JU-FICCI FLO JKL ink MoU to drive regional growth through women empowerment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To promote women empowerment, the University of Jammu (JU) and the FICCI Ladies Organisation Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh (FLO JKL) Chapter on Wednesday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), focusing especially on improving their health and wellness besides encouraging entrepreneurship.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU and Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL after signing MoU in presence of VC JU Prof Umesh Rai.

The MoU was signed, in the presence of Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai, by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu, and Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL.

This collaboration marks the establishment of the Young Women Affinity Group (YWAG) at the University of Jammu, a key initiative under FICCI FLO JKL's broader efforts to empower women students in institutions of higher education. The key point of the MoU is to promote social and economic growth in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh with special reference to building a brighter future for women.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor highlighted the importance of this partnership in the University's mission to support students, particularly females, and contribute to the region's development. He exuded confidence that this collaboration with FLO JKL will help create a more inclusive and supportive environment, promoting innovation, health, and entrepreneurship, besides bringing positive changes to the lives of women and students.

Through this MoU, the University of Jammu, in collaboration with FLO JKL, will organize a range of activities focused on enhancing skills and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, especially in new and emerging fields. Events will be held to support student entrepreneurs and start-ups, with guidance from local business leaders and experts.

Another key aspect of this partnership is the focus on health and wellness. The collaboration will address important social issues like mental health and drug addiction through webinars, seminars, and workshops. Outreach programs will also be conducted to support underprivileged communities in the region.

Empowering women being the core aim of this MoU, the University in collaboration with FLO JKL, will organise specialized programs, workshops, and training sessions, tailored to the specific needs of girl students.

Among others present included Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports and Physical Education, JU & FLO JKL core team members including Varuna Anand, Imm. Past Chair, Sona Mehta, Treasurer & Nandita Bajaj, Jt. Executive Secretary.

Career Counselling and Placement Cell of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar hosts recruitment drive in LIC India

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar faculty posing with students and LIC of India official during recruitment drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

.JAMMU: An Orientation Lecture cum Special Recruitment Drive as Mahila Recruitment Officer by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India was organised by Career Counselling and Placement Cell of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Govt. College for Women, Gandhi Nagar in the College Smart Classroom on Wednesday.

The significant step by collaborative effort of LIC and Career Counseling committee in providing professional guidance to aspiring candidates under the umbrella theme of *Earn while you Learn.

The orientation programme, conducted by experienced LIC representatives, Payal Dewan Thakur, Development Officer, LIC India; D.S.Thakur, Retd SRDM, LIC India; Asha, Advisor LIC provided valuable insights into the roles and responsibilities of Mahila Recruitment Officers, the prospective benefits of being financially Independent in today's scenario.

The session covered essential aspects of the recruitment process, job expectations, and the benefits of a career with LIC. It was designed to equip candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel.

Following the orientation, the recruitment drive offered participants the opportunity to showcase their skills and qualifications through examination and interview after getting shortlisted by the LIC's recruitment team. Around 91 students attended the session.

Dr. S P Sarswat, Principal of the College, applauded the students & team. He added that such initiatives not only enhance career prospects but also align with our commitment to empower women through education and professional development.

The event was coordinated by the team- Dr. Naresh Sharma (Convener,Career counseling and Placement cell) and members Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, Prof. Asha Devi.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof Suman Bala and Prof. Poonam kesar extended the vote of thanks.

Dharmarth Trust reviews arrangements for Annual Kailash Yatra & Mela Patt 2024

Martand Singh and Ranvijay Singh, Trustees of the J&K Dharmarth Trust chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Martand Singh and Ranvijay Singh, Trustees of the J&K Dharmarth Trust, chaired a meeting to review and finalize the preparations for two major events to be hosted by J&K Dharmarth Trust in Bhaderwah- the Historic Kailash Yatra and the Annual Mela Patt 2024.

At the outset of the meeting, Brig. RS Langeh (Retd), President of Dharmarth Trust, Ashok Kumar Sharma (IPS Retd), Secretary, and Arjun Singh, In-Charge Bhaderwah provided a detailed report to the Trustees about the arrangements being made to ensure the smooth conduct of both events and the well-being of devotees.

