

# Encouragement to investment in J&K prime focus of Bank: Baldev Parkash

## Hotel Association delegation calls on MD cum CEO J&K Bank

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: During a recent meeting with a joint delegation from the Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK) and the Federation of Hotels, Restaurants, Industries & Commerce of Jammu Region (FHRICJR), Baldev Parkash, the Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, emphasized the importance of investment in the Union Territory of J&K.

The delegation included H R A K / F H R I C J R President Rakesh Wazir, Manohar Lal Sharma, Shashi Thakur, and Kartik Partap Singh.

Also present were the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General



HRAK and FHRICJR Delegations calling on Baldev Parkash, MD and CEO of J&K Bank.

Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen, and General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar.

Baldev Parkash highlighted the necessity for increased investment to generate employment and create opportunities for the younger generation within J&K. He assured that J&K Bank is committed to sup-

porting this growth through liberal financing and customized schemes for entrepreneurs. Parkash noted that the region is already experiencing good growth and reaffirmed the bank's dedication to contributing to this progress, as it has in the past.

Rakesh Wazir praised the significant presence of J&K

Bank, particularly in rural areas, and underscored the bank's successful track record in the hotel industry. He called for more liberal financing for the sector and requested the empanelment of additional valuers, especially for properties worth more than 5.00 crore. Wazir also suggested extending the moratorium period for con-

struction loans due to delays caused by COVID-19.

Kartik Partap Singh advocated for the continuation and expansion of the bank's tailor-made schemes, as well as increased initiatives under social responsibility, publicity, and branding. He emphasized the need for broader awareness of the bank's schemes.

Baldev Parkash assured the delegation that their concerns would be sympathetically considered and that the bank would strive to support the development of the industry, particularly the tourism and service sectors. He committed to further streamlining financing processes and introducing new technologies and schemes regularly.

# VC SKUAST-J releases 8th Agrivision National Convention poster



VC SKUAST Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi and others releasing poster.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from Team Agrivision Jammu met with the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi, to unveil the poster for the 8th Agrivision National Convention.

The convention, themed "Agriculture for Developed Bharat: Vision-2047," is set to take place at the NASC Complex, ICAR, Pusa, New

Delhi, on July 20-21, 2024.

The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and Chief Patron of Agrivision convention, Shivaraj Singh Chauhan, along with patrons of convention Bhagirat Choudhary, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Prof. S. P. Baghel, Minister of State for

Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, and Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, Govt. of India will inaugurate the event.

The poster release ceremony was attended by ABVP President SKUAST Jammu, Gourav Singh, along with Sourav Manhas, Suganda, Manish Salaria, Mridul, and Abhishek TS.

# Curb unchecked escalation of prices for construction materials: MP Khatana tells Admin

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Er. Gulam Ali Khatana has raised serious concerns about the unchecked escalation of prices for essential construction materials in Jammu and Kashmir.

He highlighted a troubling issue that threatens affordable housing initiatives and imposes a significant burden on the average consumer.

Khatana specifically pointed to the exorbitant prices of sand and crushed stone, asserting that a "mafia" is charging up to four times the government-fixed rates for these materials.

This price gouging, he

argued, is causing substantial distress among the general public and particularly affecting beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a flagship housing scheme of the central government.

The MP emphasized the difficulties faced by PMAY beneficiaries, noting that it has become increasingly challenging for them to purchase construction materials within the financial assistance provided by the government. He highlighted media reports indicating widespread overcharging, underscoring a systemic problem.

Khatana called upon the

Mining Department and all Deputy Commissioners in the Union Territory to take immediate action to curb these practices.

He stressed the importance of enforcing government-fixed rates and preventing exploitation by unscrupulous elements in the construction material supply chain. The MP's statement serves as a call to action for local authorities, particularly the Mining Department and Deputy Commissioners, to step up their efforts in preventing overcharging. He questioned why the public should face such problems when authorities have already fixed the rates for these materials.

# 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas will be perfect tribute to planned murder of Democracy, Constitution by then Congress Govt'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Chander Mohan Sharma, a senior BJP leader, has announced that observing 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' on June 25 each year will serve as a fitting tribute to those who suffered during the Emergency imposed by the Congress government led by Indira Gandhi.

Speaking at a press conference held at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Sharma was accompanied by Shaminder Kumar, Sat Paul Rathore, and Rajinder Kumar Gupta.

Sharma lauded the Government of India's decision to observe June 25 as



BJP leader Advocate Chander Mohan Sharma briefing media.

'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'.

