

NSO (FOD) Regional Office conducts Regional Training Camp on Domestic Tourism and Travel Surveys

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Statistics Office (NSO) (Field Operations Division), Regional Office Jammu, on Friday organized a three-day Regional Training Camp from June 18 to 20, 2025, at Hotel Country Inn, Jammu.

The training was conducted under the chairmanship of P. Palanivel, Deputy Director General, NSO (FOD), Regional Office Jammu, and focused on the Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (DTES) and the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS).

The objective of these surveys is to assess the Origin-Destination (O-D) matrix for various transportation modes such as rail, road, and air, along with understanding



Assistant Director & Head of Office, Swaran Lal and others at a meeting.

the factors influencing travel mode and destination choices. These insights are expected to enhance research in transportation, particularly in the railway sector, and assist government, academia, and industry in planning more effective transport policies.

The training was conducted under the supervision of Swaran Lal, Assistant Director & Head of Office,

with sessions led by Rajesh Kumar and Raju Kumar, both Senior Statistical Officers from NSO (FOD) Jammu.

The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by Swaran Lal.

R.K. Sharma, Assistant Director, delivered the keynote address, and the inaugural address was presented by P. Palanivel, who

elaborated on the objectives, scope, and methodology of DTES and NHTS.

He encouraged participants to understand the rigorous processes involved in data collection and emphasized the importance of data accuracy.

An insightful session was also conducted by Deepa Sharma, Joint Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), who

highlighted the various socio-economic surveys being undertaken in collaboration with NSO.

The camp witnessed participation from over fifty field officers from the Regional Office Jammu and Sub-Regional Office Udhampur. Representatives from the Directorate of Evaluation and Statistics, J&K UT, also took part in the sessions. Electronic and print media were invited to cover the proceedings, helping to raise public awareness about the importance of these national-level surveys.

The event concluded on Friday with a vote of thanks by P. Palanivel, alongside R.K. Sharma and Sunil Kumar Khar, Senior Statistical Officer.

JKESL delegation meets Chief Minister, projects various issues related to ex-servicemen

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Ex-Services League (JKESL) delegation comprising of Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Retd), President JKESL, Col KS Jamwal, Col SA Qureshi and Lt Col OS Chouhan, Secretary JKESL met Omar Abdullah Chief Minister of J&K on Friday and projected various issues pertaining to the welfare of Ex-servicemen.

During the meeting, few important issues for were requested to include orders to DC Jammu and Samba for earliest completion of Rajinder Vihar and Kargil Vihar Colonies, increase in ESM Quota for Re-Employment from 6% to 13% with vertical representation, formation of Sainik



JKESL delegation meeting with CM Omar Abdullah.

Corporation, allotment of land for JKESL office as per Govt Order of 1999 in city limits on Govt/subsidised rates.

In addition CM was also requested for issue of necessary directions to all concerned departments by Chief Secretary of J&K including formal meeting

with JKESL delegation at the earliest to resolve the major issues concerning Ex-servicemen.

The Chief Minister heard the issues very patiently, was extremely positive and considerate to the issues of Ex-Servicemen and assured of earliest resolution of issues.

VC JU releases Punjabi literature anthologies



Vice Chancellor, JU Prof. Umesh Rai and other dignitaries releasing two publications-Kaav Mehkaan and Katha Birtaant.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards promoting scholarly research and literature, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, on Friday released two publications-"Kaav Mehkaan," an anthology of Punjabi poetry, and "Katha Birtaant,"

an anthology of Punjabi short stories. Both books have been edited by Dr. Harjinder Singh and Dr. Pritam Singh, faculty members from the Department of Punjabi, University of Jammu.

The publications have been specially curated to align with the objectives of

the National Education Policy 2020, highlighting the rich literary heritage and cultural depth of Punjabi literature from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on a national platform.

Speaking at the release event, Prof. Umesh Rai emphasized the vital role

academic writing plays in strengthening intellectual traditions within the university ecosystem. "These publications not only enrich the academic resources of our university but also significantly enhance regional and national academic dialogues," he remarked.

Prof. Rai lauded the commendable efforts of the editors and complemented Department of Punjabi for achieving this literary milestone.

Among others present on the event included Prof. Parkash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare; Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel; Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Head & Dean, Faculty of Arts; Prof. Baljeet Kour; Dr. Harjinder Singh; Dr. Pritam Singh and Dr. Rajbeer Singh.

Through India's efforts under PM Modi, Yoga has become a global movement: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yoga is an ancient Indian way of life that neither discriminates between the rich and poor nor concerns itself with caste, religion, colour, or borders. It is a universal discipline focused on the welfare of humanity, harmonizing the body, mind, and soul. These views were expressed by Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson of BJP Jammu & Kashmir and former Vice Chairperson, while discussing the importance of Yoga with senior activists of his party on the eve of International Yoga Day.

