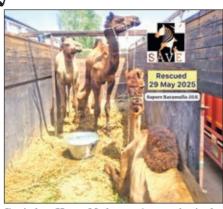
SAVE Society rescues 7 camels slated for illegal slaughter in Kashmir

SOPORE: In a significant rescue operation, SAVE Society, an animal welfare organization working in Jammu & Kashmir, successfully rescued seven camels that were reportedly being illegally transported and sold for slaughter in Arampura, Sopore, Kashmir.

The rescue was made possible after a video posted on Facebook went viral, clearly showing camels being advertised for Qurbani (religious sacrifice). The video reportedly revealed that the camels were brought to the valley specifically for slaughter, in violation of multiple animal welfare and transportation laws. The location was traced to Arampura, Sopore, prompting swift action by SAVE Society with the support of local police, district administration, and Animal Husbandry officials of

Animal rights

Baramulla district.



Devinder Kaur Madaan of SAVE Society praised the efforts of all departments involved in the rescue. She confirmed that the camels had been transported from Rajasthan and Gujarat on foot, by handlers contracted to deliver the animals to various locations in Kashmir.

Following the rescue, the camels were safely transported in two specially arranged trucks to a Camel Sanctuary run by

Foundation in Barodia. Jaipur, Rajasthan. A professional camel handler was brought in from Rajasthan to ensure the safe and humane relocation of the ani-

Madaan emphasized that the transportation and sale of these camels violated the Rajasthan (Prohibition of Camel Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 2015. According to Section 5 of the Act, export of camels from Rajasthan without official permission is illegal, especially if the intent is slaughter. Camels, being the state animal of Rajasthan, are protected

The incident also highlights broader national concerns. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, the Slaughter House Rules, 2001, and the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011, all prohibit camel slaughter. Furthermore, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) does not recognize camel meat as legal for consumption. Only meat from sheep, goats, pigs, cattle, poul-

Legal experts also point out that under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, camel slaughter is a punishable offence, and even an attempt is liable for prosecution under Section 62 read with Section 325.

try, and fish is permitted.

The Telangana High Court had earlier taken cognizance of similar cases in WP(PIL) No. 136 of 2020, directing strict action against those involved in illegal camel transportation and slaughter. An advisory issued

on June 7, 2022, by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to all Chief Secretaries and Police Chiefs across the country, urged states and UTs to prevent illegal slaughter, especially of camels.

The recurring reports of camels being slaughtered during Bakri Eid despite clear legal prohibitions show a pattern of violations that animal rights groups like SAVE Society are striving to curb.

The camels rescued from Sopore are now safe and being rehabilitated at the Jaipur sanctuary. Their rescue serves as a powerful reminder of the urgent need for stricter enforcement of existing animal protection laws and greater awareness among the public regarding the legal and ethical treatment of animals.

SAVE Society continues to advocate for the rights of animals and urges the public to report any suspicious or illegal activities involving animal cruelty.

EdCIL, Samagra Shiksha organize three-day AI, EdTech & Life Skills Training for teachers



EdCIL officials posing with teachers participating in training program.

JAMMU: A comprehensive three-day training pro-Indigenous Culture. Life Skills Upgradation, and Industry 4.0 was successfully conducted by EdCIL in collaboration with Directorate of Samagra Shiksha from May 26 to 28, 2025, at HSS Gandhi Nagar and GGHSS Bakshi

The training witnessed

Parvinder Happy listens to grievances of Ward 58,

takes stock of drainage, waterlogging issues

participation from 64 teachers across 9 zones-Jammu, Gandhi Nagar, Satwari, Miran Sahib, R.S. Pura, Arnia, Balwal, and Bishnahunder the supervision of CEO Jammu Janab Mushtaq Ahmed (Joint Director).

The program was enthusiastically coordinated by DNO Jammu Sachin Goel along with respective Gupta ZNOs-Poonam (Jammu), Ritu Kotwal (Marh), Alka (Satwari), and Subhash Chandra.

