

Anti-polythene campaign reaches Presentation Convent, Luthra School

All should become brand ambassadors of move: Jammu Mayor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor of Jammu city, Rajinder Sharma on Saturday took the ongoing anti-polythene and anti-plastic campaign to St. Mary's Presentation Convent School Gandhi Nagar and Luthra Academy School Tallab Tillo.

The Mayor was given warm welcome at these institutions and the students along with the staff members there enthusiastically joined the anti-polythene move.

It is pertinent to mention here that these educational institutions on their own had invited the Mayor and others to educate the students about the importance of ban on polythene and plastic materials.

Speaking on the occasion the Mayor said that like Mahatama Gandhi burnt the foreign made clothes and other products we should also in the nation interest as



Jmmu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma administering the ban plastic pledge during a programme.

well as in the interest of mankind stop use the things made of polythene and plastic in our lives and set such things on fire.

He stressed on the use of bags made of some biodegradable materials which has been recommended by DRDO.

The Mayor also asked the people of Jammu to use the carry bags recommended by DRDO and follow the advisory of JMC to ensure a complete ban on things

made of plastic and polythene within a month.

Rajinder Sharma all the students and every citizen of Jammu should become a brand ambassador of anti-polythene and anti-plastic campaign in Jammu so that our land, air and water remain pollution free.

He sought the help of people of Jammu to make the campaign a big success and claimed that many vested interests will try to sabotage this pro-environment move-

ment but we have to keep focus on motive of human welfare of the campaign so that such wrong elements may get defeated.

In this longest ever held campaign daily 1000 students are joining the move.

Students of St. Mary's Presentation Convent School Gandhi Nagar and Luthra Academy School Tallab Tillo filled the Commitment Certificate and express enthusiasm to join the campaign.

The Mayor informed that the walk scheduled for on May 29 at 9 am from Parade Ground Jammu to Maharaja Hari Singh Park and the Chief Secretary of J&K has shown keen interest to join the Walk.

On this occasion a symposium on 'Hazards of Using polythene and plastic products' was also held at the schools visited by the Mayor.

At Convent School, Sister Amelina, Principal addressed the students and winner students in the symposium were Akshima Sharma, got 1st place; Achint Kaur, 2nd; Laranya R Kumar and Minoli Sharma, jointly got 3rd position.

At Luthra School, Chairman, Rajeev Luthra awarded the winners of symposium and Neha Sharma (10th) was 1st, Vanessa Gurtoo (10th), 2nd while Mansee Dalgotra (9th) and Riya Yadav (9th) were jointly declared 3rd.



Manik Batra, Bhupesh re-appointed as office bearer of ASSOCHAM J&K Council

Tashi Gyaltsen Khachu for Ladakh Council

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) - One of the oldest industry body of the country has reappointed Manik Batra, Director Batra Group of Companies as Chairman and Bhupesh Gupta, Managing Partner, Radisson Blu Jammu as Co-Chairman for ASSOCHAM J&K UT Development Council.

Tashi Gyaltsen, Proprietor, Khachu Enterprises has been appointed as Chairman for Ladakh UT Development Council of ASSOCHAM.

ASSOCHAM has completed it's 103-year journey and Mr. Ajay Singh, Chairman & Managing Director, Spicjet Limited, as taken over as the President of ASSOCHAM. Mr. Singh has started the process of re-constituting the Regional Development Councils and State Chapter Councils of ASSOCHAM.

"I am thankful to the central leadership for reposing their faith in me to lead ASSOCHAM J&K, we look forward to working with all stakeholders for the development of businesses across J&K," said Manik Batra,



Manik Batra Bhupesh Gupta Tashi Gyaltsen

Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

Aligned with the vision of creating a New India, ASSOCHAM works as a conduit between the industry and the Government. The Chamber is an agile and forward-looking institution, leading various initiatives to enhance the global competitiveness of the Indian industry, while strengthening the domestic ecosystem.

