in this task of developing contemporary creations in all spheres of social life, including social, educational, economic, democratic, judicial institutions Be a part of it, so that India can get a proper place on the world stage as a capable, glorious and world welfare nation.

In 2025, the Sangh is going to complete 100 years of its establishment and at present the Sangh is working directly at 71355 places in the country and is playing its role in the important task of social transformation.

At present the number of weekly meetings is 220, the

number of volunteers meeting the age limit of more than forty is 102, the Sangh Mandali place is 230, the total number of Toli shakhas are 329 in the Jammu and Kashmir province. Out of these 329 team branches, 173 student, 100 youth and 56 elders are running in the province, he said.

Today people's interest towards Sangh is increasing. People are searching for Sangh and requesting to connect with Sangh through digital platform. From the year 2017 to 2022, the Sangh has received a total of 7,25,000 requests at the all India level through Join RSS. Most of these are youths in the age group of 20 to 35, who want to join the Sangh for social service. The interest of the youth in daily shakhas is also increasing. 60 percent of the Sangh's branches are student branches.

Dr Vikrant Sharma said that 7.5 lakh people through social media have desired to join RSS.

# Asia's largest tulip garden opens today, all set to welcome millions of visitors

**SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar, home to more than a million tulips has always been one of Kashmir's major tourist attractions. After being closed for nine months, it will be opened for tourists from today and likely to be inaugurated by the Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha in the afternoon. Every year, the government of Jammu and Kashmir organises the tulip festival to kick off spring and the tourism season. The celebrations include various cultural programmes, musical events, food fests and conferences. The blend of spring colours in the garden attracts many tourists to Kashmir from various parts of the country. This year four new Tulip varieties with a rainbow of colours - Cap knowya, sweet heart, Hamilton and Christmas dream imported from Holland, will add to the charm of the garden. The

garden usually contains 68 colourful varieties of Tulip bulbs besides eye catching flowers, daffodil, hyacinth, muscari, spring blooming shops besides Plum, Apricot, Peach and Almond trees in the garden remains the eye catching attractions for the visitors and the new four multicolored tulip varieties would raise the charisma of the garden. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, formerly known as SirajBagh, is located on the foothills of the Zabarwan range and overlooks the infamous Dal Lake in Srinagar. It was opened initially in 2008 by Ghulam Mabi Azad, the Chief Minister at that time and has been attracting lakhs of visitors to Srinagar every year. Over the course of nine months, dozens of gardeners have been working tirelessly to have this limited edition tulip garden ready in time for the festival. The garden remains open until the end of April, which is how

long the tulips stay in bloom for. Srinagar's tulip garden, spread over 30 hectares of land, features not only tulips but also a variety of daffodils, hyssan and muscari blooms. However, the hero attraction still remains the tulips, of which there are approximately 15 lakh in over 68 different varieties. The average life-span of a tulip flower is three to four weeks; but since the tulip bulbs in the garden are planted in a phased manner, they tend to stay for at least a month or more.

# Budgam Murder case; J&K FSL high level team collect more evidences



FSL high level team visiting scene of crime to collect the pieces of evidence of Budgam murder.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BUDGAM: A high level team from the Directorate of Forensic Science Jammu and Kashmir consisting Deputy Director, FSL, Srinagar, Shahul Ahmad Kant along with a DNA expert, a Cyber expert and a Finger Print expert visited the scene of crime and collected the pieces of evidence to link the crime with the criminal in the heinous and gruesome murder of a young lady in Budgam a few days back. The action was taken in close collaboration with the SSP Budgam while the DSP Headquarters Budgam and SHO Budgam assisted the team in their work. During search, multiple long hair strands were recovered throughout the area where the accused had confessed of having dragged the victim through besides blood spots were recovered from two immovable sites in the building which can prove instrumental in linking the victim with the crime scene. Both the locations were marked and net swabs were taken for forensic examinations. The samples collected by the experts were handed over to the police team who were directed to submit them for forensic examinations. Further collection of the evidences by the high level team from J&K FSL will add to the case and criminal justice. The action has been taken by the Directorate of FSL J&K under the direction Shahid Saleem Dar, Director J&K, FSL in line with the directions and guidelines of the MHA to manage the scenes of crime in which the punishment is 6 years or more.

# Modi Govt worked hard to provide benefit to every neglected, oppressed section of society: Raina

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Eminent social worker Er. TK Sharma along with supporters joined BJP in presence of J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina at BJP Headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Incharge Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Janwal, senior leader Ashok Khajuria and District President Rekha Mahajan also welcomed Er. TK Sharma and other new entrants.



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina speaking at a joining programme.

"Er. TK Sharma has provided his valuable services in the PHE department and recently retired from the services, he has decided to dedicate his services to the BJP family to strengthen the hands of Modi. He belongs to the R.S Pura and has always served the society actively while in government service," said Ravinder Raina.

Ravinder Raina also welcomed the other new entrants along with Er. TK Sharma warmly into the world's biggest political organization and prompted them to dedicate themselves for the welfare of the society and the Nation.

He said that with the developing faith in BJP, people are joining the party in large numbers in every part of the region.

He also enumerated public welfare schemes like Ujjwala, Kissan Samman Nidhi, Golden Card and others.

"The Modi government has worked hard to provide benefits to every neglected and oppressed section of society like PoJK refugees, WPRs, OBCs, STs, Women, Gujjar, Bakkarwals, Pahadis, LoC residents. This has attracted the love and faith of people of J&K in BJP," said Ravinder Raina.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta said that the party is committed to uphold the cherished agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by steering all segments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on the path of progress and development.

# Punjab cracks down on radical preacher Amritpal Singh; 78 supporters arrested

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHANDIGARH: The Punjab government on Saturday launched a major crackdown against radical Sikh preacher and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, with police arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him, officials said.

The elusive preacher himself, however, gave the police a slip and escaped their dragnet when his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district, even as

authorities stepped up security at several places and suspended internet services in the state till Sunday noon.

The police said it has launched a "massive state-wide cordon and search operations (CASO)" in the state against elements of 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD), headed by Singh, against whom several criminal cases had been registered.

During the operation, a total of 78 persons have been arrested so far, while,

several others have been detained for questioning, it said. Amritpal Singh and others are on the run and a massive manhunt has been launched to nab them, a police spokesperson said.

Some supporters of 'Waris Punjab De' chief shared some videos on social media claiming that policemen were chasing them. A video also showed Amritpal sitting in a vehicle and one of his aides could be heard saying policemen were after "Bhai saab" (Amritpal).