

CS reviews development projects of Culture Dept

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday chaired a meeting to review the status of various projects being executed by the Culture Department in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance, Principal Secretary, Culture, Managing Director, Police Housing Corporation, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Engineer-in-Chief, PW (R&B) Department, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums and other officers while officers stationed at Jammu participated online.

The projects that came up for discussion included SPS



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing meeting to review status of projects.

Museum, Shergarhi Complex and Tehzeeb Mehal, Srinagar.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the present status of SPS museum besides the issues being faced in completing the project.

Underscoring the impor-

tance of preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the stakeholders to work in synergy for speedy completion of the prestigious project. He asked the PW (R&B) department to

frame a comprehensive DPR for remaining works of the SPS museum so that it functions in all respects.

The Chief Secretary said that the museum serves as a

bridge connecting the past with the present, fostering a deeper appreciation for the region's cultural diversity saying that all efforts have to be undertaken for sustainable conservation of the artefacts. He described the museums as the knowledge hubs that enthrall youngsters with pride about their culture and heritage.

The meeting also had threadbare discussion on development and conservation of Shergarhi Complex and Tehzeeb Mehal. The participants put forth various suggestions for expeditious completion of these prestigious projects.

Amit Kapoor suspended from Aam Aadmi Party following allegations of extortion

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday suspended Amit Kapoor from the party membership following his alleged involvement in blackmailing and extortion. Kapoor is in police custody since June 5.

In a communiqué to Amit Kapoor, who is presently in police custody, the Senior Vice President AAP Jammu Province, S S Shingari has stated that "It has come to our notice that you have been alleged to have carried out extortion of money from a person working with JDA and such an act of grave indiscipline is not tolerated in the Aam Aadmi Party. After deliberating on subject issue at appropriate level, it has been decided to suspend your membership from the party with immediate effect."

"As directed to me by the appropriate disciplinary authority, you are hereby informed that your membership has been suspended with immediate effect for all purposes," the suspension letter

signed by S S Shingari adds further:

On June 5, Jammu police arrested Amit Kapoor from Jammu Bus Stand area while demanding and accepting money from a government employee.

On June 6, the court of 2nd Additional Munsiff sent Amit Kapoor on seven days police remand to investigate extortion case registered against him at Bus Stand Police Station and various complaints lodged at various police stations against him.

The complainant Avinash Kumar, an employee of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on June 5 lodged a complaint with the Bus Stand police that Amit Kapoor had threatened him to expose some documents to media if he does not pay him Rs 10 lakh.

Self-styled activist and convener of the so-called Parents Association, the fraudster Amit Kapoor was arrested under section 387 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) under FIR 31/2024.



3-day Painting Exhibition inaugurated at Kala Kendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A three-day painting exhibition titled "Greek Myths" by Yajur Mahajan was on Friday inaugurated at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery, Kala Kendra Jammu here. The event saw the presence of numerous artists, painters, and dignitaries, underscoring the vibrant cultural scene in the region.



ADC Jammu, Ansuja Jamwal visiting exhibition.

The inaugural function was graced by Ansuja Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, as the Chief Guest. The presidium included Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra Society, Rakesh Sharma, Head of the Fine Arts Department, and Milan Sharma, Head of the Painting Department of University of Jammu.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javid Rahi said that approximately 50 works of Yajur Mahajan are on display, offering a rich visual experience rooted in the themes of Greek mythology.

Ansuja Jamwal, in her address, emphasized the inte-

gral role of art in preserving

and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. She commended Yajur Mahajan for his exceptional work and stated that the younger generation's interest in the arts is a positive sign for the region's cultural future. She remarked, "The paintings in display not only reflect ancient Greek myths but also connect them with the living world and the artist's own imagination."

Rakesh Sharma praised Yajur Mahajan's dedication and hard work, stating that his paintings are a testament to his commitment to the art form. Milan Sharma said that the creativity and dedication evident in Yajur's work demonstrate the true spirit of painting.

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Yajur Mahajan, a final-year student at the prestigious Bharti Vidyapeeth, while interacting with press, stated that his work is inspired by Greek and Roman myth as recited by ancient poets. He has incorporated modern elements into his art to make them relatable to the modern audience.

The event was attended by notable figures from the art community, including Ashutosh Mahajan, Raj Kumar Bharupiya, Rambir Mahajan, Satuti Mahajan, Sanjay Gupta, Shashwat and students of arts from University of Jammu.

The exhibition will remain open till 9th of June.

