

## DPAP holds protest against prepaid system for electricity



DPAP leaders and workers raising slogans during a protest at Jammu on Monday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the direction of Gulam Nabi Azad, DPAP District Committee Jammu (Urban) held a protest under the Leadership of Gourav Chopra, president Distt at PDD office, Parade Chowk, here against JKPDCCL regarding prepaid system for electricity consumption.

People from various wards took part in the protest. The protesters were with banners like Prepaid System Bandh Karo, Bijli Ke Bill Kam Karo, PDD Hai Hai raising

slogans against UT Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Gourav Chopra, District President, Jammu Urban, DPAP put questions on the JKPDCCL (PDD) for starting of Prepaid Electricity System and disconnecting of connections of people in this scorching heat.

No one is ready to listen the grievances related Electricity System in Jammu, he said adding that especially the poor people are facing hardship due to the hefty bills.

Anil Kohli, Vice President Jammu urban also spoke over the irrigational bills issued by the JKPDCCL/PDD. He said that UT Government is not trying to understand the hardships faced by people.

Jammu kashmir have great potential for electricity production. But UT Government is not working on projects neither try to stop the theft of electricity.

Firstly UT Government should check the wastage of electricity in Government

offices because Meter/connection holder is already paying bills, then why UT Govt is pushing them in Prepaid Electricity System.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party strongly opposed the prepaid electricity system by JKPDCCL and demand that such system be stopped immediately in interest of the poor people and also demand to waive off the Bills of poor.

Later the protesters hand-over a memorandum to Executive Engineer, Division-1, for LG to revoke the order regarding prepaid electricity system and immediately stop discontenting the electric connections and to give relief to the JK UT people.

The others who take part in the protest were Yassen Khan Billa, Anil Nargotra, Jodh Singh, Parkash Chand Digra, Rajgopal Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Manik Sharma, Nadeem Choudhary, Monu Sharma, Anil Kumar, Ballinger Singh, Rizwan Choudhary and Yuvraj Singh.

## Work with compassion to resolve people's problems: MP Khatana



JKML Retired Employees Association delegation presenting charter of demands to MP Rajya Sabha, Er Ghulam Ali Khatana.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP MP Rajya Sabha, Er Ghulam Ali Khatana on Monday urged the employees to work with compassion to resolve the issues of the common man and serve the humanity. He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir has suffered mis-governance due to corrupt governments led by three dynasties which has totally shattered the economy and progress of the UT.

MP Khatana said that LG administration is trying hard

to bring the system back on rails but the blunders committed by the erstwhile governments will take time to rectify.

He said that mess in the education department, daily wagers, need based, casual employees in PHE dept are huge challenges for the UT administration.

MP Khatana today chaired meeting of NH1A and reviewed the progress of the various projects being undertaken by the NH1A.

Project Director Jammu

YPS Jadon briefed the MP on various stages of the NH1A projects. Later, a delegation of JKML Retired Employees Association led by its chairman called on BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er Ghulam Ali Khatana here today and sought his immediate intervention in settling the long pending problems of retired JKML employees regarding release of their

retirement dues i. e COLA arrears etc.

The delegation demanded that the retirement dues be settled at an earliest on the pattern of VR scheme already implemented in JKML.

The delegation demanded that the pending dues of retirees be released without any further delay as without any pensioner benefits they are unable to perform their social obligations.

The delegation said that workers are suffering on this account for years together.

BJP MP Rajya Sabha Er: Ghulam Ali Khatana assured them that all their genuine demands will be fulfilled.

Others who were present on the occasion are Khadam Hussain, Mohd Aslam, Juginder Singh Thakur, Ashwani Kumar, Chaman Lal, Arun Kumar, Baldev Singh, Tej Ram and Karnail Singh.

## Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases Gianeshwars' poetry

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha Jammu and Bhartiya Sangeet Sansthan Jammu jointly organized a musical evening based upon the poetry of Gianeshwar, a veteran dogri poet who passed away recently. Geets and Bhajans were presented in this programme in which classical music maestro V. K. Sambyal, Richima Bajpayee, Manju Bala , Kusha Sharma and Chinmai Sharma lent their voices . The music of the executed poetry of Gianeshwar was composed by V. K. Sambyal known as Ranglee Thakur in art arena and Sham Sajjan. Rahul Bhardwaj and Shubham Bannotra were on table and harmonium respectively.

