

Randhawa visits village Langar; listens to public issues, assures redressal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa interacted with the residents at village Langar of Jammu South RS Pura Assembly Segment and listened to their issues here on Monday.
During his visit, former MLC discussed various issues pertaining to the development of the area.
Former Legislator was accompanied by Naresh Singh, Reena Salathia, Jameet Singh, Vijay Verma and many others.
The residents apprised the former Legislator about the issues being faced by them including no proper sanitation, overflowing of drains,



no proper power supply, erratic water supply, etc.
The people said that due to choked drains, the rain water enters their houses and damages costly items.
Randhawa listened to the problems of the inhabitants patiently.
While speaking, Former

Legislator Vikram Randhawa assured the residents that the raised issues will be taken up with the concerned authorities for early redressal.
He directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) authorities to get the choked drains cleaned as

rain water enters the residential houses thereby causing huge losses to the people.
"Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of great Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working on the theme of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikaas' and is committed for the overall development of the areas of Jammu", Randhawa said, adding that no area will be deprived of basic amenities and development of every citizen is our main motto.
"Sabka Sath Sabka Vikaas is not just a slogan. We are reaching out to the masses with all the schemes being launched the Narendra Modi led Central Government", Randhawa added.

He said instead of talking about big things the BJP leadership is focusing on local issues which can make a big difference in the lives of people.
He said that many projects are in pipeline for Jammu which will change the face of the city.
"BJP is working to mitigate problems of the people and give them respite from miseries which they are facing in the last over seventy years", he said, adding that central dispensation has provided surplus funds for the development works across the Union Territory and that is the reason behind irresistible development trail going on in Jammu and Kashmir.

Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad to organize "Kargil Shaurya Yatra" on July 25

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War, Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad is going to organize "Kargil Shaurya Yatra" on July 25 to honor the martyrs on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Divas.
The route for the Yatra will start from JDA Parking (old Bus Stand) to Ragunath Bazar, continuing through Gummat, Vevkamad Chowk, City Chowk, Shalimar, and ending at Indira Chowk JDA Parking.
Brigadier Balbir Singh Sambyal, President of Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad, described the Yatra as a unique rally to pay tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War.



"Although organized by the Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad, the Yatra is open to all patriotic individuals," he said and urged citizens from all sections of society to participate in the Yatra to honor the sacrifices made during the Kargil War.
Brigadier Balbir highlighted the unprecedented nature of the Kargil War, where Pakistan disregard-

ed the rules of war, leading to severe violations and atrocities.
He praised the courage and dedication of Indian Army soldiers during the conflict, particularly mentioning the heroic victory at Tiger Hill Vijay.
Brigadier Balbir emphasized the solemn duty of paying tribute to those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

DFSS holds protest against erratic water supply, power cuts



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) on Monday held a protest against erratic water supply and power cuts during the hot and scorching weather in Jammu City.
Party workers carried empty buckets to symbolize the scarcity of water, and highlighted the inconvenience caused by long power cuts, especially during the auspicious month of Sawan for Hindus.
Ashok Gupta emphasized that frequent power cuts were dampening the festive spirit during the holy month of

Sawan, which is traditionally celebrated with great fervor.
He pointed out that in the current hot and humid weather, air conditioners are essential for comfort, but power cuts have made life difficult for the residents.
Gupta mentioned that despite higher revenue contributions, the Chief Engineer faces limitations in ensuring adequate power supply.
He requested the personal intervention of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to alleviate the suffering of the public by addressing these issues promptly.

Gupta suggested that the government should invest in solar power projects, leveraging Jammu's ample sunlight to generate electricity at low cost and with minimal environmental impact.
He argued that since residents are paying their bills based on smart meters, they should be entitled to uninterrupted 24-hour power supply.
The rally was attended by numerous party members including Abhishek, Geeta, Bittu, Ganesh, Bantu, Prem, Kalu, Rampal, Naresh, Ram, and others, highlighting broad support for the cause.

Massive expenditure on wall paintings in Jammu city under 'Smart City Project' is unjustifiable: Charak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gulchain Singh Charak, President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, J&K and former Cabinet Minister, has expressed great resentment over the current state of the Jammu Smart City Project.
He said that this project was initiated with the intention of transforming Jammu into a more beautiful and modern city. Unfortunately, the authorities sitting at the helm of affairs have turned it into a mockery, using it as a means to waste public money in the name of development.
Addressing media persons here today, the former minister raised his serious concerns about the preparing of wall paintings at different places across Jammu city under the Smart City Project. "The government has spent a staggering Rs 5.28 crore on such painting on the walls and pillars at some places across the Jammu city, covering a total area of 2,56,642 square feet according to the right to information (RTI) query.



