

LG inaugurates 2-day workshop on Pastoralism in J&K

Terms tribal community as protectors of forests, climate warriors

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the two-day workshop on Pastoralism in Jammu Kashmir.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor commended the endeavour of Tribal Affairs Department J&K and Regional IYRP Support Group of South Asia (RISG-SA) for organizing the workshop to deliberate the issues, challenges, resilient livelihoods and sustainable development of Pastoralism in UT of J&K.

"Pastoralism is one of the oldest professions in the world. Nomadic livestock plays an important role in the business and livelihood of the communities and it is deeply connected with heritage, culture, traditional knowledge and co-existence with nature," the Lt Governor said. The workshop will help in developing a holistic strategy and action plan for improved livelihoods and regeneration of pasture land and rangelands, he added. At the inaugural session, the Lt Governor highlighted the concerted efforts of the UT Administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister,



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing the two-day workshop on Pastoralism in Jammu Kashmir on Monday.

to bring transformation in the lives of pastoral communities such as Gujjar, Bakarwals, Gaddi-Sippi.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has empowered the tribal community of J&K UT and migratory population has been brought to the mainstream of development. Forest Rights Act, rights on forest produce and various other initiatives have brought a new dawn in their lives," the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the world is recognizing the significance of Pastoralism and the United Nations General Assembly

(UNGA) has declared 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. "I consider our tribal community as protectors of forests and the climate warriors. They will certainly play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and contributing to growth and food security," the Lt Governor said.

He also shared the measures taken by the administration to extend the socio-economic benefits and livelihood opportunities to the youth and members of families of pastoral communities and

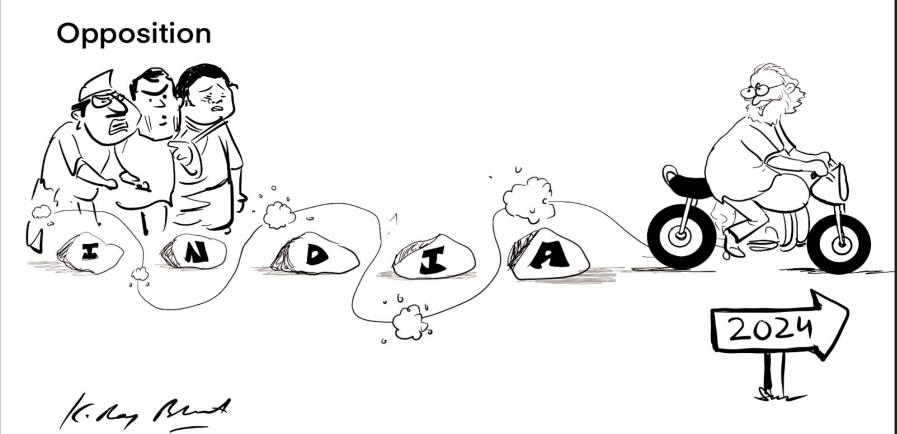
facilitate their smooth movement during migratory season.

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme has given priority to the community dependent on livestock and a campaign has been launched to conserve open range and increase green cover in the UT, he added.

P Vivekanandan, Vice Chair, RISG South Asia, shared his view on the theme of the workshop and gave a powerpoint presentation. Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and Dr Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir highlighted the efforts of Lt Governor led UT administration for welfare and development of pastoral communities of Jammu Kashmir.

They also shared the unprecedented and historic initiatives taken and implemented by the UT administration, especially for the tribal communities.

Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; faculty members of SKUAST, scientists, researchers, officers of UT administration and a large number of members of pastoral communities were present.



Day 7 of IIM-J's Orientation Program hosts interactive sessions

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Day 7 of the Orientation Programme at IIM Jammu kick-started on Monday with a reviving yoga session with Shree Sahil Mehra. The session was coordinated by Team "Anandam". The session filled students with positive energy, rejuvenating their body and mind.

There was a session on 'Students' Policy, Rules and Regulations at IIM Jammu' by Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu. He briefed the students about the student policy, rules, and regulations to be followed by the students at the Institute.