In addition to large number of artists and art lovers, family members of the deceased poet were also present in the programme. All the singers kept the audience enthralled with their soulful rendering of the musical compositions which had the shades of 'Nirgun' style most suited to Bhajans and spiritual poetry. The program was conducted by Pawan Verma.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu while welcoming the audience spoke about poetic genius of Gianeshwar and his contribution to Dogri literature. Dr. Nirmal Vinod, a veteran Dogri and Hindi poet thanked the audience at the end of programme.



Artists reciting Bhajan during a programme at Jammu.

## Deputy Mayor starts development work at Ward 45



Dy Mayor, B.S Billawaria starting development work.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, started the construction work of lane & drain at Ward 45 Digiana in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency.

This development work will be done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation. Deputy Mayor said Rs. 120 lakh amount has been earmarked for the improvement and progress of that particular ward. Deputy Mayor Jammu said, "We are committed to the development of Ward No 45. The construction of new lanes and drains is just the first step in our efforts to improve the infrastructure of the area. We will continue to work towards the betterment of the Ward and its residents." BJP district president, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan said that hundreds of souls of Digiana and its adjoining areas will be benefitted. Interacting with the people, Rekha Mahajan said that development programmes have been launched in every constituency of BJP Jammu district South with the aim to provide better amenities to them.

Mandal President Ranjeet Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Satpal Choudhary, Narendra Gupta (Koki), Vinod Sharma and Jugal Kishore were also present.

## Somany Ceramics launches new range of Luxury tiles

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Somany Ceramics Limited, a globally renowned organization specializing in ceramics tiles and allied products, unveiled its highly anticipated collection of luxury tiles in Jammu. The new collection was introduced in Jammu in the presence of Mr.Amit Sahai, CEO- SOMANY'S Tiles Business. Titled "Embrace the Extraordinary - Igniting a New Era of Luxury in Tiles", this new range sets a new standard of opulence and sophistication in ceramic tiles.

On the occasion of the launch, Abhishek Somany, Managing Director & CEO, Somany Ceramics Ltd., said "Being a pioneer Indian brand, Somany has been on top for designing and innovating extra-ordinary collection. We aim to grow from strength to strength and offer products that match the newer taste and trends of the consumers. By adapting to market dynamics, our brand aims to expand its product portfolio



Somany Ceramics Limited officials and others at launching ceremony.

every year. We are delighted to introduce our new Extraordinary Collection, exemplifying the premium quality for which our brand is known in the Indian ceramic industry. These new products exhibit natural-looking tiles, wooden textures, vibrant colors, and sizes with the advantage of easy installation, affordable prices, and maintenance".

The "Extraordinary Collection" presents a diverse array of products that exude the magnificence of nature, featuring exquisite wooden finish-

es, rustic touches reminiscent of stone and slate, captivating fabric textures, and innovative cladding concepts. With this collection, Somany Ceramics aims to provide customers with a truly distinctive and captivating experience, elevating their living spaces into artistic sanctuaries. The new launch included products in the ceramic series, namely Glosstra Plus, Vistoso, and Marvela series in various sizes and finishes. The Vistoso range come in a matte finish with dimensions of 300x600mm while Marvela

offers larger formats of 600x1200mm and 800x1600mm. The new launch of Durastone heavy vitrified tiles is available in 400x400mm and 600x600mmsizes. On the other hand, Polished vitrified tiles are available in 600x600mm and 600x1200mm. The Somany MAX - Long format tile in its 'Tech Homogenea' collection offers impressive tiles in sizes of 8 0 0 x 2 4 0 0 m m , 1200x1800mm and 800x 3000 mm, both featuring full-body designs.

## MJR-47 demands grant of ST status to 1947 POJK DPs

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per media reports, the Government of India is presenting the Bill pertaining to grant of Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to Paharis Speaking People (PSP) of UT of JK in the ensuing Parliamentary session. This is a welcome step that rights of the

Paharis of J&K has been acknowledged after a long period. It is brought to the kind notice of the Government of India that 1947 POJK DPs who are equally situated having distinct culture, ethnic and linguistic identity and having Pahari traditions also deserve the schedule tribe status under Pahari

category. "Numerous POJK DPs settled temporarily in Poonch, Rajouri and Uri like areas are duly covered under PSP category but their relatives settled in rest of J&K or other parts of country have been excluded, thus conferring ST status as Pahari to some of POJK DPs settled in Indian territory of

Poonch, Rajouri and Uri etc and ignoring the others also settled temporarily in other parts of J&K or the country will be injustice to the people within the class," Jagjeet Singh Sudan, Convener, MJR-47 Jammu said in a statement issued on Monday.

