

# FICCI FLO's 'She Rises' programme to handpick, train girls for entrepreneurship from July onwards: Varuna

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Varuna Anand Chairperson FICCI FLO J&K and Ladakh announced 'She Rises' programme from July 1 onwards, to hand pick the women start-up aspirants and make them ready for entrepreneurship after their participation in Start-Up festival in October 2023. In a statement issued here today, Varuna Anand mentioned that 'She Rises' programme is a unique initiative aimed at empowering and supporting individuals who are looking to establish and grow their own businesses. Under FICCI FLO, this programme is well-structured and tailored to meet



the needs of women homepreneurs, entrepreneurs, and innovators. One of the standout features of the aforesaid programme is its wide reach, she added.

"Besides Jammu, the programme will be offered in 15 different cities across 11 states of India, making it accessible to a large num-

ber of women entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and regions", Varuna told media persons here.

The handpicked aspirants shall get training under the realms of FICCI FLO with capacity building to remain on forefront. Participants in the She Rises programme will have access to a wide range of resources and opportunities. The programme is designed to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's competitive business environment. The aspirants will have access to upcoming sessions, mentorship, webinars, networking and funding opportunities, besides

training on making entrepreneurs investment ready," she said.

The Chairperson informed that women above the age of 18 are eligible for the initiative by FLO, applications for which have already been floated and the selected aspirants will be provided training online from July 1, 2023.

"We have targeted Universities across Jammu and Kashmir to handpick those who have completed their graduation", she said adding that FICCI FLO can play a significant role by providing appropriate guidance to upcoming entrepreneurs in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

# IWC Jammu Samparak, New Gen celebrate Doctor's Day



IWC Jammu Samparak and IWC New Gen members during Doctor's Day celebration.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IWC Jammu Samparak and IWC New Gen ceremonised Doctor's Day by honouring doctors at Care-N-Care Hospital Trikuta Nagar in Jammu. Amongst doctors who were honoured include Dr. S. Swaran Singh, Dr.

Paramjit Singh, Dr. Adeeb Singh, Dr. Sukanya, Dr. Rajinder Singh and Dr. Manjeet Kaur (Administrative Officer) of the Hospital. Dr Swaran Singh is known for his Administrative and Medical caliber besides other leading specialist of the faculty.

From clubs side President Reva Raina, Vice President Ravinder, Secretary Anila Mengi and Kusum Kesar and Anita Goel, Ambika Samnotra were present. Vice President of the Club, Ravinder Kaur threw light on why celebrate Doctor's Day.

# Half-pants, miniskirts banned for visiting devotees at Bawe Mata Temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's Bawe Wali Mata temple in Bahu Fort area has issued an order that bars people wearing half-pants, bermuda shorts, miniskirts and night suits from entering the temple. Dedicated to Goddess Kali, the management of the Temple, which has been thronged by a large number of devotees, particularly on Sundays and Tuesdays besides in holy Navtarti and other auspicious days, has put up a notice outside the temple asking the devotees to dress 'decently' if they want to enter the premises. The devotees were also urged to cover their heads before entering into temple premises.

"All the devotees must cover their head before entering into the temple premises. The devotees have been appealed not to wear short clothes, bermuda, shorts, miniskirts, nikker, capri and ripped jeans, which are not to be allowed inside the premises. The pilgrims also appealed to maintain the sanity of the shrine and help management to discipline," the notice in Hindi language pasted outside the temple's main entrance gate reads. Head priest of the temple Mahant Bitta said that people must follow decent and Sanatani dress code while entering temple premises.

"The devotees must wear decent clothes and cover their heads inside the temple," Mahant said.

# Mata Jwala temple -- an abode of harmony in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHREW: Tucked away atop a hillock in remote Khrew hamlet of Pulwama district, the temple of Jwala Mata comes to life every year on Ashad Chaturdashi as Muslims and Hindus alike throng it to mark the birthday of the presiding deity and offer their prayers to her.



"Today is Ashad Chaturdashi. It usually comes in July: It is the birthday of Mata Jwala and people from all over the country come here. Not only Hindus, our Muslim brethren also come. We serve the devotees together," Maharaj Krishan Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit devotee, said after taking part in the Haar Tsodah festival.