Balbir emphasized that while June 21 is globally celebrated as International Yoga Day, the relevance of yoga extends far beyond a single



Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson of BJP Jammu & Kashmir interacting with party workers.

day. It is a lifelong discipline, and when practised regularly, it leads to a healthy, peaceful, and energetic life. He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic address at the United Nations, where he described yoga as "India's gift to humanity." Today, yoga is embraced around the world,

from developed to developing nations.

"Yoga is not reserved for any particular class, nor is it a luxury item," said Balbir. "A person living in a slum can practise yoga as easily as someone in a grand bungalow. The effect is the same - it promotes good health, inner

Plantation drive conducted under "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" campaign



Joint Director YSS, Vinakshi Koul planting a sapling.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step toward promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing urban green cover, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with the Urban Forest Division Jammu, organized a large-scale tree plantation drive on Friday under the banner of the ongoing Clean Jammu, Green Jammu campaign.

The event took place in the vacant space in front of the RRL Center, located along Canal Road on Akhnoor Road in Jammu. This site was specially chosen for the drive to utilize unused urban spaces for ecological purposes and to create a green buffer along the city's busy roadsides.

The plantation drive was graced by the presence of Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, who attended as the chief guest. She actively participated in the plantation activity and planted saplings alongside officers, staff, and volunteers.

Addressing the gathering, Koul emphasized the critical need to combat climate change and pollution through green initiatives. She also appealed to the youth of Jammu to take a proactive role in environmental protection and to come forward in large numbers to participate in such campaigns.

"This initiative is not just about planting trees-it is about planting hope for a better, cleaner, and greener tomorrow," said Koul in her message.

She highlighted how the youth, being the torchbearers of the future, have a vital role to play in maintaining ecological balance and spreading environmental awareness.

Officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry Division also joined hands in the drive and expressed their commitment to expanding the city's green infrastructure. Dozens of native tree species including Gulmohar, Neem, and Arjun were planted during the drive, with provisions made for their regular care and maintenance through community and departmental support.

This initiative is part of a series of such plantation drives being conducted across various parts of Jammu under the Clean Jammu, Green Jammu mission, which aims to improve air quality, beautify the urban environment, and promote sustainable living among citizens.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation appeals to all residents to support the campaign by adopting saplings, nurturing them, and becoming active partners in the city's green plantation.

Refugee status a reminder of unfinished battle for justice: PK

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Panun Kashmir, an organisation advocating for displaced Kashmiri Pandits, said on Friday that refugee status was not an identity but a reminder of the "unfinished battle for justice".

At a function to mark World Refugee Day, Panun Kashmir organising secretary B L Kaul denounced the "global silence around the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir" and urged the community to consolidate its demand for rightful restitution, not symbolic gestures. "The refugee status is not an identity but a reminder of the unfinished battle for justice. Today is not a day of mourning, but of assertion. We gather not to seek pity but to remind the world of the betrayal we continue to endure," Kaul said.

Former director general of J-K Police S P Vaid spoke on the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 people were killed by terrorists. All but one of those killed in the attack were tourists.

"The threats were real, the targets were known, yet the system failed. Why?" he said. Referring to his time in the



Panun Kashmir member speaking at a meeting.

police, he said every operation meant to safeguard Kashmiri Pandits was either delayed or diluted. "I witnessed how the machinery was systematically programmed to ignore red flags. Pahalgam wasn't a failure of intelligence. It was a failure of intent," he said.

Legal luminary and former

chairperson of the Jonaraja Institute of Genocide and Atrocities Studies, Tito Ganju, spoke on the international framework of genocide studies.

"Kashmiri Hindus are not just victims of displacement but of a systemic and prolonged genocide," he declared.

He warned against any attempt at forced reconciliation without justice, saying it would be a "second wound inflicted on an unhealed scar."

Drawing upon international conventions, he said that the 2005 UN basic principles on the right to remedy and reparation prohibit enforced reconciliation without recognition of the crime and yet, that is precisely what is being attempted in the name of symbolic return and political adjustment.

"We are caught in the deadly triad of genocide, denial of genocide, and now, the consolidation of genocide. The perpetrators are being mainstreamed, and the victims are being told to forget," he said. Ganju categorically rejected

the call for a moment of silence, saying, "Our silence has been weaponised for 35 years. Today, we speak, we name, and we indict."

Chairman of Panun Kashmir Dr Ajay Churungoo said, "The massacre at Pahalgam is part of the same uninterrupted genocidal campaign. The victims of Kashmir are now being asked to vote in exile, cohabit with perpetrators, and stay silent for peace. This is nothing but the political consolidation of our genocide," he said. He dismissed all talk of reconciliation as psychological warfare against victims and termed the return to the Valley without justice a "fraud in the name of democracy".

CS chairs 29th Executive Body meeting of MMJHS; reviews adaptive reuse plan for restored structures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday chaired the 29th meeting of the Executive Body of the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society (MMJHS), focusing on the adaptive reuse of the restored heritage structures and creating allied infrastructure for the increasing footfall to the conserved site.

