

Pr Secy Culture releases Haya Zeeshan's maiden literary work "Caddle"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta on Sunday released the book "Caddle" on the sidelines of an impressive cultural event at Tagore Hall here. Director, Libraries & Research, J&K, Mohammad Rafi, senior officers from Department of Culture and School Education Department were present. "Caddle" is a collection of poems written by budding writer Haya Zeeshan who is a class 10th student of International Islamic School, Humhama. Daughter of Valley's leading Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist Dr Zeeshan Ahmad Wani, Haya Zeeshan said her book is about optimism and positivity in life. "I



Prpl Secy Culture, Suresh Gupta releasing a book "Caddle".

was always fascinated by poetry and through this book I want the readers to realize that it is ok to lose people, because that makes you feel, which people are actually right for you," Haya said and added that poetry is not just a process where you learn a few words, collect them, arrange them and put across, it is something that

comes out from deep inside you. Suresh Gupta complimented the young writer for her work and said that it will inspire more young writers to make their debut in the literary field. "Caddle as not just a collection of poems, but a celebration of creativity, innovation, and the power of poetry," he said.

GDC Kastigarh conducts National Anthem Singing Competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In the run-up to the Independence Day, 2024, the Government Degree College Kastigarh organized a Swachhta Campaign and National Anthem Singing Competition.

The events were conducted under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and were aimed at fostering patriotism and cleanliness awareness among students and staff. The events were held under the guidance and patronage of Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra, the Principal of the college. Students, faculty members, and non-teaching staff participated enthusiastically in the Swachhta Pledge, cleanliness drive, awareness session on cleanliness, and the National Anthem singing competition. As part of the Swachhta Pakhwada, the college has planned various.

In the National Anthem singing competition, Savita Devi secured the first position, Meenakshi Devi stood second and Pooja Devi took third place. The competition was judged by Dr. Sumit Kotwal and Prof. Sat Pal, who appreciated the participants for their dedication and performance.

Other faculty members and non-teaching staff who actively participated in these events were Dr. Anupam Lata, Mamohan Kotwal, and Sachin Thakur. The college community is looking forward to the upcoming activities planned for the Swachhta Pakhwada, which will continue to emphasize the importance of cleanliness and patriotism as the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, 2024.

ESBD Jammu president for advancing Sanatan values



Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal President Jammu Manoj Padha with other members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal (ESBD) announced the appointment of Manoj Padha as the new President for the Jammu region.

In his first official meeting with party members, Padha outlined his vision for strengthening the party and advancing key issues that resonate deeply

with the community.

During the meeting, Padha emphasized the importance of bolstering party unity and expanding its outreach efforts.

He highlighted his commitment to advancing Sanatan values and ensuring their prominent role in regional politics.

One of his key agendas includes advocating for strin-

gent legislation against cow slaughter, a topic of significant concern for many constituents.

Additionally, Padha addressed the upcoming assembly elections, stressing the need for a cohesive strategy to ensure a robust electoral performance. His dynamic approach and fresh perspective are expected to invigorate the party's efforts in the region.

JKATA delegation meets Ashok Koul, submits memorandum



JKATA President Dr. Surinder Radotra during meeting with BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Technocrats Association (JKATA), led by President Dr. Surinder Radotra, met with BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul to submit a grievance letter.

The letter, addressed to Chief Secretary J&K Atal Dulloo, and Principal Secretary Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Shailendra Kumar, highlighted two key issues: the delayed Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process, pending since 2017, which has affected the career progression of Agriculture Extension Assistants (AEAs) and Junior Agriculture Extension Officers (JAEOs), and the non-publication of final seniority lists, leading to confusion and disparities in promotions.

The JKATA delegation requested the expedition of the DPC process and the prompt publication of seniority lists.

Ashok Koul assured the delegation of his full support in resolving these issues, emphasizing the importance of addressing them for the benefit of agricultural extension officers in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKATA expressed gratitude to Shri Koul for his attention and looks forward to a positive response and action.

Balwant Thakur's play "Inqlaab" presented at Natrang Studio

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balwant Thakur's hard-hitting play "Inqlaab" made a significant impact at Natrang Studio Theatre during its weekly "Sunday Theatre" series.

Directed by Neeraj Kant, this rebellious and thought-provoking play captivated the audience, serving as a powerful example of effective theatre that can drive mass movements.

