

## HH Dalai Lama preaches Ladakh UT Officers to become messengers of secular world, peaceful sub-continent



His Holiness Dalai Lama with Administrative Secretary Amit Sharma and Director Lakshay Singla.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: His Holiness Dalai Lama, who is residing in Ladakh UT these days, on Thursday gave his preachings to senior IAS officers of the Union Territory for becoming messengers of a secular world by following path of peace and non-violence in the Sub Continent which can revive its prestige glory back soon.

This all happened during his

brief interaction session with Administrative Secretary Amit Sharma and Director Lakshay Singla when they called upon him first-up today morning.

His Holiness Dalai Lama further sermonised to the Ladakh UT Secretary Amit Sharma that we should never fall into the narrow band of following monotype pathway of particular religions but practice and propagate secularism with the

essence of humanism which are the real basis of existence of life in the world since ages.

His Holiness Dalai Lama also happened to interact and exchange vibrant thoughts with Secretary Amit Sharma on this subject and expected that he alongwith other officers of Ladakh Union Territory shall act as true messengers of universal peace and brotherhood in times to come.

The officers of the Union Territory assured His Holiness Dalai Lama of following his eternal divine preachings and shall work constantly to emerge Ladakh as a model UT by following the path and preachings as given by him to the public here and all over the globe having his abundant following, while praying for his long healthy life in times to come so that he keeps enlightening numerous souls with his omnipresence and divine teachings/preachings.

## PGCIL organizes Vendor Development Programme /Buyer-Seller Meet for MSEs

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), Northern Region-II, conducted Vendor Development Program/ Buyer-Seller Meet for Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) at Sher I Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar to promote participation of MSEs in PGCIL procurements.

The event was organised in association with Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar.

Senior most officials from PGCIL, Northern Region-II led by its Executive Director, Rajesh Kumar and including Anil



PGCIL, Northern Region-II officers lighting ceremonial lamp.

CGM(Projects), Shafat Ahmad Wani, Sr. GM (Ladakh & Kashmir), Arshad Iqbal, Sr. GM(C&M), K V Sampath Kumar , Sr. GM(Finance), Vinod P Baxla , GM(HR), Amit Patel, Sr.

DGM(C&M) participated in vendor development programme. Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar was represented by Saheel

## Workshop on 'Expressions of Creativity in 21st Century; organized in JU



VC JU, Prof Umesh Rai, and others at a workshop.

Department of English, Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, founder head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Prof Monika Sethi, Associate Professor, Department of English and Dr Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

The event commenced with an inaugural address by the Registrar, Prof Rahul Gupta, who highlighted the significance of creativity in shaping a progressive society and emphasized the need to embrace new modes of artistic and intellectual expressions.

"Nurturing creativity and promoting diverse forms of expression is essential in

preparing individuals for the challenges and opportunities of the future," Prof Rahul Gupta said and added this workshop represents a unique platform to engage in meaningful conversations and exchange ideas on the evolving nature of creative expression.

While addressing the participants, Prof Shyam Narayan Lal said that the world around is rapidly changing, and creativity is now more vital than ever.

"Through this workshop, we seek to encourage our participants to embrace new forms of artistic expression and adapt to the technological advancements that are reshaping the creative land-

scape," he shared.

Prof Sucheta Pathania said that Creativity lies at the heart of human progress, and in the 21st century, it has taken on new dimensions, fuelled by technology and cultural dynamism.

"This workshop has allowed us to examine how creative expression has evolved, embracing interdisciplinary collaborations, and leveraging progressive ways to communicate ideas more effectively," she said.

Dr Garima Gupta said that JU has always emphasized the significance of the arts and creativity as essential components of holistic education.

She highlighted the importance of creativity in media and journalism and emphasized the need for continuous exploration in this vibrant field.

Earlier, Dr Arpan Yagnik conducted the workshop in two different sessions. The first one was about sensitization, which included discussion about 'Alien, Creative Freedom, Silo of Safety and Confines of Conformity'

related to creativity. He also apprised participants about the origin of creativity and how it impacts individual reflection.

The second session of the workshop extended beyond technical skills. Participants were apprised about how to cultivate a creative mindset, allowing them to approach problems with innovative solutions and view the world through a different lens. Students were also told about the creative aerobics.

Karman Singh, Student of Journalism and Media Studies compeered the event, whereas Dr. Pardeep Singh, Lecturer, Department of Journalism and Media Studies introduced the resource person. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Garima Gupta. Dr. Ravia Gupta, Kumerjit Chajgotra from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Dr Amit Kumar, Dr Pallavi Gupta and Dr Divya Sharma from the department of English and students from different departments participated in the event.