Led by Program Manager Mehak Fatima and Cluster Manager Zaheer Khan, the sessions were expertly delivered by EdCIL Master Trainers Tamanna Koul (Technical) and Muazzam Ali (Non-Technical). The initiative marked the final phase of this training series aimed at empowering educators for future-

Dr. Ambedkar considered education as powerful medium for social transformation: Balbir



J&K BJP spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan chairing a meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP and former Vice Chairperson, said that Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is counted among the greatest social reformers and educationists of the country. He considered education not only a means of personal advancement but also the most effective weapon for social revolution. Dr. Ambedkar firmly believed that education is the only sustainable and powerful tool to eradicate inequality, casteism, and discrimination

He was discussing Dr. Ambedkar's perspective on education along with his party colleagues. Dr. Ambedkar said, "Education is the weapon through which society can be changed." He not only overcame difficulties to attain higher education himself but also worked to open the doors of education for the underprivileged sections of society. By studying at institutions like Columbia University and the London School of Economics, he proved that talent is not dependent on caste or social status. Balbir stated that Dr.

institutions to spread education and dedicated his entire life to inspiring Dalits, the backward classes, and the deprived sections to get educated. He believed that no community can fight for its rights without education. He gave the powerful slogan: "Be Educated, Be Organized, and Be Agitated."

Today, as India moves toward social harmony and inclusive development, Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts and contributions have become even more relevant. Educational institutions, social organizations, and governments across the country should draw inspiration from his educational vision so that everyone can have equal opportunities and a just society can be established.

Dr. Ambedkar's life is proof that education not only brings self-reliance but also holds the power to transform social structures. His ideas will continue to inspire future generations about the importance of educa-

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Residents of several colonies in Ward No. 58, including Dashmesh Nagar, Akali Kour Singh Nagar, Gobind Nagar, Jeevan Nagar, and Green Avenue, have voiced serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of drains and recurring waterlogging issues that worsen during the monsoon While drainage cleaning

and desilting efforts have begun in select areas, several localities still await muchneeded intervention.

In Dashmesh Nagar, a dedicated drainage cleaning team recently conducted desilting operations, clearing silt and debris from the main drains. This has brought visible relief to residents, who expressed their hope that these proactive measures will help mitigate waterlogging in the coming rainy months. Many locals



Parvinder Singh Happy interacting with residents.

thanked the officials for

their timely response. Similarly, in Akali Kour Singh Nagar, drains surrounding $_{
m the}$ Gurdwara Sahib have been thoroughly cleaned. The residents here welcomed the move and appreciated the authorities for addressing their long-pending demand, bringing a sense of reassurance to the community.

remains critical in Jeevan Nagar, where the main drainage system has yet to be repaired. During rainfall, the main drain overflows, bringing filthy water and garbage into residential compounds and up to the doorsteps of houses.

This repeated flooding not only damages household property but also poses a major health risk, heightening concerns about disease

outbreaks. Residents lament that they live in constant anxiety during the monsoon season and have issued an urgent appeal to the authorities to start repair work and initiate the tender process for the revamp of the main drain without further delay.

Responding to the distress calls, local leader Parvinder Singh Happy visited the affected localities, including the worst-hit Jeevan Nagar. During his visit, he met with concerned residents, sanitation workers, and officials to assess the on-ground situa-

Parvinder urged the civic bodies and drainage departments to take swift and sustainable action to resolve the drainage problems before the monsoons arrive in full force.

Recognized as a responsive and engaged public representative, Parvinder continues to actively engage with citizens and work towards resolving local infrastructure challenges. His visit and proactive outreach have drawn appreciation from locals, who see him as a committed advocate for their well-being. Present during the visit

were Narinder Gupta, Sukhwinder Singh, Neeraj Gupta, Rakesh Chaudhary Mantri, Rajinder Kaur, Bant Singh, Amrit Singh. Asa Singh, Paramjit Singh Shonki, Amandeep Singh, and Sarabjeet Singh Tinku. They also appealed to the authorities to expedite the drain cleaning and repair work in all affected areas.