Again the Domicile Certificates

being issued by Govt in favour of DPs of 1947 from POJK since settled outside UT J&K specifically mentions their original residence of Pahari areas of POJK (Pahari areas of Muzafarabad, Poonch, Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur, part of Uri) having their culture language and Pahari traditions and as such mak-

ing them eligible for PSP/ST status in the domicile certificate of all DPs of 1947 from POJK special mention of their erstwhile residence in POJK prior to their displacement be also recorded, Jagjeet said.

He requested that all 1947 POJK DPs irrespective of their location of temporary residence, be accorded

the ST status under Pahari category which will help in upliftment of first saviours of J&K who have sizable population of 16 lakh as on date.

Their upliftment, growth, recognition, in all sectors of life be considered by granting them ST Status under Pahari category, Jagjeet said.

## Duggar Festival Rutt Raade concludes at JU's Udhampur Campus

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Rutt-Raade, a month-long celebration of Dogra culture, that began on the "AshaadSankranti" came to an end on "Shravan Sankranti" when fully grown Raade were immersed in the cool waters of the Duddhar stream at the University of Jammu's Udhampur Campus (Garnai Lotta), Udhampur. The event was organized under the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, University of Jammu who congratulated and appreciated the staff and students of Campus for organizing such events from time to time.

The "Raade Visarjen" festivities began with the gathering of the joyful elders, women, men, newlywed couples, and young children of the nearby village of Udhampur Campus (Garnai Lotta) to bid adieu to the fully grown Raade and immerse them in the flowing waters of the nearby stream in accordance with all the rituals and respect. The young ladies and kids decorated the Raade in the background of a light drizzle and rhythmic and traditional drum beats. After paying traditional obeisance, they were dug out of the ground and placed in bamboo basketsand were carried by the male members to the location of their immersion (visarjan). women chanted old hymns celebrating the health of the community, mother nature, the soil, and regional deities. During the procession, women chanted divine hymns and folk songs celebrating the health and growth



People participating in "Raade Visarjen" programme at Udhampur.

of the community, respecting elders, mother nature, the soil, and regional deities. Traditional feast and mangoes were served after the immersion of Raade.

On the occasion, O P Sharma Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd. PCCF), a well-known author and recipient of the Sahitya Academy Award, discussed the Rutt-Raade festival's historical, cultural, and ecological significance. He explained that the word "Kriti," which implies inventiveness, is present in the words "prakriti" and "sanskriti." As a result, a region's landscape and culture are an accurate reflection of its inhabitants' ingenuity. He also clarified the meaning of the RuttRaade, which refers to the sowing of seeds and has the connotation of a dogra dish. This is possibly how the agricultural communities, in addition to appreciating the harvest, used to judge the germination test and quality of the seeds of kharif crops like

maize, beans, sesame, etc., in addition to enjoying the decoration and strengthen the societal bonding.

The Rector of the Udhampur Campus, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, welcomed Sh Vidyarthi and the surrounding communities and thanked them for their enthusiastic support and interest in this heritage festival. He then went on to explain the significance of the festival to the community at large and to the students in particular. According to Prof. Sharma, the progress and well-being of everyone who lives here are symbolized by the metamorphosis of these seeds into plants. Additionally, he stated that the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes traditional cultural studies, the use of regional languages, and envisions academic and social cooperation, includes the resurrection and celebration of such festivals. He then went on to speak on the issue of how the younger

generation is losing touch with our culture. Therefore, commemorating these events will pique the youth's interest in learning more about our rich culture and bring them closer to nature.

Special guest, Prof. RomeshAtri, HOD botany, GDC, Dhampur also spoke on the rich and vibrant cultures in Jammu & Kashmir and hoped that the other educational institution aerssjammu would also celebrate such festival on large scale in the future to connect and attract youth toward societal set up. On the occasion 'Gulab Jamun' tree (Syzygiumjambos) was also planted on the premises of the Udhampur campus by the dignitaries.

The festival was coordinated by Dr. Mamta Sharma, Dr.Taruna Dubey, Dr. Ritika Sambyal, Dr. Kamani Dutta, Dr. Sunita Kumari, Dr. Jyotishna and Dr. Jatinder Kour and non-teaching staff of the Udhampur Campus.

## Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya inaugurated at Khoon

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya, a very important centre of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Jammu Kashmir and aimed at imparting religious knowledge to children including that of Vedas was inaugurated at Village Khoon of Tehsil Majalta in district Udhampur. At the first instance, various students (Ved Vidyarthis) were admitted in the Vidyalaya in presence of their parents and a galaxy of people besides Aacharyas who will be imparting religious education to them for next twelve years.

Patronised by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Prant, this Narsingh Seva Kendra is coming up on over 125 Kanals of land wherein four major projects are in offing. Other than Ved Vidyalaya the complex will house Yoga & Naturopathy Centre, Organic farming & Farmers' Training Centre and A Gau Shalla (Gou-Sanwardhan Kendra). Ved Vidyalaya was inaugurated under the able guidance of programme head Dr Shiv Prasad Raina who is also an Aadhyatmik Guru, Jyotishacharya and Ved Vigye. He is also a guiding force behind Jammu Ved Vidyalaya. Anil Goel, a chartered accountant by profession and Director J&K Bank besides Managing Trustee of JK Study Centre was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, Anil Goel said that inauguration of Ved Vidyalaya is a historic step and will go a long way in imparting religious education to our children. He ensured that he will always remain associated with the Vedalya and strengthen it by all means. This Vidyalaya, he added will enrich



Dignitaries and students during opening ceremony of Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya.

people with religious and spiritual well-being and also make them aware about our rich culture and history known world over. A joint venture of Ved Mandir Committee Amblphalla and Narsingh Seva Kendra Jammu and Kashmir, this inauguration ceremony was witnessed by local leaders, village people, religious heads and many others drawn from different walks of life. Earlier in the day the programme began with Havan and Surya Pujan after which Ved Vidyarthis who sought admission were welcomed by team of Narsingh Seva Kendra J&K and Ved Mandir Committee Jammu in presence of Dr Shiv Prasad Raina ji and others who present on the occasion. The guests were presented with mementoes by Vikram Gujral, President NSK, Naresh Gupta, Treasure NSK and Suresh Chander, President Ved Mandir Committee to Dr Shiv Prasad Raina, CA Anil Goel, Mahavir Kumar, founder member and President of Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan J&K and K K Sharma Director Agriculture.

Raman Suri, Vice President of Shri Narsingh Seva Kendra earlier spoke in detail about four projects of the Kendra adding that these will create an atmosphere of religious and spiritual well-being. He said the project

aims at educating children, ensuring people's wellbeing, rearing domestic breeds of cows and also encouraging organic farming. Chain Singh General secretary of the project presented vote of thanks after which Prasad was distributed amongst attendees. Beside, Local leaders, large number of people, DDC members, BDC members, village Sarpanchs, Panchs and parents of students, Ex MLA RS Pathania, DDC Amit Sharma, Ramesh Gupta, Surat Singh, Gopal, Manish Yogi were also present on the occasion.. Baldev Singh Conducted the entire programme ably. Bhoomi Pojjan ceremony of Narsingh Seva Kendra in Khoon village of Majalta tehsil was performed on 11 May 2023 after which work started on establishing Ved Vidyalaya first. At that time Bhoomi Pujan ceremony was completed with Vedic chanting, Havan and Yagya in the presence of Sant Dinesh Bharti and many prominent people.

Narsingh Seva Kendra's Khoon project besides educating children intends to rear indigenous cows of Indian breed in the Gaushala, train farmers in organic farming and given yoga training and training in natural way of medicine to those who wants to lead a healthy and peaceful life.

## No construction in Noorbagh Cement Bridge area : HC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, to ensure that no construction in the area in question, i.e., Noorbagh Cement Bridge, including the construction, if any, being raised by Srinagar Development

Authority, is raised otherwise than in accordance with master plan sanctioned for the area. The Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, shall also ensure an inspection to be made of all the houses constructed in and around the construction which is being raised by Srinagar Development Authority including the construction of residential houses, if any, raised by the petitioners. He shall submit a detailed report as to whether residents of area, who have voiced their grievances against the construction being raised by Srinagar Development Authority, have also adhered to the master plan and have raised their construction strictly as per the building permission granted in their favour. He shall also initiate appropriate action against those who are found to have violated building permission/master plan and submit a report in this regard to this Court on the next date of hearing. This significant order has been passed by in a petition Inhabitants of Noorbagh Cement Bridge who are residing in and around the area where Srinagar Development Authority, is raising construction and, therefore, are affected adversely by the illegal construction being raised by Srinagar Development Authority.