

# Sat, Ashok, Jugal others inaugurate Property Fest in Jammu

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP accompanied by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Jugal Kishore, MP Lok Sabha inaugurated "The Great Property Fest" by M3M India at the Radisson Blu, in Jammu.

Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM, BJP Vice-Presidents & MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, Surjeet Singh Salathia, Choudhary Vikram Randhava, former Minister Priya Sethi, District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Arun Gupta President CCI, Indu Lucky Puri, Neeraj Lucky Puri, and others graced the occasion. Sat Sharma, while inaugurating the event, lauded the efforts of the management team of M3M including the local collaborators and the national team in organizing the event. He shared the importance of holding business exhibitions, conferences, and festivals in the area to boost socio-economic ties



President, J&K BJP Sat Sharma and other senior leaders inaugurating the Property Fest.

bilaterally between the business, and the society. He praised the organizers for bringing a range of world class properties and projects before the visitors and wished them success in their endeavour. "Property festivals are more than just sales events; they are vital platforms for economic development, homeownership promotion, and real estate education. They help individuals, businesses, and governments work together towards sustainable and affordable housing solutions," said Sat Sharma. Ashok Koul said the property fests boost econom-

ic growth, encourage homeownership, and improve network and collaboration. He said that such events bring the ongoing development in the area towards Encouraging Sustainable Development by improving collaborations. Jugal Kishore said that these events encourage the developers and the investors to engage with the Government and hence Policy planning and Engagement. Kavinder emphasized on the roles of property fests as a catalyst for market which can attract potential buyers and

investors to boost the market activity. Sham Lal said that these events bring together investors, real estate developers, financial institutions, and government agencies. Yudhvir Sethi said that Property fests include education on real estate trends, financial planning, and legal aspects hence help in informed decisions. Salathia said that these events offer people easy access to discounts and flexible payment plans. Randhava said that these events help bridge the gap

between the public sector and private developers.

Priya Sethi stressed that these events create job opportunities for realtors, developers, financiers, and construction workers.

The event showcased an line-up of M3M India's projects, featuring six of its most prestigious developments. These included the luxurious M3M Altitude, the scenic M3M Golf Hills, the majestic M3M Antalya, the opulent M3M Mansions, the stylish M3M The Line, and the breath-taking M3M The Cullinan. Each of these projects reflects M3M Group's commitment to delivering world-class properties that redefine the standards of luxury living.

"We are committed to delivering exceptional projects that exceed our customers' expectations and contribute to the city's growth and development," said Robin Mangla, President, M3M India.

# LFO-BHF conducts Mission R-SAP

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) organized Mission R-SAP at Gorkha Nagar, Jammu, and at Dhanu, Udhampur, focusing on menstrual hygiene awareness and breaking societal taboos surrounding menstruation.

The sessions, led by Stuti Abrol as Resource Person, educated a total of 265 individuals on the importance of menstrual health, proper hygiene practices, and the need to eliminate stigma associated with periods.

The activity in Dhanu, Udhampur, was organized in collaboration with Mission Shakti Kendra of the Social Welfare Department, Udhampur, under the supervision of DC Udhampur and Pooja. As part of the initiative, the foundation distributed 4,000+ sanitary napkins to ensure access to essen-



NGO members and others during the programme.

tial menstrual hygiene products for those in need.

Speaking on the occasion, Shruti Sharma, a member of Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation, emphasized the importance of such awareness drives, stating, "Menstrual hygiene is not just a women's issue; it is a matter of public health and dignity. Through Mission R-SAP, we aim to educate, empower, and provide necessary resources to ensure

better menstrual health for all." The initiative was met with a positive response from the community, with participants actively engaging in discussions and sharing their experiences. Such awareness sessions help in breaking myths and fostering a more informed and supportive society.

The foundation members present during the sessions included Kunal, Radhika, and Manvi.

