

Govt unmoved as power, water crisis deepens across Jammu region: Uday, Hari Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Uday Bhanu Chib, former Youth Congress President of Jammu and Kashmir and presently the National General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), along with Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), raised grave concerns about the worsening power and water crisis in the Jammu division.

Amidst a sweltering heat-wave, several areas of the Jammu division are grappling with severe water and power shortages, a situation that the authorities have failed to address adequately. The senior Congress leaders voiced these concerns while addressing a workers' meeting held at Upper Barnai Mohalla.



JKPCC Vice President, Hari Singh Chib speaking in a public meeting.

Pandit Luxmi Chand, Congress leader and President Ward No 65, apprised the senior Congress leaders of the problems faced by the people in the area, primarily due to the acute shortage of power and drinking water. He said that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) supply is available only once every 3-4 days, and even then, only for a few minutes. This dire situation has compelled many to purchase water tanks

for drinking purposes. He also expressed their dissatisfaction with the damaged condition of the lanes and drains in their locality, further exacerbating their plight. Uday stated that the ongoing heat-wave has only intensified the suffering of the people in Jammu and the present dispensation has miserably failed to address people issues. He termed it as an unacceptable that in this day and age, people are forced to

purchase water for their basic needs. The government must take immediate action to address these issues and provide relief to the suffering masses." Hari Singh said that the condition of the infrastructure in our locality is deplorable. The damaged lanes and drains are a testament to the neglect by the authorities. He observed that the government's apathy towards the power and water crisis is deeply concerning, urging

the authorities sitting at the helm of affairs to take swift measures to alleviate the people's hardships." Hari Singh appealed to the people of the area to support the Congress Party in the ensuing Assembly Polls in J&K as the Party alone can ensure justice in every sphere of life and equitable development of all regions. Prominent among those who were present include Romesh Singh Manhas, Parshotam Kumar, Vijay Bhat, Mohan Lal Sharma, Kuldeep Singh, Madan Mohan Mehra, Ram Pal, Sudesh Kumar, Amarnath, Tilak Raj, Kuldeep Raj, Nikhal Sharma, Ankit Verma, Sahil Verma, Sahil Singh, Bachan Singh, Surinder Kumar, Madan Singh Chib, Jung Bahadur Singh, Neeta , Pummy Manhas, Kaka Ram, Soni Manhas and Kamal Singh.

Training programme on "Revamped CRS Portal" hosted



DG, E&S J&K, Satvir Kour Sudan speaking in a training programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics J&K, in collaboration with the office of Registrar General of India (ORGI) & Director Census Operations J&K (DCO), organized a Training Programme on Revamped of Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal here on Wednesday at Auditorium of School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu here today at Auditorium of School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu. The master trainers as nominated by the District Registrars of different districts of Jammu Division attended the training presided over by Director General,

Economics & Statistics, J&K (Chief Registrar Births & Deaths, UT of J&K), Satvir Kour Sudan as Chief Guest. In her address, she highlighted the importance of the Civil Registration System (CRS) portal in the registration of vital events. Earlier, Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Jammu Ashu Gupta, in her welcome address, highlighted the significance of the CRS and its efficiency, transparency and accessibility. Suneel Pandita (Deputy Chief Registrar, UT of J&K) was also present on the occasion. Resource persons, Sandeep Rai (DD) ORGI, Harmeet Singh Maddh (DD) ORGI and Manmeet Singh (DD) DCO,

J&K demonstrated the revamped CRS portal and highlighted the significance of numerous additional features such as online reporting of events by general public in official language of the state, online fee payment, facility of delayed registration including payment of fees, electronic delivery of certificates by email making process more accessible, checking of fake and duplicate reporting, monitoring the performance of registration functionaries etc. Additional District Registrars (DSEOs) of Jammu division also participated in the Training programme. Vote of thanks was presented by Rajesh Singh (Deputy Director) DES, J&K.