## V.K. Magotra conferred with Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Seva Samman- 2023

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: V.K Magotra, a sports and communication expert, has been conferred with prestigious Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Seva Samman- 2023 for his contributions in the field of peace, human rights, education, culture and diplomacy. It is pertinent to mention that Magotra after serving for over 35 years in the Ministry of I&B, GOI in the Directorate of Field publicity, has distinction of establishing many mile stones in hundreds of outreach programmes and after his retirement



M.L.Dogra Chairman BLSKS presenting award to V.K Magotra.

rendered services to Press Information Bureau as expert in media workshops.

Magotra has also been honoured with a lifetime achievement award by the Directorate of Field Publicity in 2009.

Magotra is also Managing Director of BLSKS, General Secretary of Volleyball Association of J&K for the last over 10 years.

M.L.Dogra Chairman BLSKS felicitated Magotra by presenting the award of excellence today at Jammu.

## Wanchoo seeks appointment of Pediatrician, regular Ortho OPD services in SDH Jagti

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Vice-President of BJP Kashmir Displaced District Chetan Wanchoo called on the Administrative Secretary of Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar and submitted a memorandum to him, requesting for the revitalization of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Jagti and the government dispensary in Nagrota TRT.

The BJP leader demanded that the government should immediately take steps address the problem of manpower shortage and non-availability of medicines in the hospital, besides upgrading the SDH Jagti to an accident hospital due to its strategic location near the national highway.

During the meeting, Wanchoo said the post of Pediatrician has been lying vacant in the hospital, which caters thousands of families living in over 4,200 flats in Jagti township and other



Vice-President of BJP Kashmir Displaced District Chetan Wanchoo calling on Admin Secy H&ME Deptt, Bhupinder Kumar.

nearby hamlets.

"The absence of a child specialist within the medical team at the hospitals reflects a serious gap in healthcare provision. Ensuring access to specialized care for children is fundamental to the overall well-being of the population," Wanchoo said while demanding immediate posting of a child specialist in the hospital.

Raising concern over poor healthcare facilities at the government dispensary in Nagrota TRT, the BJP leader said the ambulance services remained non-functional at this health facility.

The Secretary gave patient hearing to the BJP leader and passed on-spot directions to the Director Health Services Jammu for immediate addressing the problem of medicine shortage in these medical facilities, effective ambulance services for patients and measures to meet staff shortage.

## PDP, NC misleading Gujar Bakerwal on reservation: Rana

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dispelling apprehensions of Gujar and Bakerwal community about losing their share in reservations in the wake of a legislation brought in the Lok Sabha for conferring Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari communities of Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Thursday said that after the assurance of Home Minister Amit Shah to the Gujar Bakerwal community that not an iota of their share of reservation in jobs and educational institutions will be touched, there should not be a shred of doubt in any body's mind.

"While the Gujar leadership is convinced about the intentions of the BJP government, some rejected political parties are sinistery attempting to mislead the youth of the community", Devender Rana said in an interaction with a high level deputation of Gujar and Bakerwal Communities from various areas, who called on him here this afternoon.

Addressing the deputation, Rana lauded the central leadership for having designed the reservation for the Paharis acceding their long standing demand in such a pragmatic manner that while the Paharis get their due the Gujar and Bakerwals do not lose even a bit of their share of reservation whether it is in the employment or it is



Senior J&K BJP leader Devender Singh Rana interacting with deputation.

in admissions to educational institutions. He said since no change in the reservation quota of the Gujar & Bakerwal community is happening due to the reservation being given to Paharis, the community should not get misled by elements who are stoking controversy where none exists just to make their political ends meet.

He cautioned the PDP and National Conference against misleading the communities and bringing them face to face for their vested interest. These parties have already caused a huge dent to the inclusiveness of Jammu and Kashmir by indulging in divisive and dubious politics over the years, as a consequence of which their base is reduced just to 2 or 3 per cent vote share. Their base is bound to further erode and their political castles are going to be grounded like Garondas of sand due to negative politics they

believe in. He said the public standing of these parties will get exposed whenever elections are held. He wished good sense to prevail upon the PDP and the NC so that the traditions of amity and brotherhood remain intact in this part of the country.

The Senior BJP leader exhorted the opinion leaders of the Gujar and Bakerwal Communities to see through the nefarious game plan of some disgruntled and dejected political actors, who have unleashed highly malicious disinformation campaign to mislead the youth, knowing well that the inclusion of Paharis in the reservation list is not at the cost of the Gujar & Bakerwals.

He referred to the assurances held out by the Home Minister during his visit to Jammu and Rajouri a few months back, assuring that the interests of Gujjars and Bakerwals are not

going to be affected in any way and they will continue to get their share in jobs and admissions in professional institutions. The Gujar leaders too stand convinced after their successive meetings with the Union Home Minister on the issue, he said, and hailed the bill brought in the Lok Sabha after giving a due thought by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, keeping in view the aspirations of the marginalized segments.

Rana said the BJP is committed to welfare and progress of Gujar and Bakerwals and referred to the proposal of allotting five marla plots to over 8000 families of landless Bakerwals under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojna Rural.

