

Suri asks jewellers to adhere to BIS norms from April 1, maintain global standards

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A meeting of the Executive Committee of Sarafa Association Jammu Province (SAJP) was held today to discuss the new hall-marking rules that will be implemented from 1st April 2023. Raman Suri President, Rakesh Mahajan Sr. Vice President, Deepak Jain Vice President, Vijay Kumar Verma General Secretary, Sumit Handa Secretary, Surinder Kumar Jain Treasurer, Advisors Vijay Saraf, Ajay Talla, Darshan Lal Dhalla, Sanjay Jain, Chaman Lal Khajuria and Rajesh Sawhney, and Executive Members Ankur Suri, Aman Jain, Jugal Kishore Babbar, Vishal Jain and Rajiv Jain attended the meeting.

This meeting was held after SAJP President, General Secretary and Secretary attended the Jewellers Awareness Program organised on 27th March 2023 at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office



Executive Committee of Sarafa Association Jammu Province members during a meeting.

(JKBO) headed by Sh. Tilak Raj Director JKBO. The program focussed on the new hallmarking rules pertaining to HUID and presentation regarding the same was given by Hitesh Yadav Assistant Director JKBO. The entire program was coordinated by Ambuj Tiwari Hallmarking Coordinator JKBO.

The meeting of SAJP today was aimed at discussing ways to increase awareness among the jewellers regarding the new rules and the best practices to adopt in order to follow those rules properly since jewellers, being responsible citizens, have always support-

ed government's decisions and expect the same support from government and BIS in reciprocity. It was decided that small-group meetings will be held with fellow jewellers and awareness will be spread along with resolving any queries or issues.

President Raman Suri, who is also Executive Member Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K, asked Jewellers to adhere to the BIS norms from April 1st this year; by Hallmarking all gold jewellery and related items and come at par with the global standards to win faith of customers and also contribute in nation

building.

Raman Suri said, the Union Government gave ample time to Jewellers to adhere to the BIS standards and now, from 1st April 2023, all Gold Jewellery and artefacts will have to carry a mandatory six-digit alphanumeric Hallmark Unique Identification Number (HUID). This will ensure quality standards and bring the Indian Jewellery Industry in line with global standards.

He informed that presently, jewellery items (without HUID) with the old four hall-mark marks as well as ones with the new six-digit HUID, both can be sold, but from 1st April, only the hallmarked jewellery with six-digit HUID will be allowed for sale and those violating the rules will be penalised five times the cost of the object or imprisoned for up to one year. BIS marking, he added, will enhance the credibility of the jewellery and lead to customer satisfaction because purity of gold will be assured in the future and consumer's rights will be protect-

ed. Raman Suri said that India uses the BIS Hallmark System for certifying gold jewellery to establish the purity of the metal and we all must adhere to the norms to make a mark in the international market. He said that since Hallmark lends credibility to the purity of the jewellery and also helps in maintaining the legal standards of fineness and purity, we all must adhere to the rules set forth by the Government.

The six-digit HUID number was introduced on 1st July 2021 and was implemented in phases. In the first phase, it became mandatory in 256 districts; additionally, 32 and 51 districts were added in the second and third phase respectively, thus bringing up the total tally to 339 districts. To facilitate the marking, there are about 1374 BIS-recognised Assaying and Hallmarking Centres in India. He further said, all norms must be followed from the very beginning i.e., April 1st, thus bringing an end to the old practices.

Shiv Sharma elected President Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra



Newly elected members posing for a photograph after elections at Katra.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATRA: 101st meeting of Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra held at PWD Guest House Katra.

Meeting was started with celebration of birthdays of Shiv Kumar Sharma, Kabla Singh (Sarpanch), and Ravinder Kumar Prasher.

They all were greeted in the house by all the members.

Later election process for election of 7th new body of the Forum was started. Koushal Kumar Sharma (Retd. Joint Director

JKBOSE), Kaka Ram (Retd. ZEO) and Dr. Hari Krishan Padha (Retired from Health Services) were incharge of election process.

Election was completed in a very peaceful way under secret ballot process.

Out of 54 members, 46 members took part in the election. Five members were declared by the election Returning Officer Koushal Kumar and his two assistant returning officers.