Although the Hindu-Muslim bonhomie in this village, 25km from Srinagar, is nothing new, the two communities are now praying for return of the era of harmony, peace, and brotherhood to Kashmir.

"A lot of devotees visit this place from various parts of Kashmir and outside. We pray with folded hands to the goddess to restore peace in the region so that Hindus and Muslims can live together as they used to earlier," a female Kashmiri Pandit devotee said.

Raisi Ahmad, a local resident, said Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims complement each other and the two communities have no identity if separated. "Kashmir is known for communal harmony and it is imperative that they (Pandits) should be with us and we be with them. We are complete each other. We have no identity ias separate entities," he said. The importance of the festival in local dynamics can be gauged from the fact that Lok Sabha member from South Kashmir and National Conference leader Hasnain Masoodi was among those who marked his presence at the temple this morning. "The festival is a cultural event for our area. It is an embodiment of Hindu-Muslim amity," Masoodi said.

Community kitchens, popularly known as langars, are set up for the festival at the temple and the devotees are fed without any discrimination.

"There are community kitchens set up for the devotees. One langar is in the name of the Mata also. People come here and eat. It is the blessing of the Mata that everything is working here," Avinash Kumar, a langar operator, said.

# Natrang features Hindi play 'Rehearsal'



Natrang artists performing in a Hindi play 'Rehearsal' on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Natrang featured 'Rehearsal', a play in Hindi written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav and directed by Neeraj Kant on Sunday at Natrang Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre.

In the play the writer has very satirically mocked on the people who want to do something without its proper knowledge and also without possessing the

basic eligibilities of the field. The presentation of the play was assisted by Sushane Dulloo and Vanshika Pandoh.

The play 'Rehearsal' very interestingly portrays the rehearsal scenario of a play where the cast is all women. Though they (Kitty-mates) want to present a good show but their approach is not good enough and too much immature. The basic ingredients which are required to mount a

professional theatre production like discipline, punctuality, team spirit, self-motivation, neutrality of the mind etc were all missing in these ladies and they were instead full of the traits like jealousy, gossip, lack of coordination and egotism.

The rehearsal becomes a free for all situation where everyone reveals her mind in a dramatic manner. Though there is a director also but because of her own limitations and lack of met-

tle, she is not able to control the team. Where these ladies were required to act with compassion towards their fellow artists they had their own whims and fancies, few of them even had proud in their mind as their husbands are at higher posts resultantly they seek pampered treatment. Finally the rehearsal which was shown in the play Rehearsal ended up to be a chaos leaving a stern message that we need to be disciplined and committed to create a meaningful work of art.

Young champs who performed in the play included Vrinda Gujral, Manvi Bhushan, Saanehi Dutta, Saanvi Anand, Mehak Chib, Reet Sethi, Gun Sethi, Shranaya Mahajan and Prial Gupta. The lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant. The presentations were done by Mahikshit Singh and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# Raj Rattan lauds Neeraj Chopra for remarkable achievement at Lausanne DL

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina today extended his heartfelt congratulations to Neeraj Chopra, Olympic Champion, for his outstanding performance and remarkable achievement at the Lausanne Diamond League. He expressed his admiration for Chopra's exceptional talent, unwavering dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

In a statement released today, Raina acknowledged the tremendous significance of Neeraj Chopra's triumph not only for the athlete himself but also for the entire nation. He emphasized that Chopra's victory serves as an inspiration and source of pride for every Indian.

The BJP leader further highlighted Neeraj Chopra's exceptional journey, underscoring the challenges he has overcome and the sacrifices he has made to reach this pinna-

cle of success. He commended Chopra for his relentless efforts and emphasized that his achievements are a testament to his indomitable spirit and commitment. Raina urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to draw inspiration from Neeraj Chopra's phenomenal success. He encouraged the young generation to pursue their dreams, embrace sports, and strive for excellence in their respective fields. He emphasized that Chopra's triumph serves as a beacon of hope, igniting the fire of ambition in aspiring athletes across the nation.

