

Kavinder slams NC, PDP leaders for misleading people on PMAY



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta interacting with members of deputation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Saturday castigated the NC and PDP leaders for their baseless allegations and attempts to incite the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the issue of land allocation under the PM Awaz Yojna (PMAY).

While interacting with number of deputations here today, the senior BJP leader said that the NC and PDP leaders have shamelessly resorted to spreading lies and

misinformation, claiming that outsiders are being settled in the Union Territory (UT) under the pretext of PMAY. These false narratives have been propagated to instigate the people against the government, creating unnecessary fear and unrest among the population, he said.

In light of these misleading statements, Kavinder commended the Lt Governor for clarifying the matter that no outsider is being given land under PMAY. Gupta asked people to

remain vigilant and cautious of such so-called representatives who are willing to stoop to any level to serve their vested political interests. He called upon the citizens to see through these baseless allegations and recognize them as desperate attempts to undermine the progress and development being initiated by the government.

He said PM Awaz Yojna is a welfare scheme aimed at providing affordable housing to the landless and underprivileged sections of society. He mentioned that the J&K administration has decided to

give such families 5 Marlas land under PMAY so that they can construct their own houses. So far, 1,99,500 homes have been sanctioned for homeless families.

The figure includes 46000 SC and ST category families who were eligible for the scheme besides 2711 families who had no land, he said, highlighting the significance of the scheme in improving the lives of countless families, enabling them to fulfill their dreams of owning a home.

Gupta expressed his confidence in the transparency and integrity of the government's initiatives and urged the people to reject the false narratives being propagated by certain political factions. He reaffirmed the commitment of the BJP to the welfare and progress of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. While, Kavinder Gupta met various deputations representing different sections of society and listened to their concerns. He assured them that their issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for early redressal of their issues.

J&K Police holds drug awareness programme in KV No 2



SP City South Jammu, Shaheen Wahid addressing students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its continuous fight against drugs, J&K Police on Saturday held a drug awareness programme in Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) No 2, Jammu Cantt. SP City South Jammu, Shaheen Wahid said that abuse of drugs is emerging as a major threat to our youth. She said that J&K Police is fighting drug abuse by not only taking strict action under law but also rais-

ing awareness among various sections of the society.

She asked the students to be aware of their surroundings and stay away from any kind of additives and must come forward and inform their parents, teachers and police if anyone approach them with any kind of drugs.

Bhushan Kumar, Principal, along with teachers and other faculty members of the school were also present.

J&K YRS delegation meets Dy Mayor, discusses issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria met with the delegation from J&K Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) to discuss their demand for maintenance work at the site of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Statue at Tawi Bridge in Jammu city.

The members of Yuva Rajput Sabha expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Mayor Jammu for considering the maintenance work and incorporating it into the Smart City project.

YRS has been actively working for the preservation and upkeep of the Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Statue, which holds immense historical and cultural significance.

The members of YRS further stated that some non-need things which are also installed near Maharaja Hari



Yuva Rajput Sabha delegation presenting memorandum to Dy Mayor B.S Billawaria.

Singh statue and our National Flag. On which YRS demands further to remove those unwanted poles, Electric Poles which are not required near statues and the advertisement boards of JMC, due to these unwanted things the beauty of that site is not looking so good and they are dangerous for the people who come there.

They also said that instead

Police-Public meeting on drug abuse, other social evils held



All J&K Christian Biradari (North) Jammu members presenting bouquet to SDPO Jammu Sunil Kesar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All J&K Christian Biradari (North) Jammu in collaboration with J&K Police North Jammu organized public meeting at Christian Biradari, Community Hall here on the drug abuse & other social evils.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was SDPO Jammu Sunil Kesar was the chief guest and Sushil Sharma, SHO Pacea Danga, Anil Thapa Incharge PPO, Rehari Chungi were Guests of Honour on the occasion.

The Chief Guest said drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problems.

The program was recorded and uploaded online on the social media platform for the benefitted for General Public.

Markes Gill, President, All J&K Christian Biradari and Coordinator of the programme, said the social evils and superstitions that dominated the society over the centuries made social reforms imperative for the development of the society

and the masses now this time we all how to avoid social evils.

The prominent persons present were Curnilius Gill, Vice President of the Biradari, Daniel Sotra Secretary, Montonius Bhatti, Suresh Sotra, Pastor Robin Bhatti, Pastor Stonnius Bhatti, Pastor Polas Gill, Pastor Honey Bhatti, Pastor Ravi Matto, Asif Teji, WariyamTeji, Kamal Bhatti, Tariq among others. Mohan Lal Choudhery presented vote of thanks.

Speaker Om Birla unveils statue of Dr. Ambedkar at IGNOU New Delhi Hqrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla, on Saturday unveiled the statue of Bharat Ranta Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar unveiled at IGNOU New Delhi Headquarters.

The programme was streamed Live on Gyandarshan, YouTube and other Media and Social Media platforms which was viewed by a huge audience across the Country.

