

# Amit conducts surprise inspection checks in ARI & Trainings Offices

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings, Amit Sharma, on Wednesday conducted surprise visit of office of Stationery and Office Supplies, Jammu and Ranbir Government Press, Jammu.

He was accompanied by Additional Secretary, Sunaina Sharma besides other senior officers during the visits.

The surprise checks have been conducted in response to regular feedback being received here regarding irregular functioning and related issues in few offices falling under the administrative control of ARI & Trainings Department.

During the surprise visit, Amit Sharma thoroughly checked the requisite records



Secretary ARI&T, Amit Sharma conducting surprise visit of office of Stationery and Office Supplies, Jammu.

and had an inspection round of the entire complex of the office including its stores. He directed all the employees of the department to work with zeal and enthusiasm for further streamlining of functioning of this vital government entity.

The officials of the department, while sharing their

feedback, expressed anguish over uncertainty about their future due to Policy decision taken for winding up of this department. They also complained that during the last DPC, a lot of employees from the Jammu division were ignored due to which there is a lot of resentment among them.

Amit Sharma, while responding to employees' issues, directed the Additional Secretary to enquire into the matter with submission of a final report in this regard within a week's time.

Later, Secretary inspected functioning of Ranbir Government Press with emphasis on hygiene and fire safety measures being adopted inside the premises.

General Manager, Jammu Press, Purshotam Sharma and other officials of the Press were present on the occasion.

Secretary visited all sections of the Press and took stock of quality of cleanliness, hygiene and fire safety measures being implemented inside the premises.

Secretary directed the concerned for keeping a provi-

sion of an emergency exit in this old complex which is a heritage building adjacent to Anphalla Jail, Jammu. He asked for taking up all necessary measures to preserve this building ensuring safety of the employees working here.

Secretary, while elaborating on purpose of conducting these inspection visits, said that the department is working earnestly to revive its pristine glory and regular checks and visits would definitely play a major role in this regard. He asked for preparation of an annual inspection calendar for all wings of the department.

He assured that all the grievances of field employees shall be addressed on top priority so that they perform their official duties more efficiently.

Modi govt completed 8 years



## KC Emporia wins Best Caterer Award 2022



Shray Mahajan & Shivang Mahjan of KC Emporia receiving Best Caterer Award (North Zone).

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Emporia Jammu won the best Caterer Award (North Zone). The scintillating ceremony was part of the Food Connoisseurs India Convention. The Event is a prestigious annual event of the food & beverage Industry and is supported by Northern Restaurant Association of India (NRAI)

and telecast partner was Zee Business.

The prestigious event graces it momentum with celebrity chefs from all over the nation as the jury members.

The award was given by celebrity Chef Kunal Kapur, Chef Koushik and Chef Abhijit Saha. KC Emporia is the brainchild of young food enthusiasts Shray

Mahajan and Shivang Mahjan. The vision is to get the world food trend and flavours to Jammu city. KC Emporia is the first luxurious banquet in the city of temples, Jammu. The banquet and resort has a lush garden and spacious halls to cater to high standards and gastronomic experience for the guests which is one of a kind for Jammu city.

## Nitishwar reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Yatra



Principal Secretary to LG, Nitishwar Kumar visiting Ramban to review Amarnath Yatra arrangements.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Nitishwar Kumar on Wednesday visited Ramban and reviewed arrangements for ensuing holy Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam; SSP, Mohita Sharma, ADC Harbans Lal and several other senior officers accompanied the Principal Secretary.

The Principal Secretary, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Shri

Amarnathji Shrine Board, reached the construction site of SASB's Yatri Niwas and inspected facilities being created for Yatris, besides allied works.

He directed the officers of SASB to provide comfortable and suitable accommodation to yatris, especially to women and elderly persons.

After inspecting the Lamber area in Banihal being developed for setting up of Yatra Camps and Langar facilities, the Principal Secretary instructed the District

Administration and other stakeholders to ensure implementation of all plans and directions issued from time to time by the authorities for the smooth conduct of holy yatra.

The Principal Secretary also reviewed Security and traffic management plans, besides inspecting parking spaces and holding areas and directed for ensuring foolproof security arrangements.

The Principal Secretary took stock of facilities created by the district administration and other agencies for the convenience of yatris, including water and power supply, establishment of langars, cleanliness and sanitation, installation of streetlights, deployment of fire and emergency services components at identified locations.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Ramban apprised the Principal Secretary about progress made by different departments on the works pertaining to holy yatra, especially from Nashri to Banihal.