Extending his heartfelt wishes to Neeraj Chopra, Raina urged him to continue shining and reaching greater heights. He expressed his confidence that Chopra's accomplishments will motivate future generations of athletes and leave an enduring legacy of inspiration.

# Send off given to Sudhanshu Verma on his transfer to Delhi



Police officers hosting farewell party for Sudhanshu Verma on his transfer to Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A send off was organised to bid farewell to Sudhanshu Verma on his transfer to Delhi. Sudhanshu is one of the first erstwhile JK cadre officers to be given a posting at Delhi. He has earlier served as SDPO in

Kupwara and Kothibag and as SP at Hazratbal and Sopore.

Presently he was posted as SP Crime at Jammu. The farewell was attended by ADG Jammu, DIG Armed, DIG Traffic , SSP Crime (Spl Crime), SSP Jammu, SSP

Crime (Cyber), SSP PCR and other senior officers.

ADG Jammu praised the contribution of Sudhanshu Verma during his long stint in the Kashmir Valley and hoped that he will keep the JK Police flag high during his stint at Delhi.

# PHD CCI to generate awareness among dealers on GST: Sahai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rahul Sahai, Chairman PHDCCI Jammu participated as an panellist in the GST Week celebrated by State Tax Department Jammu. State Tax department started its GST Week Celebration by organising a Panel Discussion on GST today at Convention Centre Jammu. Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State taxes was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Namrata Dogra, Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement) welcomed all the Panellists and the participants. She gave a detailed presentation on the GST and its Collections from the state.

Dr Rashmi Singh in her keynote address appreciated the growth of GST Collections from the region and said that its due to joint

efforts of the department and taxpayers. She said there is need to create more awareness regarding the GST and her department is always ready to take with the issues of the tax payers with concerned authorities.

Rahul Sahai in his address congratulated the Commissioner, on completion of successful 6 years of GST. He shared that PHD-CCI had conducted several awareness programmes to educate people that GST is a progressive Tax and we must be part of it when it has to be implemented in 2017 and our state was not ready for it. Sahai said that PHDCCI will prepare flyers related to GST, its issues and solutions and will circulate on social media to generate more awareness amongst the dealers as they are dependent on Accounts etc.



Rahul Sahai, Chairman PHDCCI Jammu speaking at a programme.

Sahai suggested giving recognition or felicitating those dealers who are paying their taxes on time, filing returns regularly. This will create more sense of belongingness amongst them.

Speaking about GST Rahul Sahai said that GST has revolutionized the way indirect taxes are collected from businesses in India. It has made the movement of goods across state borders seamless, simplifying taxation for interstate trade.

The filing of returns and registrations has been shifted to the online platform known as GSTN, ensuring convenience and efficient communication between taxpayers and the tax administration.

He said that The GST Council has met 49 times in a span of six years, which shows the Government's commitment to resolve the impending issues and co-operative federalism approach, which is indeed

laudable.

Sahai said that the growth in the GST revenues on a year on year basis only shows better compliance behavior amongst the industry. Decriminalization of certain type of offences under GST, reduction in the amount to be paid for compounding of offences will only add to the confidence of industry and promote voluntary compliance. He further added that there is however, a need for a balanced approach to the GST legislation, considering India's unique economic landscape and the role of cash transactions in the economy.

Rahul Sahai emphasized that it's been six years since GST was implemented w.e.f. 1st July 2017, however, GST Appellate Tribunal is yet to be formed. The absence of the GST

Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) has led to a huge pile-up of cases. The GSTAT should be digitally equipped and the facility of filing e-appeals must be provided.

Other speakers of the panel discussion were, Dr Reva Sharma, Director IMPA, Prof. Manoj Aggarwal from IIT Jammu, Varun Soni Deputy Director NAICIN, B S Khara, Asst. Director NAICIN.

From the Taxation Department Ankita Kar, Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Amit Sharma Joint Commissioner CGST, and Shakeel Additional Commissioner State Taxes also addressed the participants.

Vote of thanks was given by Manpreet Kour Assistant Commissioner State Taxes Department.

# PCCF reviews preparedness of Forest Dept for Monsoon Plantation Abhiyan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF&HoFF), J&K, Roshan Jaggi on Sunday reviewed the preparedness for Monsoon Plantation Program of Forest and allied wings at a high-Level meeting here at FRMC, Forest Headquarters at Jammu.