All the Regional Centres across the Country remained open and working on this occasion despite being an off day of the University.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Pro-Vice Chancellors Dr. Kiran Hazarika, Prof. Uma Kanjilal and other dignitaries were present on the occasion at the Convention Centre of IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director and Dara Singh, Section Officer and other staff of the Regional Centre participated in the event virtually.

A number of students were also present on the occasion at the Regional Centre Jammu who participated and interacted during the unveiling ceremony.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director shared his views on the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and urged students to seek inspiration from the momentous works and contributions of Baba Saheb who despite all the hardships and poverty rose to be one of the founding pillars of the Republic of India.

The students of Regional Centre Jammu interacted with the Speaker and shared their experiences during their course of study at the Regional Centre Jammu.

Natrang's month-long Summer Theatre Workshop for children culminates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang's month-long Summer Theatre Workshop for Children culminated with a brilliant performance of a new play 'Vocal for Local' which was wittingly written by Sumeet Sharma and impressively enacted by Children at Abhinav Theatre.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest at the occasion who appreciated the much relevant content of the play and also praised children for their energetic performance which appeared no less than that of trained professionals.

Prof. Rai alongwith Balwant Thakur, Director Natrang presented certificates to the participants. Dean Students Welfare, University of Jammu Prof. Prakash Antahal was also amongst the dignitaries.

In his address, Prof. Umesh Rai shared some of the innovative and futuristic initiatives of University of Jammu which are going to change the academic landscape of Jammu.

The concept like design your degree pioneered by University of Jammu which is in sync with new education policy will stimulate a new energy amongst the Youth.

Speaking about today's per-



Children performing in a new play 'Vocal for Local'.

formance, he titled theatre to be the most effective tool of personality development and he complimented Natrang Jammu for utilising this tool for the development of the society.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur complimented Prof. Umesh Rai for his innovative and path breaking initiatives at University of Jammu which will act as catalyst in bringing academic reforms in the region.

He also informed about the persistent and untiring endeavours of Natrang in bringing cultural consciousness in the society.

He also appreciated the consistent efforts of Sumeet Sharma, an academically qualified, National Awardee theatre director who has trained and transformed hundreds of children in the past two decades.

The play 'Vocal for Local', in a very interesting manner, speaks about connecting to our

roots and feeling a sense of pride in India's immense contributions to the World.

The workshop was conducted under the supervision of Padmashri Balwant Thakur in which Nitika Aggarwal provided Bharatnatyam mentoring to the children. The dances were choreographed by Sunny Mujoo. Kanan Preet Kaur assisted the workshop. The Audio Track was brilliantly edited by Nitish Sharma, Dr. Arun Gupta & Dr. Neelam Sharma provided Yoga inputs.

Lights were designed and operated by Pankaj Sharma & Suraj Ganjoo, Sound by Lokesh Chander and Kananpreet Kaur: Publicity & Design was taken care of by Chander Shekhar & Vanshika. The management was looked after by Mohd. Yaseen, Mihir Gujral, Chirag Anand, Aadesh Dhar and Mahikshit Singh.

Children who participated in the workshop included Aarjav Jain, Audvik Badyal, Samrat Sharma, Reet Gupta, Dvijesh Dutta, Jeevansh Sharma, Advait Soham, Prial Gupta, Jayaditya Singh Jamwal, Sadhya Sharma, Kamakhya, Ruhaan Chandan, Riaan Gupta, Advik Sharma, Manvi Bhushan, Annol Sharma, Arindam Kohli, Viyaan Sharma, Pulkit Jayee, Abhiraj Sharma, Saanchi Dutta, Abhay Sharma, Javier Singh, Droan Dushyant Kohli, Pragya Wadhwa, Tanmay Chopra, Aarav Vashisht, Daivik Gupta, Mehak Chib, Aryan Gupta, Anadika Pandoh, Raaga Sharma, Sharvil Mahajan, Aarohi Kohli, Araiya Shan, Daiwik Shan, Adira Gupta, Adeesha Singh, Mrigasya Shan and Shafaq Fatimah.

The show was conducted by Smedha Manhas, Vrinda Gujral and Abir Beri.

Police officers asked to step up efforts to eradicate terror networks in Rajouri, Poonch



DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Mohd Haseeb Mughal chairing a high-level meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: A senior police officer on Saturday called for efforts to be stepped up to eliminate terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir's twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, a spokesperson said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Rajouri-Poonch Range) Mohd Haseeb Mughal chaired a high-level meeting, convened to conduct a comprehensive review of the ongoing anti-terror operations and oversee the functioning of the intelligence network in the twin districts, the spokesperson said.

The meeting was held at District Police Lines, Rajouri, and attended by officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) Amritpal Singh and Vinay Sharma, his counterpart in Poonch.

Thirty-five people, including 26 soldiers, have been killed in eight terror attacks in the twin districts since October 2021.

Internal security, terrorism, issues related to the upcoming Muharram, Independence Day, Buddha Amarnath Yatra, deployment of forces on the Jammu-Poonch National Highway and review of the Village Defence Guards were discussed during the meeting.

The officers briefed the meeting about their field intelligence grid, security deployments and steps being taken to eradicate terror networks in their respective areas, the official said.

