

## UT Ladakh describing LAHDC & PRIs key players during National Conference on RWPF-2023

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: An important two-day National Conference on RWPF-2023 (Rural Wash Partners Forum) was organised today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi as a part of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission wherein UT of Ladakh made its presence felt with a keynote address and an absorbing presentation by Rural Development Secretary Amit Sharma amongst all distinguished experts/speakers from all UTs/states who congregated to deliberate upon multiple themes pertinent to different aspects of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) implementation and the challenges related to it.

Lot of brainstorming happened during different sessions held throughout the day wherein valuable insights were shared on multiple thematic topics crucial to the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission. One of the highlights of the event was a detailed presentation by Amit Sharma, who shared the holistic vision of Ladakh Union Territory led by its



Amit Sharma, Secretary Rural Development, Ladakh and others at National Conference on RWPF-2023 in New Delhi.

Lieutenant Governor Brig B.D Mishra (Retd) and Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal who believe in the theory of inclusive growth with prominent role of PRIs especially LAHDC and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Amit addressed the theme on "Efficient & Effective Operation and Maintenance for JJM & Grievance Redressal Mechanism" as a co-chair of this Session.

During his presentation, Amit Sharma emphasized the pivotal role of local self-government institutions, including Panchayati Raj

Institutions (PRIs) and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, in ensuring the successful implementation and triumph of the program, alongside its robust grievance redressal mechanism.

The packed august gathering of the Conference appreciated the vision shared by Ladakh UT which they termed as worth replicating in other UTs and states as one of the best practices, especially in light of the fact that there is substantial achievement in Jal Jeevan Mission O&M of the Union

Territory, although being a tough hilly arid terrain, usually termed as Cold Desert.

Apart from Amit Sharma, other session lead speakers were Amit Saini, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Maharashtra, Pashim Tiwari from AIILSG and V.K Madhvan from WaterAID, Kailash Karthik, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam and Amit Kataria, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India who provided valuable contributions during the discussions in this Panel Discussion.

## Kavinder condemns Manipur incident; terms as extremely shameful act

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, expressed deep dismay over the incident involving two women being paraded naked in Manipur.

Terming it as an extremely shameful act, he emphasized that such heinous acts should not be politicized.

He said swift and decisive action should be taken against the culprits responsible for this reprehensible act.

In a statement issued today, Kavinder Gupta said, "The incident in Manipur has shocked and deeply saddened all of us. It is a matter of national shame, and we must come together as a society to ensure that such horrific acts do not go unpunished. I appeal to all parties and individuals not to politicize this issue, but rather unite in demanding justice for the victims."

The former Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance that the perpetrators of this heinous crime will be brought to justice and asserted that the government must act promptly to fulfill this commitment.



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta interacting with members of Muslim community.

"The Prime Minister has already assured the nation that no one involved in this ghastly act will be spared. It is crucial that the authorities act swiftly and bring the culprits to justice, setting an example that such crimes will not be tolerated," he added. Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta engaged in a constructive interaction with members of the Muslim community in Japki area of Bahu Constituency, on the outskirts of Jammu, attentively listening to their concerns and grievances. The community members

expressed their appreciation for the present administration, acknowledging the construction of a much-needed road in the area after nearly seven decades of neglect by the previous regimes. They expressed their unwavering faith in the Modi government and extended their wholehearted support to the BJP.

Kavinder Gupta emphasized the party's inclusive approach, highlighting that support is being garnered from all sections of society, transcending caste, color, and creed. He assured the members of the Muslim community that the BJP stands

firmly with them, and their issues will be addressed promptly and effectively.

Prominent among those who were present include Relkha Mahajan, District President Jammu South, Vinay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Mohammad Rafiq, Mohammad Alam, Saddiq, former Chairman JMC, Raj Kumar.

## Ritika condemns humiliation of two women in Manipur

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Strongly condemning the barbaric incident in Manipur on May 4, Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morecha J&K UT Ritika Trehan has said that government must award severest punishment to all the culprits involved in the crime.

She said Mahila Morecha strongly condemned the May 4 incident, which not only shocked entire people of the state and the country but also the world.

While appealing people to keep strict vigil to prevent such incidents in future, she said government must take stringent action so such incidents don't recur in future in the state.

Ritika said both Central and state governments have been working hard to contain the violence, she added.

She extended her heartfelt sympathies to the victims and their families, acknowledging the unimaginable trauma they are currently enduring.

She affirmed that the Modi Government is fully committed to ensuring justice for the victims. She asserted, "What happened to the daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven."

She emphasized the government's resolve in upholding the safety and dignity of women across the nation.

She urged for a collective effort from society, stating, "It is the responsibility of each and every citizen to stand united against such acts of violence and work towards creating a safer environment for women."

## Ravinder condemns attack on Sr Journalist

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLC & Chief Spokesperson JKPC, Ravinder Sharma has condemned the attack on a senior journalist S.M.A Kazmi and his wife in Mendhar yesterday and sought stern action as per law.

Condemning the incident as reported in the media today, Sharma termed the incident as unfortunate and called for strict action against culprits.