Later in the evening, students were addressed by Swati Jain, Vice President-EXL Analytics, EXL Services. She briefed on the mantras of creating work-life balance by being empathetic and mindful. Being one of the top 10 AI influential leaders in India, she guided the students in finding their speed spots to excel in their careers.

Swati also shared anecdotes of her life and reflected on the importance of ethical values. She also discussed the rapid expansion of analytics as a sector in India. In addition to this, she conversed with us about the ways analytics



Swati Jain, Vice President-EXL Analytics and other dignitaries at a IIM Jammu's orientation programme.

intervene across organizational functions and various roadmaps one can take. Along with this, recent trends including Responsible AI, and Real-Time Data Processing were also communicated during her session. The session was coordinated by Dr. Eshika Aggarwal and Dr. Guangpuanang Kahmei, faculty, IIM Jammu.

Further, Alok Jha Head-Operations, Healthcare & Life Sciences, Tech Mahindra shed some light on various challenges in operations management. He also discussed the use of nanotechnology, metaverse, and tele-medication in the healthcare sector. He evoked the students to be reactive, corrective to predictive, and pre-emptive. He also urged the students to increase their digital literacy

and get in handy with platforms like Blue Prism, RPA, and NLP. To elevate from mindshare to market share, Jha spurred emotions to learn, apply, unlearn, and relearn. In the end, he concluded with a note to be considerate towards nature. The session was coordinated by Dr. Jaganth.G. and Dr. Pradeep Kumar Tarei, faculty, IIM Jammu.

This was followed by a session on, 'Administrative Support, Discipline and Security on the Campus' by Cmdr Kesavan Baskkaran (R, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu. He made the students familiar with the administrative policies and safe practices followed by the Institute. The overall program was a sumptuous experience for the freshmen of IIM Jammu.

Mayor bats for solution to hefty power bills

'Govt buys power units for Rs. 9, sells at Rs. 4'



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu on Monday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Officers of Power Development Department (PDD) including Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineers Division 1, 2 and 3 along with AEEs, JE's and others ON Monday briefed the Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma on the issues of hefty power bills, fast running meters and filling of bills online using the app.

Chairing the meeting, the Mayor directed that there will be Ward-wise camps organised by PDD to aware the public on using app for filling power bills. "When you talk to people please talk with good behaviour," said Mayor.

He said that the concerned Councillor of the Ward will use the services of garbage collecting auto to inform the people on days of the camp in a particular Ward.

Sharma instructed that the Executive Engineers will have helpline in their office to give information to the public how to fill bills. "For those who cannot fill the bill will seek the help of their Councillor," he continued.

On excess reading on newly installed power meters, the Mayor said that a check meter shall be installed near the new meters for cross checking the readings. Regarding hefty power bills, the Mayor said that the flat rate plus 18 per cent interest was billed to be collected from the public.

He appealed to the LG that average of the last six months should be taken as principal amount for payments by calculating to a nominal amount like Rs. 2500 which should be collected per month along with the current bills so that the public may not feel the burden. The Mayor appealed to the people to pay bills on time.

He said that J&K today has Rs. 31000 crore liability of electricity of which Rs. 3000 crore is added every year and Rs. 50 crore is annual interest. "The government buys power units for Rs. 9 and sells it at Rs. 4 to the public. So the subsidy is already there," Sharma maintained adding that it is a serious issue and it's everybody's responsibility to give it a serious thought.

J-K police officer Basant Rath's suspension extended for six months

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The suspension of IPS officer Basant Rath, who served the Jammu and Kashmir Police in various capacities, has been extended by six months till January 2024, according to an order issued here.

As per the order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Rath shall continue to be under suspension for a further period of 180 days from July 31, 2023 till January 27, 2024.

"The President, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 3 of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, placed Basant Kumar Rath, IPS (AGMUT: 2000) under suspension with effect from July 8, 2020, vide MHA's order of even number dated July 8, 2020, as disciplinary proceedings were contemplated against him,"

reads an order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary, Government of India.

