

Amit tours Siaha & Lawngtlai, the only Indian district with three International Borders, under 'Whole of Govt Approach'

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SLAHA/LAWNGTLAI: Amit Sharma, IAS, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and Cooperation Departments, has toured twin last mile strategic tribal districts of Mizoram, under the "Whole of Government Approach" which are also having three Autonomous District Councils, namely Mara (MADC), Lai (LADC) and Chakma (CADC) Councils.

During the visit to Siaha district, which happens to be the last district of Mizoram state, also popularly known as 'Maraland' having MADC as well, due to dominant presence of Mara tribals here since ages, Amit Sharma, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, held extensive deliberations with the officials of multiple departments of the district to understand their challenges and get them resolved at the earliest.

During this meeting, Abraham Beirazi Khithie, Additional DC briefly highlighted the profile of the district, remarking on the strengths, potential and challenges faced by the region which were noted down by visiting Amit Sharma for bringing about transformative changes in Siaha District.

Amit also expressed his gratitude to the officials of various



Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government of Mizoram, ICT with others during meeting at Lawngtlai.

departments for coming at such a short notice. He stated that he was impressed with the quality of cleanliness and professionalism seen during his random visit to the lone District Hospital at Siaha earlier in the day and further wished that other departments would also replicate same good practices in their respective work places.

Pitching on the importance of paperless governance and the promotion and implementation of e-governance standards and digital transformation initiatives in the State, Amit stated that Mizoram Govt is pushing for the implementation of e-Office systems across government departments, aiming to extend it to field offices so as to make Block-level offices paperless.

Amit specifically pointed out on the need of promoting Siaha tourism, which possess significant revenue generating potential, especially due to the pres-

ence of Blue Mountains, Grand Canyon, biggest river, biggest lake here.

He encouraged the members present in the meeting for the promotion of the region's scenic attributes to attract tourism in order to boost the district's economy. Amit also extended his best wishes for their success and requested their collaboration in advancing the district's development and alleviating poverty.

During his visit to Lawngtlai, the only strategic district in the nation with three International Borders of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, Amit Sharma held meetings with all stakeholders and Government Departments and understood their issues in-depth for putting before respective departmental heads and resolving them at the earliest.

Sharma, during Lawngtlai district visit, also held inclusive meeting with the district offi-

cials at the DC Conference Hall. He pointed out that his maiden visit to the Lawngtlai district is aimed at giving impetus to ICT influx and development of Cooperative sector as well as overall development for the district. Assessing the growth potential in e-Services domain, he indicated that e-office had already been practiced at the Secretariat level and will soon be implemented at the district level for achieving paperless governance. Highlighting on the importance and potential of Digital Online Platforms, Secretary Sharma assured that necessary steps had been taken so that people may have more ease and comfort in getting service from the government.

Amit also stipulated on the need for faster and meaningful development for various cooperative societies and assured that necessary help will be provided at anytime from the

Government. Speaking on the importance of cordial and collective responsibilities, Amit called for all the departments to work together in total cohesion in order to give their utmost for the people they are serving here.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, Lawngtlai extended his unwavering welcome to Secretary Sharma for his visit to the strategic district and unending contribution he made for the state of Mizoram. He presented a short report highlighting the development potential and existing challenges of the district.

Extensive discussions were held where the head of various departments outlined their action plans and achievements along with various challenges faced by them. At this juncture, Secretary Amit Sharma assured them his willingness to extend all the necessary support and that he would personally take-up thier issues with concerned Secretaries for getting them resolved.

The visiting Secretary Amit Sharma was accompanied by a team of officers from Aizawl which included H.Vanhlupuia, Deputy Registrar, Cooperation Department, Lalengzuala, Informatics Officer, ICT and Lahmanawma, Database Administrator, MEeGS during his twin districts visits.

Yudhvir visits Amarnath Yatra Base Camp, reviews facilities, inaugurates Bajrang Dal Langar



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi during visit to Amarnath Yatra Base Camp.

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Saturday visited the Shri Amarnathji Yatra Base Camp located in Bhagwati Nagar area of Jammu to take stock of the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the ongoing annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, Yudhvir interacted with the pilgrims and inquired about the facilities being provided to them. He patiently listened to their feedback and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

Later, Sethi held an interactive session with the Ayush doctors stationed at the base camp and appreciated their

dedication in providing timely medical assistance to the Yatriss. He also engaged in a detailed discussion with the officers of the Tourism Department present at the camp.

He urged them to further intensify their efforts in promoting religious tourism in Jammu region and ensuring a more pilgrim-friendly atmosphere.

As a mark of respect and encouragement to the volunteers, Yudhvir also inaugurated the ongoing Langar organized by Bajrang Dal at the base camp. He praised the selfless service of Bajrang Dal members and volunteers who have been tirelessly working to serve the pil-

grims with devotion and dedication.

Sethi said, "The Shri Amarnathji Yatra is not only a religious pilgrimage but a symbol of the rich spiritual and cultural fabric of our country. Ensuring the comfort and safety of Yatriss is our top-most priority, and I commend all stakeholders-administration, security forces, medical staff, volunteers and NGOs-for their relentless service."