## Reduce weight of school bags: Kashmir School Education Deptt

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Heavy school bags are a serious threat to the health and well-being of the students, the School Education Department, Kashmir, said on Wednesday as it directed the heads of educational institutions in the valley to reduce the weight of the bags. Heavy school bags are a serious threat to the health and well-being of students. The heavy school bag has severe/adverse physical effects on growing children which can cause damage to their vertebral column and knees, the department said. As such, it said, heads of all schools of Kashmir Division (Government as well as private) are hereby directed to strictly adhere to the revised guidelines of School Bag Policy, 2020-released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to reduce the weight of school bags for students in primary, secondary and senior secondary schools. School teachers should inform the students in advance about the books and notebooks to be brought to school on a particular day and frequently check their bags to ensure that they are not carrying unnecessary material, it directed. The weight of the school bags, as per the policy, should be 1.6 to 2.2 kg for students of Class I and II, 1.7 to 2.5 kg for Classes III, IV and V, 2 to 3 kg for Classes VI and VII, 2.5 to 4 kg for Class VIII, 2.5 to 4.5 kg for Classes IX and X and 3.5 to 5 kg for Classes XI and XII, the department said. There should be no bag for KG classes and the teachers should take the responsibility of checking the weight of school bags of the students and any information about heavy bags should be communicated to the parents to reduce the weight of the school bag, it said.

The department said it is the duty and the responsibility of the school management to provide quality potable water in sufficient quantity to all the students in the school so that they do not need to carry water bottles from their homes.

The files and thin/light exercise books should be preferred to thick/heavy ones, it said, adding, the instructions shall be strictly adhered to.

## IIM Jammu, SDD J&K embark on mentor-mentee relationship for skill revolution

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Skill Development on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Indian Institute of Management Jammu to embark on a journey of mentor-mentee relationship for skill revolution in J&K.

In this regard, Principal Secretary, Skill Development, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, and Director IIM Jammu, Dr. Sahai inked the memorandum on behalf of their respective departments and institutions.

Director Skill Development J&K, officers of SDD and Professor Muqbil Burhan were also present on the occasion

The MoU read that IIM Jammu will handhold selected set of Polytechnics and ITIs across JKUT through mentor-mentee relationship. "Management training programs would be conducted for selected set of students from



Principal Secy, Skill Development, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon and Director IIM Jammu, Dr. Sahai after signing MoU.

Polytechnics and ITIs that can potentially help them in better placements and understanding of skill development ecosystem," added the Memorandum.

The memorandum will also include Leadership development programs for the Principals of Polytechnics and ITIs, administrators working with SDDJK for quality leadership and improvement of work culture in the Departments, ITIs and Polytechnics.

To promote entrepreneurship and help them in cre-

ating link between skill development and Entrepreneurship, IIM will help the Skill Development department to facilitate setting up of Business incubators in selected ITIs/Polytechnics. Besides, the IIM will help ITIs and Polytechnics in developing competitive skills and increase industry interaction, memorandum reads.

According to the memorandum, IIM Jammu would help SDDJK in capacity building through 1-2 weeks of training courses for mentoring trainers/faculty

in the ITI and Polytechnics and train them in developing industry reports, newsletters and competitive spirit to develop their institutes.

IIM Jammu would also offer consultancy services to the SDDJK and help in Tracer studies, District Skill Development Plans, implementation of government schemes, identify skill and training needs etc.

To provide students an early exposure to competitive ecosystem and upgrade their capacity to compete with top institutions of the country, SDDJK would organize frequent visits of selected group of students of ITIs and Polytechnics to the IIM Jammu campuses and facilitate their participation in Leadership Summits, Competitions, Hackathons etc.

Also, IIM Jammu faculty will visit various ITIs and Polytechnics under SDDJK with necessary logistic and facilitation support from the department to motivate the

administration of these institutes towards a positive change and encourage the staff. IIM Jammu will regularly share the information about skill development related programs started by IIM Jammu and its partner institutes with SDD so that its students/faculty can enroll and benefit from them.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Samoon said that the government is committed to support introduction of skill-based quality education in order to provide the community particularly youth with need based, technical and professional education as part of the Skill Development Programme.

"Skill development is the need of the hour, the MoU will be the defining element in J&K's growth story. Government alone cannot accomplish this task, but concerted efforts of government, private players, IIMs and IITs will collectively bring skill revolution in J&K," he added.

