

# Chairman DLSA Reasi reviews civic amenities for Sub Jail inmates

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi and Principal District & Sessions Judge Reasi, and under the guidance of Pooja Gupta, Secretary DLSA Reasi, a comprehensive jail visit and several awareness programmes were successfully conducted across the district on Friday.

A visit to Sub Jail Reasi was conducted by the team of DLSA Reasi to assess the facilities and legal aid services being provided to inmates. The visit was personally led by Khalil Choudhary and Pooja Gupta. Senior district officers including Paramveer Singh, SSP Reasi, Rakesh Kumar, ADC Reasi, K. M. Khajuria, Inspector, and Vishal Singh Jammwal, DySP Headquarters Reasi were also present during the visit.

During the visit, a Free Medical Camp was inaugurated by the Chairman DLSA Reasi in the presence of the officers. A team of psychiatrists from Narayana



Chairman DLSA Reasi, Khalil Choudhary inaugurating Free Medical Camp.

Hospital also participated in the programme and interacted with inmates to assess their mental health and overall well-being. The visiting team inspected the Prison Legal Aid Clinic and reviewed the availability of legal aid services being provided to prisoners.

The officials interacted with inmates to understand their grievances and reviewed their living conditions, access to medical facilities, and availability of legal assistance.

Addressing the inmates, Pooja Gupta, Secretary DLSA Reasi, informed them about their legal rights and the availability of free legal aid services through the Legal Services Authorities

for those who are unable to afford legal representation. She encouraged them to avail the benefits of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) system to receive proper legal support in their cases.

While speaking on the occasion, Khalil Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Reasi, emphasized the importance of ensuring timely legal assistance to inmates so that no individual is deprived of justice due to lack of legal representation. He stated that regular jail visits are essential to identify the issues faced by prisoners and to facilitate the speedy disposal of their cases through appropriate legal mechanisms. The officers present also interacted with

inmates and assured their cooperation in maintaining law and order while ensuring the welfare of prisoners.

In addition to the jail visit, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Reasi conducted several awareness programmes across the district. An awareness programme regarding the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled for March 14 was organized at the Legal Aid Clinic Karua.

The programme aimed to spread awareness among the general public about the importance, benefits and functioning of Lok Adalats as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism. Participants were informed

that Lok Adalats provide speedy, cost-effective and amicable settlement of disputes.

Another awareness programme on Social Welfare Schemes was conducted by the PLVs at Ransoo, Sangar to educate the public about various welfare schemes launched by the government for the benefit of marginalized and vulnerable sections of society, including women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, widows and economically weaker sections.

Furthermore, an awareness programme on Legal Assistance and Road Safety was organized at Bus Stand Reasi. During the programme, PLVs sensitized the general public about the availability and benefits of free legal aid services and also highlighted important legal provisions related to road safety.

Through these initiatives, DLSA Reasi reaffirmed its commitment to promoting legal awareness, ensuring access to justice, and strengthening public outreach in the district.

# Dr Darakhshan inaugurates high-tech conference hall at Rajouri

Reviews arrangements for Eid, Juma-tul-Vida & Shab-e-Qadr



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi chairing a meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi continued her development tour of Rajouri and on the second day on Friday.

She inaugurated the newly constructed modern and high-tech Conference Hall in Rajouri town. Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma accompanied her during the inauguration. Later Dr Andrabi chaired the meeting for arrangements for Eid, Juma-tul-Vida & Shab-e-Qadr in the same hall.

District administration, Waqf Officers, religious preachers, Ulama and Imams including DC Abhishek Sharma, ACR Mohd Jhangir Khan, Tehsildar HQ Rajouri Insha Khalid, Executive Engineer PHE Munir Hussain, Executive Engineer PDD Rajouri Faqir Din, Liaqat Ali T.O to SE PHE, Assistant Director Food and Supply Rohit Kumar, Hilal Azhar Station House Officer Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq Malik District Information Officer Rajouri & Waqf Administrator and Board Administrator Abdul Qayoom Mir participated in the meeting. Waqf Chairperson stressed upon a coordinat-

ed work plan for putting in all required arrangements for the people ahead of Eid and during the Eid.

