

CJ presides-over awareness programme on Drug Addiction & Substance Abuse-Prevention and Challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), Justice N. Kotiswar Singh in the presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority on Thursday presided over an Awareness Programme on Drug Addiction and Substance Abuse - Prevention and Challenges at Govt. Degree College (Boys), here.

The programme was organized by District Legal Service Authority Pulwama under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Social Welfare and Health Departments.

On the arrival, the Chief Justice was given ceremonial guard of honour. Upon arrival the Chief Justice planted a chinara tree in the premises of Govt. Degree College (Boys) Pulwama.

The Chief Justice was informed by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama that during the last one year under such special plantation drives about 1.5 lakh trees have been planted and locally prepared vermicompost has



Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh speaking at a programme.

been used during the plantation drive.

During his key note address, Chief Justice, N. Kotiswar Singh lauded the role of District Legal Service Authority and J&K Legal Services Authority in organizing such kind of awareness programmes which is the need of hour to educate the youth that has fallen prey to the menace of drug abuse. The Chief Justice impressed upon the audience to follow the golden rule of Prevention is Better than Cure.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, in his address delineated the main purpose of organizing this awareness programme which is to disseminate information regarding the pros and cons of use of drugs that has become a great threat to our society as every second person is consuming

drugs due to one or the other reason, knowing fully its ill effects on the health of an individual.

Referring to a question raised in the parliament, Justice Tashi informed the gathering that about 10 lakh cases of drug abuse have been identified in UT of J&K with a substantial number of women addicts. He also highlighted the seriousness of the problem and urged all the stakeholders to work collectively to eradicate this menace from the society.

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Naseer Ahmed Dar, Chairman DLSA Pulwama welcomed the dignitaries and the Chief Justice for conceiving a programme on such an important social evil, which is effecting the youth of this Country.

The highlight of the programme was that the two expert speakers Dr. Majid, a renowned Psychiatrist and Pallavi Singh, Director, J&K Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses delivered their respective addresses in Urdu as well as Kashmiri language so that the message of this awareness programme reaches to the general masses.

Dr. Majid highlighted the role of medical experts in treating the persons effected by substance misuse and also underlined the initiatives taken by the Union Govt. And the UT Administration in this regard. He also informed that all the hospitals in J&K have a dedicated facility of De-addiction centres and the government has already notified helpline numbers for easy access to such facilities by the needy and effected person.

Other expert Pallavi Singh also highlighted the role of parents and teachers in reformation of drug addicts.

After the programme the students of the Govt. Degree College (Boys), Pulwama requested the Chief Justice for opening of a Legal Literacy Club and considering their demand the Chief Justice issued on spot

instructions to Member Secretary, J&K LSA to ensure that the same is established as early as possible.

Later, the Chief justice also inaugurated a Legal Aid Clinic at Panchayat Ghar Nixas, Pulwama in presence of Executive Chairman, J&K LSA.

During his address to the local gathering at the spot, the Chief Justice elaborately explained the purpose of such clinics and support centres in the villages which perform the role of first point of contact between the Legal Aid Seeker and the System. The Chief Justice also explained the role performed by Para Legal Volunteers in remote corner of a particular region. On learning about the opening of a Legal Aid Clinic at a place from where no lawyer belongs, the Chief Justice said that the Legal Aid Clinic would be all the more beneficial for the locals of the area.

During the programme Y P Bournay, Registrar Vigilance; M. K. Sharma Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority; Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar I.T; Mansoor Ahmad Lone, CJM Pulwama; Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Mohammad Yousaf Choudhary, SSP Pulwama; Advocate G.M Dar, President Bar Association, Pulwama; Rayaz Ahmed Choudhary, Secretary DLSA Pulwama; Principal Government Degree College Pulwama and others officers of District Pulwama were also present on this occasion.



Jammu Mayor appreciates Jammuites, NSS volunteers for making Surya Putri Tawi pollution-free

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JAMMU: Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Rajinder Sharma appreciated Jammuites especially students fraternity for making Surya Putri Tawi and other water bodies pollution free during immersion of holy Saakh on the conclusion of nine-day Navrata celebration.