Shiv Kumar Sharma was elected as President,

Sukhdev Singh as Vice President, Mohan Lal Sharma as General Secretary, Rattan Chand (Retd. DM finance, NHPC) as Secretary and Om Parkash Magotra as Treasurer.

All the five members were honoured in the house by presenting Mata Ki Chunari and Haar.

Proceedings were presented by Channay Ram. Meeting was concluded with vote of thanks presented by former General Secretary Rattan Singh Manhas.

Rajasthan Diwas celebrated at Central University of Jammu



Dignitaries lighting a ceremonial lamp at CUJ.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Rajasthan Club of Central University of Jammu on Thursday organized a special function at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium to celebrate Rajasthan Diwas.

The event was graced by guests, including Dr. Ritu Bakshi, the Dean of

Student Welfare, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Vinay, ADWS, Dr. Bachcha Babu, HOD MCNM, Dr. Archana, Dr. Bhaskar Bhosle, and Dr. Shashank. Ashvani Kumar, the Ex-president of the Press Club of Jammu, was also present. The cultural event featured mesmerizing dance

performances, patriotic poems, and other programs that highlighted the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

The founder of the Rajasthan Club, Suraj Bhan Sharma, emphasized that Rajasthan is a land of culture, sacrifice, and patriotism. He also elaborated on the proud history of Rajasthan and its rich contribution to the cultural heritage of India.

The function was a great success, and the Rajasthan Club of Central University of Jammu is proud to have celebrated Rajasthan Diwas with such fervor and enthusiasm. The club looks forward to organizing similar events in the future to celebrate the cultural diversity and heritage of India.

GDC Vijaypur organises awareness-cum-cleanliness drive at Hari Ki Pauri

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
VIJAYPUR: Eco Club (Green Warriors) and Department of Environmental Sciences of GDC Vijaypur in collaboration with DISHA Volunteer Organisation under the guidance of the Principal of college, Dr. Vandana Gupta organized awareness cum cleanliness drive on the banks of Suryaputri Tawi near Har-Ki-Pauri on March 29 and 30, 2023.

The programme was organized by the convener of Ecoclub Prof. Poonam Kundan, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences.

During cleanliness drive she briefed the students about the above said activity and explained the various ways by which people can protect water bodies. Further the students were also briefed by Anil Sharma founder, DISHA Volunteer Organisation about the importance of water bodies and how our little contribution can save our environment.

He also said it's the responsibility of all the society members to participate and to aware people about the importance of environment. All must participate in such kind of activities to make people aware.

Green Volunteers of the college actively par-

ticipated in the two days activity at Har-Ki-Pauri where they were involved in different types of activities.

They were involved in sensitising the general public regarding ill effects of plastic and other waste materials in the water bodies. After that, some volunteers were involved in the segregation process where they segregated different categories of the waste materials.

Students of the college also interacted with Rajat Salgotra (CEO Samast Eco- alternatives) where he briefed the students regarding waste management and how we can manage floral waste and cow dung in the Jammu city.

He further showcased various products like pots, diwas, decorative idols incense sticks and cow dung logs and all these are made up of organic waste only.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Vandana Gupta congratulated all the volunteers and staff for organising such type of activities for the students that is the need of an hour.

The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (Convener, Ecoclub) and coordinated by Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo and Prof. Rakesh Kumar. Refreshment was also distributed to all the volunteers.

DC B'la visits Shilpitri Temple, extends greetings on Ram Navami

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar accompanied by various other senior officers on Thursday visited Shilpitri temple at Baramulla to participate in the celebrations of Ram Navami observed with religious fervour on the birthday of Rama, the seventh avatar of the deity Vishnu.

During the visit, the DC extended warm greetings to the Hindu community of Baramulla on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, hoping the day augers well for the increased prospects of peace and prosperity in the district.

On the occasion, Dr. Sehrish Asgar said the festival is yet another glaring example of the massive and abundant

cultural richness of the country, a source of wonder for people across the globe.

She hoped that the festival is celebrated in its true traditional fervor, amity, and brotherhood, which she said have long been the template of Indian culture and ethos.