She thanked the Deputy Commissioner for the cooperation to the Waqf Board by the local administration.

Later, Dr Darakhshan inaugurated the Sanitary Complex at Ziarat Abdul Rehman Shah (RA) and laid the carpets at Jamia Masjid at the Ziarat at Fatehpur Rajouri.

Dr Andrabi spoke to press and said that the Board has delivered amazingly despite a lot of negativity around.

"We fought a tough battle against the tradition of misappropriation of resources in Waqf Board amid huge opposition from those who were beneficiaries of this mismanagement, but with our clear resolve and honest intentions, we were able to transform the whole body of the Board in whole of Jammu & Kashmir. Today, our work speaks louder than our statements. We are happy that people of Jammu & Kashmir are in endorsement of the historic work done by our team during the past four years", said Aandrabi.

# Billawaria inspects D-9 Canal, assures action over improper cleaning

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Concern over the improper cleaning of the D-9 Canal has triggered resentment among local residents in the Gangval and Babliana areas. Taking serious note of the issue, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, inspected the affected areas to personally assess the situation and listen to the grievances of the residents. During the visit, locals informed Billawaria that the canal had not been cleaned properly, leading to the accumulation of garbage, silt and debris inside and along the canal. They further alleged that the waste removed during the cleaning process had not been disposed of appropriately and was left lying nearby. As a result, dust continues to spread in the surrounding areas, raising concerns about its adverse impact on public health.



After inspecting the site, Billawaria stated that the canal cleaning appeared to have been carried out merely as a formality, while the overall condition of the canal remains far from satisfactory. He pointed out that leaving the extracted debris along the canal has created an unhygienic environment in the nearby localities, which could potentially lead to the spread of diseases. He added that the situation is causing significant inconvenience not only to residents living close to the canal but also to people who visit the area for morning and evening walks. Due to the dust and unhygienic surroundings, many residents have reportedly reduced their daily walks,

which may negatively impact their health and well-being.

Billawaria assured the residents that he would strongly raise the matter with the concerned department and authorities to ensure an early resolution. He urged the responsible officials to personally visit the site, review the situation on the ground, and ensure that the canal is cleaned properly through a scientific and systematic approach.

He also demanded that the debris removed from the canal be cleared immediately so that residents of Gangval and Babliana can get relief from dust and unhygienic conditions, ensuring a clean and healthy environment in the area.

# ICC delegation interacts with Director Enterprise mentorship and apprenticeship

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A delegation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, led by Chairman Rahul Sahai, along with members Anil Sharma, Ashish Jain and Zeeshan Azad, met Harvinder Singh, who recently assumed charge as Director Employment J&K and Director Mission YUVA. The interaction focused on strengthening enterprise mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities for youth in Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Harvinder Singh emphasized the department's intention to involve reputed trade and industry bodies in supporting youth approaching Mission YUVA. He stated that enterprises could contribute by conducting 10-day enterprise mentorship programmes to guide aspiring entrepreneurs. He highlighted that



ICC Jammu Chapter led by Chairman Rahul Sahai calling on Harvinder Singh, Director Employment J&K.

established businesses, particularly in sectors such as food, kirana, apparel and retail, can play an important role in mentoring young individuals who wish to start their own ventures. Such collaboration, he noted, would create a strong student-enterprise connect and provide unemployed youth with practical exposure and proper hand-holding.

Harvinder Singh also informed that the department has introduced a scheme under which enter-

prises providing mentorship and hand-holding support will receive financial assistance from the department on a batch basis. To further widen participation, the department is also considering relaxing certain norms, including the removal of the mandatory enterprise registration requirement for apprenticeship participation, thereby enabling more businesses to contribute to the programme.