# MLA Mohan Lal reviews flood protection works in Akhnoor, assures completion of pending projects



MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat during visit to Gurgi Takki.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat visited Gurgi Takki in Ward No. 3, Akhnoor, to inspect and review the ongoing flood protection works being carried out by the Flood Control Department.

During the visit, he strictly directed the department's engineers and contractors to ensure high-quality construction and avoid any negligence in the execution of the project.

Mohan Lal highlighted that every year, rising water levels in the Chenab River submerge hundreds of kanals of farmland on both sides of Akhnoor, causing massive losses to farmers. To address this recurring issue, the Flood Control Department has initiated protective works worth crores of rupees to

safeguard agricultural land and residential areas.

As part of this initiative, a protective wall is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1.40 crore along the Chenab River in Ward No. 3 to shield houses from floods.

MLA Mohan Lal personally visited the site to assess the progress of the work and held a review meeting with officials. He assured that upon completion, these measures would provide significant relief to both farmers and local residents.

During his visit, Bhagat also assured that the pending flood protection work in Paida Takki, Ward No. 6, will be taken up and completed soon.

Addressing the media, MLA urged residents to actively monitor the devel-

opment projects in their locality. He encouraged people to directly report any lapses in quality and assured that strict action would be taken against corruption or negligence in any government work.

He further stated that the construction of flood protection embankments along the Chenab was one of his key electoral promises, and the government is working diligently to fulfill this commitment. These efforts aim to safeguard the region's agricultural land and households from future flood damage.

Mohan Lal emphasized the importance of community involvement in ensuring the quality of developmental projects. He urged locals to actively oversee the ongoing work and provide feedback to the administration, ensuring that public funds are utilized effectively for the betterment of the region.

On this occasion, former councillor Rakesh Malhotra, Anil Sharma, Ramesh Chandra, Jai Pal Sharma, Chiku Mahajan, Vishal Sangral, Abhishek Verma, and several other dignitaries were also present.

Neeraj Lucky Puri, Founder, Quantum Realty, said, "Our expansion is fuelled by a passion to provide unparalleled quality and satisfaction to our buyers."

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai underscored the transformative impact of distance and online education, emphasizing its role in fostering inclusivity, flexibility, and alignment with contemporary educational demands. Speaking at the 49th Foundation Day of the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), he highlighted how the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Credit Framework have eliminated rigid boundaries between conventional, distance, and online education. These reforms, he noted, empower students to personalize their academic journeys by integrating face-to-face, digital, and open learning platforms.

Prof. Rai stressed the imperative need for faculty development and curriculum innovation, ensuring that distance education evolves beyond being an alternative to a competitive and engaging mode of learning. Highlighting the University of Jammu's forward-thinking initiatives, Prof. Rai spoke about the "Design Your Degree" program, which enables students to pursue interdisciplinary learning by integrating fields such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, digital humanities, and responsible citizenship. He also emphasized the importance of National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliance, which enhances students' employability and global career prospects.

On this occasion, he specially recognized Prof. Lalit

# CDOE, JU celebrates 49th Foundation Day



VC JU Prof. Umesh Rai along with dignitaries and students during the event.

Mangotra, former Dean of Sciences at the University of Jammu, who was the Guest of Honour. Acknowledging the Padma Shri conferred upon Prof. Mangotra, he described it as a moment of immense pride not just for the University of Jammu but for the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra, President of Dogri Sanstha, and recipient of the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi awards and the Guest of Honour on the occasion, expressed his deep gratitude to the university, the Vice Chancellor, and the Director of CDOE for inviting him to be part of a formal event at the University of Jammu after such a long time. He complimented the Vice Chancellor and the entire University fraternity for achieving NAAC A++ Accreditation.

Acknowledging the collective efforts of past and present contributors, Prof. Mangotra noted that every milestone reached today stands on the foundation laid by many unsung heroes over the years. Prof. Anita Priyadarshini,

Director, Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education (STRIDE) at Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the Keynote Speaker, addressed recent developments in educational technologies, particularly in Distance and Online Education. She emphasized that flexibility and openness are core principles of the National Education Policy (NEP). According to Prof. Priyadarshini, flexibility in programmes, curriculum, delivery, and examination systems are now the four pillars of modern education.

