

# 3-day fest on theme ‘Aao Kashmir’ to increase tourist footfall in UT: LG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited "The Paradise Fest" organized as part of the World Tourism Week celebrations at Zabarwan Park.

The Tourism Festival from 27th to 29th September is being organized by various government departments including Tourism Department, JKTDC, SMC in collaboration with NGOs and the Indian Army. The theme of the fest is "Aao Kashmir".

During his visit, the Lt Governor inspected a number of stalls displayed by various entrepreneurs, NGOs, Educational and training institutes from Kashmir. He also interacted with the owners of the stalls which portrayed local Art & crafts, traditional products, textiles, local food, educational and training institutes, paintings, souvenirs for tourists, and many more.

The Lt Governor said that the cen-



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visiting ‘The Paradise Fest’ at Srigangar.

tral and UT governments are working with special focus to develop the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with best possible infrastructure and facilities in every sector. "With the completion of ambitious roads and highway projects

dance performances of talented artists of Kashmir. He said that the three-day fest organized with the theme of "Aao Kashmir" will definitely attract a large number of tourists from across the world.

The stalls of local handicrafts, handloom products, and local cuisines on display in the festival will showcase the world-famous Kashmiri tradition and culture of rich values and unique creativity.

The stalls of JKTDC, and departments of Handloom and handicrafts were also displayed in the fest to facilitate the tourists and local weavers and craftsmen.

Baseer Khan, Advisor to Lt Governor; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Athar Aamir-ul-Shafi Khan, Commissioner, SMC; Dr. G N Itoo, Director Tourism Kashmir, besides other officers and large number of locals and tourists were present on the inaugural day of World Tourism Week.

## BJP ditched Jammu, left people in lurch: Bhalla



JKPCC Vice President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: JKPCC Vice President and former Minister, Raman Bhalla on Monday expressed strong resentment over denying admission to 12th pass students in Cluster University. He said, despite scoring good marks in 12th standard they aren't getting admissions in the university. The student intake of the University is too less to admit them. They are moving College to College but getting denied everywhere.

He requested LG and Vice Chancellor to help them take admission in Colleges of Jammu. The Cluster University Jammu has been bringing disgrace with each passing day as the meritorious students are allegedly being shunted out of admission merit list. Bhalla further aid that the main objective of setting up Cluster University to provide opportunities to the students for higher studies, has literally been defeated with the mismanagement of the administration, which has been harassing students by not giving admission.

Those who had applied for the admission in Cluster University online was denied admission, despite having academic merits, Bhalla said adding that several aggrieved parents approached him who were shocked to find out that their children name were dropped out of the merit list and low merit aspirants were given admission.

Interacting with aggrieved people of Balicharana area of Gandhi Nagar constituency, Bhalla castigated BJP Govt for indulging in rhetoric, saying they have caused colossal harm to the unity, anity and harmony of Jammu and Kashmir adding that the

BJP has ditched Jammu. BJP badly failed in delivering and keeping up the promises when in power, and when out of it, they have started yet again exploiting public sentiment after pushing J&K into a political crisis, he said.

Bhalla described the BJP as a spent force and said this party has lost the drive to serve the people because of its lust for power. "BJP has ditched Jammu and left in lurch the people, especially those living in remote areas. The prices are soaring on a daily basis, leaving the people in a lot of misery," he said. He claimed that this was because of the wrong policies of the BJP at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Private practice taking heavy toll on patient care: DAK

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday said private practice by government doctors in Jammu and Kashmir is taking a heavy toll on patient care.

Seeking ban on private practice of government doctors particularly in medical colleges, DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan said the greatest casualty of private practice is patient care.

"Doctors spend most of their time in private clinics and are not available for patients in government hospitals. Their attention and time is directed towards their private clinics," he said.

The DAK President said patients in government hospitals are left to the mercy of trainees who lack expertise to handle complicated cases and some patients even die of misdiagnosis or delayed intervention due to non-availability of senior doctors who most of the times are in their private clinics.

He said doctors use pub-

lic hospitals as recruiting grounds for their private practice and orchestrate scenarios to generate business for their clinics.

"The dual practice creates pervasive incentives for doctors to increase waiting time in government hospitals so that patients are forced to go to private hospitals," said Dr Hassan.

"Doctors misuse hospital facilities for their private patients at the cost of poor patients who have no resources to attend private clinics," he added.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said private practice has hollowed our health institutions which not only are crucial life-saving assets, but also full-time centers for medical education and research.

"It is ironic that full-time government doctors are allowed to run private hospitals depriving poor and underprivileged of essential healthcare," he said.