Addressing the meeting, Mughal asked the officers to put in sincere efforts to eliminate the terror networks by adopting innovative intelligence collection and analysis mechanisms, besides strengthening

human contacts.

"It was enjoined upon all the officers to maintain utmost level of alertness and operational readiness to meet any challenge and to ensure peaceful conduct of all upcoming events," the spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by Amritpal Singh, SSP Rajouri, Vinay Sharma, JKPS, SSP Poonch, Vivek Shekhar, ASP HQ Rajouri, Md. Rafi Giri, ASP Nowshera, Shaffiq, DySP DAR Poonch, Ajaz Ahmad, DySP PC Poonch, Sheezan Bhatt, SDPO Mendhar, Zafar Nawaz, SDPO Manjakote, Intiyaz Ahmad, SDPO Thanamandi, Tussif Ahmad, SDPO Nowshera, Mudassir Choudhary, DySP Hqrs Rajouri, Shivender Singh, DySP PC and Rajouri Parupkar Singh, JKPS, DySP DAR Rajouri.

Kashmiri carpet makers heap praise on Modi for global 'advertisement'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: With his one little gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lit up hopes of hundreds of carpet makers of Kashmir, who believe his gifting a silk rug to a French dignitary will give a much needed boost to the local industry.

Modi's gifting a hand-made Kashmiri silk carpet to the president of the French national Assembly during his current visit to the European nation has not lost on the local rug-makers, who see it as an advert.

Shahnawaz Ahmad Sofi, a carpet unit holder, said the move was great and may stem the decline in carpetmakers fate in Kashmir. "We have seen the downfall of Kashmiri carpets in past decades but steps like these will give a boost to the carpet industry," Sofi told PTL. "If things like these happen at international level, obviously it will encourage the weavers. It was a royal Taj designed carpet which the PM gifted. It is a very famous design and only master artisans of silk carpets in Kashmir can make this design," he added. Mohd

Rafiq, a master artisan, said he was thankful to the Prime Minister for promoting the Kashmiri carpet at global level. "Many people in different countries don't know about the Kashmiri carpet but with Modiji gifting such carpet, they get to know about our products," Rafiq said. He said it takes crores of rupees to build a brand but the Prime Minister's little gesture at such a big stage will give the industry a fillip worth that money. Director Handicraft Mahmood Shah said the Prime Minister has always promoted Kashmir handicrafts through his attire.

"You have seen him donning shawl and Kani specimens. During his last visit to Sweden, he gifted a GI-certified shawl in a papier mache box to the President of Sweden. In his recent visit to the US too, he gifted papier mache boxes. And this time he gifted the silk carpet from Kashmir."

"It is a welcome step and great encouragement for our artisans. This gives us a kind of international visibility and helps us not only promote the craft but also the craftsmen," Shah said.

Midline Club wins Night Kabaddi tourney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Midline Kabaddi Club lifted the title trophy of the Open Night Kabaddi Tournament which was organised by Vikas Kabaddi Club involving 16 teams from different districts of Srinagar, Kathua, Jammu and Udhampur.

In the final, Midline defeated Vikas Kabaddi Club 30-26 in a closely contested game. The third place went to Jammu United, who beat Udhampur Kabaddi Club 28-24 in the hardliner.

The winning team presented a cash prize of Rs 15,000 while runners-up, Vikas Club got Rs 10,000. Third position holder, Jammu United received Rs 5,000 cash prize.

The best raider prize worth



Winner team receiving trophy from the chief guest at Udhampur.

Rs 500 went to Sandeep of Vikas Kabaddi Club Anir of Midline Club Srinagar declared best defender to receive Rs 500. The best all round prize of Rs 500 went to Irfan of Midline Club Srinagar.

The Results: Semifinals: Vikas Kabaddi Club bt Udhampur Kabaddi Club 40-

28 and Midline Club Srinagar bt Jammu United 32-28.

In the final and valedictory function, Joginder Singh Jasrotia (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur was the chief guest while Ashok Kumar (retired Director Sports SMVDU Katra) was guest of Honour.

The chief guest congratulated the organizers of the tournament for providing a platform to the young Kabaddi players. He also praised the efforts of Vishal Bamotra, sponsor of the tournament (owner of Vikas Palace and 99 Market Udhampur).

Among others who were pres-

ent included Vikram Singh Slathia (MC Councillor), Raghuvir Singh (SHO Udhampur), Rahul Janwal (Sub-Inspector), Ashok Sharma (vice president J&K Kabaddi Association), Ashok Padha (president Volleyball Association Udhampur), Jitender Varmani (president Beopar Mandal Udhampur) and Amit Sharma.

The competition officiated by the technical panel including Rakesh Kumar, Pushap Sharma, Rakesh Khajuria, Anshu Khanna, Ram Kumar, Sandeep Verma, Ravi Kumar, Khushwant Singh, Kanika Sharma, Gourav Dubey Anita Sharma, Rajni, Samta and Kriti. Anshu Brat Khanna was the coordinator of the tournament.