During an interview Jammu Mayor, the first citizen of Jammu, Rajinder Sharma said, "It is my dream to make river bodies especially Surya Putri Tawi pollution free."

And to achieve this dream, he said, it is not possible without the community participation and cooperation from the citizens of the society.

While congratulating NSS volunteers and students for their appreciable performance, Rajinder Sharma said, "I am happy with their commitment and dedication



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma with NSS volunteers at a campaign.

while performing their duty in making my initiative a big success."

Jammu Mayor also emphasised on the importance of cleanliness at grass root level and said that students especially NSS volunteers play a key role to impart education about significance of cleanliness of water bodies in our life and in disseminating sense of discipline to bring about behavioural change among the masses.

Meanwhile, the devotees, who are visiting Ranbir canal for immersion of holy Saakh, also appreciated the initiative of Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma for making water bodies pollution free.

NSS volunteers also expressed their gratitude to Jammu Mayor and said that Rajinder Sharma has taken his role seriously and contributed his best in service to the community and making Jammu city and water bodies pollution free.

Youth of today to define India at 2047: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the Youth Convention on India's G20 presidency organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra at Kathua on Thursday.

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KATHUA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said, the youth of India on Thursday will define India @2047 when India will celebrate its freedom centenary as they have the privilege and opportunity to contribute to the making of 'New India' as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra was addressing a Youth convention here organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Kathua on the theme 'Role of Youth vis-à-vis India's G20 Presidency'.

Dr. Singh said, the youth of this country must feel lucky that they are living in an era when India has assumed G20 Presidency under PM Narendra Modi the youth can thus play a key role to showcase India's rich cultural diversity and heritage and solution to the global problems while being the President of G20 forum.

Dr. Jitendra said, the world is knocking at the doors of India as India has talent and capability under PM

Narendra Modi to lead the world under all circumstances as India is now regarded as the 'Leader of the world'.

Saying that this government is dedicated to the youth of this country, Dr. Singh said, the revolutionary decisions were taken by PM Narendra Modi for the welfare of the youth be that doing away with the attestation by a gazetted officer, the interviews for the non-gazetted posts etc. as this government strongly believes in the youth of India.

Dr. Jitendra said, the 'Start-up India, Stand-up India' is actually dedicated to the youth by PM Narendra Modi and it is because of their efforts that from mere 350 start-ups in 2014, it has now crossed 90,000 with more than 100 unicorns. Many start-ups under Aroma Mission born in Doda district of J&K have shaped the future of many youth who left the jobs and are now earning in lakhs having lucrative lavender start

The Minister said, this is the proudest moment for the youth of this country that India has assumed G20 Presidency under PM Narendra Modi, at the same time the youth of this country have responsibility to carry forward this legacy to make

India 'Vishwa Guru'.

Dr. Jitendra said, hundreds of opportunities have been created for the youth of this country for their skill development what is important is that youth should take advantage of these opportunities and become active partners of India's journey towards becoming a 'Vishwa Guru'.

Praising Syana Prasad Mukherjee as tallest but uncelebrated youth icon of 20th century India, Dr. Jitendra recalled that Milkerrje became Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University as a 34 year youth and said, Kathua was selected today for the youth convention for the reason that Syama Prasad Mukherjee was the best youth icon who sacrificed his life for national integration. The onus is on the youth of this country to carry forward his legacy, Dr. Singh added.

The others present during the youth convention today were Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey, DDC Vice-chairperson Kathua, Raghunandan Singh Bablu, Deputy Director, NYK Kathua, Somdat Zard besides students across different institutions of Kathua and youth from various areas of district Kathua.

High intensity blast in Kathua, live grenade recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR/JAMMU: A suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast rocked a border hamlet in Kathua district, creating a huge crater in the ground, officials said Thursday.

Security forces have been put on high alert in the border belts and along the Jammu-Pathankot highway following the blast that took place on Wednesday night.