CISF takes helm at NTPC's Hazaribagh Coal Mining Project



CISF receiving symbolic key for taking over NTPC coal mining project at Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has commenced providing round-the-clock armed security to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) coal mining project at Hazaribagh, Jharkhand a senior officer reported on Wednesday. The induction ceremony was graced by Faiz Taiyab,

Head of Project, Coal Mining Project Barwadih, Dr. D P Parihar, DIG CISF, CCL HQrs Ranchi, Rajneesh Rastogi, CGM, HR CMHQ, Sandeep Kumar S, Sr Comdt, Mruthyunjaya Swamy D, DC. Other officers & personnel of CISF & NTPC-Coal Mining Project (CMP) Hazaribagh. This unit is headed by Commandant rank officer. Located at Pakri

Barwadih, these mines are among the largest captive coal blocks allocated to NTPC, with an estimated reserve of 642 million tons (MT), according to the company's website. A ceremonial event saw senior officials from both the plant and CISF in attendance, where a replica key symbolizing the project's security was handed over to the force. The NTPC is India's largest energy producer, boasting a robust power generation capacity of approximately 68 GW. Additionally, the corporation has commenced its ventures into captive coal production, stated a CISF spokesperson. The CISF, operating under the Union Home Ministry, has 358 such installations, including airports and Delhi Metro, under its protective wing.

Natrang presents Balwant Thakur's play 'Jaal' at Nagrota

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department in collaboration with Natrang presented Balwant Thakur's acclaimed Hindi play 'Jaal' under the direction of Neeraj Kant here today at Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Jammu.

In a very effective manner this powerful play innovatively showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations like a rapid fire, crippling the developing nations like India. The youth of the country, the largest energetic and most productive human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the trap of dangerous drug menace. The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment Balwant Thakur has woven multiple stories in one theme focusing the



A scene from Balwant Thakur's play 'Jaal' presented by Natrang at Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Jammu.

spread of drug menace like a mesh, thus taking the toll of the strongest workforce of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and his entry in the college. Majority of his age group is shown indulged in drugs and he finds himself isolated from not being the consumer of

intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural inhabitation particularly the men-folk are shown

drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the constant growth of consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings seeking alcohol. Being drunk completely he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night this drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having ill intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man after losing senses damages his household belongings as well. The play unfolds a

series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly to bring them out of the mesh of drugs menace. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon. The best way to save the youth from this menace of drugs is to make them aware of its severe consequences. Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact on their acting included Neeraj Kant, Aadesh Dhar, Palshin Dutta, Vishal Sharma, Chaitanya Shekhar, Sanket Bhagat, Kushal Bhat and Brijesh Avtar Sharma. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Authorities should bring neglected areas having potential on tourist map: Khatana

MP instructs JSD, PDD to ensure proper water, power supply

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that many of the tourism spots in Jammu are still not brought on the tourist map due to lackadaisical attitude of the concerned departments and this will be dealt strictly. In a statement issued to a selected group of news organisations, Khatana said that there is a dire need to bring all the neglected places of tourism importance on tourist map for enhancing the local economy of the places where such places are located. "Right from Nagrota to Banihal, and from Jammu to border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and also from Lakhnapur to hilly belt of



MP (RS), Gulam Ali Khatana interacting with delegation.

Billawar and Basohli and many more places in J&K there is lot of tourism potential but still the concerned authorities have paid no heed towards them," the senior BJP leader said. He also said that if all such places with tourism potential are highlighted, then

the pilgrims of upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra may visit these places also. Meanwhile, Khatana also met some deputations at his official residence and the visiting deputations raised the issues of improper water and power supply.

Over this the Rajya Sabha member instructed the concerned authorities of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) and Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure proper water and power supply in these days of scorching heat. He said that not only humans but the animals and birds also need water in these hot days. Khatana directed the PDD authorities to inform the public about power cuts well in time so that the people may plan their activities accordingly. "Where there is acute water crisis, the Jal Shakti Department should press into service their water tankers so that the people may have a sigh of relief," Gulam Ali Khatana continued.