The President informed that the Annual Kailash Yatra of Shri Vasuki Nag Ji Maharaj Bhaderwah will begin on August 30, 2024. The Yatra will start with the Holy Chhari procession from Gatha at 8:30 AM, merging with Nagar Chhari at Vasakdera at 10:30 AM, and proceed towards the first Padav at Hayyan via Sungli. Devotees will camp at Hayyan for the night. On the second day, the Holy Chhari will ascend to Kailash Kund Bhaderwah, situated at an altitude of 14,500 ft, via Ramtund, where the sacred bath and rituals will take place. The third day will mark the return journey from Kailash Kund to Bhaderwah Town.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of the Trust, also shared details about the Annual Mela Patt 2023. "Rituals for the Mela Patt will be conducted on 8th, 9th, and 10th September 2024 at the historic Mohalla Khakhal Ground in Bhaderwah. This festival holds deep religious and cultural roots, and we are ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place for its success," he said.

Arjun Singh, Dharmarth Trust In-Charge of Bhaderwah added that the Trust is already fully coordinating with the local administration and local community in Bhaderwah for support and facilitation of the Festival and Events. Trustee Martand Singh emphasized the importance of preserving the sanctity of the traditions. Trustee Ranvijay Singh expressed satisfaction with the progress of the preparations. He stated, "These sacred events are of immense cultural and spiritual significance. The Trust should leave no stone unturned to ensure that all devotees can participate with ease and devotion."

'The - SARA' provides library kits to LoC schools on Haji Pir Day

'The-SARA' members with students at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: 'The-SARA' a Registered Non Governmental Organization under its 'Share With Schools' initiative on the occasion of Haji Pir Day with the permission of Directorate of School Education Kashmir contributed Library in classroom Kits in Government Schools near Indo-Pak LoC in Uri Tehsil in Baramulla district of Kashmir. Team 'The-SARA' led by Gurjeet Kour contributed library in classroom kits in three Indo-Pak LoC schools in Uri namely Government Boys Primary School Tangidoba, Government Boys Primary School Sardaji and Government Girls Primary School Balkote.

Initiative by 'The - SARA' is an effort to honor the sacrifices of the brave hearts of Indian Army who on 28th August during 1965 Indo-Pak war hoisted Tiranga atop Haji Pir Pass Uri, following a three day long pitched fight, defying all odds.

The-SARA initiative was supported by publishing house Pratham Books. 'The-SARA' under its 'Share With Schools' initiative time to time contributes books and stationary material for the school children of Government Schools across J&K and Ladakh UT's. On the occasion staff members of the schools thanked members of 'The-SARA' for supporting the Border schools.

Sainik Samaj Party releases its election manifesto

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Sainik Samaj Party J&K UT has unveiled its election manifesto, emphasizing a break from traditional political practices. Col. S.S. Pathania, the party's Chief Convenor and President, criticized the prevalent use of reservation policies and freebie distribution, arguing that these practices undermine the nation's integrity and mislead voters with empty promises.

SSP J&K UT chief Col. S.S. Pathania talking to reporters.

The manifesto, notable for its concise and practical focus, outlines 13 key goals. A major highlight is the call for a separate Jammu State or Union Territory to better address regional needs. The party also aims to protect Jammu's land, culture, and job opportunities, particularly for local youth, and to boost tourism by focusing on religious, rural, and border areas.

Security and governance are central to the manifesto. It calls for the immediate deportation of illegal immigrants, particularly Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, and the reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme for government employees. The party also supports 33% reservation for women in local governance bodies and proposes creating a 24x7 HD satellite channel, Duggar Channel, to highlight regional culture.

To combat terrorism and narco-terrorism, the party suggests appointing a General or Lt. General as Lieutenant Governor, with military advisers to ensure robust security. The manifesto also includes plans for optimizing hydro power resources, reserving government jobs for ex-servicemen, providing grants and annuities for gallantry award winners, and regularizing daily wagers and ad hoc workers.

Finally, the party proposes establishing sports institutions similar to the National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala and pledges to maintain transparent, accountable governance. Col. Pathania urged voters to be politically astute and supportive of the Sainik Samaj Party's practical and focused agenda.

HC directs Insurance Agency to continue with insurance of citizen under Ayushman Bharat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Big Relief to Jammu & Kashmir Govt in Ayushman Bharat, Justice Rajesh Sekhri of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court directed IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company continue with the existing arrangement as per terms and conditions of the contract agreement pending resolution of dispute by the Arbitrator.

