

Neurologist Prof. Satyakam Bhagavati visits AIIMS Vijaypur

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant event for the medical community in Jammu, Prof. Satyakam Bhagavati, a distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Neurology from Downstate Medical Centre, SUNY, New York, visited the AIIMS Vijaypur campus on the May 6 and 7.

This visit, hosted by Prof. Shakti Gupta, the ED and CEO of AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu, marked a notable moment for the newly established medical institution.

Prof. Bhagavati, renowned for his extensive research and expertise in neuromuscular disorders, had a packed schedule during his two-day visit. His activities included a thorough inspection of the AIIMS Jammu facilities, where he was accompanied by Dr. Shaurya Darbari, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, along with senior residents from the Department of Hospital Administration.

During his tour, Prof.



CEO AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Shakti Gupta presenting memento to Prof. Satyakam Bhagavati.

Bhagavati was briefed on the operational readiness of AIIMS Jammu, which is poised to start serving patients pending the installation of essential medical equipment. A significant highlight of his visit was his emphasis on the importance of digitalization in healthcare. He was pleased to learn that the Director had already mandated that AIIMS Jammu would operate as an utterly paper-free hospital from its inception.

Prof. Bhagavati also took the time to engage with the undergraduate students residing on campus. He walked through the residential areas, discussing with students their curiosities about medical education in the U.S. and the evolving opportunities in India.

He told the students that while the US was a lucrative option for further studies in the past, the trend is now reversing as India has facilities on par with any hospital in

the US.

His interactions were not just limited to students; he also met with the faculty of AIIMS Jammu. These meetings opened discussions on potential research collaborations and were deemed highly fruitful by all participants.

Prof. YK Gupta, President of AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu, welcomed him to the campus and expressed his enthusiasm for developing specialized centres of excellence, particularly in Neurosciences. Prof. Bhagavati showed great interest in this initiative and agreed to lend his expertise to help establish these centres where neurosurgery, neurology, and the basic sciences related to neurosciences would function under the same roof for enhanced teaching, research, and patient care.

Moreover, Prof. Bhagavati's visit extended to the clinical areas of AIIMS Jammu, where he met with nursing officers from the Department of Neurosurgery and toured the OPD, Emergency, and

IPD complexes. His interactions throughout the visit underscored his commitment to medical education and patient care, which resonated well with the staff and students of AIIMS Jammu.

At the conclusion of his visit, Prof. Bhagavati met with the ED and CEO of AIIMS Jammu and expressed his desire to return for a more extended period in an advisory capacity to further contribute to the growth and development of the institution.

This visit highlighted AIIMS Jammu's advancements in infrastructure and educational prospects and set the stage for future collaborations that could significantly benefit medical research and healthcare services in the region. The interaction with the students and faculty was particularly valuable, as it provided an opportunity to learn from Professor Bhagavati's vast experience and explore new avenues for research and patient care.

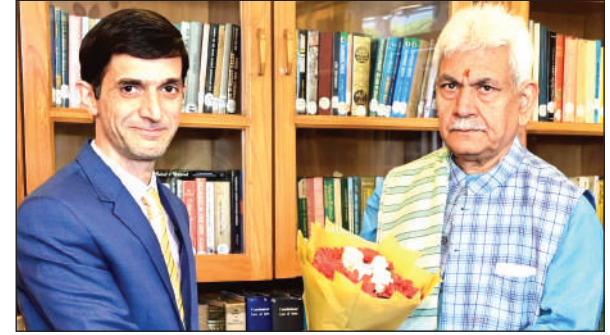


Dir NIFT calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Dr. Javid Ahmad Wani, Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday. He briefed the Lt Governor on the functioning of NIFT campus at Ompora in Budgam District.

Subsequently, a delegation of J&K Employees Coordination Committee also met the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan.



Director NIFT Srinagar, Dr. Javid Wani calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Minorities equally benefited from Modi's schemes: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Wednesday that the minorities have been equally benefited from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's schemes.

Addressing an election meeting at Uluberia Lok Sabha constituency, which has a considerable population of minority voters, Dr. Jitendra said that over the years a number of misgivings have been sought to be created by the Congress Party about the BJP.

These were all motivated by the mischievous intention of Congress leadership to keep the people away from BJP and to manage their vote bank through divisive politics by provoking one religion against the other and by instigating the minority communities against the BJP by giving them the impression that BJP follows an anti-minority agenda, which was, however, far from truth, he said.

In the last 10 years, said Dr. Jitendra, Prime Minister Narendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing an election meeting in Uluberia Lok Sabha constituency on Wednesday.

Modi not only gave the country a decisive government but also brought in a series of reforms which were aimed at improving the lot of the minority communities, as a result of which the common masses have now realised that Prime Minister Modi-led dispensation believes in providing justice to every needy person and to provide what is required regardless of any consideration of caste, creed or religion. There are a number of evidences, he said, to substantiate that

while the Congress Party had always played the Minority Card but it did not nothing to improve their lot, whereas it is the Modi government, which not only gave due attention to these communities but also provided equitable benefit of welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for pucca houses, Ujjawala Scheme for providing Gas Cylinders and household toilets for all without any discrimination on the basis of religion.