However, many of these paintings are now in a poor state. The Sabha President further revealed that the massive expenditure on the wall paintings is unjustifiable. He questioned the rationale behind such an initiative, emphasizing that wall paintings should reflect and highlight the rich culture and heritage of the city.
"The current wall paintings do not convey properly the local culture. They appear to be a wastage of public money. If the government intended to promote Dogra culture, the paintings should have been designed accordingly," he asserted.
The former minister also

criticized the selection of artists for this project.
"The government hired three artists, two of whom are from outside Jammu and Kashmir who didn't have any knowledge of the local culture and heritage. This oversight has resulted in artwork that fails to resonate with the local population," he explained.
He also pointed out that the costly wall paintings were created without assess-

ing the condition of the walls. "Many of these paintings have deteriorated after just a few rains, leaving them in a dilapidated condition. This poor planning and execution have turned what could have been a beautification project into an eyesore," he remarked.
Highlighting the broader mismanagement of the Smart City project, Charak noted that many parts of the old city remain in deplorable conditions.
"Historic areas like Raghunath Bazaar and Memorial of Raja Jambu Lochan situated in the heart of city near Shri Rambhreshwar temple which has been left halfway, as the large number of tourists including the yatris of 'Baba Barfani' and 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji' coming

IGNOU introduces Masters and Post Graduate Diploma programmes in Bhagawad Gita studies Extends last date for admission, re-registration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: IGNOU has announced the launch of a new Master of Arts (MA) programme and PG Diploma programme in Bhagawad Gita Studies, starting from the 2024-2025 academic session.
The programmes will be offered through open and distance learning (ODL), making it accessible to a wide range of students across India and beyond. These programmes in Bhagawad Gita Studies will be conducted under the School of Humanities at IGNOU.
The course duration is flexible, ranging from two to four years for MA programme and one to two years for PG Diploma programme, allowing students to complete the same at their own pace.
The programmes will be taught in Hindi, with plans to introduce an English medium in the future. Eligibility for the course requires a bachelor's degree or higher from a recognized university in any discipline.
This broad eligibility criterion ensures that the program is open to a wide audience, including those who may not have a background in religious

or philosophical studies.
Students interested in enrolling in the MA in Bhagawad Gita Studies can register through the official IGNOU admission portal. Admissions are open twice a year, in the July and January admission cycles, through the official SAMARTH portal of IGNOU <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in> in the link of which is available on National website of IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in.
In a press statement, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma stated that the aim of studying Bhagwad Gita is to unravel the message always verifiable by experience it contains, the truth is valid for all ages, and all mankind.
Dr. Verma also informed that in the interest of student community the University has extended the last date of admissions till July 31, 2024 and the aspiring students must avail the opportunity of date extension and enrol themselves for this long expected programme or any other programme of their choice well before the deadline.

SKUAST-J conducts Workshop on Agriculture 5.0: Future of Smart Farming

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the leadership of Prof. Bhupendra N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, National Agricultural Higher Education Project-Institutional Development Project (NAHEP-IDP) operational at SKUAST-Jammu and Division of Soil Science organized a workshop on "Agriculture 5.0: Future of Smart Farming" on Monday for the students of the university.
Prof. Tripathi, the chief guest of the workshop, highlighted the importance of technology and engineering inputs and implements for smart farming and improving the production to cater the need of 1.4 billion popu-



lation.
He also in his address mentioned about the journey of Agriculture from 1.0 to 4.0 and future farming version 5.0. During the workshop Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-J & Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture Engineering also address the gathering during the occasion. Dr. R.K. Salgotra, Director IBT, SKUAST-J, Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, DSW, SKUAST-J and other faculty members and students of the university were also present during the programme.
Expert lectures were delivered by eminent scientists.

Dr. Avishek Datta, Prof. Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand delivered online lecture on "Climate Smart Agriculture", Dr. Sanjay Arora, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, delivered lecture on "Innovative and advance

approaches for management of salt affected soils" and discussed the digital apps created by the institute for precision management of sodic soils while Dr. Atul Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, delivered talk on "Water Smart Strategies for Precision Farming".
Dr. Vikas Sharma, Head, Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry & Coordinator, NAHEP-IDP, SKUAST-J gave welcome address and briefed about the Workshop.
Proceeding of the programme was conducted by Dr. Vivak M. Arya and vote of thanks was given by Dr. P. K. Rai organising secretary of the workshop.