Presented in an unconventional alternative theatre style, "Inqlaab" opens with a group of disillusioned youth representing the larger human resource of the country, sharing their horrifying stories to shake the masses about the current state of affairs. The play highlights the issues of peak corruption,



Natrang artists performing in a play 'Inqlaab'.

nepotism, maladministration, kleptocracy, and anarchy, with the characters feeling dejected and demoralized. In their desperation, they become susceptible to separatist elements, with some being urged to take up arms or resort to vandalism as a means of revenge against

the corrupt system. However, a few still hold on to the hope of finding an amicable solution.

In the midst of this uncertainty, a savior emerges with a non-violent invisible missile. The youth are curious about this supernatural weapon and are surprised when the sav-

ior reveals that it is simply the power of a single vote. He elaborates on the power of voting as the most powerful non-violent weapon available to citizens in a democratic nation. The savior encourages them to use their vote wisely to create a system that aligns with their dreams and aspi-

rations. He emphasizes that a new revolution, "Inqlaab," is possible through the power of voting without fear or influence.

The play concludes with the poem by Guru Rabindranath Tagore, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high... let my country awake," reinforcing the message of empowerment and the importance of voting.

The cast, including Neeraj Kant, Palshin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Amit Rana, Priya Kashyup, Mihir Kujral, Vishal Sharma, and Kunal Bhat, brought this empowering play to life. The music and lighting, operated by Mohd. Yaseen, added to the overall impact of the performance.

Charak listens to public grievances at Ward 74

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP leader Rajeev Charak conducted a tour of Ward No. 74 Sunjwan in the Bahu Assembly Segment, where he held meetings with local residents to address their grievances.

The people from various mohallas shared their concerns, including frequent power cuts, low voltage electricity, and a shortage of drinking water for weeks.

They also highlighted the lack of street lights, which leaves the area in darkness after sunset, forcing residents to navigate through muddy and stony dirt



BJP leader Rajeev Charak with others at a public meeting.

roads.

The residents also mentioned that a tube well approved years ago has not yet become operational, exacerbating the water shortage issue.

Rajeev Charak listened to

the residents' problems and, upon observing the condition of the streets, criticized the local council for neglecting the area.

He assured the residents that their demands were

legitimate and promised to bring these issues to the relevant departments for resolution.

Charak emphasized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the development of Jammu and

Kashmir and criticized the Jammu Municipal Corporation for mismanaging funds, resulting in the current poor conditions.

He stressed that the lack of a developmental mindset among elected representatives has adversely affected the local community.

During his visit, Rajeev Charak was accompanied by Ramesh Sharma Meshu, Vikas Sharma, Shakti Singh, Sanjay Sharma, Saudagar Kumar, Chaudhary Liaquat Ali Rani, Shamsher Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Sardar Hardev Singh, Deepak Kumar, Karthik Kumar, Jaipal Singh, and others.

BJP KDD's Tridev Sammelan focuses on Grassroots Mobilization and Development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kashmir Displaced District organized a Tridev Sammelan at Roop Nagar, Jammu. Prominent leaders, including Ex MLC Ajay Bharti, District President Chand Jee Bhat, and Vice President Chetan Wanchoo, graced the event. The stage secretary was General Secretary H K Razdan, and the event began with "Sharda Vandana" by General Secretary Moti Lal Bhat.

Chand Jee Bhat highlighted the Modi government's social welfare initiatives like the

Ayushman Card. He praised the Tridev's role in bridging the gap between the party and the people, strengthening trust and cooperation. Bhat held a productive interaction session with Mandal, Booth, Yuva Morcha, and Mahila Morcha Presidents, discussing achievements and challenges.

Ajay Bharti emphasized engaging every voter at the grassroots level to strengthen the democratic process. He criticized previous governments for neglecting Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the current administration's commitment to equitable development with the spirit of "Sabka

Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."

Chetan Wanchoo elaborated on the Tridev's vital role in maintaining a strong grassroots presence, mobilizing support, and translating it into votes. He stressed that the Tridev are the voice and face of the party at the local level.

Vice President Anil Dhar and Chief Spokesperson and District Secretary Rahul Koul reinforced the importance of effective communication and outreach by the Tridev, highlighting their role in connecting with the people and serving the community.

SEHAT scheme on verge of collapse in J&K

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government's ambitious free health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), popularly known as the SEHAT scheme, has hit a major roadblock. Approximately 150 private hospitals and dialysis centres, empanelled under the scheme in J&K, have not received payments since March 14, 2024, putting question mark on the programme's smooth functioning. According to officials, the crisis stems from a legal dispute between the J&K government and IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company Limited, the insurer that unilaterally terminated its three-year contract in November 2023. The contract, which began on March 10, 2022, was supposed to run until March 14, 2025.

