

Ajatshatru, Ranvijay take stock of temples, infrastructures

Ask people to desist from encroaching temple lands

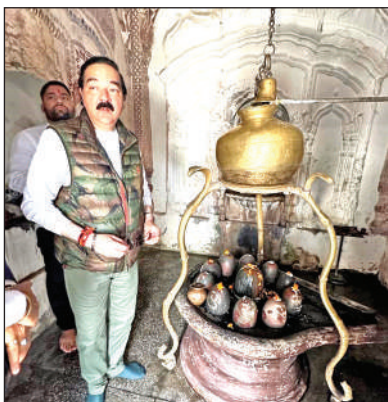
■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In view of the upcoming Ramnavmi Festival, Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust and former Minister on Friday conducted a visit to Ram Ji Temple at Village Sagoon in Block Dansal, district Jammu.

Ranjvijay Singh, Trustee, Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Retd), Secretary and Varinder Singh Jamwal, Additional Secretary of the Trust accompanied the Trustee.

Ajatshatru performed Pooja at the Ram Ji Temple, Sagoon and prayed for peace and prosperity of the Union Territory.

He took stock of the infrastructure and facilities besides holding discussions on improving the facilities to make this temple more comfortable and splendid for the visiting devotees.

He laid stress upon the priests to ensure that every devotee who enters this temple returns with complete knowledge of the history, significance and other details about this temple as it is vital for disseminating information among the masses about the rich cultural heritage of J&K. Ajatshatru also inspected the temple premises and raised serious concern over the encroachment of the Trust land



Trustee JKDT, Ajatshatru Singh during visit to Shiv Temple, Toote Di Khui in Bajalta.

in the vicinity. He said that the Trust want to develop a beautiful park for the tourists due to lack of any facility for visiting tourists from Jammu to Sagoon.

Ajatshatru made it clear that Dharmarth Trust will make all out efforts to get back its property sooner than later and those who have illegally trespassed or grabbed the land of the Trust should be put on task as per the law. He said that no one will be spared for the illegal act of grabbing temple's land.

He however asked the people to desist from such unwarranted acts as this will land them into deep trouble.

Ajatshatru Singh categorically said that the Ram Ji Temple in Sagoon is an ancient temple and Trust is duty bound to develop this temple to ensure state of the art facilities to the visiting devotees.

Later, Ajatshatru Singh along with Ranvijay Singh and others visited Shiv Temple, Toote Di Khui in Bajalta; Shiv Temple Dansal and Shiv Temple Nagrota and took stock of the facilities for the devotees.

Ajatshatru Singh laid stress for saving water bodies in Totan Di Khui in Bajalta and also for their beautification, adding that water conservation is a social and spiritual duty of every person.

Meanwhile, Ajatshatru Singh held several public meetings at Sagoon, Totan Di Khui in Bajalta and Dansal and took stock of the problems being faced by people of the area. He assured to take up their issues with the authorities concerned for early redressal.

Kripal Singh Ex Sarpanch, Kama Shadgal Block Nagrota, Sarpanch Sagoon Ashwani Kumar and Sarpanch Fagir Singh, Sidhra Block Nagrota were also present in the meetings.

Smart classrooms, tinkering labs await students of Government schools in Jammu: DSEJ



Director of School Education Jammu, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma with students and others during enrollment drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Directorate of School Education Jammu has launched an enrollment drive across all ten districts of the Jammu division to enroll more students in government schools and achieve universal enrolment and retention. As part of this drive, Director of School

Education Jammu, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma, on Friday inaugurated a mega enrollment drive at Government Girls High School Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Ten students were enrolled on the spot and received educational kits and other daily use articles. A colourful rally was also held to raise awareness

about the importance of education and enrolling out-of-school children back into mainstream education.

While speaking at the event, Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma called on CEOs, heads of institutions and teachers to inform the public about the various schemes, facilities and benefits provided by govern-

ment schools. These include highly qualified staff, smart classrooms, CAL Labs, Atal Tinkering Labs, free textbooks and learning materials, mid-day meals, counselling cells, happiness zones and sports infrastructure with expert coaching.

Dr Sharma said that the Directorate is continuously looking for new ways to ensure quality education for all and assured cooperation and autonomy for improving school infrastructure. He urged all stakeholders to work together to bring marginalised and poor out-of-school children back into education.

The programme was attended by students, parents and teachers in large number. Others present on the occasion included Joint Director DSEJ, HR Pakhroo; Chief Education Officer Jammu, Principal GBHSS Gandhi Nagar, ZEO Gandhi Nagar.