KC EMPORIA honoured as Most Promising Enterprise in luxury banqueting, food catering



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a glittering ceremony, KC EMPORIA-Luxury Banquet and Resorts has been awarded the prestigious title of the "Most Promising Enterprise of the Year" in the luxury banqueting and food catering category by the MSME India Business Awards.
This accolade is a testament to KC EMPORIA's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction in the hospitality industry.
The award ceremony was graced by several distinguished guests, including Dr. H.P. Kumar, Director of External Affairs at Power2SME Pvt. Ltd. and Former CMD of NSIC (National Small Industries

Corporation); Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Executive Chairman & Founder of 5F World and Chairman of the Board at Honeywell Automation India Limited; Veer Sagar, Chairman of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council; Dr. J.S. Juneja, Chairman of the MSME Committee, Past President of AIMA, and Chairman of Global Projects & Services Pvt. Ltd.; Vinod Kumar, President of the India SME Forum; Vinay Bansal, Founder & CEO of Inflection Point Ventures; Aditya Arora, CEO of Fhad Capital; Dr. Aarti Gupta, CIO of Family Office DM Gupta & Anikarh Ventures, and National Head of the FICCI FLO Startup Cell; Dr. S. Glory Swarupa, Director General of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Geetika Dayal, Executive Director of TIE Delhi-NCR; Parag Paranjpe, Group CHRO of RJ Corp; Nitin Sachdeva, Senior Director of Talent at BharatPe; Vineta Hariharan, Public Policy Exponent and Former Chief of External Missions at the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises; and Deepanshu Manchanda, Co-Founder and CEO of ZappFresh.
The event was organized by @industrylive, with @nsic serving as the knowledge partner, @zeebusiness as the telecast partner; and @vi as the digital transformation partner.
KC EMPORIA's achievement in being recognized as a leader in luxury banqueting and food catering is a reflection of its dedication to providing exceptional services and memorable experiences to its clientele. This award further solidifies KC EMPORIA's position as a trailblazer in the industry, setting new standards for luxury and quality.

Free Urology Camp held at Sunderbani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: Ambika Diagnostic Centre in Sunderbani successfully concluded a Free Urology Camp aimed at providing essential healthcare services to the community.
The camp, organized with the noble intention of promoting urological health awareness and accessibility to medical services, catered to nearly



75 patients.
Under the expert guidance of Dr. Ravinder Singh Ghai, MCh Urology, MS Surgery, a distinguished Urologist, Andrologist, and Kidney Transplant Surgeon affiliated with ASCOMS and Ujala serve our community," said Dr. Ravinder.
The management of Ambika Diagnostic Centre expresses gratitude to all participants, volunteers, and stakeholders who contributed to the success of this initiative.

HC rejects pre-bail of Father-in-law, others in rape case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant development, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary has dismissed the pre-arrest bail applications of Youans Ali, father-in-law; Nishad Ali, husband; and Rufana Bibi, mother-in-law, in connection with an alleged rape case. According to the complaint filed by the victim, she married Naushad Ali in 2018 under Muslim rites and began living in her matrimonial home. Initially, the marriage was peaceful, but tensions arose when she discovered her husband had no personal income and relied entirely on his father. This financial dependence allegedly allowed the father-in-law to exert dominance over the family dynamics.
The complainant stated that her father-in-law had inappropriate intentions towards her from the beginning of her marriage. She was allegedly coerced into performing domestic chores all day, and when she resisted, her husband instructed her to obey his father, who he considered the head of the family. Despite bringing the matter to her husband and mother-in-law's attention, no action was taken. On May 23, 2023, during a moment when her husband and mother-in-law were absent, the father-in-law allegedly sexually assaulted her against her will and threatened her with harm if she disclosed the incident. During the court proceedings, the Investigating Officer confirmed that the

investigation had been completed and the allegations against the petitioners were substantiated. The court emphasized the gravity of the offense under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, highlighting that sexual assault not only inflicts physical harm but also violates a woman's dignity and honor. Given the conclusive investigation and imminent filing of charges under Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code,

the court found no merit in granting anticipatory bail to the accused. The decision underscored that the trial court, armed with the charge-sheet and investigative findings, would be better positioned to consider any future bail applications. The ruling reflects the court's commitment to addressing crimes against women with utmost seriousness and ensuring justice for victims of sexual assault.

MSME Promotion Council of India delegation on LG



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A delegation of MSME Promotion Council of India J&K Unit led by its Chairman Gunjan Sharma called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Monday.
Subsequently, several delegations including Startup Founders led by Refaz Ahmad Wani and Sheikh Inayat Ullah; Artisans from Bandipora headed by Mohd Maqbool Dar and Kashmir Artisans Welfare Association also met the Lt Governor.
Meanwhile, Hemraj Poswal, Mahant, Shri Devnarayan Janamsathali, Rajasthan met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan and apprised him of various welfare issues of Gujjar Bakerval community of J&K. He was accompanied by Raghuvir Singh Patel, Chairman, Devnarayan Board Madhya Pradesh.