A private hospital owner in Kashmir, speaking on condition of anonymity said, "We are facing a dire situation. The financial crunch will force us to shut down the free service and our hospitals. We don't wish to stop the service given our empathy with patients, but we are forced to consider this due to non-payment of bills since March." The hospital owner said, "Our bank loan interest is increasing. We can't pay salaries to our employees, or settle bills for electricity, water, and medical

supplies." According to private hospital and dialysis centre owners, the total pending amount is reported to be approximately Rs 226 crore. Despite multiple attempts to resolve the issue, hospital owners claim their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

"We held an official meeting with the CEO of the State Health Agency in April 2024, who assured us that the matter would be solved by the first week of May 2024," another hospital owner said, requesting anonymity. "After the failure to release payments, we applied to the Chief Secretary through the CEO of Ayushman Bharat on May 18, 2024, requesting fund release by May 31, 2024," he added.

He said that on May 31, 2024, the Secretary Health convened an online meeting with all private hospitals and dialysis centres of J&K, assuring them that their money was safe and the matter would be resolved soon. "Based on this assurance, the hospitals postponed the suspension of medical services," he said. A dialysis centre owner, who also wished to remain unnamed, said, "With no resolution in sight, the situation has reached a critical point. We have been continuously providing medical services, keeping in view our responsibilities towards the general public. But now we have reached such a stage where we can't continue our med-

ical services due to bankruptcy." The AB-PMJAY scheme, which provides free coverage to J&K residents, has been a lifeline for many patients who cannot afford private healthcare. The current impasse threatens to deprive thousands of beneficiaries of essential medical services.

According to State Health Agency officials, "These private hospital owners are fully aware that the reason for non-payment of their bills is a legal issue between the insurance company and the government. We are trying our best."

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Atam Vallabh Jain (SAVJ) Clinic held its 444th Artificial Limbs Camp on Sunday at Kali Jamm, Fattu Chogan, Jammu.

In this camp, 63 patients received care, and the clinic provided 15 below-knee artificial limbs, 3 above-knee artificial limbs, 5 KAFOs, and 4 AFOs to those in need. Additionally, the clinic repaired limbs and callipers for 36 individuals to address wear and tear. Attendees were also given tea and lunch.

Founded in 1981, Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Clinic is a

SAVJ Clinic organises 444th Artificial Limbs camp



SAVJ Clinic members and patients at Artificial Limbs Camp.

dedicated social organization focused on health and medical services. Under the leadership of General Secretary Pardeep Jain, the clinic offers free medicine, OPD services with highly qualified

doctors and paramedical staff, and nominally charged dental and ophthalmic care.

The clinic's mission includes providing free artificial limbs and callipers, a service initiated in 1987 by

then-Governor Jagmohan. The clinic, in collaboration with Shri Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti of Kota,

Rajasthan, conducts monthly camps from the 1st Sunday for three days.

These camps have benefited approximately 9,000 individuals by providing artificial limbs, callipers, wheelchairs, and tricycles at no charge. Highly skilled doctors and technicians work diligently to support the specially abled, helping them integrate into society.

The clinic serves patients from Jammu and Kashmir, as well as neighbouring Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

J&K tops 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024 in Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The 8th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2024 concluded on Sunday at the NDS Multipurpose Indoor Sports Stadium in Leh, Ladakh.

Organized by the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association in collaboration with Youth Services & Sports, UT of Ladakh, LAHDC, and the Indian Pencak Silat Federation, the event featured 454 athletes from 18 States/UTs.

This competition marked Ladakh's first national-level martial arts event.

Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche was the view guest for the opening ceremony. Among the Guests of Honour were Tsering Angechuk, Deputy Chairman LAHDC Leh; Mosi Kunzang, Director of Youth Services and Sports UT of Ladakh; Kishore Prakash Yewale, President of the Indian Pencak Silat Federation; and Tariq Ahmad Zargar, Secretary

General of the Indian Pencak Silat Federation, along with other officers. The dignitaries commended the efforts to promote this traditional martial art. Jammu & Kashmir athletes emerged as the top performers, securing the Overall Championship, followed by Haryana and host Ladakh.

The closing ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Vikram Singh Malik, who emphasized the importance of Pencak Silat in fostering discipline, fitness, and cultural exchange.

Nuzhat Gull, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, congratulated the victorious team, highlighting J&K's consistent achievements in martial arts such as Pencak Silat, Wushu, Taekwondo, Judo etc. She attributed this success to the development of sports infrastructure over the past decade and expressed gratitude to the LG administration for their special focus on sports in J&K.