

LG releases book by Kumar Nirmalendu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday released a book titled "Kashmir- Itihas aur Parampara" written by Kumar Nirmalendu, at the Raj Bhavan.

The book on Kashmir's history and traditions presents a detailed account on the various historical and mythological aspects of the region from the



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing a book 'Kashmir- Itihas aur Parampara' written by Kumar Nirmalendu.

Mahabharata times.

It also covers the untouched aspects of Kashmir's history; ancient traditions and culture; ancient and medieval political situation; socio-economic conditions, besides religious and social landscape.

It was informed that various sources including Neelmat Purana; Rajatarangini by Kalhana, Jonaraja, Shrivara,

Prajyabhutta, Shuka, and accounts of foreign travelers including Hiuen-Tsang and Al-Beruni were objectively used for an in-depth and accurate explanation for the readers.

The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of the writer in presenting research and evidence based authentic account on the history and culture of Kashmir. The book provides a comprehensive view with new facts and insights to the readers, he said.

He congratulated the writer and wished him success for his notable effort. Sant Patti Baba from Varanasi was also present during the Book Launch.

Ranbir Canal tributary from Paloura to Pouni Chak- classic case of Govt's neglect, arbitrariness

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JAMMU: Jammuites knowing about the basics of this city beautiful are in dilemma these days as things which were top on government agenda a decade ago are in shambles today with concerned authorities showing no interest in taking care of the same despite a lot of pressure of doing things efficiently due to political reasons.

The best example of Government neglect of the public infra is the dilapidated condition of Ranbir Canal tributary starting from Paloura near BSF Camp upto Pouni Chak area via Patta Bohri and Anand Nagar. It is starting that this stretch of the canal tributary is in shambles and even the de-silting work has not been started till date.

This is the classic case of government's carelessness towards its duties as every single soul in the Union Territory of J&K knows that this is the time of de-silting of tributaries of Ranbir canal but the authorities concerned are carefree and have given long rope to those contractors who were granted tenders for clearing the canals of silt and litter which is relatively a new problem in Jammu as at places the canal virtually turns into an ugly drain due to apathetic attitude of the common masses.

People of Patta Bohri area have expressed resentment against the working of the Irrigation Deptt for its failure to maintain this small canal which is very useful for the



locals as far as aesthetics is concerned and also the local environment.

Raghbir Singh, a local resident of Ward 59, said that in early 1990s, people used to sit along this small canal during power cuts and also took bath during peak of summer but due to callous attitude of concerned department this canal has been turned into a Nallah filled with garbage and muck.

Sumeet Sharma, a local youth, asked the Irrigation Department to restore the glory of this small canal which has been created with a purpose to irrigate the field as it has not been meeting its purpose. "The government should clean this canal as soon as possible to do justice with this water body

and the people living in the vicinity", he added.

Ashok Manhas, Councilor Ward 59 Paloura said, "There is no excuse or alibi justifiable for the inordinate delay in the work of clearing this canal stretch. Already much time has elapsed and the time is to call for explanation rather than hush up the matter."

"Ideally this work should have been completed before the start of the month of April but the government in J&K is busy in rhetoric rather than doing work on ground as this is the perfect example of inefficient working style of J&K administration", he further said.

Sanjay Baru Corporator Ward 41 informed that earlier the tenders of Ranbir Canal and its tributaries were allotted in one go but due to issues with regard to funds scarcity, this time the tender work of Ranbir Canal and its tributaries has been allotted in two phases thus creating complete mess in the entire set-up. He said that the concerned JE has informed that the tender of this canal has been allotted and soon the cleanliness work will commence. There is every chance that under the nose of J&K administration this time, the desilting work of this canal tributary will be accomplished on papers only and the money will be siphoned and divided by those who are supposed to look after the government assets.

Counseling task force setup for ensuring well-being of students in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to undertake sustainable quality interventions for ensuring mental health, child protection and career development of students, Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) on Saturday nominated teaching staff having relevant qualification (Psychology) and experience as district and zonal counseling coordinators. Twenty members of teaching staff having relevant qualifications have been nominated as

district counselling coordinators and district counselors whereas 98 staff members have been nominated as zonal counselling coordinators for coordinating counseling activities in the field besides attending to their routine school duties, an official said. He said they would implement the guidelines of Manodarpan for ensuring mental health well-being of the students. They would also oversee the implementation of the counseling activity calendar issued by DSEJ covering diverse topics like

psychological first aid, mental health, drug abuse, child protection, career counselling, psychosocial issues, the official added. The COVID-19 pandemic enormously increased the psychosocial and mental health needs of school students, he said. DSEJ Ravi Shankar Sharma hoped for better handling of stakeholders' mental health issues by these counselors and said that further training will also be imparted to them so as to polish their counseling skills.



