

Jammu emerging as pilgrim tourism hub: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader evender Singh Rana on Tuesday described the grand opening of Venkateswara Swamy Vaari Temple in next two days and foundation laying ceremony of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Centre in the outskirts of Temple City as two important milestones for adding to the spiritual grandeur of Jammu. He said Jammu the city of Temples is emerging as pilgrim tourism hub in India.

Weeklong Maha Samprokshana rituals are ongoing at the Venkateswara Swamy Vaari Temple, which included Punyahavchana, Agni Prathista, Kumbhasthapana, Kumbaardadhana, Visheshtha Homam, Harathi and Prasadam distribution and will culminate in the opening of the temple on 8th June.

Rana visited the temple premises and interacted with the organizers.

Replying to questions of media persons at the site of foundation laying ceremony of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana interacting with officials during foundation laying ceremony.

Board Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Centre by the Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha this afternoon, Devender Rana expressed the hope that these will further boost the pilgrim tourism in the Jammu region that has immense potential to grow with the state of art infrastructural facilities.

Already, Jammu has emerged as the pilgrim tourism hub, as the devotees to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Trikuta Hills throng from various parts of the country and abroad 24x7x365.

He said those coming for the Holy Amarnath Yatra pass through Jammu and stay here

enroute and so the creation of facilities for devotees demonstrates the desire of the administration to be a facilitator, he added.

Rana said pilgrim tourism has sustained the Jammu economy in a big way when Jammu and Kashmir witnessed slump in tourist arrivals due to disturbed conditions in the Valley for over two decades post 1990 terrorism.

Pilgrim tourism holds a big promise in the Dev Bhoomi of Jammu and Kashmir that has been the abode of saints and sages from times immemorial.

This sector can be game changer for the economy if avenues are explored to promote tourism sites across the

region for pilgrims to see the nature at its best after performing pilgrimage. Apart from quenching their spiritual thirst, they can plan their itineraries to see the beauty and bounty of the region's unexplored tourism sites, he added.

"Given the grit and determination of the government towards holistic and inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir, with thrust on tourism, the day is not far when the Jammu region will also shine in full glory on the tourism map of the country", he said, adding that this will certainly change the lives of the people.

Rana referred to the enthusiasm and fervour among the people of Jammu about the opening of the Venkateswara Swamy Vaari Temple at Majen and said this will further strengthen the cultural bonding apart from satiating the spiritual thirst of the people. He said Jammu and Kashmir is at the threshold of big transformation under the visionary leadership of the Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Employee cannot seek stay at a particular place during service : HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court holds that employee cannot seek stay at a particular place as a matter of right. It is for the employer to determine where the services of employee are required to be utilized in the department.

This significant judgment has been passed by Justice Puneet Gupta in a petition filed by Mumtaz Begum who is Junior Assistant with the JK BOSE, was transferred from sub-office Kishtwar to Exam Unit-I, Jammu Division vide order No. 148-B of 2023 dated 25.04.2023 which was challenged by her.

The petitioner, Junior Assistant with the respondent, was transferred from sub-office Kishtwar to Exam Unit-I, Jammu Division vide order No. 148-B of 2023 dated 25.04.2023. The husband of the petitioner was also transferred to Estates, Jammu Division vide the aforesaid order. The petitioner along with her husband challenged the transfer order in writ petition being WP (C) No. 1102/2023 which came to be disposed of vide order dated 03.05.2023. The case of the present petitioner was directed to be consid-

ered by the respondents in view of her health grounds and her minor children. The respondents considered the representation of the petitioner herein and communicated the decision vide order dated 29.05.2023, impugned in the present petition. The petitioner has been given choice by the respondents to either opt for transfer at J&K BOSE, Rehari, Jammu or at Board Office, Srinagar. It was also mentioned that the accommodation shall also be provided to the petitioner at Srinagar or Jammu wherever she chooses her place of posting.