"We are continuously working in partnership with Government & Industry to deliberate upon and concretize the views on the important issues and organize various initiatives which have immensely contributed in the growth of the industry sectors and shaping the policies of J&K as well as central Government," said Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

With more than 100 national

and regional sector councils, ASSOCHAM is an impactful representative of the Indian industry. These Councils are led by well-known industry leaders, academicians, economists and independent professionals. The Chamber focuses on aligning critical needs and interests of the industry with the growth aspirations of the nation.

"ASSOCHAM is one of the wonderful platform for the growth and development of related Industry in UT-Ladakh. My heartiest congratulations to the new president Sh. Ajay Singh and my gratitude for extending the responsibility as a Chairman, looking forward for continues guidance and encouragement for the different projects in the New UT-Ladakh," said Tashi Gyaltsen Khachu, Chairman ASSOCHAM, Ladakh UT Development Council.

231 stolen antiques brought back to India in 9 years: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that 231 stolen antiques had been brought back to India in the last nine years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over.

This is in contrast to the fact that till 2014, for almost 70 years since independence, just about 13 invaluable heritage antiques of Indian origin were brought back from abroad by the previous Governments, he said.

Dr. Jitendra said that a total of 231 were brought back after 2014 with the number now going up to 244 antiques.

The process of bringing more of such antiquities from other countries is continuing on fast track, he added.

During his visit to the first-ever 3-day International Museum Expo 2023 inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi at Pragati Maidan here, Dr Jitendra, while going around the different pavilions at the Expo, told the media persons



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh going around different pavilions during his visit to the first-ever 3-day International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on Saturday.

that in the last 9 years under PM Modi, several unique new initiatives had been undertaken, one of which was setting up of Science Museums across the country and a beginning had been made by setting up Science Museums in Aspirational Districts.

Through the Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science & Technology, the Minister said, we have already set up museums in the Aspirational district of Chamba

in Himachal Pradesh which was inaugurated a few months back. Other places where such museums have already become functional or soon going to become functional are Wayanad in Kerala, Siddharthnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Nun in Haryana, Dholpur in Rajasthan, Raichur in Karnataka and Kalyani in West Bengal, he added.

The Union Minister also took a walkthrough of Techno Mela, Conservation Lab and the

Exhibitions showcased on the occasion.

"Prime Minister Modi has accorded high priority to conserving our heritage and creating a new legacy," he said, during the visit.

The International Museum Expo is being organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 47th International Museum Day with the theme of the year 'Museums, Sustainability and Well Being'.

The International Museum Expo 2023 was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on International Museum Day celebrated annually on 18th May 2023.

During the visit, Dr. Jitendra said that the Museum Expo is designed to initiate a holistic conversation on Museums to enable them to evolve as cultural centres that play a pivotal role in India's cultural diplomacy, in a year where India holds the G-20 Presidency.

Dr. Jitendra appreciated the efforts of different stakeholders

including Government functionaries, Museum professionals, Academicians and aligned service-technology providers for organising a wonderful Museum expo to spread awareness about the country's heritage.

The Minister visited the Exhibition of Star Objects That includes 75 curated objects from 25+ museums and institutions across India curated by Gauri Krishnan Parimoo, Chief Curator. He also visited the Exhibition of 500 book covers on books related to Museums, Muscology & Conservation and Ragamala paintings.

The Minister also visited the Conservation Lab that showcases the art and science of preventive and curative conservation approaches in India across material genres.

Under the aegis of Azadika Amrit Mahotsav, is organising the first-ever International Museum Expo 2023 iwas, a three-day event, being held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from Thursday, May 18th, to Saturday, May 20th, 2023.

Sapranches, Panches apprise former BJP minister about delay in works Developmental works halt in Bishnah sector as JE RDD post lying vacant: Sukhnandan



Former minister and senior BJP leader Ch Sukhnandan chairing meeting of Sapranches and Panches of Bishnah Sector.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The development works that has also hit the livelihood of rural workers for over two months as in absence of Junior Engineer in RDD in Bishnah sector all works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) have been halted.