Vice-President DAK Dr Mir Mohd Iqbal said the previous attempts to ban private practice have been

stalled by a strong lobby and they have misled previous regimens on the issue.

"There is no provision for private practice of doctors working in teaching hospitals as they have a huge responsibility of patient care, teaching and research," he said.

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said various committees from time to time have stressed that private practice should be banned.

"NMC puts bar on private practice in all health institutions," he said adding that "even the courts have observed that academic character of health institutions gets damaged and profession of healthcare gets affected by private practice."

"If the present dispensation is serious to revive the health sector and mitigate the sufferings of poor people, it should immediately ban the private practice by government doctors particularly those posted in medical colleges," said Dr Javid Qanangoo senior executive member DAK.

## BJP under BBBP to distribute one lakh sanitary napkins in J&K: Priya

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Senior BJP leader, Incharge HQ BJP and former Minister, Priya Sethi on Monday said that BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving focused attention to girl health and hygiene under its flagship programme Beti Bachao baeti Padhao (BBBP).

Priya Sethi, who is also State Incharge BBBP, was speaking as a special guest during a programme organized under BBBP Campaign to disburse over more than 3000 sanitary napkins among women folk here at Dyala Chak. Gurmeet Randhawa, Co-Incharge BBBP also accompanied the former minister.

The programme was conceived and executed by the District Convenor



Former Minister, Priya Sethi speaking during a programme.

BBBP Rimi Charak and Sushma.

"The campaign was started on September 17 and will culminate on October 7, the day PM Modi first took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Priya Sethi said adding that today's programme has been designed to raise awareness regarding the education, health and hygiene of the girls in our society.

is significant for the entire society as women forms the basis of any social set-up.

The sanitary napkins have been arranged by Harleen Kour initiative under Aet Human NGOs working in this field and by Sukhamrit associated with YGPT from Amritsar.

Priya Sethi announced that BJP under Sewa Hi Samarpan Abhiyan will provide more than one lakh sanitary napkins to the women folk in J&K. She asked the participants of the programme to further educate the women and young girls in their families and living in the vicinity of their homes to adopt good menstrual hygiene and focus on safe disposal of sanitary napkins as this is vital for maintaining Swachhta.

## Director FCS&CA conducts surprise inspection of Flour Mills, Godowns, sale depots in Samba

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jammu, Naseem Javaid Choudhary alongwith a team of senior officers today conducted a surprise visit to Samba District and inspected the Flour Mills/Godowns/Foodstores/Sale Depots/ Fair Price Shops (FPS) and reviewed the implementation of ongoing departmental schemes.

Shagun Sharma, Joint Director (Adm.), Mukhter Ahmed), Assistant Director, Samba and Tehsil Supply Officers, Samba/Vijaypur/ Bari-Brahmana accompanied the Director.

During the inspection of M/s K.K Flour Mills and M/s Vijay Flour Mills, Bari-Brahmana, directions were



Director, FCS&CA Jammu, Naseem Javaid Choudhary conducting surprise visit to a government food store at Samba.

issued to the supervisors, posted in the mills, for speedy grinding of Wheat and providing good quality of Atta, by ensuring proper regular sampling of the same.

The team also inspected Food stores, Government Sale Depots and Fair Price

Shops in the District and checked the stock of food grains available there.

Besides this, the visiting team also checked the online transactions of foodgrains made by the beneficiaries on spot and directed the officer/officials concerned for 100% transactions through PoS machines to the beneficiaries. Furthermore, the Director, FCS&CA, Jammu also interacted with the ration card holders.

Meanwhile, the Director alongwith other officers also met with Deputy Commissioner Samba and discussed the issues regarding 100% Aadhaar Seeding, distribution of foodgrains through PoS Machines and availability of foodgrains in Samba District.



## IIPA to develop as wide-based Resource Hub: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing a meeting of the National Executive Council of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), at New Delhi on Monday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Chairing the meeting of the National Executive Council of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh called for preparing a roadmap to develop the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) as a wide-based Resource Hub for all aspects related to governance and administration, so that it can gain the esteem it deserves as a premier institute.

The Union Minister said that the institute has to have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and, to achieve this, the institute needs to have an integrated approach to work in cohesion with similar departments/organizations/set-ups

and entities with similar scope and focus, related to training, administrative expertise. He said that being all-inclusive and open will help IIPA attain its deserved glory.

Underlining the significance and need of having serving Civil Servants as members of the IIPA, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, such a practice will help transform the organization with the knowledge and practical experiences of such members. He advocated bringing experts and special invitees from different streams on board so that the IIPA can become a go-to institute with certain expertise for other government organizations and even corporate sector organizations, in the times to come. The Minister highlighted the importance of having a scientific approach in all spheres of administration and IIPA.