Dr. Anupama Vohra, Professor of English in CDOE, welcomed Prof. Priyadarshini and shared her outstanding achievements in higher education, both nationally and internationally, particularly her work with UNESCO programs across various countries.

Earlier, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE), in his welcome address, gave the detailed overview of the CDOE. He emphasized the significance of celebrating the

49th Foundation Day of CDOE. He took the opportunity to reflect on the institution's historical transformation, from its humble beginnings as the Institute of Correspondence at GITA Bhavan to its current form as CDOE.

Presenting the Annual Report, Prof. Srivastava focused on the technological advancements, pursuit of excellence, commitment to inclusivity, and the all-around development of stakeholders that are now key pillars of CDOE. He shared details of institutionalized processes, including Grievance Redressal, Stakeholder Feedback, Placement Cell, and Alumni Cell.

On this occasion, the dignitaries also unveiled a book titled "Influencer Marketing," authored by Prof. Sandeep Tandon, Director of CIQA, CDOE. The book has been published by Rajat Publications, Delhi.

The Foundation Day celebration, held at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium of the University of Jammu, began with the dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Prof. Hina Saxena, Associate Professor at CDOE, conducted the proceedings.

On this occasion, the students of CDOE also showcased the cultural performances, coordinated by Dr. Neelam Choudhary, a faculty member of CDOE. The cultural program began with Guru Vandana, performed by Ms. Saumya Mahajan, followed by a series of performances including Sufi Songs, Qawwali, and dance acts.

Others present on the occasion included Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof. Prakash Anthal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Yashpal, Dean Life Sciences, Prof. Suman Jamwal, Dean Social Sciences, Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhaderwah campus, Prof. V.D. Singh, former Director CDOE and others. Prof. Sandeep Tandon, Director of CIQA, CDOE, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

# Jammu-Based stooges of Valley-centric parties spreading canards; BJP committed to inclusive development, nationalism: Adv Ankur

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strongly condemned the negative role played by certain Jammu-based office bearers of valley-centric political parties, particularly the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in spreading canards and falsehood about the party's role in last decade.

These individuals, acting as agents of these imperialistic entities, are neo-sepoy posing a serious threat to the region's peace, stability, and national integrity said Ankur Sharma; Spokesperson J&K BJP adding further that their role has always been of backstabbing their own people at the asking of their masters in valley.

Ankur further added that the National Conference, historically complicit in furthering Pakistan-backed narratives, has always sown the seeds of discord within Jammu and Kashmir aided by its institutionalised discrimination with Jammu region. Their role in destabilizing the region remains undeniable. They are still continuing with their nefarious agenda of discrimination and exploitation towards Jammu Province through their Jammu based office bearers.

For decades, these valley-



based political forces have treated Jammu Province as a colony, draining its resources, denying its rightful representation, and stalling its progress. Now, through their Jammu based office bearers, they are attempting to bleed the region yet again by spreading disinformation about the positive role which BJP has played in J&K especially in the last decade.

Sharma stressed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP's strong governance, this exploitation is being systematically dismantled. BJP remains committed to an inclusive and developmental agenda that prioritizes the upliftment of Jammu province and the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The party has taken historic and game-changing steps in multiple sectors, ensuring equitable growth, peace, and prosperity.

BJP's Developmental Agenda can be termed as a new era of happiness for J&K. BJP's governance has

ushered in unprecedented growth and progress like Healthcare through AIIMS Jammu, new medical colleges in different districts, and upgraded district hospitals which are revolutionizing healthcare services, ensuring quality treatment reaches the last mile.