As factual narration of the present case would unfurl, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT ["AB-PMJAY-SEHAT"] to provide free of cost Universal Health Coverage to all its residents, including the serving and retired employees and their families. The Scheme is intended to provide same benefits those were available under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana ["AB-PMJAY"], a Government of India Scheme, that is providing annual health insurance cover of Rs.5.00 lacs per family on a floater and cashless basis through an established network of health care providers. Pertinently, the Scheme came to be introduced by the Government with the object to reduce catastrophic health expenditure and to improve access to quality health care of the domiciles of UT. The eligible beneficiary families, under this Scheme are to be provided the Health Coverage through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs). The Government decided to implement the Scheme to provide Health insurance to defined categories of families eligible in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, bidding process was commenced by the Government, through State Health Agency (SHA) by issuing the tender document and the respondent-company emerged the successful bidder. Consequently, a contract, for maximum period of three years, came to be executed between the parties on 10.03.2022. Since the beneficiary families are to be provided the Health Coverage through a network of EHCPs, a separate Tripartite Agreement also came to be executed between the parties and EHCPs in terms of clause 6 of the contract.

The case set out by the petitioner is that contract between the parties is to subsist till 14th of March, 2025, but the respondent vide its letter dated 01.11.2023, served a notice that it was not interested in further renewal of the contract after the expiry of the policy period ending 14.03.2024. In response to the aforesaid communication of the respondent, the Chief Executive Officer, SHA, vide communication dated 03.11.2023 requested the respondent to continue as per the MOU signed between the parties. However, the respondent-Insurance company vide communication dated 16.11.2023 reiterated that it has decided not to accord consent for renewal of the contract beyond 14th of March, 2024 and will not issue any new policy cover beyond the existing policy cover period and requested that SHA had enough time to make arrangement so that beneficiaries may not suffer. The CEO, SHA vide communication dated 07.12.2023 again requested Vice-President of the respondent-company to re-consider its decision, however, the respondent vide communication dated 13.12.2023 informed the CEO that it stand by its decision not to continue. Again the petitioner through CEO, SHA vide letter dated 28.12.2023 requested Vice President of the respondent-Company to adhere to the terms and conditions of the contract in letter and spirit, however, it was conveyed by General Manager of the respondent-Company, vide its communication dated 03.01.2024 that Company is only invoking clause 9.1(c) of the Insurance contract. Ultimately, the SHA, by invocation of clause 41.3 of the contract, vide communication No. SHA/ABPM-JAY/2023-24/5334 dated 19.01.2024 served a notice upon the respondent, for reference of dispute to the Arbitral Tribunal with a request to nominate an Arbitrator on its behalf.

According to the petitioner, the insurance contract between the parties, is for a period of three years and the respondent-Company having already extended the insurance cover for the second year, in terms of clause 9 of the contract, cannot turn around and wriggle out of the contract for the third year extension and plunge the people of UT into risk and uncertainty. It is contention of the petitioner that since the law with respect to insurance is part and parcel of welfare legislation, arbitrary exit notice served by the respondent, is not only against the contractual liabilities, but also against the public health and safety at large. Respondents be directed to restrain from opting out of the Contract of Insurance duly executed on 10.03.2022 between the Petitioner and respondent herein for implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT in the Union Territory of J&K beyond 14.03.2024; and/or Respondents be directed to continue the contract upto 14.03.2025 in the interest of patient care and public at large: and Pass order in favour of the petitioner and against the respondent, thereby directing the respondent to undertake its contractual liability and in the interest of patient care, which otherwise at this stage would have serious consequences for the people of the U.T. of J&K as approximately 1200-1500 procedures take place daily in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the general public heavily relies on these schemes for adequate treatment, leading to improved and well-organized patient care. Justice Rajesh Sekhri after hearing Sr. Adv PN Raina with Advocate JA Hamal, AAG Amit Gupta for the UT, observed that on overall conspectus of the case, what comes to the fore is that contract between the parties is not in its nature determinable but hedged upon the occurrence of exigencies and eventualities enumerated therein. Therefore, Specific Relief Act is not applicable to the present case. Functions of all Insurance Companies, public and private, are regulated under the Insurance Act and the Regulations framed thereunder. Therefore, an insurance contract is subservient to the statutory provisions of the Insurance Act and must be interpreted and construed having regard to larger public policy and public interest, particularly, when it intends to provide service of health care to the citizens. Justice Rajesh Sekhri further observed that petitioner has succeeded to make out a prima facie case for grant of interim measures in terms of Section 9 of the Arbitration Act and since contract between the parties is service of insurance, balance of convenience favours the grant of injunction. The damages, which may be suffered by the State Health Agency, in general, and the beneficiaries of the Scheme, in particular, on account of alleged breach of contract by the insurer, may not be compensated at a future point of time in terms of money or otherwise. Hence, present petition is allowed and respondent is temporarily directed to continue with the existing arrangement as per terms and conditions of the contract agreement pending resolution of dispute by the Arbitrator.

