

Advisor Bhatnagar flags off mega cleanliness-cum-awareness drive at Gulmarg

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GULMARG: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Saturday flagged off a massive cleanliness-cum-awareness drive here.

The drive was organised by Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) in collaboration with Rotary Club Kashmir.

Addressing the large gathering of officers, volunteers and school children, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized on the vital role of community involvement in preserving the natural beauty and its environs. He added that our goal should not only be clean up but to foster a sense of responsibility towards our environment.

While interacting with participants after flagging off the drive, Advisor Bhatnagar



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar flagging off cleanliness-cum-awareness drive.

stressed upon collective and collaborative efforts from everyone for ensuring plastic and polythene free Gulmarg. He added that we must ensure a plastic-free environment as this will help preserve our fragile ecosystem and maintain a clean and safe environment for future generations

He highlighted the role of civil society towards this endeavour and lauded the role of GDA and other organisations for their efforts and commitment towards making this world famous destination free of plastic and polythene.

CEO GDA, Waseem Raja while expressing his grati-

tude to the Advisor for leading the cleanliness drive, appraised him about steps

being taken by GDA and Gulmarg Municipality to ensure litter free and plastic free Gulmarg. He assured the Advisor that in coming days more such steps will be taken towards this endeavour.

The cleanliness drive started from Gulmarg club and concluded in children's park where few dustbins were also donated by Rotary Club for the park. Executive Officer Municipality Gulmarg, AD Tourism Gulmarg, SHO Gulmarg and other officers and service providers also participated in the drive.



INDI Alliance will come to power after Assembly Elections: Tara Chand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand has said that India Alliance will form the government after the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as people have come to know that party in Power only serves the interests of Crony Capitalists and not the Common man.

Addressing public meeting in Dori Gulaba Block khara Balli of Chaamb Constituency today, Tara Chand said that ruling Party has downgraded and divided the historical State into UT and deprived people of their valuable rights of people of J&K.

He said that mood of peo-



Senior Congress leader Tara Chand addressing public meeting.

ple in J&K and elsewhere in the country is to replace this pro rich and anti poor, anti youth and anti farmers Government.

People have been left at the mercy of bureaucrats who are accountable to none and dancing to the tunes of their political masters, he said

adding that the unemployment is at the peak, the price rise is touching the sky and common man is made to pay taxes and fees from their noose.

He said that Congress party believes in an inclusive and prosperous J&K that does not discriminate on the

basis of religion, Caste, Class, language, region or creed.

He further said the principles envisaged by Congress "helped us unite as a people".

We have to keep up with our fight for the restoration of our infringed rights and

on another front we have to ensure the well being of our people. Ours is the party that defines the soul of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Prominent among those present on the occasion Sahil Sharma Secretary PCC, Vijay Chib, Madan Lal Sharma Senior Vice President Jammu Rural, Bodh Raj Sharma, Dwarka Nath Sharma, Ex BDC Chairman, Jagdish Raj Sharma Block President, Rajkumar Sharma Block President, Gautam Sharma, Desraj Sharma, Chummi Lal Sharma, Tarsem Singh, Subash Sharma Naib Sarpanch, Sanjeev Sharma, Manjeet Sharma, Vipin lachotra and others.

KK Gandhi to participate in Nation Art Camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chitramayee State Gallery of Art YAT & C (Tourism) Department, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad invited KK Gandhi, a globally recognized artist of J&K UT to participate in a Nation Art Camp "The Shifting of Landscape of Telangana" being held from August 16 to 20, 2024.

The camp which will be participated by most Nationally and Internationally reputed artists is being curated by Fawad Tamkanat & Atiya Amjad who also conceived this proj-



ect which is illustrative yet exudes the essence of a thriving Deccan landscape metamorphosing constantly as generating comes and goes.

The camp's theme is Telangana's capital, which ranks on the National and International maps as the Numero Uno livable city of India. The artists will likely not merely review its history which captures the ships to modernity.

The main subject of the art camp is to capture the evolution of a landscape that marks the rich history and contemporary time where people and landscapes intersect.