The senior BJP leader also emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination among all departments and volunteers to make this sacred journey a memorable and safe experience for every pilgrim.

Ashok Maharaj pays visit to Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir



Smt and Shri Ashok Maharaj (Raj Guru) paying visit to Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir.

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JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of "Shravan Krishan Navmi", Smt and Shri Ashok Maharaj (Raj Guru) paid a sacred visit to the revered Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust situated at BC Road, here. During their visit,

they offered Puja-Archana to Bhagwan Hanumanji, seeking divine blessings. The holy couple also distributed Bhog Prasad among the devotees/visiting Yatriss, spreading joy and spirituality. The visit was particularly significant as it marked the Punya Tithi of their late parents, Soma Devi and Krishan Sharma (Raj

Jotshi). As a mark of respect and devotion, they offered a "Chatter with Navratna Yukt" was also dedicated to our revered deity Shree Hanuman, said Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust.

This gesture exemplifies the couple's deep rooted faith and commitment to their spiritual heritage. A large number of gathering witnessed the said occasion. On this auspicious occasion, Ritika Trehan, BJP Chief Spokesperson, MM J&K UT, ICC Women Wing Board Member was the Chief Guest and Anita Sharma, Senior Supdt. of Police, Distt Reasi was the Guest of Honour: Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer expressed thanks on behalf of the Trust to the visiting dignitaries.

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JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of its Chairman Y. P. Bourney (Principal District and Sessions Judge) and under the supervision of Secretary Smriti Sharma (Sub Judge) on Saturday convened 3rd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee - 2025.

The meeting was held in the office Chamber of Principal District & Sessions Judge Jammu. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate cases of under-trial prisoners and to ensure compliance with legal safeguards and timely justice.

The meeting was chaired by Y. P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Jammu and was attended by Ansuya



DLSA Jammu Chairman, Y.P. Bourney chairing a meeting.

Jamwal, Additional District Commissioner (Adm) Jammu; Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu; Vivek Shekhar, Superintendent of Police Jammu North; Prashant Mahajan, Deputy Director Prosecution Jammu; Veerinder Kumar Bhat Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu; Dharminder Katoch

Superintendent of District Jail Amphalla Jammu and Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind the bars.

The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, by filling bail applications before the appropriate Courts and ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach to the intended beneficiaries, especially prisoners. The meeting also discussed action taken, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet

to monitor prisoner cases, and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

Ritika Trehan inaugurates Shikha Chopra's Rakhi Bazaar at Zone by the Park



Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha, Ritika Trehan inaugurating Shikha Chopra Rakhi Bazaar.

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JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha, J&K ICC Board member Women Wing Ritika Trehan, on Saturday inaugurated the Shikha Chopra Rakhi Bazaar at Zone by the Park in Jammu.

The event aims to promote local artisans and provide a platform for them to showcase their handmade Rakhi products. Giving details of Rakhi Bazaar, Shikha Chopra said the Rakhi Bazaar provides an opportunity for local artisans to display their handmade products, promoting their skills and craftsmanship.

The event supports small businesses and entrepreneurs, contributing to the local economy and empowering women. Rakhi is a significant festival in Indian culture, symbolizing the bond between siblings. The bazaar celebrates this tradition while promoting local talent, said Shikha.

Shikha said she felt honoured on inauguration of Rakhi

Bazaar by Ritika Trehan a prominent figure in Jammu and Kashmir politics, serving as the Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha. She has been actively involved in various social and cultural events, promoting women's empowerment and community development.

Ritika Trehan said that events like the Shikha Chopra Rakhi Bazaar are essential in promoting local artisans and small businesses. "I commend Shikha Chopra for organizing this event and providing a platform for women to showcase their talents. Such initiatives contribute significantly to the local economy and empower women in our community," said Ritika.

Ritika further said that the Shikha Chopra Rakhi Bazaar is an excellent opportunity for people to purchase handmade Rakhi products while supporting local artisans. The event is expected to draw large crowds, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Jammu.

Five-Day Skill Development Programme under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III organised by IIIM concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, on Saturday concluded a 'Five-Day Skill Development Programme' under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III, aimed at empowering women through scientific training in aromatic crops, value addition, and rural entrepreneurship.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director-IIIM was the chief guest while Er. Abdul Rahim, Head Srinagar Branch of CSIR-IIIM and Dr. Suphla Gupta, Nodal Scientist, Aroma Mission were in presidium. While addressing the women participants on the occasion, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed applauded the enthusiasm and very active participation of women farmers throughout the program.

Dr. Ahmed announced to install free of cost the Incense sticks making machine in the women farmers cluster enabling



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu giving certificate of participation to a woman farmer at Valedictory of 5-day Skill Development Programme.

them to impart further trainings and start their small businesses at their places. He also offered incubation support to upcoming women Agri-startup.