A live grenade was recovered following a search of the area on Thursday morning.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Jamwal told PTI.

"Information was received about a powerful blast around 9.30 PM on Wednesday.

We launched a search operation this morning..The bomb squad team has collected the samples and sent it for test", the SSP said.

The SSP, who led the search operation in the area and adjoining border areas

this morning, said it was a high intensity blast.

"One live grenade was seized around 6.30 am today. It points out that someone lobbed the grenade after detecting presence of security forces", he said.

The SSP said prima facie it was an IED blast.

As the site of the blast is close to a police post, there is a possibility that the police post was the intended target. "It points out towards that. On Wednesday, our presence was more in this area, that is why they may have hurled grenade and after that they triggered IED blast", Jamwal said.

Block Development Committee (BDC) chairman Ram Lal Kaliya, a resident of Saniyal village which is just 300 metres from the border post, said, "Around 9.30 pm on Wednesday we heard an explosion. I informed the post-in-charge."

The blast site was located after one-and-half hours, he said, adding that a big crater was found in an agriculture field.

Ram Navami Shobha Yatras taken out in Jammu, Srinagar



Glimpses of impressive Shobha Yatra taken out in Jammu on Ram Navami.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A grandiose Shobha Yatra was taken out on Thursday by the Dharmarth Trust J&K to mark the festival of Ram Navami from the historical Shri Raghunathji Temple here.

Trustee Ranvijay Singh along with Trust's President Adv Ajay Gandotra, Secretary Ashok Kumar Sharma (SSP Retd) and Trust's Council Members RS Pathania and UC Sharma presided over the Murti

Poojan at Shri Raghunath Ji Temple. Thereafter, Rath Poojan and Dhvajarohan ceremonies were performed.

Thousands of devotees comprising prominent citizens, politicians and heads of social and religious organizations participated in the Shobha Yatra.

Members of Muslim brethren also accorded a rousing reception to the Yatra enroute.

This Shobha Yatra was conducted in collaboration with Sanatan Dharam Sabha

and Dharmik Youvak Mandal.

The Shobha Yatra started from the Shri Raghunathji Temple and was passed through various markets including Residency Road, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Pacea Danga, Moti Bazaar, Raj Tilak Road, Raghunath Bazaar and finally culminated at Shri Raghunath Temple.

Ranvijay Singh, in his mes-

sage, felicitated people on Ram Navami and prayed that this auspicious occasion would be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the celebration of festivals, which are an important part of our glorious heritage, strengthens communal harmony and brotherhood and reinvigorates the secular ethos. He prayed for peace and the well-being of the people of the Union Territory.

Tight security arrange-

ments were ensured by the UT administration across the city for the smooth conduct of Ram Navami celebrations. During the Shobha Yatra various senior police officers also marked their presence to make arrangements robust and incident-free.

Heavy rush of devotees was witnessed at the historical Raghunath Ji temple where people made long queues to participate in "Pooja" and other holy rituals.

Earlier in the morning, a

Hawan Yagya was solemnized in the Raghunathji Temple in which Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust offered Puran Aahuti followed by Grand Aarti in the Holy sanctum-sanctorum of the Temple.

Prominent among those who were present include Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu, Dr Parshotam Dadechhi, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Anil Sharma, President Dharmik Youvak Mandal

and Hira Lal Abrol.

Meanwhile, Ram Navami was celebrated by the miniscule Hindu population of the city by taking out a Shobha Yatra in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Amidst tight security, the Shobha Yatra started from Zaindar Mohalla in the old city and culminated at Tankipora after passing through Habbakadal, Barbarshah, Lal Chowk, Hari Singh High Street and Jehangir Chowk.

"We have been taking out

this yatra and 'Jhanki' every year for the past 16 years. Earlier, it was stopped due to turmoil in the valley," Pawan Chetanyadas, the organiser of the Shobha Yatra, said.

He expressed gratitude to both Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits for their support in carrying out the procession.

"We pray for peace and prosperity of all people in Kashmir. We want everyone to live in harmony as bloodshed will yield nothing," he added.