No estimates, no further job works and no reports as JE RDD is the main officer who is supposed to make all these papers to execute the development works, former minister and senior BJP leader Ch Sukhnandan said, adding, "if this will continue the major portion of funds

for rural development in the area will be lapsed. Modi government has sanctioned crores of funds for each village in the UT if J&K and throughout the country. It is the local administration who has to spend the money for the development works," said Sukhnandan Kumar.

A meeting of Sapranches and Panches of Bishnah Sector took place where the former Minister Choudhary Sukhnandan was called to intervene and resolve their issue.

LG Manoj Sinha has also directed all the head of departments and the administrative secretaries to ensure that no develop-

ment work is halted especially in the rural areas because of the staff shortage or any other local issue, the senior BJP leader Sukhnandan said. Sukhnandan spoke to the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) and he has assured the former minister to redress issue of Bishnah area at an earliest so that all works are completed and executed on time.

Others who attended the meeting include BDC Surjeet Kumar, Sapranach Vijay Saini, Ex-Sappanch Surjit Singh, Sarpanch Surjeet Singh, Sarpanch Pritam Kumar, Sarpanch Jatinder Singh and Corporator Surinder Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association (CGPWA) Jammu on Saturday held its 26th Annual General Meeting here. A large number of members participated in the AGM which was presided over by President of the Association, Kuldeep Khoda, former DGP & CVC.

On the occasion, a colorful Pensioners' Journal was released which contained detailed information on pension matters and CGHS.

Among those attending the AGM included former J&K Chief Secretaries, B R Kimal & B R Sharma, former Secretary to Govt of India, Ashok Angurana, former DGP Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest P. P. Sharma and other high ranking former civil servants belonging to different All India & Central Govt Services.

Former DGP J&K Gopal Sharma who arrived here today on a brief visit, also joined the AGM as Honorary Member of CGPWA, Jammu. Khoda spoke about the issues concerning the Pensioners and said his team is doing its best to address these. He said that while things have improved and some issues resolved, all pensioners are



CGPWA Jammu members releasing Pensioners' Journal during 26th Annual General Meeting at Jammu.

looking forward to the construction of CGHS Wellness Centre at Thangar, opposite Channi Himmat land, for which has been allotted by the UT Govt.

Other issues relating to further improvement of functioning of the CGHS WC including supply of timely and quality medicines are being pursued with the concerned authorities for resolution.

He also complimented the Editorial Board headed by B K Raina for bringing out a very useful Pensioners' Journal which would serve as a ready reckoner especially on CGHS.

The General Secretary K B Jandial presented the Annual Report of the Association and said that allotment of 4.11 Kanal state land for CGHS complex in Jammu and commitment of authorities to open a second WC in Jammu soon are among the satisfying achievements of the Association in the last one year.

He explained changes made in fortnightly Monday meetings to identify the issues of the central Govt pensioners and then strive to address these and said that this has made the office bearers accountable and these meetings productive.

An element of recreation and relaxation has been inducted in the functioning of the Association and in this connection, three outings were conducted. More than 15 events were conducted in the year including three Health Talks from the Super Specialists- Dr SK Gupta Neurologist, Dr Sushil Sharma, Cardiologist and Dr. Sumit Mahajan, Bone & Joint Surgeon. While fourteen new Life Members joined the Association in the last one year raising the number to 280, eight members left for their heavenly abode, he added.