He expressed hope that they would use the opportunity to spread the knowledge within their areas, thereby becoming agents of change and inspiration for self-reliance to other

women in their area.

Earlier Dr. Suphla Gupta shared the detail of the technical and live demonstration and hands on training session conducted during the last five days. She mentioned that the five days training program which commenced on July, 15 featured technical sessions, live demonstration of essential oil extraction and hand-on-training on value addition of aromatic oils to form products. More than 100 farmers including

SHG of 40 women from Mandal Phallain and old Satwari participated in the initiative promoting science-based rural development and empowering women through inclusive, skill-based programmes in the aromatic sector.

The theme of the program was to create a sustainable value chain in the aroma sector and build capacity among stakeholders for long-term income generation reflecting CSIR-IIIM Jammu's commitment to

fostering inclusive growth and supporting grassroots entrepreneurship aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat Vksit Bharat@2047.

This programme disseminated knowledge on cultivation, soil health analysis, distillation, processing, and value addition of aromatic crops, their marketing, and entrepreneurship development with a special emphasis on women-led Agri-startups and rural enterprise.

Participants were given hands-on training on aroma candle making, Incense sticks making, basics of perfume making, and packaging of hand-made aroma products. The concluding day also featured an interactive session, where all dignitaries interacted with the women participants, addressing their queries and offering guidance on practical implementation of their learning to emerge as startup.

Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head of RMBD & IST Division, CSIR-IIIM, encouraged the

women participants to continue refining their skills for self-reliance. He also appreciated the willingness of the participants to learn and emphasized importance of imparting skills as such grassroots initiatives to cultivate spirit of enterprise in rural communities.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to all women participants, marking the successful completion of five days of immersive training under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase-III.

The Program,organized under the mentorship of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, was coordinated by Dr. Suphla Gupta, with the support of team members, including Dr. Rajendra Bhanwaria, Dr. Sabhajeet, Dr. V.P. Rahul, and Dr. Siya Ram Meena. The Aroma project staff, including Jyotsna Sharma, Vanshika Bhagat, Shifali Chib, Neelisha Ambardar, Shiksha Sharma, Amulya Mansotra, and Sohail Khan actively contributed to the successful conduction of program.

Power cuts increasing public hardships: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP senior leader and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan has expressed deep concern over the increasing power cuts in Jammu. He stated that at a time when temperature and humidity are at their peak, regular and uninterrupted power supply has become a basic necessity for the people. He pointed out that despite assurances from the electricity department of 24-hour power supply in metered areas, there are frequent daily power cuts in the city and surrounding areas, causing significant difficulties for the general public, including students, traders, housewives, and senior citizens. Balbir said that in many areas, electricity goes out multiple times a day, and in rural areas, it remains unavailable for hours. This not only causes inconvenience in households but also severely impacts business activities. Children's online education, health-related needs of the elderly, and daily routines of life are being badly disrupted. He urged the administration to prioritize power supply during these harsh summer days and ensure a system that provides electricity without any interruptions. Balbir also suggested that the power department should be held accountable for such cuts. Balbir Ram was discussing the problems being faced by people due to power cuts during the summer season with a group of BJP senior activists.

Task Force Meeting on Ease of Doing Business held in Srinagar, CCI Jammu president suggests major reforms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Task Force constituted by the Government of India to review De-Regulation, Compliance Reduction, and Ease of Doing Business reforms was held in Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by K.K. Pathak, Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.

During the meeting, prominent industrialist and CCI Jammu president Arun Gupta presented a detailed set of written suggestions highlighting the

need for practical implementation mechanisms and accountability to ensure real-time results of these reforms. He emphasized that a positive and responsible mindset among implementing authorities is essential to achieve the objectives of Ease of Doing Business. Gupta stressed that without fixing accountability for delays, the intended benefits of deregulation will remain on paper.

He raised concerns about the cumbersome process involved when running manufacturing units seek



to change their nature of business. Gupta pointed out that such units are often required to apply afresh for Change of Land Use (CLU), even when operating within commer-

cial zones, defeating the very purpose of simplification.

Further, he highlighted the difficulties faced by entrepreneurs in obtaining NOCs from various departments, despite the fact that the industrial land is developed and allotted by the Industries Department. He called for the removal of unnecessary departmental clearances, especially for green category units, and demanded that departments stick to their own mandates rather than imposing inter-departmental conditions.

Gupta also cited instances where the approval of house plans in JDA-developed colonies such as Gandhi Nagar faces delays due to demands for irrelevant NOCs, despite compliance with municipal bylaws. He emphasized that once land is approved by Housing and Urban Development departments, only the municipal corporation should have authority over building plans.

A major concern raised was the limited validity of NOCs. Gupta urged that the Fire Department's

NOC should be valid for at least five years instead of just one, while Pollution Control Board NOCs should have a 10-year validity. He also proposed relaxed norms for setting up industries in rural areas, such as permitting units on roads with 25-foot width instead of the current 40-foot requirement.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the need for more streamlined, transparent, and industry-friendly regulations to boost investment and industrial growth in the region.