"Based on the recommendations of the Central Review Committee, the President, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 3 of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, extended the suspension tenure of Basant Kumar Rath, IPS (AGMUT: 2000) upto July 31, 2023 and the Central Review Committee, while reviewing the suspension of Basant Kumar Rath, IPS (AGMUT: 2000), has taken into account the facts and circumstances of the case in totality and recommended the extension of suspension tenure of Basant Kumar Rath, IPS (AGMUT: 2000) for a further period of 180 days beyond July 31, 2023 i.e., upto January 27, 2024," it added.

Govt employees thank Dr Jitendra for ordering mass promotion in thousands

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A delegation of Central Govt Secretariat employees, including Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Forum and Direct Recruits of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE), called on Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh here on Monday and profusely thanked him for ordering and taking personal interest to carry out mass promotion in thousands at different levels, most notably from Assistant Section Officers (ASOs) to Section Officers (SOs).

Dr Jitendra said, it is painful to see certain officials attaining superannuation after spending several decades on the same post without a single promotion. We need to change this trend, he said.

The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) had, on the instructions of Minister Incharge DoPT Dr Jitendra Singh, recently



A delegation of Central Secretariat employees including Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Forum and direct recruits of Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at DoPT headquarters, North Block, New Delhi.

approved mass promotion of 1,592 officials working in the capacity of ASOs to the post of SOs on adhoc basis with immediate effect. The Minister had last year ordered about 9,000 mass promotions and prior to that the DoPT granted 4,000 promotions in the preceding three years. Another 2,000 promotions in ASO and other Grades are in process and hopefully they will get promoted by this year end," said Dr Jitendra Singh. The Minister

said, last year alone about 9,000 mass promotions were made and prior to that the DoPT granted 4,000 promotions in the preceding three years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government is concerned about long stagnation in certain cadres and at certain levels where some of the employees working in the lowest rung of administration spend their entire service tenure of 30 to 35 years without getting a single

promotion. Accusing the earlier UPA government, Dr Jitendra Singh regretted that in a large number of cases, stagnation in promotions was the result of litigations prompted by inappropriate decisions taken or rules twisted to give out of turn promotions to the favoured ones by the then government. In a few of the 4,000 promotions cleared in recent years, the Government granted promotions despite the cases being sub-judice, by consulting legal experts and making valid provisions for judicial scrutiny, said the Minister.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: Beginning the second leg of her Panchal region tour, Minister of State & Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday reached Poonch after touring in Rajouri District for three consecutive days.

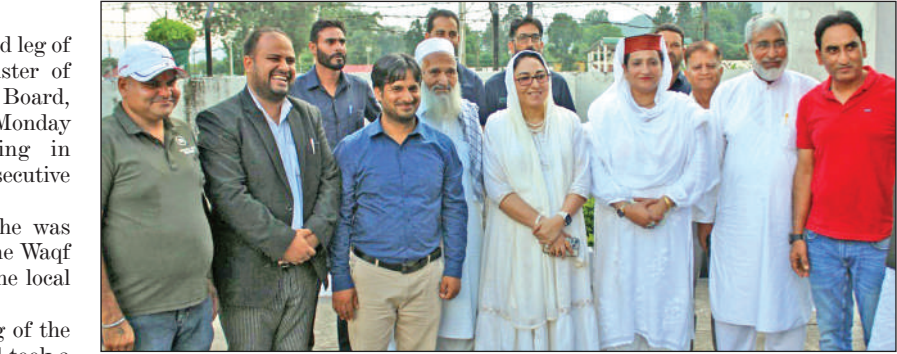
On her arrival at Poonch, she was accorded a warm welcome by the Waqf Board Staff, BJP activists & the local representatives.

Dr Andrabi chaired a meeting of the Waqf officers of the district and took a review of the Waqf projects and the financial management in the hill district.

She emphasized on the staff to inculcate the new approach in synchronisation with the spirit of the new working system of restructured Waqf Board.