Div Com, ADGP visit Yatri Niwas to review preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain visiting Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Anand Jain on Friday visited Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar to review the preparations for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY)-2024. Commissioner JMC, DIG JSK, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, senior officials from CRPF, Tourism, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti and other concerned were also present.

Reviewing the preparations at a meeting, the Div Com was apprised about the status of ongoing works being executed by different departments. The

works pertained to face-lifting of entry gate, resurfacing of roads, leveling of parking ground, Whitewash, renovation of washrooms, repair works of ACs, fans, installation of lights, flood lights, and other works inside the Yatri Niwas for providing best facilities to Yatriis.

The Div Com directed the concerned executive agencies to complete all works by June 20. He asked the senior officers of concerned departments and ADM Jammu to monitor daily progress of the works.

The Div Com also reviewed the Health Facilities, Prefab Toilet arrangements, Ticket counters, RFID counter, Langar Shed, installation of dustbins, provision of mobile sims, ATM and super bazaar

facilities.

The PWD functionaries were asked to maintain smooth road surface around and inside the Yatri Niwas. The Div Com further directed for installing adequate signages, display boards with information regarding Yatri Niwas, railway Station, Bus Stand, registration and RFID counters for the ease and convenience of Yatriis. The Commissioner JMC was asked to ensure clearing of bushes and cleaning of Yatri Niwas and its surroundings and ample manpower for sanitation.

The Div Com further asked the executive agencies to increase men and machinery for early completion of works.

Later, the Div Com and ADGP conducted spot inspection of the works and issued related directions.

Discussion was also held regarding the security arrangements. Directions were issued to ensure all the necessary preparation well within the given timeframe.

ADGP Jammu reviews security arrangements for forthcoming Yatras in Jammu province



ADGP Jammu Anand Jain chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, conducted a comprehensive review of the security arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra, Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, Mela Khir Bhawani Yatra, and Shri Machail Mata Yatra -2024. The meeting took place at the Police Control Room, Jammu, this evening.

DiSG of DKR/UR Range/ RP Range and district SSPs of Jammu Zone participated the meeting through video conferencing while DIG JSK Range, SSP Jammu, and SSP PCR Jammu attended the meeting in person.

gencies in the districts of Jammu Zone, including Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi.

Strong Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and Road Opening Parties (ROPs) will be deployed, along with fool proof arrangements at reception centers, langars, and assistance booths.

The ADGP directed all district SSPs to ensure the optimum use of available resources to facilitate the smooth conduct of the yatras.

"Being bestowed blessings by the Guruji has always been a source of spiritual enlightenment for one and all", Devender Rana said while interacting with the devotees in the Ashram.

Lauding the great contribution of Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj in strengthening harmony in the society by preaching love and compassion, and working towards promoting social justice, Rana said that what draws the devotees to visit spiritual destinations is to navigate the complexities of life through blessings of seers and saints. He said spiritual fulfillment begins with the blessings of Gurus.

Devender Rana prayed for

peace, tranquility and well-being of all in the Ashram and hoped that Guruji will continue to inspire disciples with his huge treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Gurus have special significance in the Sanatan Dharma as they illuminate the path of righteousness and guide the people towards inner peace and

Apple growers of Kashmir worried over leaf miner pest

MASROOR AHMAD
SRINAGAR: Apple growers in several areas of the Kashmir Valley are increasingly concerned as leaf miner pest continues to infect their orchards for the fourth consecutive year.

According to farmers, the pest has wreaked havoc in their orchards over the past three years. "Wherever the pest was found in the last three years, the produce was less shiny and smaller in size, as this insect sucks all the nutrients from the trees," they said.

Fruit growers from Anantnag district, described how the pest lays web layers from one branch to another, even reaching the trunk and fruit. "This pest, numbering in millions, is sucking all nutrients from the tree, causing the fruit to remain small. It damages leaves and trees as well," he said, adding that visitors to the pest-affected orchards have complained of allergies and other issues with their throats and nose.



Initially found in Shopian's Zainapora, the pest has spread to Zainapora, Litter, Watehi, Yaripora, Lassipora, Tahab and Bijbehara areas over the years. This season, orchardists from various

parts of south Kashmir and central Kashmir have raised alarms about the pest, despite following horticulture advisories to combat it.

The growers have called for urgent attention from the

Horticulture Department and experts to prevent further damage.