Justice Puneet Gupta after hearing both the sides is of the view that the petitioner has no case to set up qua the order/communication impugned in the present writ petition. The case of the petitioner has been considered sympathetically and even given two choices of posting both at the main cities of the UT where the medical facilities are admittedly better than the one at Kishtwar where the petitioner intends to remain. The petitioner has even been offered government accommodation in the city where she intends to get posted. The respondents have taken due care of the representation made by the peti-

tioner. The directions passed in the disposed of writ petition bearing WP (C) No. 1102/2023 have been substantially carried out by the respondents while passing the impugned communication/direction. The argument of the petitioner that she has not been given personal hearing in the matter is without any justification. There was no obligation on the part of the respondents to grant personal hearing to the petitioner while considering the representation.

Justice Puneet Gupta further observed that the petitioner cannot seek her stay at a particular place as a matter of right. It is for the employer to determine where the services of employees are required to be utilized in the department. The arguments raised in the petition challenging the order impugned are without any substance. The petitioner is fortunate that she has been given the choice qua the posting and yet she has chosen to challenge the order of her transfer.

The petition is without any merit and is, accordingly, dismissed. However, the dismissal of the petition shall not come in the way of the respondents to consider the case of the petitioner again in case they intend to do so.

Div Com reviews land issues of Industries Dept

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the establishment of Industrial Estates in the Districts and the land related issues of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The Div Com reviewed in detail the land acquisition for industrial Estates in Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts and bottlenecks being faced by the stakeholder Departments.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Manoj Gupta; besides Senior Officers of SIDCO, SICOP. Deputy Commissioners of Kathua and Samba along with other concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding further development of existing and development of



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

new Estates, besides the progress made in resolving the issues related to the the Industries Department pending in the districts.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner apprised the Div Com about the current status of each case. It was informed that most of the issues have been resolved and those pending would be resolved soon.

The Div Com instructed DCs to cooperate with the Industries Department in sorting out the pending land issues. The functionaries of Industries/SICOP were also asked to stay in regular touch with DCs and revenue officers to seek coordination for

resolving the issues on time.

The Div Com instructed DC Samba, Kathua, Jammu and Udhampur to demarcate the identified land and hand over the same to the Industries and Commerce Department for establishment of Industrial Estates. The DCs were also instructed to resolve the land issues for approach roads to the sites.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also reviewed the power supply, water supply, road to industrial estates. He instructed concerned DCs to ensure that all the facilities are available to industrial estates.

J&K Bank contributes 89 pc of credit disbursement in Bandipora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: J&K Bank, the state's premier financial institution, alone has disbursed 89 percent of total credit amounting to Rs 459.86 crore among all the banks in district Bandipora for the financial year 2022-23.

Lead District Manager J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad Dar stated this on Tuesday during the meeting of District Consultative Committee (DCC) eum District Level Review Committee (DLRC) held at DC office Bandipora.

DDC Chairman Abdul Gani Bhat and Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad jointly chaired the meeting attended by district coordinators of all the banks, government departments and other development agencies.

Giving a complete break-up of the credit disbursed by various banks operating in the district, Dar said that all the banks operating in the district have extended a credit disbursement of 642.90



DC Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad chairing a meeting.

crores against the yearly target of Rs.1023.30 crore registering an achievement of 63 percent of the annual credit plan 2022-23 for quarter ending March 2023.

He informed that banks have disbursed an amount of Rs 326.95 Crores in priority sector against the annual target of Rs.895 crores registering 36 percent achievement while Rs.315.96 Crores have been disbursed in non-priority sector against the annual target of Rs.128 Crores witnessing 246 percent achievement.

Lead District Manager further informed the house that J&K Bank

alone has disbursed Rs.239.00 crores under priority sector and 220 crores under Non priority sector aggregating to total credit of Rs 459.86 Crores showing an achievement of 89 percent contribution towards total credit dispensation in the district. On the occasion, DC Bandipora emphasized the need for improving the credit flow in Agriculture and allied sectors under the HADP plan. Besides, the credit flow in Renewable energy sector was also emphasized upon.