Dr. Singh recalled the Prime

Minister saying that he knew only four classes or castes in the country, which were women, youth, farmers and the poor. This noble approach of PM Modi has been consistently aimed at improving the lot of those who deserve it and those who are part of these four classes whatever be their caste or religion, he said.

Dr. Singh appealed to the BJP Karyakartas to make a conscious outreach to the members of minority community and engage them in a dialogue on the basis of facts and figures, and at the same time, also call the bluff of the Congress Party propaganda.

After the meeting, Dr. Jitendra visited the Hospital to enquire about the well-being of the BJP candidate from Uluberia Lok Sabha constituency Arun Dayal Chowdhary who had suffered injuries following an unfortunate road accident. He assured Chowdhary and his family of every kind of support from the organisation.

Local residents must have first right on natural resources in J&K: Bukhari

'Apni Party will ensure that pellet victims receive Govt assistance for their lifetime'

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Ataf Bukhari, on Wednesday, said that the local residents should have the first right on the natural resources in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said Apni Party, when gets the public mandate to serve, will take a range of initiatives aimed at fostering the economic empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir while effectively utilizing its natural resources.

He also pledged that the Apni Party will ensure that those hundreds of victims who were showered with pellets during the PDP's tenure in 2016 receive government assistance for their lifetime.

He made these commitments on Wednesday while addressing public rallies in Ganderbal and Kangan. These vibrant events were part of the party's ongoing campaign for the Lok Sabha polls.

Taking a dig at the family



Apni Party President, S.M.A Bukhari addressing public meeting.

parties, specifically NC and PDP, Bukhari said that these parties never allowed democracy to flourish in J&K over the past seven decades.

He said, "These dynastic parties never allowed democracy to flourish here during the past seventy years. Unfortunately, New Delhi also permitted these parties to establish autocracy under the guise of democracy."

Lashing out at the PDP, Bukhari recalled, "When this party was established, its founder leader claimed that he believed in democratic values and was against family rule. However, upon his passing, he did not forget to pass the reins of the party to his daughter,

who is now grooming her own daughter to perpetuate the legacy of dynastic rule."

"During the three-year tenure of this government, hundreds of people, mostly children, were killed and thousands injured, including about seven hundred boys and girls with pellet injuries. The leader of the party even tried to justify these killings by heartlessly remarking, 'Kiya ye bachay chocolates aur doodh lene niklay thay' (Had these children come out of their homes to fetch chocolates and milk for themselves). These ruthless words will always haunt people in Kashmir."

Bukhari said that he wonders to see the leaders of these

parties come to the people seeking votes. He said, "I wonder where they get the courage to face the people and seek their votes even after their hands are stained with the blood of innocents."

"Even the Home Minister of the country recently revealed that the unknown gunmen responsible for the killings here were actually affiliated with parties such as NC, PDP, and Congress," he added.

Apni Party leader appealed to the people to reject the traditional parties and their leaders through the power of their votes. He urged them to strengthen the Apni Party, enabling it to implement its agenda for peace, prosperity,

and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

He appealed for their support and vote for Mohammad Ashraf Mir, who is the party's candidate for Lok Sabha polls.

Religious preachers have added responsibility of propagating peace, inclusivity & morality to society: Andrabi



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi and others at the Shrine Complex of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (RA) in Rajouri.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday chaired and addressed the Inam Conference at the Shrine Complex of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (RA) on the second day of her tour to Rajouri.

Earlier Dr Andrabi met many public delegations and talked to the cross section of the people including a delegation of Pahari Community and Gujjar & Bakerwal Welfare Forum.

Dr Andrabi led the introduction of smart machinery initiative of Waqf Board at the famous Sufi shrine of Shahdara Sharief.

Prominent Imams of the district participated in the Inam Conference.

In her address Dr Andrabi said that the role of the Imams in creating awareness

about Sufi teaching among the young generation is very significant.

"Religious preachers have an added responsibility of propagating peace, inclusivity & morality to the society. We have to repeatedly aware our youth about the hazards of divisive ideas, drug abuse, violence and ploys of hatred", said Dr. Andrabi.

She said that doctrines of inclusiveness, nationalism, humanity and Sufi spiritual thoughts can only lead us to a peaceful and progressive future and our Ulema and religious preachers have to play the leading role in this context. Prayers for peace, prosperity and happiness of all were done at the conclusion of the Conference. Dr Andrabi was accompanied by Waqf Board officials and Administrator for Rajouri Abdul Qayoom Mir.

Take strong stand on drugs peddlers: SSP Jammu to officers

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar on Wednesday conducted a surprise inspection of Police Station Bishnah.

During the visit, he was accompanied by SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna.

During his surprise visit, he conducted casual inspection of the police station and check various registers which are currently being maintained in the police stations as part of proactive policing, viz drug addict register, NCR register, Property/ land dispute register.