Local residents have collectively called on the administration, under the leadership of Parvinder Singh Happy, to provide a permanent solution to the drainage and waterlogging issues that have plagued the

JBSA urges Uniform Purchase Policy, preference for genuine local vendors

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Book-Sellers Association (JBSA) on Thursday held a meeting with the Book Selection and Purchase Committee Dhanvantri Library, University of Jammu.

The meeting aimed to highlight the persistent challenges faced by local book suppliers and to demand a transparent fair and uniform procurement process. The association expressed concerns over the growing influence of nonlocal vendors and irregularities in departmental purchasing practices.

Led by JBSA President Ruchi Chouhan Khan, a delegation of local book-sellers met with Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi, Incharge Librarian of Jammu University, along with members of the university's Book Selection and Purchase Committee.

Dr. Sahi assured full cooperation and support to the book-sellers and acknowledged the importance of



JBSA President Ruchi Chouhan Khan led delegation meeting with Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi, Incharge Librarian of Jammu University.

addressing their grievances. During the meeting, Ruchi pointed out that Jammu University spends lakhs of rupees annually on book procurement, with each department receiving earmarked grants for this purpose. However, in recent years, several departments have been following inconsistent and isolated procurement methods. departments have been floating separate EOIs (Expressions of Interest) with varying conditions that

dors. She further alleged that some departments are issuing supply orders only to hand-picked vendors while excluding others, regardless of their credibility.

Another major concern raised was the emergence of proxy firms-companies floated by some vendors to grab a larger share of supply orders under different names. JBSA urged the university to ensure that orders are placed only with verified, genuine suppliers.

The association also criticized the practice of accepting unsustainable discount rates. According to JBSA, a few outside suppliers offer unusually high discounts on a limited range of books, mostly old stock, to create an illusion of affordability. This has led the university to demand similar discounts across all categories-something that local vendors, who operate on tighter mar-

gins, simply cannot afford. Ruchi strongly advocated for a streamlined and uniform purchasing mechanism across all departments to prevent favoritism and con-

fusion. She also appealed for preferential treatment towards local vendors, emphasizing that supportbusinesses local strengthens the regional economy and fosters longterm trust.

In response, Dr. Vikram Singh Sahi assured the delegation that the concerns raised would be duly discussed with the relevant authorities. Those present from the JU Administration included Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Librarian; Deepti Padmanaban, Administrative Officer; $_{
m Nimmi}$ Assistant Librarian (Accounts Section); Jasjeet Singh, Assistant Librarian; Ashok Kumar, Assistant Registrar; and Dr. Kusum Incharge IT Dhanvantri Section, Library

From JBSA, those present included Vibhav Gupta, Nischal Anand, Sanjay Anand, Harbinder Singh, Narvinder Singh, I.P. Singh, Lutifur Azad, and

Jal Shakti (PHE) Contractors Welfare Association demands release of payment



Jal Shakti (PHE) Contractors Welfare Association President Rajesh Choudhary talking to reporters.

Intensify efforts in public outreach to educate citizens

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jal Shakti (PHE) Contractors Welfare Association, led by its President Rajesh Choudhary Thursday expressed grave concern over the prolonged nonrelease of payments under several key government water supply schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Languishing Schemes, and the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

Addressing the media here, Choudhary highlighted that despite successful execution of numerous projects-many of which are already delivering

nities-contractors have not received payments for over nine months. This delay has pushed the contractor community into severe financial distress, making it nearly impossible to pay workers or suppliers. Labourers are now threatening to strike, putting public utility projects at risk of being completely stalled. He emphasized that most civil and mechanical works under JJM are already complete, yet payments remain withheld without any explanation. "Contractors have invested heavily, taken loans, and fulfilled their responsibilities. The continued delay is unjust and

for completed projects are still pending. Despite repeated representations to the concerned authorities, contractors have received no resolution, forcing many to run from pillar to post. Adding to the burden, completed

under

Languishing Scheme, balance

payments and security deposits

Choudhary pointed out that NRDWP-both old and new-are also awaiting payment. Many contractors are now defaulting on GST payments and bank loans, with some unable to meet even basic household needs.