The meeting attended by regional APCCF Jammu, B.M.Sharma, the Circle Level Conservators, Divisional Forest Officers and other senior officers from different districts discussed in detail the action plan and strategy to implement the flagship programme of 'Green J&K Drive' and 'Har Gaon Haryali', amongst other important deliverables entrusted to the Forest and Environment sector by the government.

The Green J&K Drive envisages to take up plantation activities by actively involving the PRIs and other stakeholders and organise mass awareness programme to motivate people about the need and importance to upscale the afforestation activities across all the districts of UT.

It was informed that the

department has drawn an ambitious program to plant 175 lakh plants and distribute about 90 lakh seed balls/grass-slips, seed-packets under the low cost greening initiative by involving public, school children, NGOs, paramilitary forces, government departments and other stakeholders in coming months. The initiative aims at reaching out to all 4,290 Gram Panchayats comprising of 6,800 villages across all districts of UT of J&K.

The meeting informed that involvement of PRIs, NGOs, students and government Departments, Eco-Clubs Paryavaran Mitras shall be the focus of afforestation program to create a mass movement for large scale afforestation on Forest as well as non-forest lands and enhance economic and environmental services to individuals and community as a whole. For providing clean and healthy living environment in urban and peri-urban areas, the department is in the process of establishing 24 Nagar Vans and Nagar Vatikas during the current year and the program shall be extended to all the

Urban Local Bodies in a progressive way. A good number of Gram Panchayats every year have been earning funds to Village fund from the proceeds of mature plantations raised on Panchayat lands and many GPs have been coming forward to offer available land for afforestation activities

The Government is very keen to maintain zero tolerance policy towards forest encroachments. The department, by making use of technological innovations has taken up on war footing the exercise of renovation and strengthening the forest boundary lines of all the vulnerable forest areas by digitization of forest records, geo-referencing of the Boundary Pillars (BPs) and establishing of innovative geo-tagged BPs. The department has drawn a plan to complete the exercise with respect to all vulnerable Forests by March 2024.

To ensure the active participation of forest-based communities in forest management and enhancing their livelihoods, Self-Help Groups through National Rural Livelihood Mission and BMCs are being actively involved in collec-

tion and marketing of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs) like Guechi, Anardana and other valuable forest produce. To promote the recreational values of forests, 75 Trek Routes have been operationalized, which are being used by student - groups, trekkers and other nature lovers to enjoy wilderness in its pristine and helping to increase awareness amongst various stakeholders to preserve environment and forests for better quality of life.

The PCCF & HoFF exhorted upon the officers to have a close working relationship with people living in and around the forests to strengthen their involvement in protection and sustainable management of forests.

Under "Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan" initiative, department is developing/renovating 480 Water Harvesting Structures in different areas which face water scarcity issues by facilitate rain water harvesting and recharge of ground water. It is aimed at increasing the productivity and livelihoods of the people in water stressed regions.

The department shall

support a massive voluntary plantation campaign in the coming months of monsoon, people interested in taking up planting of medicinal, ornamental and other economically important plant species need to plan by liaising with departmental functionaries to get good quality plant-

ing stocks from nurseries.

The department has appealed to the public to become part of the mass plantation initiative launched by the department and contribute towards the environmental security and economic well-being of UT of Jammu &Kashmir.

# Fiaz Diwan from Poonch elected youngest Vice President of J&K Youth Congress



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fiaz Diwan who was serving as Assembly President Haveli, District President Poonch, Secretary of J&K Youth Congress got elected as youngest Vice President in recently concluded organizational election of which result is announced today.

He hails from Chaktroo of haveli tehsil of district Poonch and got basic education from native village and did his B.tech, M.tech from University of DBU Punjab. During his teenage years he was always passionate toward Social and political activities. He became House Captain during School time. During his B.tech ,M.tech he was college CR and university President.

He fought election for the post of JKPYC Assembly President elections year 2018 and emerged victorious with highest number of membership.

He enjoys good support from youth of J&K in general and Pir Panjal in particular.