"Even after spraying insecticides several times every year, these pests keep reappearing," they said, adding that the affected

orchards have reported premature fruit fall, along with reduced fruit quality and size. Senior scientists from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) have identified the pest as a "leaf miner" - an invasive insect that likely arrived four or five years ago. They said that while leaf miners were reported some time ago, their presence has significantly increased in the past two years. Despite this, the pest is manageable if growers consistently follow advisories, they added. The Horticulture Department has called for a collective approach to managing the pest and advised spraying insecticides across all affected orchards to prevent any residual population from serving as a source of infestation the following year.

Recommendations for farmers include installing sticky traps 10 meters apart for monitoring and surveillance of the apple leaf blotch

miner (ALBM), maintaining proper sanitation practices within and around the orchards, and installing pheromone-baited traps at a density of 8-10 traps per hectare. They should spray one of these insecticides at the recommended dosage, Thiamethoxam 25 WG (50g per 100 litres of water), Flubendiamide 39.35 SC (40ml per 100 litres of water), Chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC (100ml per 100 litres of water), Thiacloprid 21.7 SC (60ml per 100 litres of water), Lambda Cyhalothrin 5 EC (50ml per 100 litres of water), and pre-mix formulation of Thiamethoxam 12.6 + Lambda Cyhalothrin 9.5 ZC (50ml per 100 litres of water), and pre-mix formulation of Imidacloprid 6 + Lambda Cyhalothrin 4 SL (50ml per 100 litres of water).

The department has advised farmers not to mix insecticides with any other plant protection chemicals or plant nutrients.

Rana seeks blessings of Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj

STATE TIMES NEWS
PATHANKOT: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday sought blessings of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj at Swami Jagat Giri Ji Ashram here this afternoon.

"Being bestowed blessings by the Guruji has always been a source of spiritual enlightenment for one and all", Devender Rana said while interacting with the devotees in the Ashram.

Lauding the great contribution of Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj in strengthening harmony in the society by preaching love and compassion, and working towards promoting social justice, Rana said that what draws the devotees to visit spiritual destinations is to navigate the complexities of life through blessings of seers and saints. He said spiritual fulfillment begins with the blessings of Gurus.

Devender Rana prayed for



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana seeking blessings of Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj.

peace, tranquility and well-being of all in the Ashram and hoped that Guruji will continue to inspire disciples with his huge treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Gurus have special significance in the Sanatan Dharma as they illuminate the path of righteousness and guide the people towards inner peace and

spiritual fulfillment, he added. In the spiritual ambience of the Ashram and atmosphere filled with a sense of devotion, Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj blessed the visiting devotees in the Ashram.

Rana said that he was privileged enough to be blessed by the Swamiji always.

Sukhnandan requests LG to grant permission for legal mining of sand, gravel

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister & BJP senior leader asked the LG administration to approve the tenders and grant permission for legal mining in Tawi river on the pattern of other agencies involved in government construction works.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge, and DDC Dharminder Kumar also accompanied the former Minister, while he addressed the media persons in a Press Conference organized at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sukhnandan Kumar Choudhary said that the government had already advertised the "Block" auction inviting tenders from the eligible on multiple occasions, tenders were submitted but the matter was subverted due to reasons best known to the concerned departments and their officials.

"If Environment



Dormer Minister & BJP senior leader, Sukhnandan Choudhary talking to reporters.

Clearance cannot be provided by the department for these tenders, then how come the mining/dressing permission can be provided to other agencies to use the sand and gravel from "Tawi" in the same circumstances? What can possibly be the reason for this bias by the concerned departments?" said Sukhnandan Choudhary.

"When already several agencies are using the sand and gravel to use in the construction works initiated by the government, why the same permissions and the pattern are not being used

by the concerned departments to give a relief to the common masses?", questioned Sukhnandan.

"Common people are forced to pay exorbitant process for the sand and gravel due to the restrictions imposed on the mining. People have to pay in thousands for the same sand for which they had to pay in hundreds earlier", said Sukhnandan who added that the cost of home construction for the people has multiplied at least 1.5 times due to this restriction.

He also raised concern for

the poor owners of tractor-trolleys whose vehicles are seized by the police and are decaying at various police posts. He said that they are the poor persons who have collected money with much difficulty to buy these vehicles and are now not able to pay off their loans and debts due to this inadvertent delay in this distribution and allocation policy.

Sukhnandan Choudhary said that he has already brought the matter to the notice of honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and once again through the channel of media he requested LG to give immediate relief to the common masses. He said that he is hopeful that like earlier, LG will also take a quick decision on this matter to give relief to the masses.

He also asked the Chief Secretary that now the public has high hopes for him as he is the son of soil and asked him to resolve the matter.