Press Club Jammu felicitates Chairperson Waqf Board

Andrabi seeks support of all sections to pursue agenda of peace in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Stressing on strengthening communal harmony and brotherhood for inclusive growth and development of Jammu and Kashmir, newly appointed chairperson of Waqf Board Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday sought support of all sections of the society to aggressively pursue agenda of peace in the Union Territory. Addressing a function organized by management of the Press Club of Jammu for her appointment as chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Andrabi said that properties of the Waqf Board would be properly utilized for the welfare of the people. She said that apart from properties, including shrines, mosques and educational



Press Club Jammu members felicitating Chairperson of Waqf Board Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi.

institutions across the Union Territory, the J&K Waqf Board looks after two universities and one nursing college. Dr. Andrabi said that she has already initiated the process to maintaining sanctity of the religious places. Expressing her gratitude towards Press Club of Jammu for felicitating her, Dr. Andrabi said that it was all due to the support of Jammu media that she got recognition at the national level. "I am indebted to the Jammu media in general and Press Club Jammu in particular for supporting me", she said. Newly elected president of Press Club of Jammu, Sanjeev Pargal conveyed his best wishes to Dr. Andrabi. Former president of Press Club Jammu Ashwani Kumar along with eminent lawyer Sheikh Shakil facilitated Dr. Andrabi by giving her a shawl. Vice-president of Press Club of Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Dinesh Manhotra, secretary general, Channi Anand, secretary finance, Deepak Khajuria, Dinesh Mahajan, Govind Chouhan, Ajay Menia, Kunal Shrivatsa, Nishikant Khajuria (all executive committee members) also felicitated Dr. Andrabi. Vishal Bharti conducted proceedings of the programme. Jamwal cautioned people against some forces which are hell bent to create communal divide in Jammu region by shamelessly playing communal card. Jamwal made it a point that during the recently held elections of the Press Club of Jammu, members of the Club had given a befitting reply to the divisive forces and frustrated nefarious designs of such elements. He said that it is a historical fact Jammu is a shining example of communal harmony and brotherhood. "People of Jammu region will never allow divisive forces to carry on parochial agenda in this region", he said. Advocate Sheikh Shakeel, Rakesh Gupta, former president Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Pradeep Dutta, Tahir, Satish Mahajan, Sunni Dua, Vivek Suri, Anil Gupta, Raman Raina and others graced the occasion.

UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES ACCELERATING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



■ Banking the Unbanked

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** facilitated access to banking for poor - over **45 crore** Jan Dhan accounts opened
- With the facility of free accidental insurance of **₹2 lakh, 31.6 crore RuPay Debit cards** issued free of cost
- Linking of **Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile** has made the system transparent and enabling transfer of Government benefits without any middlemen, directly to beneficiaries
- Facility of **DBT** has ensured protection of economic interest of the poor & needy amidst challenges of pandemic

■ Securing the Unsecured

- Under **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana**, accidental insurance cover of **₹ 2 lakh** provided at a premium of **₹ 12 per annum** - **28.19 crore** people enrolled
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**, life insurance cover of **₹ 2 lakh** provided at a premium of **₹ 330 per annum** - **12.66 crore** people enrolled
- **Atal Pension Yojana** provides guaranteed monthly pension after 60 years of age, over **4 crore** people enrolled

■ Funding the Unfunded

- Under **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**, loans to the tune of **₹18.60 lakh crore** provided through **34.42 crore** loan accounts of entrepreneurs
- For setting up of greenfield enterprises under **Stand-up India Scheme**, loan of **₹14.5 thousand crore** disbursed to **1.35 lakh** SC/ST and women entrepreneurs
- **Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Yojana** provides easy micro-credit to street vendors; **30 lakh** street vendors received credit amounting to **₹ 3.2 thousand crore**

“ Our development parameter is very simple. It is about how the poorest of the poor can benefit from development. The upliftment of the poor is our priority and the poor is central focus of our economic agenda ,”

- Narendra Modi