## Bad condition of roads irking Valley residents

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Woes of Srinagar residents in respect of roads seems never ending as besides motorists, these roads cause problems for pedestrians as well. The poorly designed footpaths, uneven surfaces, potholes, lack of proper street lighting and signages, lack of road geometry and more adversely affect traffic movement. The STATE TIMES spoke to a cross-section of Srinagar residents for getting their opinions regarding bad condition of roads and traffic mismanagement.

Ghulam Mohammad, a shopkeeper, who relies on public transport said, "Even with a little rain, many roads of Srinagar city especially near Babademb Khanyar, Moulana Azad road, TRC

near Radio Kashmir crossing and Lal Chowk get water-logged, causing traffic blockades. In many cases, the water-logging is caused due to clogged drains, which makes it quite unsafe for pedestrians as well."

Kousar Jan, a working woman, said that although automobile technology has been improved during past few years but road accident fatalities have gone up drastically and there are still many potential road hazards that can cause injuries or even deaths. "The design of some roads requires careful navigation, failing which motorists can crash. Moreover, due to lack of traffic cops on roads, motorists not follow traffic lights properly," she added.

Tahira Akhtar, working as Production Assistant, shared,

"I agree Srinagar is going to be a smart city very soon as per official record, but when I see the poor condition of roads, I feel very bad. When we buy a new car we pay about 10 to 15 per cent of total cost as road tax and cess etc, but what we get in return, and where all this money goes?"

Srinagar has never been free of under-construction roads, potholes, unscientific speed breakers and other obstacles. At several places, internet and telephone wires are poorly managed, hanging from electric poles and trees on roadside. Local residents are very upset due to such mismanagement of administration. As city roads are unsafe, many cyclists attach their bicycles to car and travel to cities out-skirts to enjoy a nice ride.

## With 'befitting' verdict on Yasin Malik, justice finally done: Kavinder

*'Kashmir confronting problems due to touts of Pakistan'*

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta welcomed the court's order in Yasin Malik case terming the verdict as 'befitting'.

In a statement issued to media persons here on Wednesday, Kavinder said that finally justice has been done. He said that Yasin's conviction should open the flood gates for other cases of akin nature which are lingering due to one reason or the other because the agony which these 'monster' terrorists have inflicted upon people who have lost their near and dear ones in ghastly



terror attacks carried out by these violence mongers can only be alleviated by announcing stringent jail terms and even death penalty in various cases pending before different courts.

Countering Yasin's plea that he was involved in any

crime since last 28 years, the senior BJP functionary said that who was instigating stone pelters for all these years and encouraging youths to indulge in terror acts?

Hitting hard against the UPA government, Kavinder said that former Prime Minister maligned the image of the country by inviting terrorists like Yasin Malik to his office and sitting beside him as if he was an ambassador of any country. He said that it was PM Narendra Modi who showed courage and did what was principally right and of course good for the country.

The senior BJP leader

also lambasted PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti for shedding crocodile tears on the verdict of Yasin Malik. He said that former Chief Minister has been exposed badly for supporting a dreaded terrorist and she will have to answer the questions of those Kashmiris who have lost their close relatives to the vicious cycle of violence executed by terrorists like Yasin Malik.

Kavinder asserted that leaders like Mehbooba are playing in the hands of Pakistan as many problems which Kashmir is confronting today are because of these touts of rogue nation Pakistan.



Kashmiri Pandits raising slogans during a protest.

said.

He said the demand of the Pandit employees is genuine, keeping in mind the killing of Bhat, who was shot dead inside his office in broad daylight in the Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on May 12.

Condemning targeted killings by terrorists, Kissu said the security situation in the valley is not conducive, as is evident from the latest killing of a policeman and injuries to his minor daughter outside their house in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Amid anti-Pakistan and pro-India sloganeering, the protesters accused the

government of holding the prime minister's package employees hostage in the valley.

"Bhat's killing was the result of the administration's failure. He was killed because of a security lapse as his killers walked into his office and fled the scene without facing any resistance after killing him. The incident has sparked panic among the community," KPUP spokesperson Kuldeep Pandita said.

He alleged that successive governments used the Kashmiri Pandits as "scapegoats" and said, "We are not ready to tolerate atrocities against our community anymore and will continue our protest to ensure the relocation of the prime minister's package employees."

## Sinha visits Mata Vaishno Devi shrine head priest's residence, offers condolence

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the residence of Amir Chand, the head priest of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi temple, and condoled his demise, officials said.

Chand passed away in Katra in Reasi district on Saturday. He was 85.

Sinha visited his residence in Reasi and expressed condolences to the family members, the officials said. Chand apparently died of heart attack.