He recounted the events of June 25, 1975, when the Emergency was declared. He highlighted the 42nd Amendment, which significantly curtailed the powers of the judiciary, the superseding of higher judiciary judges, and the extension of the

tenure of democratic fora from five to six years. Sharma condemned the imposition of the Emergency as a historical sin by the Congress government, aimed at preserving Indira Gandhi's power following the unfavorable verdict of the Allahabad High Court. Sharma stated that 12 lakh

political activists, including those from Jammu & Kashmir, were jailed under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and the Defense of India Rules (DIR).

The Emergency lasted until March 21, 1977, when the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government was defeated in the general elections, leading to the release of all political prisoners by the victorious Janata Party government.

Sharma mentioned that the Allahabad High Court had recognized these individuals as Loktantra Senanis (Democracy Soldiers) and directed the government to

accord them a status similar to freedom fighters. Several state governments, including UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan, have honored these individuals and provided them with a stipend.

Sharma demanded similar recognition and honorarium for Loktantra Senanis and their families in Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that as first-hand witnesses and victims of the Congress Party and National Conference's undemocratic governance, they are ready to support BJP JKUT in educating voters about these forces.

# DSS suggests effective measures against terrorism in Jammu region

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reinforce the grassroots institutions of Numberdars and Chowkidars in the region.

This appeal, led by Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, President of the Sabha and a former minister, underscores the essential role these institutions play in ensuring effective communication between the administration and the public, particularly in rural areas.

This communication is vital for reporting both positive developments and negative activities, such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and potential threats from anti-social and anti-national elements.

The DSS has expressed con-



DSS President Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak briefing media.

cern over recent terrorist activities in districts like Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Doda, and Kathua, which have resulted in the loss of lives among security personnel, army personnel, civilians, and pilgrims.

The organization emphasized the need for a thorough review of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and calls for an integrated approach to reassure the nationalist population of the government's vigi-

lance and commitment to combating terrorism.

In their resolution, the DSS insisted that maintaining sustainable peace, law, order, and security is the government's responsibility, requiring a robust, multi-pronged strategy by both the central and UT administrations. The Sabha also stressed the importance of protecting innocent and law-abiding citizens from harassment while addressing the chal-

lenges posed by terrorist strikes, which they believe could not occur without some form of internal support or complacency. The DSS has urged immediate and effective measures to restore public confidence and prevent any escalation of security threats, especially as the region prepares for upcoming elections. They also advocate for the Jammu division to be shifted back under the Nagrota Corps from the Western Command in Chandigarh for better-integrated control and dominance over the area. Present at the press conference were Col. Karan Singh (Vice President), Prem Sagar Gupta (General Secretary), Gambhir Dev Singh Charak (Incharge Youth Wing), and Dr. Vidhya Sagar Sharma (Secretary).

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association expressed gratitude towards the Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Manoj Sinha, and his administrative team for their remarkable efforts in resolving pressing issues faced by transporters and the public.

Led by Ajit Singh, Chairman, along with Vijay Singh Chib, President, and various union presidents and civil society leaders from across J&K UT, in a press conference, highlighted the successful resolution of the contentious E-Challaning issue.

The association acknowledged that the primary issue affecting over 8000 vehicles,



Association Chairman Ajit Singh addressing press conference.

including the suspension of driving licenses, permits, and registrations, was effectively addressed following persistent efforts and advocacy.

Ajit Singh and his team mobilized a significant campaign, garnering support from civil societies and political leaders, including Devender Singh Rana from

the BJP.

After extensive dialogues and meetings, including one chaired by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, a comprehensive resolution was achieved.

The Divisional Commissioner facilitated discussions involving key officials such as the

Secretary - Transport, Transport Commissioner, Joint Transport Commissioner, and RTO Jammu. As a result, all suspended licenses, permits, and registrations are set to be regularized starting from July 15, 2024.

In his statement, Ajit Singh expressed heartfelt appreciation for the proactive intervention of Manoj Sinha, whose understanding and swift action reflected genuine concern for the livelihoods affected.

The association commended the transparency and clear communication maintained throughout the process, providing much-needed reassurance to those impacted.

# BJP committed for development of neglected sections of society: Yudhvir



J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi calling on XEN PWD Nagrota, Sunil Thusoo.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President today led a delegation of BJP leader and met with Sunil Thusoo, Executive Engineer of PWD Division Nagrota to discuss the pressing issue of floodwater inundating residential areas due to incessant rains.

He focused on the severe impact of the flooding on the residents of Bajalta, Pargalta, Jagti, Lower Kahna Chargal, and Upper Chargal areas.