The rapid expansion of road networks, railways, and industrial parks has transformed Jammu into a hub of economic activity, creating massive employment opportunities catering to the Infrastructure & Industrialization needs of the UT. Through Entrepreneurship initiatives, and skill development programs, BJP has opened new avenues of employment, ending decades of stagnation and neglect. Social sector Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, and direct benefit transfers have uplifted the weaker sections, ensuring dignity and financial security for all.

BJP's unwavering commitment to national security and unity has redefined Jammu and Kashmir's trajectory. The abrogation of Article 370 dismantled the special status that fueled separatism, bringing J&K into the mainstream of national progress. It has also given fundamental rights to women, West Pak Refugees, and

Gurkhas & other members of the marginalised communities besides crackdowns on terror financing, separatist elements, and cross-border infiltration strengthening internal security. A firm stance against anti-national elements has ensured that separatist forces do not regain ground. The empowerment of nationalist forces within J&K, particularly in Jammu, has created an environment of patriotism, national unity, and unwavering commitment to the nation.

The BJP categorically states that it will not allow the proxies of valley-centric parties to sabotage the progress and peace of Jammu. The people of Jammu must remain vigilant against these backstabbers and continue to support BJP's mission of development, dignity, and nationalism.

The party remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering Jammu, ending decades of discrimination, and building a strong, secure, and prosperous Union Territory. The days of Jammu being treated as a second-class region are over. Under BJP's leadership, Jammu is reclaiming its rightful place as an integral pillar of a united, strong, and nationalistic India.

# Bankers from across country protest at Jantar Mantar, demand 5-day work week and recruitment

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Thousands of bank employees protested at Jantar Mantar in Delhi today (3 March) under the banner of UFBU. One of the main demands of the unions is the introduction of a 5-day work week in the banking industry. During the bilateral agreement and joint note of March 2024, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the unions reached an agreement to implement a 5-day week, and a formal recommendation was sent to the government for approval. However, almost a year has passed and the government is yet to notify this change.

"With 24x7 digital banking services already available and most government and corporate offices working five days a week, this should be implemented in the banking sector with immediate effect. This will only lead to an increase in productivity," said a UFBU spokesperson.

The union leaders emphasised that a strong workforce not only ensures better customer service but also reduces workload on existing employees, ultimately improving the quality of banking operations.

They also highlighted several other concerns, including the urgent need to address the increasing workload in branches due to shortage of staff, ensuring fair and transparent policies with regard to promotions, transfers and employee welfare, and opposing unfair labour practices and any attempt at further privatisation in the banking sector. Today's dharna is part of a



Bankers staging protest at Jantar Mantar.

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wider agitation programme, with the union leaders saying that if their demands are not heeded, they will intensify their protests in the coming weeks and there will be a nationwide strike on March 24 and, 25, 2025.

Presidents, General Secretaries, State Secretaries, Presidents and Office Bearers of all bank associations participated in it.

# MD JCCB conducts review of 85 branches of bank



MD JCCB Bal Krishan chairing a meeting in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Managing Director (MD), Jammu Central Cooperative Bank (JCCB), Bal Krishan, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, on Monday

conducted a comprehensive branch wise review of 85 branches of the bank.

The review meeting addressed various crucial aspects of the bank including gross and net Non-Performing

Assets (NPA), Deposits, Loan & Advances, different financial ratios, measures to reduce loss percentage and recovery enhancement. Managing Director exhorted upon the Branch Heads to achieve the set targets on a monthly basis.

He directed the officers to organise camps to recover the amount and raise awareness among the general public with the help of Cooperative Department Officers about the benefits of Cooperative Bank.

The Managing Director urged all Branch Heads to

enhance CD ratio and reduce NPAs through robust recovery strategies and delivery of improved banking services.

This branch wise review is a significant step towards ensuring the stability and growth of the bank in Jammu province.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Manager of the bank Paramjeet Singh Slathia Deputy Executive Manager Reeta Sharma Assistant Executive Manager Sonal Bakshi, Sunil Sharma and other concerned officers of the bank.