Exempt hotel industry from purview of property tax: AJHLA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a meeting of office bearers of All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA) held on Friday, Chairman Inderjeet Khajuria has expressed serious concern over poor condition of Jammu people particularly those connected with tourism sector, as they are passing through their worst phase of life due to after-effects of COVID-19 and sought exemption of hotel industry particularly budget hotels from purview of property tax.

Pawan Gupta, President of the association, expressed

disappointment on ignoring the tourism sector particularly the hotel industry from the purview of any relief package from the government even after repeated requests for the same to the government, umpteen times.

"The condition of smokeless hotel industry, already on the ventilator due to extension of train service from Jammu to Katra, has worsened due to engulfing effect of COVID pandemic and as a result of this, a number of hoteliers have either closed their units or changed their activity due to huge routine expenditure of maintaining and running

the units but low generation of income. At this critical juncture when hotel industry especially budget hotels are unable to sustain due to huge taxes and government departmental fees, the government is going to impose a new tax in the form property tax, which would wipe out already sinking hotel industry from tourism map of world," he added. The association urged to the government to come to their rescue and exempt hotel industry particularly budget hotels from purview of property tax.

Others present in the meeting included M L Sharma, Anil Khajuria, Pritam Sharma, H S Manhas, Baldev Raj, Sunil Suri, Swarn Singh, Sankul Gupta, Manpreet Singh, Nishant Gupta and Varun Gupta.

Billawaria felicitates 'Super Dancer-4' contestant Arshiya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria felicitated Arshiya Sharma during a programme organised by French Club Jammu for bringing laurels to J&K by coming in top-10 in 'Super Dancer-4' a kids competition wherein Shilpa Shetty, Geeta Kapoor and Anurag Basu were the judges.

Congratulating Arshiya, Baldev Singh Billawaria wished her good luck for future endeavours.

He further said that French Club is doing a fabulous job by exploring French language and boosting youngsters.

"Club appreciates the talented persons who are doing great in their field by felicitating and encouraging them, which is really a great job," he added.

Billawaria further said, "I

am proud to honour Arshiya Sharma for her tremendous achievement. She is a shining



Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria felicitating Arshiya Sharma at Jammu.

example for all children in Jammu and I wish her all the best for future endeavours. This is a great opportunity for J&K to shine in national limelight." He also lauded efforts of Arun Sharma, President and Founder, French Club Jammu for organizing the function. Others present on the occasion included Tarun Sharma, Harminder Singh, Dr Gagandeep Singh, Sakshi and Sushil.

ICSI flags-off 1st National Women's Conference in Kolkata



MoS H&FW West Bengal, Chandrima Bhattacharya along with ICSI officers at first National Women's Conference.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KOLKATA: The first National Women's Conference of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) was inaugurated by Chandrima Bhattacharya, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Finance & Programme Monitoring and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Government of West Bengal, in Kolkata today.

The theme of the two-day National Women's Conference, Empowered

Women: Inspiring a Better Tomorrow, is in alignment with India's G-20 Priority of Women-led development and will focus on the significant role played by women in driving the economic and social progress of a country.

"I am honoured to be here at the first National Women's Conference by ICSI and express my gratitude to ICSI for choosing Kolkata to start this annual initiative. Women are already empowered and we have to celebrate this

empowerment with the entire society," said Bhattacharya.

C S Manish Gupta, President the ICSI, said, "Currently women account for nearly 50 per cent of Company Secretaries (CS) in India and ICSI is working out a scheme to create more opportunities for them. The Institute has always been at the forefront when it comes to women's empowerment. In fact, important departments at the ICSI are also led by Women".

Businessline campus connect lecture held at TBS, JU



GM North The Hindu, Sunil Mirza posing with JU faculty members during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Businessline campus connect lecture series was held in The Business School (TBS), University of Jammu (JU) on Friday for the students of MBA, PGDBM and Research Scholars.

Sunil Mirza, GM North, 'The Hindu', started the event with a lively introduction about 'The Hindu' and its latest financial publication, followed by an enthusiastic greeting to all the participants.

Mirza explained the Businessline campus connect as a student-industry interface programme

where industry and academia come on the same platform and exchange their thoughts.

Ajoy Shah, Trainer Coach and Mentor at JK Tyre and Industries Ltd was the keynote speaker of the event. He shared the significance of being proactive in life to avoid future shocks. He emphasized about having realistic expectations and gave important pointers to the students regarding the necessary corporate etiquettes.