The performance with respect to social security schemes under Mission Utkarsh was also discussed

and the chair emphasized the need for roping in the people under social security schemes with joint coordination of all concerned agencies.

Besides reviewing the performance of Banks & Govt. departments under various schemes, the Chairman of DCC & DLRC meetings directed the line agencies to sponsor quality cases and the Banks for speedy disposal of Govt. Sponsored cases.

Taking review of the performance of the banks and the government departments under various schemes, Dr Owais stressed on the need to maintain cooperation, coordination and cohesion between the banks and the sponsoring agencies to achieve the set targets for development, progress and eradication of unemployment.

The meeting was also attended by Intiyaz Ahmad Joint director Planning, Zubair DDM, NABARD and District Coordinators of all the Banks, Govt. departments and other development agencies.

NC, Congress activists join BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspired by the pro-nation and pro-people policies and programmes of the Narendra Modi government, dozens of activists from the Congress and National Conference from the Sangaldan area joined the BJP at its party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

They were welcomed into the party fold by General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul. Senior leader Kuldeep Raj Dubey along with Sangaldan Mandal President Sandeep Singh and Mandal General Secretary Baldev Singh facilitated this joining. Ashok Koul, while greeting the new entrants, said that people across Jammu and Kashmir are getting inclined towards the BJP as they have realized that it is the only political party that has a leadership with concern for the nation and its people. He said that almost on a daily basis, political activists of other parties are joining the BJP because they have themselves seen the massive works of development and welfare.

Ashraya helps BVM Ambphalla, launches its first Digital, bag-less class in Jammu



Ashraya members with students and BVM Ambphalla officials after distributing tablets.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ashraya, a not-for-profit, has helped BVM Ambphalla launch its first digital class in the true sense.

Students need not carry textbooks and heavy bags when they go to study, thanks to digital education using tablets that are distributed by Ashraya.

Teaching and learning now happen using tablets that are provided to students and teachers. Under the digitization of classrooms, tablets have been provided to all students and teachers of class 7 by the Ashraya under One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) and

Digital Learning Ecosystem programs.

Satish Jha, Chairman of Ashraya, said "In today's era, Technology is the new voice of the world and cannot be separated from education. Our aim is to ensure every child in India gets world-class education irrespective of his or her financial background. Digital education through tablets will facilitate students to get state-of-the-art education, making them ready for the future."

Ved Bhushan Sharma, President, BSSJK, said "Ashraya revolutionized the way technology is used in edu-

cation. It is a historic step for schools in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Teaching through OTPC tablets and STEM Robotics and AI is an unprecedented moment in the field of education and technology."

Reena Rajput- Principal BVM Sr. Sec. School BVM Ambphalla, said "The use of technology in education will help students unlock a world of knowledge and opportunities. We got the honor to become the first school in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to start the Digital Learning Ecosystem in school education."

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar celebrates World Environment Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSS Unit I and Unit II of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt College for Women Gandhi Nagar, celebrated World Environment Day under the aegis of "Mission LIFE: Lifestyle for Environment." by organising two days event to raise awareness about protection of environment by beating Plastic Pollution.

On the first day, pledge

Prof Anupama Sharma and Prof Sugandha Mahajan. Later a 1 km long walkathon was taken out by NSS Volunteers during which environmental friendly slogans were raised for the awareness of students and society.

On the second day today, a compost bin of an unutilized Sintex tank prepared by NSS volunteers by painting and decorating it with different Eco-friendly



PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar students and faculty taking pledge.

was taken by NSS Volunteers along with Principal, Prof Minu mahajan, NSS Programme Coordinator Prof Mala Bhasin, Members of NSS Advisory Committee and NSS Programme officers

methods was installed in the campus for the preparation of compost and organic fertiliser.

Prof. Minu Mahajan asked for regular conduct of such activities in the college campus.