She added that on this great occasion we all need to spread Lord Ram's noble message of righteous conduct and renew our commitment to his ideals. Meanwhile, Dr. Sehrish Asgar while being appraised about the issues gave on spot directions to the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted electricity, drinking water and supply of other essential amenities at the venue during the auspicious occasion.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The Director Fisheries, J&K, Mohammad Farooq Dar on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of District Budgam and inspected Trout Hatchery, Khag, Trout rearing Unit, Beerwah and Carp Fish Farm, Narbal.

The Director reviewed the implementation of the various fisheries developmental schemes being implemented in District Budgam and reviewed the Trout seed production and functioning of the Departmental Fish Farms and Seed Production Centres in the district.

The Joint Director Fisheries (South), Kashmir apprised the Director that about 6.0 lac of Rainbow Trout Seed has been produced at Trout Hatchery, Khag.

Besides meeting the requirement of the northern districts of Kashmir viz.

Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara for stocking the feasible Trout streams as a part of conservation measure for Trout in the natural water bodies and for attraction of Tourists for angling purpose, the quality Trout seed from the hatchery is also distributed to the Private Trout growers for rearing in their Trout farms.

It was given out that about 1.5 ton of Trout has been sold to the public thus accruing revenue of Rs. 7.0 lac from the Trout Hatchery.

He visited all the components of the hatchery and also inspected the repair work of the feeding channel and installation of screens/Dam boards being taken up by PWD (R&B) at the Trout Hatchery.

While inspecting the Trout Rearing unit, Beerwah, the Director Fisheries was briefed that 5 qtls of Trout



Director Fisheries, J&K, Mohd Farooq Dar during visit to Trout Hatchery, Khag, Trout rearing Unit, Beerwah.

has been sold from the farm.

It was informed that a Carp Fish Farm, Narbal acts as a Carp seed rearing centre for raising the seed to the fingerling size and subsequent distribution of stunted fingerlings to farmers for rearing in their carp units.

The District Officer informed that the land and water efficient technology for fish farming has also been introduced in the District and one Biofloc unit has been

established in the private sector.

The concerned Officer apprised the Director that about 100 Fish culture units have been established in the District including 16 Trout and 02 Carp units during the current financial year.

He informed that more youth are coming forward to adopt fish farming as an economic enterprise. A total 825 fishermen are registered with the department in

NCORD - DC Anantnag calls for coordinated action against drug abuse

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
ANANTNAG: NCORD meeting was held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Basharat Qayoom.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner

called for coordinated action against drugs. He said that Police and Drug Control Officers are making efforts to ensure the supply of drugs and substances of abuse is restricted.

He said that society, teachers, health professionals and PRIs need to ensure that through counselling young minds are made aware of the threat drugs pose to them and to the society as a whole.

He said that teens are most vulnerable and need special attention to keep them away from this menace and parents and teachers have best access to youth for counselling them. He appreciated the efforts of the Health and Education department whereby training has been imparted to teachers to aid students who fall prey to

drugs. He also appreciated the drug awareness camps being held in various parts of the district by NRLM.

SSP Anantnag called for an awareness campaign by means of installation of hoardings and other IEC material at conspicuous places to create awareness among the youth.

Drug Control Officer Anantnag said that 335 youth clubs formed in the Panchayats have been made aware about issues related to drug abuse and have been sensitised to report suspicious activities among their peers so that help can be given where needed.

The meeting was attended by SSP, ADC, Principal GDC, MS GMC Anantnag, PO ICDS, SDMs, CDPO HQ and representatives of NRLM among others.

Four days survey camp concludes at MAM College



MAM students conducting a survey at Samba.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: NSS units of Maulana Azad Memorial (MAM) College Jammu conducted National Youth survey adopted village Jakh district Samba which was started with the special training of the volunteers. The survey was conducted under National survey of Youth not in formal education or in regular employment as per the directions of Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports Govt. of India. NSS survey team was flagged off

by Principal of the College Prof G S Rakwal on March 27. Volunteers of two units of the college along with programme officers participated in the survey with full enthusiasm. During door to door survey volunteers visited near about 250 households of the village and interviewed various inhabitants. The whole survey was coordinated and supervised by NSS programme officers Dr. Koushal Kiran Thakur, Ahmed and Gagan (coordinator UBA).