Anjani Kumar, Divisional Head, IOCL, Jammu, made participants aware

about the future projects of the IOCL in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Director, TBS, apprised the participants about the salient features of the lecture series.

Dr. Saloni Devi, Assistant Professor TBS presented the vote of thanks. The event was coordinated by Dr. Aubid Hussain Parrey, Assistant Professor, TBS. The event was attended by Prof. Sameer Gupta, Prof. Alka Sharma, Dr. Amisha Gupta, Dr. Komal Nagar, Dr. Rachna and Dr. Farah S Choudhary.

BJP committed for 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', 'Antyodaya': Raina



President J&K BJP, Ravinder Raina addressing a meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government, ever since it came to power in the Centre, has launched numerous landmark public welfare schemes until now which is record in itself.

These schemes are targeted towards all the sections of the society, including youth, women, farmers, ex-servicemen, border residents, weaker sections etc, irrespective of their caste,

colour or creed. The socio-economic philosophy of the BJP is based on the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and "Antyodaya", which aims at targeting the poorest of the poor, irrespective of the region or religion he or she may belong, stated Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir.

Raina and J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul accompanied

by BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, former Dy. CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and General Secretary & Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal was addressing a meeting attended by senior party leaders at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the senior party leaders, asked them to

increase their Pravas in complete union with the party's teams of 'Booth Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan'.

He asked them to have meetings with the teams to discuss ground implementation of the Abhiyaan.

Kavinder Gupta said that all the office bearers of the party must work with increased efficiency while taking the key help from the party's senior workers and prominent local residents to achieve the aim.

'Perplexed' Mehbooba has lost political ground; no to polls her compulsion: Abhinav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Giving serious advice to the PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, Sr Advocate Abhinav Sharma, Spokesman BJP J&K on Thursday asked the former chief minister to shun her 'love' towards Pakistan and start working for the welfare of people. In a statement issued to media persons, the senior BJP leader said that confused Mehbooba has lost political ground in the Union Territory with PDP becoming a spent force and the tantrum of not contesting polls is not her wish but a compulsion as she knows that her party is facing dearth of leaders who could become face of the party during Assembly polls.

Abhinav said that Mehbooba's call that she won't fight elections till the time Article 370 is reinstated is nothing but an alibi to save her party from embarrassment because she already knows the fate of PDP in the coming elections.

He said that the PDP chief should have chosen the path of making a connection with the people rather than eulogizing her preferred country Pakistan every now and

Jammu Police starts Cricket Tournament under CAP Diamond Club Simbal wins opening tie

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Diamond Cricket Club Simbal defeated SKUAST Cricket Club R S Pura in the opening match of Cricket Tournament, organized by Jammu Police under Civic Action Programme at SKUAST Campus, R S Pura, here on Friday.

A total of eight teams shall participate in the Tournament which was declared open by SDPO R S Pura Surinder Singh in presence of SHO RS Pura Insp Pawan Kumar, Brig. Anil Gupta, member Association of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, Dr. Narinder Singh Satta National Secretary BJP, Sat Pal Pappi Chairman MC RS Pura, BDC Chairman RS Pura Tarsem Lal and general public from surrounding areas.

SDPO RS Pura said that the main purpose of the Jammu and Kashmir Police of organizing such tournament is to encourage youth to stay in touch with sports activities and stay away from drugs and bad company.

The event was organized under the overall supervision of SP Hqrs Jammu Ramesh Gupta.

Chhattisgarh passes Media Persons Protection Bill 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
HYDERABAD: The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has welcomed the initiative of the Chhattisgarh government in bringing a statute for the protection of journalists.

In a statement issued on Friday IJU President K. Sreenivas Reddy and Secretary General Balwinder Singh Jammu thanked the government headed by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for passing 'Chhattisgarh Mediapersons Protection Bill 2023' in the State Assembly on March 22.

The IJU leaders said they are of the opinion that this bill is more progressive than the one enacted by Maharashtra. The bill not only provides protection to journalists but ensures protection to properties of media persons and media institutions. At a time when the journalist fraternity has become more vulnerable with increasing attacks and killings by anti-social elements this bill is a welcome move, they averred.

The IJU leaders made an appeal to all state governments to take a leaf out of the book of Chhattisgarh and bring laws to ensure protection of journalists whose works are vital for the sustenance of democracy.