CUJ's TPO organises Parshikshan Pe Samvad



CUJ faculty posing for photograph with students during a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Central University of Jammu (CUJ), Training & Placement Office (TPO) has organised "Parshikshan Pe Samvad" a pep talk to prepare students from various departments for getting jobs ready. HR-Head from Godrej Consumer Products Ltd Anil Kumar and Sandeep Sharma from Kandhari Beverages Private Limited (Coca-Cola India FBO) talked about how internships could enlighten the way forward for students and

help them be a better professional and learn hard skills and soft skills like networking which would eventually help them in getting the desired job in this competitive job market. Sandeep Sharma shared how interns can leave the mark in the organisation and finally get the job in same organisation where they do their internship. Anil Kumar shared valuable inputs on the significance of Internship and how does HR fraternity formulate questions in final interview on the basis of

internship project. Training and Placement Officer CUJ, Viraj Magotra shared his viewpoint on how Internships fostered truly motivated and compassionate professionals in dynamic work environments through the support of Corporate and Academic mentors.

Prof Sanjeev Jain Vice Chancellor, CUJ said that CUJ provides quality education, research and ample employment opportunities to students, and placement always remains the top priority of the university.

Dist Level Inter Zonal Tournament for U 14 Boys, Girls held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: District Level Inter Zonal Tournament for U 14 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball and Wrestling was organised on Tuesday by the Department of Youth Services and Sports here in Sports Stadium Udhampur.

The event was organised under the guidance of Subash Chander Chibber, Director Youth Services and Sports J&K UT and under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya & under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Romesh Chander Mishra, Deputy Commissioner,

Sachin Kumar Vaishya was the chief guest at the concluding function, while District Youth Services & Sports Officer Romesh Chander Mishra presided over the function in the presence of all the field staff.

Around 510 Boys & girls drawn from 11 zones of District Udhampur participated in the tournament.

In his address, the Chief Guest blessed the participants and extended his best wishes for the participation in provincial and UT Level tournaments. He also congratulated the District Youth Services and Sports officer and all the field staff for putting in their best efforts to make this tourna-

ment a great success. The DC assured the participants of every kind of support from the district administration.

Earlier, District Youth Services and Sports officer Udhampur gave a brief report on the tournament and presented a memento to the Chief Guest. He expressed gratitude to all the participants, coaches, and officials involved in making the tournament a resounding success and their unwavering support and commitment in the seamless execution of the event.

Later, the participants took the pledge on ANTI-Drugs and also sung the National Anthem.

Inter Zone Dist level sports competitions conclude

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban organized a series of exhilarating sports activities as part of the Annual calendar.

The events showcased the paramount energy and enthusiasm of the youth, further promoting the spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

Inter Zone district level sports competition for u/14 & u/17 Boys in the discipline Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball, was successfully conducted today here in the District Police Lines. Deputy Commissioner,



Winner students posing with dignitaries.

Musarat Islam was the chief guest. Chief Planning Officer, Kasturi Lal, Dy. DEO Lal Chand, DYSSO Dharamveer Singh, ZPEO Banihal, Khari

and others were also present on the occasion.

The competition witnessed the participation of 343 young players representing 6 zones of

the district. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner advised the participating students to maintain team spirit, cooperation and coordination while participating in the sports competitions.

He said that these skills learned during the sports activities also help in different phases of life, like in academics or future career. The DC further said that the youth of Ramban are talented and can excel in any field. The young players displayed exceptional skills and determination throughout the event, which culminated with a

grand medal ceremony, felicitating the meritorious student players for their outstanding performances by the dignitaries.

In Kabaddi u/14 winner up Ukhral zone and Khari remains Runner up in Kabadi U/17 winner up zone Ramban and Runner up Batote zone. In discipline Kho-Kho u/14 winner up Ramban zone and Runner up was Khari In volleyball u/17 winner zone Ramban and runner up zone Banihal besides U/14 winner zone Banihal and runner up zone Ukhral.