The police should arrest the culprits and proceed against them for taking law into their hands with ulterior motive to threaten the daughter from availing her legal & bonafide rights in the ancestral property.

## JU's Reasi Campus organises workshop on gender sensitization

### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Reasi Campus, University of Jammu has organized a workshop on Friday on "Gender Sensitization" for the students and faculty members in order to teach and learn about the gender sensitivity and encouragement of behaviour modification through raising awareness of gender equality concerns. This curricular activity was organized to make students and faculty members aware of gender equality to eliminate gender discrimination in the society. Prof. Sushil K. Pandey, Director, Reasi Campus, has welcomed the resource person Prof. Jasbir Singh, Former Head, Department of Economics and Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences. On the occasion, he expressed about the various objectives required in the Reasi Campus JU in terms of achieving gender equality which includes to create environment of justice, to instil positive values, inclusive gender diverse work place with fair practices, raising awareness of gender equality concerns, provide mentorship to students etc. He has also appraised the participants



Resource Person Prof. Jasbir Singh, Former Head, Department of Economics being felicitated.

regarding the motive behind the conduct of such workshop. The workshop was conducted in three sessions including one fully interactive session. Prof. Jasbir Singh explained in detail about gender economics and the concept of gender sensitization in a very effective and lucid way with the help of presentation and interactions. He has elaborated on the understanding of the gender roles, stereotypes and biased that are prevalent in the society and workplace. He has demonstrated to the students with the examples which are quite common in today's modern society of gender inequality which makes the solid reasons to organize frequent awareness programmes/seminars/workshops/conferences so that the gender evils to be minimized or

eradicated from the society and workplaces. Further he emphasized on the gender sensitization aims to create more equal and just society where individuals are not discriminated against based on their gender. He opined that though there is an improvement in now a day's society on gender biasness, however, the same need to be carried forward in future. He stressed that the morality must be valued and maintained equally both in the home and society. The workshop was attended by the students of 2nd and 4th semester of M.A. Sociology along with the faculty members.

Manoj Kumar has coordinated all the sessions with Dr. Nisha Sharma, and Pankaj and Dr. Ravi Kumar presented vote of thanks.

## IMFA organizes workshop featuring vocalist Hemant Pendse

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Vocal Department of the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), Poonch House, Jammu University, organized a captivating workshop featuring renowned vocalist Hemant Pendse.

The event showcased the rich traditions of Indian classical music and left the audience spellbound with mesmerizing performances.

Hemant Pendse, a highly accomplished artist and disciple of the legendary Padma Shri Pt. Jeetendra Abhisheki, presented a masterful rendition of Khayal music, impressing the attendees with his soulful voice and intricate compositions. His vast repertoire of Bandishes in Khayal music resonated with the hearts of music connoisseurs present at the event.

The workshop was ably compared by the Rajkumar Behrupia, who added a touch of humor and elegance to it. During the program, the Principal of IMFA, Prof. Sohaib Inayat Malik, extended a warm welcome to Hemant Pendse, acknowledging his



Principal of IMFA, Prof. Sohaib Inayat Malik presenting bouquet to vocalist Hemant Pendse.

significant contributions to the world of classical music.

A token of appreciation in the form of a bouquet was presented by Dr. Priya Dutta, Head of the Music Department, to V.K. Sambyal, acknowledging his efforts in making the workshop a grand success.

Additionally, Dr. Jasmeet Kour, the event's convener, honored Hemant Pendse with a shawl, recognizing his exemplary artistry and dedication to music.

The workshop witnessed an enthralling tabla accompaniment by the talented

Prabhat Bali, adding rhythm and depth to the captivating performances. The event was well-attended by enthusiastic students and faculty members, all of whom were deeply inspired by the expertise and passion displayed by Hemant Pendse.

Principal of IMFA, Prof. Sohaib Inayat Malik, delivered the welcome address, expressing gratitude to Hemant Pendse for gracing the institute with his presence and enlightening the participants with his musical brilliance. Dr. Priya Dutta, HOD of

Music, presented the vote of thanks, extending appreciation to all the contributors who made the event a remarkable success.

The workshop proved to be a remarkable learning experience for all participants, enriching their understanding and appreciation of the Indian classical vocal tradition.

The Vocal Department of IMFA, Jammu University, continues its dedication to promoting the arts and nurturing young talent, ensuring a vibrant future for the world of music.

## JKPDL Workers Union to go on 72-hr strike from July 24



JK PDL and TDL Workers Union talking to reporters.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JK PDL and TDL Workers Union shall be on 72 hour protest starting 24th July against the hiring of Lineman on contract basis by JPDCL and no regularisation of PDL TDL since last 2 years despite the framing of rules of regularisation in Feb 2021 on the basis of SRO 381 read with SO 109 of 2020 issued at time of unbundling. The rules had been vetted by the LG. "We seek immediate

holding of DPC and release of pending wages. The protest shall be held in MD office JPDCL Jammu campus," Akhil Sharma President All JKPDL/ TDL PDD Union told reporters here on Friday.