Appreciating the work done by IIPA during COVID-19 pandemic which includes conducting 66 online courses, 46 webinars and 60 research studies, the Minister said that IIPA has

the capacity and it needs to continue performing by having an enlarged pool of experts and wide spectrum of activities.

The IIPA's Executive Council has the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu as its President and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh as chairman.

The meeting was attended by members of IIPA's Executive Council, including, Shekhar Dutt, former Governor; Chhattisgarh, Professor Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Punjab University, Srinivas R. Katikithala, Director, LBSNAA, Dr. RK Suresh Kumar, Chairman, IIPA Kerala Regional Branch, SS Kshatriya, Chairman, IIPA Maharashtra Regional Branch, Professor N Lokendra Singh, Chairman, IIPA Manipur Regional Branch, Arun Kumar Rath, Chairman, IIPA Odisha Regional Branch, along with Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member-Secretary, EC and Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA.

## KPs hold candle march demanding high-level probe into death of cop in Kupwara

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits held a candle march at the Jagti camp here on Monday, demanding a high-level probe into the death of a young policeman in the hands of a colleague in a case of 'mistaken identity' in Kupwara.

Ajay Dhar, a follower in the police department posted in Handwara, died in the early hours of September 22 after being shot by a sentry guarding a temple who mistook him for a militant, officials have said.

Holding a demonstration at the migrant camp on the outskirts of Jammu city, the protesters called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene and facilitate a probe by the CBI or the NIA.

"It was a cold-blooded murder. Police are covering it up," Mohan Lal, a Jagti resident, claimed.

He added that a high-level probe will only

ensure the faith of Kashmiri Pandits in the administration and the police force.

They protestors claimed that killing of Kashmiri Pandits have taken place in the Kashmir valley during the BJP rule but no probe was ordered by the government.

The family members of the slain cop have also demanded a CBI or a high-level probe as they suspect foul play.

J-K BJP and several KP organisations have supported the family's demanded for a high-level probe.

A socio-cultural organisation of Kashmiri Pandits in the US has expressed shock and anguish over the incident.

Archana Kakroo, president and CEO of the Kashmiri Overseas Association, said, "The circumstances leading to his death are not clear, and the incident is being termed as a case of mistaken identity. We demand a comprehensive inquiry and justice to his family."

## ‘Last Mile Transport’ system to be launched soon in Srinagar

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: In an effort to minimise mental agony being faced by people in valley, especially the residents of interior areas, due to overcharging by local auto Rickshaw operators and Sumo drivers, Jammu & Kashmir administration has decided to introduce e-Rickshaws in Srinagar.

Giving further details to STATE TIMES, Wajahat Qayoom, ARTO Srinagar said that battery-driven auto-rickshaw service will be inaugurated on trial basis within few days in Srinagar city. In first phase, the service would be provided on the routes connecting Habba-Kadal with Civil-line area and Habba-Kadal to old Srinagar city, there providing easy and cheaper transportation services to the commuters, he added. "We call e-rickshaw system as 'Last Mile Transport' system. Despite being eco-friendly, it can also easily operate during sub-zero temperature conditions due to chargeable lithium battery. Administration is also working on providing proper and adequate charging facilities for operators, but until proper arrangements are made, they can charge their vehicles at homes as it is a simple and quite easy process," he asserted.

Considering rising level of pollution and absence of public transport in internal areas of Srinagar, the e-rickshaws would provide atmos-

phere friendly alternative due to its smoke-free working, that too at quite low fare. In next phase, e-rickshaw service would be launched in other parts of Srinagar city, which could be from Lal Bazaar to adjoining areas like Umar Colony, Bagaat-e-Shoor and Mallah Bagh, he added.

Under Srinagar Smart City project at least more than 30 eco-friendly electric buses are already running on different routes. The air and noise pollution free electric buses are operational in both Jammu and Srinagar regions, having capacity to cover upto 150 Km after one full-charge. Recently, 500 luxury buses were procured by JKRTC for both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, and few days back LG Manoj Sinha flagged off first lot of 95 procured buses. Appreciating timely action by the administration, the locals said that the move would popularise Green mode of transport at an affordable cost to benefit locals besides generating employment opportunities for unemployed youth across UT. History is witness that Habba-Kadal remained a popular hub for business activities for centuries, but it suffered immensely due to continuous absence of transport services and various other reasons. Expressing gratitude towards administration for the initiative, locals said that the endeavour would fulfill their long pending demand.