DB issues notice in PIL seeking telecast Duggar Channel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation filed by Jayesh Kumar seeking direction to respondents to start & telecast a DUGGAR Channel in same analogy with DD KASHIR , DD PUNJABI ,DD ODIA , DD BANGLA etc . by establishing a regional subsidiary studio in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh as well.A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice (Acting) Tashi Rabstan and Justice Puneet Gupta after hearing Advocate Himanshu Beotra issued notice to the Secy Ministry of Information & Broadcasting UOI, Director General Doordarshan, Chairman Broadcasting Corporation of India and Commissioner/Secretary Informantion of UT of J&K.

DSGI Vishal Sharma waives notice on behalf of respondents Nos. 1 to 3 and AAG Amit Gupta waives notice on behalf of UT of J&K. Adv Himanshu Beotra, counsel for the petitioner submits that Prasar Bharti may also be arrayed as a party respondent in this PIL, DB allowed the submission a DSGI waives notice on behalf of the newly arrayed respondent. DB directed counsel for the petitioner shall furnish particulars of the newly arrayed respondent before the Registry.

Advocate General DC seeks some time enabling him to have instructions in the matter. DB allowed submission and granted time and directed a copy of the PIL be provided to Raina. To appreciate the issue in its correct perspective, DB appointed Advocate Aseem Sawhney, who is present in Court, as Amicus Curiae to assist this Court. Adv Sawhney submits that respondents may also be directed to start and telecast Channel in Ladakhi language.

The Advocate General shall seek instructions in this regard, as well. A copy of the PIL is also provided to Sawhney.

EC should ban Jamaat members, separatist faces from contesting elections in J&K: Shiv Sena

New wave of nefarious intentions of separatism in Kashmir, why is Modi government silent? Sahni

Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K chief Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded the Election Commission (EC) to ban members of banned organizations like Jamaat-e-Islami and separatist faces from participating in the Jammu-Kashmir assembly elections.

In a press conference held on Wednesday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that right under the nose of the Modi government at the center, which makes big claims of restoring peace in Kashmir, which is the self-proclaimed contractor of Hindus, banned separatist organizations and faces are preparing to derail the entire system by entering the election field and establishing their nefarious separatist agenda in a new form. Sahni said that separatist leaders should not be allowed to contest elections. He said that Jamaat-e-Islami is a banned organization on which there are serious allegations like terror funding, spreading terrorism.

This organization was banned in 1975, 1990, 2014, 2019 for inciting the fire of fundamentalism. In 2019, the current Modi government banned this organization under serious charges like terror funding. Which has been upheld by the Delhi-based Prevention of Illegal Activities Tribunal and the ban on it has been continued for the next five years.

Sahni has asked the public not to let the new wave of separatism and evil intention succeed in Kashmir by voting and has demanded from the Election Commission to ban the members of Jamaat-e-Islami and separatist faces who have taken refuge in various parties from participating in the assembly elections of Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kohli,Rajesh Jadial , Summit Sharma were present.

RMMC holding free Cardiac Awareness cum Health Checkup Camp on Sep 1

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre (RMMC) is organizing a Free Cardiac Awareness cum Health Checkup Camp on Sunday, September 1, 2024.

The camp, which will take place at the Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre in Udheywala, Jammu, will be held from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in which renowned cardiologist Dr. Sushil Sharma, Head of the Cardiology Department at Government Medical College Hospital & Super Speciality Hospital (GMCH & SSH), Jammu, will examine the patients. This health initiative aims to promote greater awareness of cardiac health while providing free medical consultations and essential diagnostic services to the local community. Dr. Sushil Sharma, with his vast expertise in cardiology, will lead the camp, offering expert consultation and guiding patients on heart health. Participants will benefit from various free diagnostic services, including Fibroscan, ECG, and blood sugar testing. In addition to cardiac health, the camp will provide free consultations across several medical disciplines. Patients can meet with physicians from allopathy, dental surgeons, gynaecologists, eye specialists, and physiotherapists. Furthermore, the Department of Ayush, through the Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Jammu, will be offering free consultations with Ayurvedic doctors. Residents of Jammu are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get a comprehensive health checkup and seek expert medical advice. For registration and further details, individuals can contact the provided phone number: 9596984032. The camp will be held at the RMMC at Ramakrishna Vihar, Udheywala.