He observed that many youth approaching the

department express interest in starting ventures such as kirana stores, clothing showrooms and food outlets. Enterprises already operating in these sectors can provide valuable real-time guidance to such aspiring entrepreneurs. He further informed that Mission YUVA will soon collaborate with Mission Skilling, enabling the manufacturing sector to actively participate in training and employment generation under various government schemes.

Harvinder Singh also shared plans to organize a convention soon that will bring together enterprises, trade associations, students and government stakeholders to deliberate on employment generation and skill development. He explained that once a student identifies a sector of interest, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared, after which chartered

accountants and industry mentors provide support before trained departmental mentors guide the final stages.

Speaking on the occasion, ICC Jammu Chapter Chairman Rahul Sahai congratulated Harvinder Singh on assuming charge and appreciated his proactive approach.

He reiterated ICC's willingness to collaborate with the Directorate of Employment and Mission YUVA and assured that ICC members would actively support initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and employment generation in Jammu & Kashmir.

The interaction concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen collaboration between government, industry and youth to create sustainable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the Union Territory.

# Two-day workshop on Disaster Management at JU; Special booklet on Disaster Risk Reduction released

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A two-day workshop on "Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir" commenced at the University of Jammu (JU). The workshop is being organized by the Disaster Management Centre, Department of Geology, JU, in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, JU, who attended as the Chief Guest, while Snober Jameel, Deputy Secretary, Department of DMRRR, was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Rohmetra released a special booklet titled "When Nature Strikes: Survive & Safeguard."

Addressing the participants, she said that Jammu & Kashmir is a region known for its natural beauty and cul-



Dean Research Studies, JU, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra and others releasing special booklet.

tural richness, but its geology, geography and climatic conditions also make it vulnerable to hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches and extreme weather events. She stressed that disaster management goes beyond emergency response and includes preparedness, resilience and sustainable development. Workshops like these, she noted, strengthen the collective capacity to anticipate risks, reduce vulnerabilities and respond effectively during disasters.

Prof. Rohmetra appreciated the efforts of Prof. S. K. Pandita, Convener of the workshop and Director, Disaster Management

Centre, University of Jammu, and acknowledged the support of the DMRRR Department. She also lauded the authors of the booklet for presenting important information about various disasters along with practical dos and don'ts for emergency situations.

The booklet has been compiled by Prof. S. K. Pandita, Dr. Yudhbir Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, University of Jammu, and Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, University of Jammu. It introduces both natural and human-induced disasters such as earthquakes, land-

slides, floods, avalanches, fires, snake bites, heat waves, road accidents and acid attacks, supported with simple illustrations to help the general public understand safety measures.

Snober Jameel emphasized that disaster management is now a necessity as disasters are occurring more frequently. She said it requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving government agencies, disaster response forces, academia, civil society and local communities.

She also informed that the DMRRR Department has prepared an annual calendar of capacity-building programmes to train officers from different departments to handle disaster situations. Referring to the 2014 floods in Jammu & Kashmir, she highlighted the economic losses caused by the disaster and stressed the importance of preparedness and awareness.

Around 60 officers from various government departments, including policymakers, engineers, revenue officials and technical personnel,

are participating in the workshop.

The programme also featured expert sessions by Dr. B. K. Bansal, Former Advisor to the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Adjunct Professor, IISc Bengaluru, Col. Prof. Sanjay Srivastava, Chairman CROPC and Technical Advisor, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and Dr. Ran Bhushan from the J&K Health Department.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. S. K. Pandita highlighted the importance of scientific understanding, coordinated efforts and community awareness in reducing disaster risks in the Himalayan region.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Yudhbir Singh, Organizing Secretary of the workshop. The first technical session conducted by Dr. Yudhbir Singh focused on the Disaster Management Act, 2005, followed by expert lectures by Dr. B. K. Bansal and Col. Prof. Sanjay Srivastava on earthquake resilience and disaster preparedness.

