

Rana shares concern of NEET PG aspirants about implementation of All India Quota for J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sharing the concern of the medical courses aspirants about the recent notification issued by the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with regard to implementation of All India Quota in NEET PG in Jammu and Kashmir from the current year, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana said the interests of the local candidates should not be jeopardized. Interacting with a deputation of NEET PG aspirants, which called on him here this afternoon, Rana said that the quota of 50 per cent seats for the outsiders will retard the chances of local candidates, which will eventually lead to deficiency of specialist in Jammu and Kashmir with the pass outs opting for jobs in their respective states. The deputation said that the decision to pool seats will be catastrophic for both healthcare services and the PG aspi-



NEET PG aspirants presenting memorandum to NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana.

rants. The decision coming without any prior notice, especially at the time of submission of examination forms is all the more disturbing. This decision, they said, has been imposed despite Jammu and Kashmir having its own Act of 2004, which, according to them, was upheld even after abrogation of Article 370 and modified under SO of April 20, 2020. They claimed that this Act provides special reservation to candidates residing near the Actual Line of Control, backward areas besides PSP and other categories", they added. "We are already delayed by one academic year; the admission batch of 2014 in rest of the country is already in PG

course, but unfortunately in Jammu and Kashmir have just appeared for our first PG entrance, this is due to loss of almost 3 months of academic time post floods of 2014, loss of another four months post 2016 unrest and loss of 18 academic months due to internet shut down", the deputation member said, adding.

The deputation sought the intervention of the civil society, intelligentsia and the political class in getting rollback of this notification for the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir in general and the aspiring candidates in particular.

Rana assured that he will take up the issue at the appropriate forum.

Sidhu's resignation last nail in Congress' coffin: Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Though Congress is trying to cover-up its tumbling blocks in Punjab's politics, there is no doubt that resignation of its newly nominated chief of the party in Punjab-Navjot Sidhu will prove to be the last nail in the coffin of the main opposition party in the country.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta in a statement following resignation of Punjab Congress Chief Navjot Singh Sidhu. He said that power greed of former BJP MP Sidhu has made him restless and he can go to any extent.

Kavinder said that the day the Congress High Command gave a nod to bring on board Sidhu in their sinking ship the disaster of Congress was confirmed there and then. He said that Navjot Sidhu's is good at mimicry and doing comedy on screen but by giving him the responsible post of Punjab Congress chief those behind the decision have given proof of their

babyish acumen and immaturity as they must have been repenting now for making this mistake and in the melee losing a seasoned politician like Captain Amarinder Singh.

The senior BJP leader said that Congress will have to pay a big price for inducting Sidhu as Punjab Congress President because his caliber doesn't suit him to be at such a coveted post. "Throwing jokes is easy but steering a political party is not a child's play which Sidhu has proved beyond any doubt giving sleepless nights to Congress High command.

It is advisable that Congress party should show the doors to Sidhu as presence of this man in the party can prove suicidal for the entire flock of its leadership", Kavinder said, adding that it is his friendly advice for Congress leadership to say goodbye to Sidhu as soon as possible or get ready for more dents and embarrassing moments as he has the capability to ruin Congress in no time.

92.7 Big FM's 'Big Plastic Surgery' booth unveils at Wave Mall



92.7 BIG FM representative interacting with Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the culmination phase of Big Plastic Surgery an initiative by Jammu Municipal Corporation and 92.7 BIG FM, BIG FM is doing a three-day live studio booth started today from Wave Mall Jammu for mass awareness on the ill effects of plastic.

The main objective of this campaign is to motivate people for waste segregation, reduce and gradually refuse the use of single use plastic.

Live studio shift inaugurated by Avny Lavasa, Commissioner JMC.

Other dignitaries present were Yashpaul Sharma,

Chairman Swachh Bharat Committee, Kuldeep Singh Chib, Chairman Social Justice, Tinna Mahajan, Deputy Director ICDS, Vikrant Sharma- Cluster Head North-1 (92.7 Big FM), Siddharth Mahajan- Station Head (92.7 Big FM Jammu), Famous Blogger Kuldeep Hans and Ayushi Gupta.

Rajat Gupta, Project Manager and Dheeraj Singh Manhas, Project Manager-2 IEC section of JMC also shared their opinion.

They spoke about the need and importance of waste segregation at source and the role of citizens in making the Jammu city

plastic-free. In a month-long activity BIG FM and JMC have done various programmes including cleanliness drives, Nukkad Natak, workshops, online sensitization sessions with educational institutes and many other activities.

The online petition conveying the message of "Big Plastic Surgery" has also been promoted to spread the message.

Gifts worth lakhs have been given to the listeners participating in this online pledge.

RJ Juhie from 92.7 Big FM informed that this is the second season of the campaign 'Big Plastic Surgery' and Big FM is proud to have partnered with JMC for this noble cause.

She uses her large fan base on radio and her social media platforms to raise awareness on the issue and also make Jammu people take a pledge for litter-free Jammu through her online petition.

Dr. Rajinder Thapa joins AAP



Dr. Rajinder Thapa talking to reporters after joining AAP.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Getting impressed with the magical and dramatic socio-welfare schemes launched in Delhi by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) under leadership of its leader Arvind Kejriwal, Dr. Rajinder Thapa today joined AAP at Party Regional office, Gandhi Nagar, here in presence of Central Co-observer for Jammu Province, Manish Sinha and Convener Jammu-Province Om Parkash Khajuria.