Devender Rana assailed the PDP and the NC for behaving like ostrich by ignoring the overall transformation taking place across Jammu and Kashmir after the political developments of August 5, 2019.

He asked them not to be colour blind over the path breaking achievements registered during the past four years. Peace and normalcy has paved the way for huge infrastructural developments, especially after the massive infra interventions. Stone pelting has become a nightmare of yesteryears while the shut-down culture has been taken over the humming economic activities.

ism and global cooperation on sustainable development, climate change, and digital transformation. The students part of the G 20 university connect series can also highlight their suggestions through social media to bring attention to their inputs.

## Gaurav Gupta calls on LG Sinha, discusses issuance of Plot Approval & Turnover Incentive Issues



Ex-General Secretary CCI, Gaurav Gupta calling on Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former General Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, Gaurav Gupta, had a productive meeting with Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to address critical concerns concerning the general public and traders fraternity. During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta highlighted the issuance of NOC for Plot Approval & Transfer in Gandhi Nagar Colony.

Gaurav mentioned that Gandhi Nagar colony, established in the early 1960s, has been home to generations of residents. Over the years, the original allottees have passed on their portions of the plot to their children and, in some cases, even their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He said some have sold parts of their plots for the betterment of their families. However, the Housing Board is currently not issuing NOCs for plot approval and transfer, causing significant inconvenience and injustice to the property owners.

Furthermore, over the past 50 years, the government has not created enough additional colonies to accommodate the growing population, leading to the proliferation of unapproved unauthorized colonies in Jammu. Interestingly, the maps of plots in these unauthorized colonies have been approved while plots duly developed by the government's Housing Board remain deprived of such approvals, he added.

He requested the Lt Governor to intervene and facilitate the issuance of NOCs for plot approval and transfer in Gandhi Nagar Colony. This would not only resolve the long-pending cases but also ensure the growth and development of the area in a systematic and organized manner, he added.

Gaurav Gupta discussed the timely disbursement of the 2% / 3% turnover incentive for existing industries in Jammu and Kashmir. With the abolition of 'Toll Tax and implementation of GST, existing industries have faced challenges in maintaining competitiveness against outside entities. The government introduced a scheme to provide turnover incentives, but the delay in disbursement due to limited funds is causing liquidity stress and discouraging potential new industrial units from setting up in the state.

Gupta earnestly requested the government to allocate the necessary funds promptly and issue instructions for the timely disbursement of the turnover incentive, as it is crucial to supporting the survival and competitiveness of existing industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gupta expressed hope that Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha's timely intervention will bring relief to property owners in Gandhi Nagar Colony and provide vital support to the existing industries, fostering growth and prosperity in the region.

## NSS Unit 1 of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar celebrates Angdaan Mahotsav, hosts farewell party



NSS volunteers and faculty members during farewell function at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSS Unit 1 of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Govt College for Women (GCW) Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on Thursday celebrated Angdaan Mahotsav to commemorate Indian Organ Donation Day by taking pledge. All NSS volunteers along with Principal of College Prof Minu Mahajan, NSS Programme Coordinator CLUJ, Prof Mala Bhasin and NSS Programme officer of Unit 1 Prof Sugandha Mahajan participated in the event. Later, junior NSS Volunteers accorded farewell to

senior NSS volunteers in an emotional environment packed with entertaining cultural programme presented by the volunteers. They performed songs and dances and also presented Bhangra and a mesmerizing mythological performance by NSS volunteer Jeevika Misri which made the audience spell bound and attracted cheerful applause. The event started with lamp lighting and presentation of bouquet to Principal of the College who was chief guest on the occasion. In her address, she appreciated the efforts of NSS Volunteers in organising such a grand farewell party and

wished them good luck for their future endeavours.

NSS Programme Coordinator CLUJ, Prof Mala Bhasin shared her experiences with volunteers and asked them to carry forward the NSS slogan "Not me but you". The Senior volunteers also shared their experiences of NSS activities and thanked NSS Coordinator and PO for guiding them. The programme ended with cake cutting and title ceremony of senior volunteers. Prof Anupama sharma NSS PO of Unit 2 of College was also present on the occasion.

## Pre-events of G20 University Connect Lecture series-2023 to start at SKUAST-J today

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) is the first Agriculture University in the Country entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the 'G20 University

Connect' programme.

The event is being organized under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

As part of this initiative, the pre-events of the G20 University Connect Lecture series-2023 will

start from August 4 to 21, 2023 in which students from the Universities and colleges of Jammu and Samba districts will be participating in the different pre-events like Poster Making, Quiz Competition, Essay Writing, Ideathon and Rangoli on the theme

Sustainable Agriculture for Resilient Agri-food Systems with Climate Smart Approach at SKUAST-Jammu.

The objective of the pre-events is to stimulate the interest of the students and engage young minds on promoting multilateral-