The association warned that if dues are not released immediately, it could lead to legal action, halted works, and irreversible damage to public infrastructure development. The Association urged the government to intervene urgently and release all pending payments to safeguard livelihoods and ensure continued implementation of vital water sup-

IIM Jammu observes World No Tobacco Day with awareness session

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: In observance of World No Tobacco Day, the Institute Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, and under the aegis of the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, organized an awareness session at the Augustya Classroom, Jagti Campus

The initiative was conducted under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and reflected the Institute's commitment to public health, civic responsibility, and community engagement.

The session focused on educating students, faculty, and staff about the harmful effects of tobacco use and promoting a tobacco-free, wellness-oriented lifestyle. It forms a part of HM Jammu's broader vision of fostering



Prof. Sahay addressed the gathering with a compelling message, stressing the importance of conscious decision-making and ethical responsibility in creating a tobacco-free environment.

He warned against the subtle influence of media and societal norms that promote tobacco use and led the com-



Prof. Sahay emphasized that cultivating a tobaccofree campus requires more than policy-it demands awareness, empathy, and collective action.

The session was chaired by Dr. Paras Khanna, Surgical Oncologist, AIIMS Jammu, who gave an in-depth analysis of the health consequences of tobacco consumption, urging for stronger public education and preventive healthcare strategies

Mridula Divisional Nodal Officer, NTCP, Directorate of Health Services Jammu shared insights on India's tobacco control laws and the Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) framework. She highlighted the pivotal role of academic institutions in fostering supportive, tobacco-free spaces for youth development.

Faculty, officers, staff, and Ph.D. scholars of IIM Jammu actively participated in the session, taking a pledge to support a tobaccofree society. Awareness badges and posters were distributed to reinforce the mes-

The event reaffirmed IIM Jammu's commitment to health advocacy, social responsibility, and community well-being through sustained efforts and strategic collaborations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Apni Party General

Secretary Vijay Bakaya on

Thursday chaired a significant meeting of party leaders in Jammu, focusing on strengthening the organization's structure and discussing the party's future role in the region.

The meeting, organized by District President Jammu Urban Abhay Bakaya, was attended by senior party functionaries, including Senior Vice President Faqir Nath, VP Arun Chibber, Ajaz Kazmi, Vaibhav Mattoo, Neelam Gupta, Joginder Singh, Vijay Guruto, Sheekha Dogra, Vishal Jvotishi Chandiji Bhat, G l Pandita, Devansh Sharma, Saproo, Pawan Koul Devinder Gill and grassroots

During the session, leaders engaged in an in-depth discussion on measures to

representatives.

about party's welfare policies: Bakaya to cadre

Apni Party General Secretary Vijay Bakaya chairing a meeting

enhance unity within the party and emphasized the importance of working on the ground to raise the voice of the people. The need for robust public outreach and effective representation of local issues was unanimously highlighted, with a collective resolve to address the concerns of all communities.

A major part of the deliberations centered on the aftereffects of the recent conflict between India and Pakistan, particularly its impact on

tourism and trade in Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders expressed concern over the hardships faced by those affected and discussed the status of relief measures promised by the government to the victims. They called for timely and adequate support to ensure the welfare of impacted families.

General Secretary Viiav Bakaya, in his address, reiterated the party's commitment to strengthening its presence at the grassroots level and ensuring that the grievances of the people are effectively addressed. He urged party members to intensify their efforts in public outreach and to educate citizens about the party's welfare policies and developmental agenda.

The meeting concluded with a unified pledge to work collaboratively for the equitable development of the region and to advocate for peace. stability, and constitutional rights for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.