J&K Judicial Academy organises 2-day sensitization programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy on Saturday organized two day sensitization programme on "The relevant provisions of BNSS on arrest, remand and bail with special reference to the Role of Trial Judges in ensuring just, fair and speedy trial (as guaranteed under article 21 of the constitution)" at its Jammu Campus, Janipur, Jammu for the Judicial Officers (Sr./Jr. Division) across the Jammu division along with Trainee Civil Judge (Jr. Division) through physical as well as virtual mode.

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as member of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, in presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh who was the resource person in the opening session of the first day.



Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh speaking at a programme.

Delivering his introductory remarks, Justice Rahul Bharti quoted Michaelangelo, an Italian sculptor, who once said "Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to uncover it." He highlighted that ensuring the dignity of an individual is the core of preamble of the constitution of India adding that being sensitive to the litigants we can uplift the society.

Justice Bharti gave various real life illustrations and reiterated that any institution doesn't have an expiry date whereas what we contribute passes on to the next generation which only keeps the institution flourishing. He also interacted with the participants and elaborated on the purpose of remand including rejection of a remand. He advised the participants to be

pro-active rather than passive listeners as individuality of an individual is on stake while undergoing a trial.

On the first day, the first session was chaired by Justice Atul Sreedharan, who in his very opening remarks quoted Former Chief Justice, MP High Court Justice Akil Kureshi and said, "Judges have no personal ambition and you have nothing to fear".

Justice Sreedharan discussed the role and responsibilities of Trial Judges in ensuring strict compliance with the provisions for arrest and remand by assessing independently the necessity to justify such an arrest before granting a remand and not to go simply by the claims of arresting officer as gospel. He discussed various powers and duties of magis-

trates. He exhorted the judicial officers to adopt a judicial approach and justice must be done in accordance with the law. He further elaborated that speedy trial is a fundamental right implicit in the broader sweep and content of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Justice Sreedharan added that aforesaid Article confers a fundamental right on every person not to be deprived of his life or liberty except in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law and the procedure so prescribed must ensure conclusion of trial within reasonable time frame for determination of the guilt of such person. The session was highly interactive and various aspects of the subject topic were discussed by His Lordship. Rajinder Saproo, Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, the resource person in the second session, gave a detailed overview of Provisions of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023(BNSS) governing arrest, remand and Bail. The resource person lay threadbare and discussed various principles governing remand to Police/Judicial Custody and those amended provisions for the benefit of the participants.

He discussed the different remand provisions to be adopted for litigants in special cases like transgender, mother of child of age 6 or below, etc. He explained that Section 479 of BNSS, which is the counterpart of Section 436A CrPC, has brought some crucial changes in the provision granting bail to the undertrial prisoners, such as in early release of first-time offender, and obligation is now cast upon the jail Superintendent to move an application on behalf of the undertrial who completes one half or one-third of the maximum term of the sentence for the offence, as the case maybe, for which he/she is detained.

Y.P. Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who will be chairing the session on second day as Resource Person, conducted the proceedings of the two day sensitization programme.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

Hydro power generation falls by 15 pc in J&K amid dry spell

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Power sector in Jammu and Kashmir has suffered a major setback as hydropower generation has declined by 15 percent. This significant decline has come as a result of prolonged drought and rapid depletion of water levels in local reservoirs, putting pressure on power supply in the Union Territory.

A senior Power Development Department (PDD) official confirmed the magnitude of the issue, saying, "Power generation has witnessed a dip by 15 percent due to less rainfall this summer. If the situation remains the same, the generation will further plummet."

This 15 percent reduction translates to a considerable shortfall in J&K's energy production capacity, particularly affecting power plants along the Jhelum and Sindh rivers.

Since the beginning of the year, J&K has experienced a drastic decline in precipitation. From January 1 to July 25, the region recorded a rainfall deficit of 27 percent. This lack of rainfall has led to drought-like conditions and severe heat waves, with Srinagar recently recording a maximum temperature of 35 degrees Celsius.

The official said that power plants along the Jhelum and Sindh rivers are particularly affected by the current conditions. Despite the current power demand in Kashmir, hovering around 1000 MW for most of the day, which is being met through imports from outside discoms, concerns are growing about the sustainability of this arrangement.

"If the situation worsens, it will lead to power cuts," the official warned.