The delegation comprised of Ajay Sharma, Mandal President Bajalta, Mohan Lal Verma, OBC President Mandal Bajalta, Sunny Sharma General Secretary, Virender Sharma Shakti Kender Pargalta, Pardeep Singh Booth President Jagti, Nand Kishore, Gopal Sharma and Madan Singh Booth President Dhoon submitted a memorandum of demands to the Executive Engineer stressing upon cleaning of drains of

such flooding does not recur. The residents of Bajalta, Pargalta, Jagti, Lower Kahna Chargal, and Upper Chargal deserve better infrastructure that can withstand heavy rains," Sethi asserted.

The senior BJP leader also highlighted the efforts of BJP government at the Centre, stating that it is working tirelessly to address the needs of the people and improve their quality of life. "The BJP government is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to proper infrastructure and basic amenities. We are working day and night to fulfill this promise," Sethi added.

Sethi asserted that PM Modi is working with a vision to reinstate India on the status of Vishav Guru by working on all aspects of development and growth of the most neglected and downtrodden sections of the society. He reiterated his dedication to working closely with local authorities to resolve the issue and improve the living conditions of the people in Nagrota.

The Executive Engineer assured the senior BJP leader that the PWD Division Nagrota is fully aware of the situation and is already planning to implement necessary measures to address the flooding issue. "We understand the gravity of the situation and are committed to finding a sustainable solution," he said.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Presiding Officer Fast Track Court POCSO cases Srinagar Aarti Mohan awarded 20 years rigorous imprisonment and fine Rs 10000 to Imtiyaz Hussain Malla S/O late Ali Mohammad Malla R/O Sector 6, Hamdania Colony, Bemina Srinagar has been held guilty of offence punishable under section 3/4 of POCSO Act and section 376 IPC.

The facts of the case are that on September 29, 2021, the victim filed a report in Women Police Station to the effect that she is a minor girl of 15 years of age.

The accused enticed her on the promise of marriage and on September 28, 2021 took her to his shop at Qamarwari where he raped her. On the basis of this report, FIR No. 24/2021 came to be

registered u/s 376 IPC and section 3/4 of POCSO Act and investigation was set into motion. During investigation, the allegations against the accused were established and challan was produced against the accused under section 376 IPC and Section 3/4 of POCSO Act.

The accused was charged on March 28, 2022 for the commission of offences under section 376 IPC and section 3/4 of POCSO Act.

Presiding Officer Fast Track Court POCSO cases Srinagar Aarti Mohan after hearing both the sides observed that the court cannot overlook the fact that the victim was 15 years and 3 months of age at the time commission of alleged offence and was manipulated by the convict to accompany him to his shop where he committed sexual assault upon her. The court also cannot overlook the fact that the

POCSO Act was enacted since a strong need was felt to take stringent measures to deter the rising cases of child sexual abuse in the country. Therefore, keeping in view the above aggravating and mitigating circumstances, Court feel that the mitigating circumstances outweigh the aggravating circumstances in the case and the award of minimum punishment shall serve the ends of justice in the case. Since the convict is held guilty of committing penetrative sexual assault upon a child below the age of 16 years punishable u/s 4 of POCSO Act and section 376 IPC, therefore, he is sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of 20 years and is also sentenced to fine of Rs. 10000/- which shall be payable as compensation to the victim. In case of failure to pay the fine, the convict shall undergo further imprisonment for 6 months.

# Dr Davinder Kour elected President Rotary Club Jammu Elite

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Davinder Kour Associate Professor in Education has been appointed as President of Rotary club Jammu Elite and Suresh Bali as secretary of the Club for the year 2024-2025. District Governor Elect Rohit Oberoi 25-26 was the chief guest and Installing Officer of the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion Outgoing President Jyoti Vaid threw light on the programmes of the Club during her presidency and said that various projects were conducted for improvement of the society.

President Dr Davinder Kour promised to work with great enthusiasm and dedication for the society and she further added that



Members of Rotary Club Jammu Elite during the programme on Saturday.

She is committed to work for club meticulously. She also stressed upon that she will continue the legacy to uphold the Rotary values of service, fellowship and integrity

Charter President Gurvinder Kour our Club read the biodata of DG25-26 Rtn Rohit Oberoi

Other dignitaries and members of our club who

attended were AG Chaksu, Jyoti Vaid, Shivangi Sharma, Suresh Bala, Paramjeet Kaur and Gurvinder Kaur, Poonam Dr Revika, Harvinder Kour Mr.

Prashant, Adeep Mehta, Atanjit Singh And all the presidents of various Club. The programme was coordinated by Past President Jyoti Vaid.