The meeting addressed the crucial agenda points concerning the ongoing conservation, adaptive reuse and development of the Mubarak Mandi Royal Palace Complex, a significant heritage site in Jammu.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Culture; Secretary, Law; Executive Director, MMJHS; MD, Cable Car Corporation and Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the MMJHS to take proactive measures towards expeditious completion of the ongoing works besides focusing on adaptive reuse of the structures restored till date. He observed that the heritage complex is an iconic tourism project in the heart of the Jammu city and its potential should be optimally utilized in attracting the heritage lovers towards this site. He emphasized that this place should be made a culturally vibrant place as the culture



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing 29th meeting of the Executive Body of MMJHS.

and heritage are closely interlinked. Earlier, Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, gave an outline of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex (MMHC) conservation measures and the achievements made so far, in this direction.

He also threw light on the objectives of the department in conserving this complex and the future roadmap for its rejuvenation as the thriving tourist hub in the Jammu region. Executive Director, MMJHS, Deepika Sharma, gave a detailed overview of the progress made on ongoing conservation works besides the status of other infrastructure required to make this complex much more attractive for the tourists.

The meeting discussed an updated adaptive reuse plan for Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, developed in collaboration with INTACH. The plan proposes innovative uses for conserved structures, including museums, educational spaces, and awareness initiatives, for buildings like Raja Ram Singh Palace, Raja Amar Singh Palace, Darbar Hall and Dogra Museum.

The Executive Body deliberated on the adaptive re-use of the Old Library Building as a cafeteria, a project restored by JSCL at an allotted cost of ₹3.14 crore.

The meeting also discussed the construction of a multi-level parking facility for the complex. This facility, estimated to cost Rs 20-25 crore, will be executed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) with a two-year completion target. JMC has identified an area of 1517 sqm to accommodate 200-230 four-wheelers and 130-150 two-wheelers in a 4-5 storey structure.

Other important projects that were part of today's Executive Body agenda constituted construction of a 250 metre span bridge connecting the Circular Road with Mubarak Mandi. The

project estimated at Rs 23.50 crore is being executed by PWD (R&B) Div Jammu East, the meeting was informed. The progress on vertical lift from Peer Kho to Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex assigned to JKCC-CL in 2021, was also discussed. Additionally, the hiring of transaction advisors for MMJHS projects would be taken up under PPP mode. The meeting also deliberated on expediting Phase II works for Royal Courts/Gadvali Khana/Badi Deodi, revamping Andheri Gali and surrounding areas, bolstering the in-house conservation team and addressing the security concerns due to multiple access points.

The meeting concluded with directives for expedited action on pending issues and continued efforts towards comprehensive development and preservation of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex as a landmark tourism hub inside Jammu city.

Bhalla questions BJP over Rohingya issue, blames party of exploitation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Friday questioned BJP why it is failed to take any concrete action and relocate Rohingyas from Jammu to another part of the country in last 11 years, after terming them a great security threat to J&K especially Jammu.

Even after 11 years of being in power at centre and direct rule in J&K, BJP failed to shift them outside J&K. If they are a serious security threat, why no concrete action in the matter, putting people of the region in great risk of life, he asked.

Addressing a gathering at Rajiv Nagar here on Friday, Bhalla questioned why BJP led government at the centre & LG administration failed to relocate the Bangladeshi refugees from Jammu to another part of country after repeatedly terming them security threat.

It only created fear and panic amongst people and



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing public meeting.

should explain who stopped them taking appropriate action in last years on such an important and urgent issue of security, he said.

He said Rohingyas first came in 1999 during NDA rule at the centre and BJP MLA in Gandhi Nagar, but blamed BJP leaders of lying and playing vote bank politics over the issue.

Although they came as per international norms, but who stopped BJP government from shifting them to other part for grave security reasons, as claimed by central ministers.

He regretted that the condition of the educational

institutions in the locality is worst, as the under construction school building started at Qasim Nagar at cost of 70 lakhs, was left abandoned after 2014.

Similarly the High School at Bhatindi and Middle School Narwal Bala have not been upgraded in 11 years, causing hardships to the children.

Bhalla also expressed grave concern over the frequent unscheduled power cuts despite the installation of smart meters in most areas. The people in general and the aged, ailing and children suffering a lot during the intense heat wave.

Bhalla said that people of the entire belt are facing acute shortage of drinking water and facing great hardships in getting water tankers on a payment basis too. He said during Congress tenure, the mega Boria Filtration Plant was set up catering to the needs of the people of different localities.

He said that people of all walks are suffering in the absence of statehood for which BJP has betrayed the people of Jammu after assuring them statehood during elections.

He asked people to get ready for fighting a struggle for the restoration of the statehood at the earliest.

The prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Kamal Singh, Latish Sharma, Pardeep Bhalla, Dewan Chand Sandeep Dogra, Kuldeep Kumar, Parasram Balaria, Vishal Kumar, Shashi Sayal, Tamma, Puteena, Lachhu Ram and others.