The impact on hydropower generation is partic-

ularly concerning given J&K's heavy reliance on this energy source. Of the total installed generation capacity of 3500 MW, 1140 MW is contributed by UT-owned plants, including the 900 MW Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP).

The remaining 2300 MW comes from central sector plants. However, the current dry conditions have reduced the output of these facilities.

The situation becomes even more critical when considering the seasonal variations in power generation. During winters, powerhouses in J&K typically generate a maximum of 600 MW against their rated capacity of 3500 MW due to seasonal drops in water levels.

With the current summer shortfall, there are growing concerns about meeting the peak winter demand, which can reach up to 3200 MW.

To address these challenges, the J&K Government has been actively seeking alternative power sources. New Power Purchase Agreements have been signed to procure additional power, and efforts are being made to diversify the region's energy mix. With the dip in power production, J&K relies on imports, which leads to huge power bills. According to official data, in the fiscal year 2023-24, the J&K government spent a whopping Rs 9250 crore on power purchases to meet the electricity demand.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (JKPCL) purchased 20,950.58 million units worth Rs 9256.62 crore during the period from April 2023 to March 2024, which were supplied to the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL)."

AIIMS Jammu: Unveiling 'Future of Healthcare' in J&K-sharing its Vision

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu, the "first AIIMS facility" in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, embodies the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, serving as a beacon of healthcare excellence, advancing research, elevating medical education, and championing a patient-centric, evidence-based healthcare model under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).

Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, held a press meet to share his vision for healthcare in Jammu & Kashmir and to highlight the upcoming OPD services at AIIMS Jammu.

He showcased the facility's cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art infrastructure, emphasizing their role in enhancing patient experience.

He informed the media about appointment scheduling, available radio-diagnostic services, and the 24/7 diagnostic lab, noting that initially only OPD services will be available, with IPD, elective surgeries, and other services to follow soon.

The Director began his address with heartfelt gratitude, stating, "Conceived on November 7th, 2015, AIIMS Jammu's foundation stone was laid on February 3rd, 2019, and its grand inauguration was graced by the Prime Minister on February 20th, 2024. We are deeply grateful to Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, for his visit on July 7, 2024. His presence and guidance have been a source of immense pride and inspiration, marking his first visit to any AIIMS since becoming Health Minister."

The Director conveyed deep gratitude towards the State Governance under the leadership of Lt. Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, for his unwavering support, encouragement, and cooperation at every step.

Prof. (Dr) Gupta shared his visionary plans for the future of healthcare in Jammu & Kashmir; reassuring that the imminent dedication of OPD services



marks a significant advancement in the region's healthcare infrastructure.

The Director made a comprehensive presentation on AIIMS Jammu, emphasizing the institution's achievements and future plans. In his address, Prof. Gupta introduced the media to the exclusive features of AIIMS Jammu, which are set to redefine healthcare delivery in the region.

The director mentioned, "The institute will be equipped with 750 beds, including 193 ICU beds, 20 ultra-modern OTs and features 50 departments with nearly 20 super-specialties. It will offer unparalleled healthcare with state-of-the-art facilities and technology, supported by a dedicated healthcare team. Its outreach through telemedicine and technological innovations extends care to even the most remote communities".

The Director added, "AIIMS Jammu is committed to a green, eco-friendly township with diverse amenities, like Sports Complex, J&K Bank, SBI Bank, Shopping Complex, Mess, crèche facility, Guest House and Residential Complexes to enhance staff

satisfaction and productivity".

"Seeing is believing", Media personnel were guided through various facilities within the Academic Block, including the Poison Information Centre, Central Digital Library, Lecture Halls, Cafeteria, and the College of Nursing. A tour of the world-class Convention Centre was followed by a visit to the Outpatient Department (OPD), where they observed the registration counters, Patient Care Managers, PC Coordinators and the innovative "Indoor Navigation System" designed to assist patients in locating their departments. The introduction of this system was particularly praised, as it represents a first for AIIMS institutions.

The media conclave continued with visits to diagnostic facilities, including 3-Tesla MRI, 128 sliced CT, and digital X-ray services, as well as the 24x7 Diagnostic Lab. The tour included a visit to the Ayush Block, which serves as a screening facility for walk-in patients, the Emergency Services, ICU, Operating Theatres. The tour continued with visits to the Jan Anushadhi, Amrit Pharmacy and Night Shelter.