Thereafter he was apprise regarding the functioning of the police station and the emerging challenges in dealing with the drug addicts in the



SSP Jammu Dr. Vinod Kumar interacting with police officials.

area which have become a menace for the society.

SSP Jammu visited a suspected drug hotspot at village Kothey Bulandly Chori.

It is pertinent to mention here that last year Jammu Police booked Baldev Raju and Poli Devi, husband-wife duo of same locality under

PSA and PIT NDPS since both were also hand in glove with the drug addicts and peddlers of the area.

It is working in to mention that due to the vacuum created by the eruptions some persons had taken over the roles of hooch preparation, in which Kunti Devi and his son

Praveen Kumar along with daughter in law, Edwin booked under section 48, b, d, e, f of Excise Act.

Pressing demand from the locals of the area for establishing Santri Post which was fulfilled by SSP Jammu by instantly arranging the same from DPL Jammu.

Instructions were given by the SSP Jammu to the officer on ground to take a strong stand on the issue of drugs and the people involved in purchase and selling of the same.

Thereafter he brief the media fraternity particularly from Bishnah, regarding the front face of the police in dealing with the menace of drugs.

Serving humanity upholds Red Cross legacy: DC



Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya and others witnessing cultural programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World Red Cross Day was on Wednesday commemorated by organising a grand event by the District Red Cross Society here in Teachers' Bhawan. Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The event featured a blood donation camp, drawing participation from Red Cross volunteers, students and individuals from diverse segments of society.

In his address, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also Chairman District Red Cross Society, under-

scored the evolving role of the Red Cross Society, emphasising its multifaceted contribution to society beyond providing first aid. He called upon everyone to contribute to humanity's service in their respective capacities, emphasising the importance of sincere dedication to duty and public welfare. He urged all to uphold and perpetuate the noble mission and legacy of the Red Cross. Addressing the gathering, Executive Secretary of District Red Cross Society Anusya Jamwal (ADC Jammu) highlighted the array of awareness activities leading up to

World Red Cross Day, including donation drives and sessions on personal and menstrual hygiene for schoolgirls as well as awareness initiatives for eradication of drug abuse. She outlined the forthcoming plans for the District Red Cross Society. The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by students and specially abled children, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Among the dignitaries present were SDM Jammu South Atul Dutt Sharma, SP Jammu South, JD School Education Jammu, along with various district officers.

First Batch of Hajj pilgrims from J&K to embark for holy journey today

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: The first batch of 320 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir will embark for the holy pilgrimage on Thursday.

They are scheduled to depart from the Sheikh ul Alam International Airport Srinagar on May 9, officials said.

The pilgrims from J&K are among the first batch across India to undertake the sacred journey this year.

According to officials, a total of 7008 Hajj pilgrims, including 37 women without Mehram, from Jammu and Kashmir will be embarking on the holy journey to Mecca and Medina this year.

Executive Officer, J&K Hajj Committee, Shujhat Qureshi said that all arrangements are in place to make the pilgrimages for pilgrims hassle-free. He said that out of the total 7008 pilgrims, around 6800 are going through the Srinagar embarkation, and remaining through the Delhi embarkation.

"A total of 6852 pilgrims will be embarking from Srinagar, including those from Ladakh, while 541 pilgrims will depart from other airports, primarily Delhi airport",



Qureshi said.

As per the Executive Officer special arrangements have been made to facilitate the pilgrimage for 37 women pilgrims, who will be undertaking the sacred journey without a male companion, known as a Mahram. The majority of these women pilgrims will be embarking from Srinagar.

To ensure a seamless and hassle-free experience for all pilgrims and their families, the authorities have meticulously coordinated every aspect of the journey, right from the issuance of boarding passes to customs clearance formalities.

These arrangements have been put in place to minimize any inconvenience or delays during the travel process.

The Hajj House, a dedicated facility, will serve as the central point for all necessary formalities related to the pilgrimage. This centralised approach aims to streamline the processes, making it more convenient for the pilgrims to complete the required procedures effortlessly.

Qureshi emphasised that a collaborative effort, involving various departments, including health, security, and emergency services, has been undertaken to ensure the

safety and well-being of the pilgrims throughout their journey.

This multi-agency coordination ensures that appropriate measures are in place to address any potential concerns or contingencies that may arise.

This year's pilgrimage will commence with a visit to Medina, with all pilgrims accommodated in Markaziya. Enhancements have been made in Minha, with tents now strategically positioned in zones 2, 3, and 4, elevating the overall experience for the pilgrims.

However, the rising costs have resulted in a decline in the number of pilgrims this year. Pilgrims had to deposit over Rs 4.20 lakh for undertaking the pilgrimage.

Officials disclosed that despite an allocated quota of 9,500 seats and an additional 2,000 seats, making the total allotment 11,500, the number of applicants was less. "This imbalance implied that for the first time, all applicants were accommodated without the need for a draw of lots, marking a distinctive departure from previous practices," they said. Notably, last year, 12,052 individuals undertook the sacred journey from Srinagar.