The member including Shamim, Kabir, Sajid, Farooq, Gureej, Daljit, Ramesh, Rakesh, Kamal, Puran, Bilal, Subash, Chamel, Mohinder and Rajinder were also present on the occasion.

## IIMC organizes plantation drive with CRPF

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu on Friday organized a massive plantation drive in its Bantalab campus with Centre Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Jammu Range.

The plantation drive is organized in collaboration with the Forest Department, Society for Promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Development (SAMIKSHA), MUKTI and Climate Friend.

On this occasion, Rakesh Sethi, DIG, Jammu Range, Dr. O P Sharma Vidyarthi, former Principal, Chief Conservator of Forests, C.M. Sharma, Secretary, Samiksha, Nidhi Sharma, Founder Chairperson of Mukti Society NGO, Dhurwinder Singh, Sarpanch, Keran,



IIMC Jammu faculty with CRPF official planting a sapling during plantation drive in its Bantalab.

Ritambhara along with Prof. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC, Jammu planted more than 300 trees in the campus.

Rakesh Sethi, DIG, CRPF, Jammu Range said one plant is equal to 10 progenies.

The plant is not only for

who plants the tree but for the entire mankind, he said and promised to Regional Director, IIMC, Jammu for the plantation in the entire campus and also worked to train the aspiring journalists in near future.

Dr. O P Sharma

Vidyarthi, former Principal, Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K said that SAMIKSHA Society is connecting young minds for innovations of new species of plants and is also promoting indigenous plants to conserve our culture.

He added that a good climate contributes to the creation of good minds. He informed me about the varieties of mangoes and its different uses.

Prof. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC, Jammu said this is a proud moment for the campus for getting plantation in such massive quantity. He expressed his gratitude to the Jammu fraternity for this good work and saving nature. He added that these small steps are the solutions to tackle the issue of climate change.

Initially, C.M. Sharma, Secretary, Samiksha informed about the importance of the campaign 'Ek Ped Desh ke Naam', National Students Paryavaran Competition 2023 etc.

Dharwinder Singh, Sarpanch, Keran also emphasized about the commitment to conserve the forests and planning to plant more plants in the era.

The plantation drive was graced by Dinesh Joshi, Social Forestry Department, Jammu, Ajay Khajuria, President, SAMIKSHA, Chandra Mohan Sharma and Pooja Sharma of Mukti Society, Ritambhara along with all faculties, staffs and prominent persons of Jammu to create a greener and cleaner tomorrow.

## FICCI FLO JKL organizes Art Camp at Octroi Post Suchetgarh Border

## Artistically portraying globalisation, peace & prosperity in J&K: Varuna

### STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, in association with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Institute of Music & Fine Art (IMFA), University of Jammu, hosted a transformative Art Camp at Octroi Post Suchetgarh Border, RS Pura.

The art camp was inaugurated by BSF Commandant Ajay Sharma in presence of Varuna Anand, Chairperson of FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, along with the core team members, including

Ruchika Gupta, Aarti Choudhary, Sona Mehta, Pooja Gandotra, and Mona Saraf. The camp brought together 20 talented artists from IMFA, University of Jammu, headed by Ankush Kesar to create beautiful paintings, aiming to depict Globalisation and Incentivising Peace & Prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir, while also showcasing the BSF as the real Sentinels of Peace on our Borders. In his address, Commandant Ajay Sharma lauded the efforts of FICCI FLO in organizing the



FICCI FLO JKL members with artists and BSF officials at Octroi Post.

camp and recognized the creative potential of art in fostering a vision of peace and prosperity for the region. Speaking to media persons at the Octroi Post Suchetgarh Border,

Varuna Anand, Chairperson of FICCI FLO JKL, expressed her enthusiasm for the event and its underlying purpose.

"We are delighted to collaborate with the BSF and IMFA

for this remarkable Art Camp. The theme for the camp at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh Border, was globalizing & incentivising peace and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir.

Through the paintings, we hope to acknowledge the efforts of LG Manoj Sinha and the Tourism Department in promoting this border area as a major tourist attraction and fostering peace and harmony within the region," said Varuna Anand. She said the paintings created during the Art Camp will be presented as symbols of peace and development to senior government officials/offices, as a gesture of appreciation for their dedication to progress and stability in the region. Emphasizing the role of the

Border Security Force in maintaining peace at the borders, Varuna Anand stated, "The camp's underlying goal is to highlight the extraordinary efforts of our Border Guards - the BSF Personnel, who act as the true Sentinels of Peace on our borders. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 3D formula - Development, Democracy, and Dialogue, we envision using these artworks to script a new chapter of peace and prosperity for Jammu & Kashmir."

"Art holds immense potential

in peace-building efforts, not only for conflict resolution but also for post-conflict reconciliation. It transcends linguistic barriers and is recognized as a universal language, making it an ideal resource to showcase the unified vision of "Naya Jammu & Kashmir," with BSF playing a crucial role in maintaining calm borders," she said.

The successful G20 meet held in Kashmir has further fueled the drive to utilize art as a powerful medium to promote peace and cooperation in the region, she added.