"Waqf Board has come out of the primitive work systems and is fastly upgrading itself in harmony with the new technological facilities. This change has resulted in transparency and accountability of the assets of the Board. We have gone a long way ahead but much more needs to be done", said Dr Andrabi.

She hailed the efforts of the Waqf staff in making the change possible. Darakhshan later visited the shrine of



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi with others at Poonch.

Aala Peer (RA) and took stock of the facilities there. She issued orders to the accompanying officers of the Board for submitting a futuristic development plan for the shrine.

Andrabi later chaired a meeting of the BJP Poonch leaders in which an effective threadbare deliberation on the Party's ground level support system took place.

Dr Andrabi praised the hard work of the party cadres in reaching out to the last person in the society. "BJP believes in Antodaya and this social principle guides us all to serve each and everyone without any discrimination. The Modi government benefited Gujjars and Bakerwals by giving them political

reservations for the first time, extended Central Tribal benefits to them after seven decades and now fulfilled the demand of the Pahari community by including them into the Scheduled Tribes list", said Dr Andrabi. She said that after 2019, we were witnessing a new J&K in making at a speed never thought of by anybody. "World now knows J&K for all good reasons as it has come out of the rule of the killers of our youth, the exploiters of the people. We are now forgetting the old miserable days and are together creating a prosperous, peaceful Jammu & Kashmir full of great dreams and innovative enterprises", said BJP National Executive Member.

BJP ready for ULB, Panchayat elections: Raina



BJP J&K president Ravinder Raina speaking at party workers meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ready to face Urban Local bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat elections in the Jammu & Kashmir; stated Ravinder Raina, President, J&K BJP. Raina along with party General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and other senior leaders addressed a series of meetings throughout the day at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. In the first meeting, Ravinder Raina, Ashok Koul, and party General Secretaries Adv. Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal addressed a meeting of Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary constituency Core Group that was attended by the respective core Group members. Similarly, in another meeting, the BJP senior leaders, held discussions with Urban Local Body, Panchayati Raj Institutions

Convenors and Co-convenors, District Prabharis, District Presidents and district Seh-Prabharis. Raina, while addressing the meetings, stressed upon the party leaders holding important responsibilities at different levels, to further gear up their activities in view of the upcoming elections of ULBs and Panchayats. "The BJP is always in field with its leaders and ground level activists in regular contact with the masses while undertaking door to door campaign, education them about various welfare schemes and extending help in availing the benefits of social security schemes of the Union government", Raina said and added that the party is fully ready to go for these elections. Ashok Koul, in these meetings discussed various programmes to be held in the upcoming months.

Eye flu cases increasing among children, here are do's and don'ts

■ **MALU SHARMA**

With monsoon comes the risk of many diseases, including the eye infections. Amid the incessant rainfall that lashed Jammu and Kashmir and other areas for past few weeks, there have been multiple cases of Conjunctivitis reported in GMC&H, Jammu.

The eye flu cases are reported each year during monsoon season. Symptoms could be redness and itching in eyes.

Experts and doctors say children are more susceptible to eye infections. Also, along with eye infections, cases of cough and cold are also reported among children. Dr Ashok Sharma, HoD Dept of Ophthalmology GMC&H, said, "We



have observed a notable surge of 60-70 per cent in conjunctivitis cases in our OPDs now. Particularly affecting children and teenagers, these cases typically present with symp-

oms like redness, watering and foreign body sensation in the eyes." "It is necessary to maintain hygiene and keep our personal belongings separate, like towel, han-

dies not to be shared to avoid spread to other family members and seek prompt medical help to manage these conditions effectively. These conditions effectively," Dr Sharma said.

Moreover, as for precaution Hygiene is the main thing. Those who have conjunctivitis should avoid crowded places and children should avoid going to school. As it gets transmitted through touch, children should avoid touching their eyes and then touching other objects. It's highly transmissible for initial 3-4 days, one should avoid and isolate. Those people who haven't got it should wash their hands or use sanitizer. Children must avoid swimming because it can spread easily while swimming," said Dr Ashok Sharma.