The state-of-the-art facility, which the media had the privilege of touring, boasts cutting-edge technology and modern infrastructure designed to offer world-class medical services. Prof. Gupta emphasized that these advancements are integral to enhancing the patient experience, ensuring that residents of Jammu & Kashmir receive the highest quality of care.

Prof. Gupta shared that AIIMS Jammu is currently focused on launching its OPD services, detailing appointment procedures, available radiodiagnostic services, and operational aspect of the 24/7 diagnostic lab, all designed to enhance convenience and efficiency for the community, ensuring timely and accurate diagnostics and treatment.

Prof. Gupta also outlined future plans for the expansion of services. While the initial phase will concentrate on OPD care, subsequent phases will intro-

duce a wider range of services, including inpatient department (IPD) care, elective surgeries, and various other medical specialties. This phased approach is strategically planned to ensure a smooth and gradual rollout of additional services, addressing the evolving healthcare needs of not only of the people of J&K, but also for that of Leh, and other neighbouring states like Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Prof. Gupta shared that on the academic front, AIIMS Jammu, permits an annual intake of 100 MBBS students and 60 B.Sc. Nursing students. The MBBS intake has grown from 50 (in 2020 batch), 61 (2021 & 2022), 62 (in 2023) to a proposed 100 for 2024, with B.Sc. Nursing consistently admitting 60 students annually. Additionally, AIIMS Jammu currently offers 45 Post Graduate seats across Medicine, Surgery, and Dentistry, with Super Specialization courses (DM/MCh) expected to commence in January 2025. He further added, "The institute offers an exceptional educational environment, where students are shaped into medical leaders. With smart lecture theatres, advanced laboratories, and simulation labs, it fosters intellectual curiosity and skill development. An unmatched digital library, not available in any other AIIMS facility, will be open 24/7, and dedicated mentors support at every step of the learning journey". The Director emphasized that AIIMS Jammu fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, integrating AYUSH with modern technology, IIT, IIM, IIIM, and Naturopathy, supported by international partnerships. This creates an innovation hub where ideas thrive. Currently, AIIMS Jammu is advancing 81 research projects, including 41 extramurally funded, 29 intramurally funded, and 11 student research projects. The director conveyed, "AIIMS Jammu aims to achieve complete healthcare digitalization within a year; progressing through four key milestones. It promotes women empowerment through equal opportunities, supportive work environments, gender-sensitive policies, and specialized leadership programs."

The director expressed, "At AIIMS Jammu, a substantial portion of our workforce hails from the local region of Jammu & Kashmir, constituting 58% of the total staff, while those from other regions make up 42%. In terms of employment types, outsourced staff predominantly comprise local residents at 99%, with only 1% from outside regions. Among senior residents, 92% are from Jammu & Kashmir; contrasted with 8% from other areas. Faculty members also show a significant local presence, with 59% from Jammu & Kashmir and 41% from other regions. Gender representation across key roles is diverse: women hold 49% of faculty positions, 62% of senior resident roles, and 80% of nursing staff positions. Overall, women represent 45% of the workforce, while men account for 55%."

The press meet served not only as an introduction to the new facilities but also as an opportunity for AIIMS Jammu to reinforce its commitment to transparency and community engagement. Prof. Gupta's vision reflects a broader goal of elevating healthcare standards in the region and improving access to high-quality medical services for all residents.

The Director asserted that with its unique infrastructure, exceptional talent, and forward-thinking approach, AIIMS Jammu is committed to making quality healthcare a universal right. As an Institution of National Importance, AIIMS Jammu embodies the spirit of a "Global Village," offering a unified "One Campus" solution that represents hope, trust, and progress for students, researchers, and patients worldwide.

The director concluded the meet saying, "I, personally and professionally, am thankful to the people of Jammu for their unwavering support, the Government of India for their steadfast trust, and my team for their dedication and commitment. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the media, the fourth pillar of democracy and the nation's voice, for their invaluable role in this AIIMS journey of continued progress and hope."