The Treasurer O P Sharma presented the audited Statement of Income & Expenditure for the 2022-23. Gopal Sharma who also spoke on the occasion, expressed his happiness in participating in the AGM that provided him a rare opportunity to meet his former colleagues in the service. He found the forum quite different from similar Associations elsewhere and said that he has become nostalgic on meeting old friends. He complimented the CGPWA for their achievements. Kundal in his address, shared some of his experiences of the fag end of his service career and advised the veterans to drive pleasures of the events of their service career and remain happy. He said that he too found Association useful in meeting old colleagues and interacting with them. Dr Ashok Bhan also spoke on the occasion and said that it is always pleasant to join the activities of the Association

which is now diversifying these for the benefit of the veterans. He said he always enjoyed these meetings and events which are quite vibrant. Angurana said that he joined the Association this year and during the brief period he too enjoyed this forum. Meeting old friends at one forum is always welcome for anyone, especially the pensioners.

B R Sharma also complimented the management for their thoughtful events and extended full such activities in future. Vice President of CGPWA, Dr Sudarshan Kumar welcomed the members to the 26th AGM and said that date of joining and retirement are two important events in the life of the pensioner and these remain alive throughout their lives. He mentioned some important events falling in the month of May in which AGM has been thoughtfully held. B K Raina Editor-in-Chief of the Pensioners' Journal released earlier explained the history of this journal and said that it too has undergone changes for good. He explained the useful material on CGHS published in the journal for Pensioners.

Secretary B. B. Magotra presented the vote of thanks and M. A. Anjum very professionally conducted the proceedings.

Dy Mayor inaugurates 'My Life, My Clean City' Mission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has initiated the 'My Life, My Clean City' mission from May 20 to June 5 to help poor families.

The 'My Life, My Clean City' Mission was inaugurated by Baldev Singh Billawaria, Deputy Mayor of Jammu in the presence of JMC officials, here on Saturday.

Under this mission, the Jammu Municipal Corporation is setting up counters at various places, in which helpful people will leave some items which no more are in their use at the counter for the needy people. The Deputy Mayor Jammu said that 13 such counters have



Dy Mayor, B.S Billawaria in the presence of JMC officials, distributing material for needy people from counter at Jammu.

been set up by the Municipal Corporation in the wards of Jammu city. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ready to serve the needy people keeping in mind even the smallest detail.

He asked people to come forward to make this mission successful. He said that such a

mission would help the needy people.

By inviting people to participate in the mission, the "My Life, My Clean City" mission has turned into a National Movement.

The Deputy Mayor Jammu has helped in spreading the message of My Life, My Clean

City by urging people through his words & action.

Billawaria carried out the "My Life, My Clean City" mission with full spirit. He was joined by a large group of local people who cooperated in the mission.

The Deputy Mayor further said that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is doing every possible effort to make the mission a success.

He said that the JMC is reaching out to the public and asking them to donate items like clothes, furniture, home appliances and other household items. He also said that the items collected from the counters will be given to the needy.

BJP Govt failed to win trust of KPs community: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Saturday expressed anguish at the decision of the Government to charge electricity tariff from the Kashmiri Pandits living in migrant camps.

Bhalla on Saturday visited KP Migrants Camp Jagti Nagrota and joined protesting migrants when he came to know that they have been protesting for the last seven days to listen to their grievances. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Hira Lal Pandita Chairman, Shadi Lal Pandita Convener, Chuni Lal Raina Kandi



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla joining protesting KP Migrants at Jagti Nagrota.

General Secretary, Virender Ganjoo General Secretary, Ashok Dhar Secretary.

Bhalla expressed his dismay over charging of power and water tariff from migrant relief holders and demanded that the order be immediately revoked.

Reminding the Government that these displaced people have been living in these camps for the last 32 years and unlike many others they are not in a position to build their own houses because they are not financially well to do. They are

those who subsist on relief of Rs 13000 for a family of four and free ration. Bhalla appealed to the Government to reconsider this decision which has remained in force for ever since these people have been displaced. Bhalla said Congress feels and understands the pain of this migrant community since they have literally been uprooted by the conflict and forced to migrate from their birth place. He assured them that Congress will launch various schemes that will benefit the community in large unlike other parties who visit the township to score political points.