# Rs 5,083 Cr Maritime Defense boost reflects Modi Govt's commitment to national security: Sat Sharma



BJP J&K President and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma chairing organizational meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma chaired an organizational meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, here on Friday.

The meeting focused on strengthening the party's organizational structure, enhancing grassroots outreach, and effectively communicating the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government to the masses.

The meeting was attended by several senior party leaders, including J&K BJP Vice-President Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Secretary Arun Sharma, former MLA Rajeev Sharma, Purnima Sharma, Balbir Ram Rattan, Vinay Mahajan, Parduman Singh, Rohit Dubey, Bawa Sharma, and others. Addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma emphasized that BJP leaders and activists must further intensify their outreach efforts and work with renewed dedication to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. He highlighted that the ongoing Prashikshan Mahabhyas workshops are an important initiative aimed at equipping party workers with ideological clarity, political awareness, and organizational discipline.

"Every BJP activist must strive to become an institution in himself, reflecting the ideology, discipline, and commitment of the party in public life. Our workers must remain politically aware, ideologically strong, and socially sensitive so that

they can effectively serve society," Sat Sharma said. He further stressed that the party's ultimate objective is to reach sections of society that remained neglected or isolated for decades and ensure that government policies and welfare schemes reach them effectively. "Our organizational strength must translate into service to the last person in society," he added.

Sat Sharma also highlighted the recent achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government in strengthening the nation's security and self-reliance. Referring to the approval of a ₹5,083 crore indigenous maritime defence programme, he said the initiative will significantly enhance India's naval capabilities through indigenous manufacturing, including advanced systems such as ALH Mk-III helicopters and Shil missile systems. He noted that the programme is expected to generate over 65 lakh man-hours of employment and integrate more than 200 Indian MSMEs into the defence supply chain. Rekha Mahajan, while addressing the meeting, stressed the importance of disciplined organizational functioning and active participation of party workers in social and political activities to further strengthen the BJP's connect with society.

Earlier, Baldev Singh Billawaria briefed the leaders about the ongoing organizational programmes and activities being conducted across Jammu & Kashmir and called for greater coordination and active participation from party cadres at every level.

# Delegation meets Omar on NLU issue

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: On the issue of establishing a National Law University (NLU), a delegation led by LLM scholar Advocate Ketan Kumar met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday. The delegation strongly advocated before the Chief Minister for the establishment of an NLU in the Jammu division, similar to the one proposed for Kashmir. Members of the delegation informed the Chief Minister that the Jammu region also deserves equal opportunities and rights in



higher education; therefore, this demand has been placed before him. They emphasized that fulfilling this demand is

essential for ensuring balanced and equitable development in the educational sector of the region. Advocate Ketan

Kumar stated that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the delegation that their demand would be care-

fully considered and that stakeholders associated with the issue would soon be invited for discussions.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Battal Ballian, Garhi, Mansar, Sansoo, Housing Colony, Generation Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 7 from 8 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Barneen, Johnu, Sataney and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 7 from 10 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Chenani, Kud, Samroli, Sudhmahadev, Latti, Dhuna, Phalata, Jib Chak and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 9 from 8 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Chenani, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Hariachack,

Nanan, Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 9 from 8 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Residential Guest House Feeders emanating from IME Station and Narayana Hospital, SMVDU alongwith Residential Guest House and PHE Feeder emanating from R/Stn SMVDU will remain affected on March 8 from 10 am to 4.30 pm. Meanwhile power supply to Green Valley Bajalta, Green Valley (New DTR), Gujjar Mohalla and Government Degree College will remain affected from March 13 to 25 from 9 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply Near Masjid, Receiving Station and Patwari Mohalla/Power House will remain affected from March 7 to 25 from 9 am to 3 pm.