ZPHQ Jammu commemorates International Day Against Drug Abuse with Pledge Ceremony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse, a pledge ceremony was held in the conference hall of the Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) Jammu to reaffirm the commitment to fight against drug abuse among the youth of India. The event aimed to spread awareness and encourage proactive measures to combat this pressing issue. The Staff Officer to the ADGP Jammu Zone, Vishal Manhas led the ceremony by reading out the contents of the pledge. All officers and officials present repeated the pledge after him, expressing their dedication to saying "No to Drugs." The pledge-taking ceremony



Staff Officer to the ADGP Jammu Zone, Vishal Manhas leading ceremony by reading out contents of the pledge.

underscored the importance of recognizing the dangers of drug abuse and taking collective action to prevent it. To further the cause, all employees of ZPHQ Jammu were asked to register themselves on the official government website, [MyGov.in](https://www.mygov.in), and take the pledge online. Upon successful registration and completion of the pledge, employees received certificates on their registered email addresses or mobile numbers, acknowledging their commitment to the cause. The Staff officer to

ADGP Jammu emphasized the significance of channelizing the energy of the youth in the right direction and making them aware of the catastrophic effects of drug abuse. This initiative is a crucial step in educating the youth and motivating them to steer clear of drugs, thereby contributing to a healthier and more productive society. The ZPHQ Jammu is committed to continuing its efforts to combat drug abuse through awareness programs, community engagement, and proactive policing. This pledge ceremony is a testament to the collective resolve of the police force to safeguard the future of the youth and uphold the values of a drug-free society.

JKSPYM SLCA J&K organizes awareness run on International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking



JKSPYM SLCA J&K members posing with participating students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking organized a "Mass Awareness Run/Walkathon" to raise awareness about the harmful effects of Drug Abuse at Gandhi Nagar Jammu in collaboration with GMH, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Mass Awareness

Run/Walkathon was flagged off by Medical Superintendent GMH, Dr. Arun Sharma and Program Director, JKSPYM, Pallavi Singh. Around 100 participants including students from Cluster University, MAM College and staff from JKSPYM took part in the event. Awareness run started from GMH, Gandhi Nagar and moved towards Gole Market covering the

streets' to Last Morh and back. Awareness run featured slogans and speeches on Nasha Mukht Bharat promoting drug free life for the welfare of the community and aims to empower the youth to make informed decisions and resist the influence of drugs. Awareness walkathon concluded by taking pledge on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan".

Billawaria criticizes PDD for its failure, misleading public

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Mayor of Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria criticized the electricity department, accusing it of being a failure and misleading the public. At a press conference here on Wednesday, he expressed dismay over the department's claims of having surplus power while people in Jammu city suffer from frequent power cuts. Billawaria highlighted that the power situation in Jammu region has deteriorated with unannounced power cuts causing significant inconvenience to residents, sometimes lasting the entire day. He referenced a directive from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for 24x7 power supply in areas with smart meters, noting that despite this, residents complain of increased power cuts where smart meters are installed. Billawaria pointed out specific issues with the electricity supply from Gangval region, citing problems stemming from its connection to the Bishnah area grid. He proposed transferring the electricity from Gangval to the Babiliana grid to alleviate faults and ensure adequate supply, suggesting it would reduce load and improve service reliability. Billawaria expressed confidence that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha would address these issues promptly to provide relief to the public affected by the ongoing power shortages and inconsistent supply. At the press conference, he was joined by several other local leaders including Ranjit Singh, Ravi Bakshi, Ajay Pratap Singh, and Ashok Sharma.



Former Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria talking to reporters.

VC dedicates ambulance to Health Centre of SKUAST-J



VC SKUAST-J, Dr. B.N. Tripathi dedicating ambulance to Health Centre of the University.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move towards enhancing medical facilities at the SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor dedicated the ambulance to Health Centre of the University. Prof. Tripathi has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the well-being and health of the university community. The dedication ceremony was attended by all the statutory officers of the university, emphasizing the importance of this enhance-

ment to the institution's healthcare services. The presence of these key officials underscores the university's collective dedication to providing comprehensive health services to its students, faculty, and staff. In his address, Vice-Chancellor highlighted the importance of robust healthcare infrastructure within the university. The statutory officers present at the ceremony expressed their appreciation for the Vice-Chancellor's initiative and reiterated their commitment to

supporting further advancements in the university's healthcare services. This dedication marks a milestone in SKUAST Jammu's ongoing efforts to enhance its facilities and provide a safe and healthy environment for all members of its community. Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare & Medical officers of the University Dr. Anil Gupta & Dr. Shushma Gupta thanked Vice-Chancellor for overall support to the Health Centre of the university.