Welcoming new entrant Dr.

Thapa into party fold, Sinha said that the AAP is serious to give a clean time tested alternative to the electorates of J&K-UT to get rid of 74 years misrule of corruption, nepotism, casteism and divisive politics of religion and region.

Dr. Thapa resolved to carry forward the agenda of Delhi Model of governance in the larger interest of J&K people in general, which is the only hope and beacon light for all round welfare of the masses.

Jammu Admin braces up for Clean India programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Administration Jammu is going to organised one month long Clean India program under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'-celebrating 75 years of India's Independence.

Additional District Commissioner, Ramesh Chander, reviewed the preparedness here at a meeting. He discussed the one month calendar of activities for specific segments and said that dates for cleanliness drive have been already proposed in order to generate Janbhagidari with the involvement of other stakeholders and professional groups.

He said that Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Department of Youth

Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (GOI) would be the implementing agency, who will organise different activities with coordination and support of district administration to achieve the objectives of the project.

The ADDC said that the program is aimed at creating awareness, mobilization of people and ensuring their involvement in the Clean India initiative which is unique in terms of scale and participation.

Ramesh Chander further said that the main objectives are to organise activities to clean waste mainly single use plastic waste, to involve all segments of society including government organisations and non government organizations; to instill awareness and feel-

ing of pride among the citizens to keep their surroundings clean and waste free; to make it people's movement through Janbhagidari and to propagate the mantra of Clean India-Safe-India.

The ADDC asked the senior officials from concerned departments to gear up their men and machinery and work in full coordination with other departments to make the project a big success.

Later, the ADDC Ramesh Kumar also reviewed the status of Self Employment schemes in respect of Jammu district.

CPO Yoginder Katoch, ACD Ashok Choudhary, BDOs along with senior officers of the concerned departments were present at the meeting.

SMVDU organises Kavi Sammelan, Hindi Pakhwada



SMVDU faculty and other dignitaries posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Hindi Cell of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized a Kavi Sammelan on the campus on the concluding day of Hindi Pakhwada.

The programme was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha (Padmashri). Nagendra Singh Jamwal,

Registrar, SMVDU, welcomed the guests and audience. The program witnessed the recitation of poems by distinguished Hindi poets of the region. With this, the fourteen-day Hindi Pakhwada celebrations reached to its culmination.

In the end, the winners of various competitions organized during the Pakhwada were awarded cash prizes and certificates. The officers

present from the Academy included Dr. Arvinder Amn, Additional Secretary and Rita Khadyal, Executive Editor of Hindi magazine Shiraza of the Academy.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anil Tewari, Nodal Officer, Hindi Cell, SMVDU. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Amn. The students' team worked for the organization of the event was headed by Shivam Kumar.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu on Wednesday informed that the power supply to Shakti Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Canal Road, Rajpura, PHE, AG Office, Polytechnic College, Shiv Nagar, Medical College Back Side, Bakshi Nagar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 30 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Dhangar, Kaleeth, Khour town, Serh, Dandi Choi, ChackMalal, AizalMallal, Matookhour, Gigral, Nikia, Pangali and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 30 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Badyal Brahmana and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 30 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Yatri Niwas, Bhawani

Nagar, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo, Trilokpur, Panjpeer, Nitco Lane, Vikas Nagar, Sari Rakhwal, Pounichak and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 30 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bakshi Nagar, Rajpura, Gurha, Rehari, Sarwal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 30 from 7 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Billawar, Sukral, Kishanpur, Tilla, Dewal, Bhaddu, Phinter and PHE shall remain affected on October 01 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ward No. 5 and 6 Bari Brahmana, Kothi Morh and Patayari shall remain affected on October 01 from 7 am to 2 pm.

CWS organises Gender Sensitization Workshop for Research Scholars

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Gender Sensitization Workshop Series, the Centre for Women Studies (CWS), University of Jammu organized a workshop for the Research Scholars of various Departments of the University of Jammu.

Prof. Deepsheekha Kotwal, Former Head, Department of English, University of Jammu & Former Dean and Head School of Languages, Central University of Jammu and Dr. Gita Chadha, Former Chairperson, Women Development Cell & Faculty, Dept of Sociology, University of Mumbai, were the Resource persons.

The workshop began with a welcome address by Prof. Vishav Raksha, Director, Centre for Women Studies, University of Jammu. She

introduced the Resource persons and spoke about the objective of conducting such a workshop.

Prof. Rajni Dhingra, Dean Research Studies, in her opening remarks expressed her sense of satisfaction with the participation of the research scholars across departments and appreciated the effort of the centre in organising this workshop.

She paid tribute to the late Kamla Bhasin a Feminist Activist who passed away recently. She also emphasised the importance of gender sensitisation and asked scholars to participate in such activities regularly. Prof. Deepsheekha Kotwal, one of the key speakers, spoke about the need for gender sensitization and also highlighted the other related concepts like stereotypical

roles, women identity, mobility and expression etc. She also averred that gender roles are actually essential life skills. Further, she suggested various ways to tackle the challenges and stressed the use of gender-neutral language to develop a sense of equality. She also gave details about the role played by Ahilya Bai, Rani Laxmi Bai etc and the need for rewriting their stories in today's context.

Dr. Gita Chadha the other key resource person spoke about the concept of gender and gender construction by highlighting the idea of masculinity and femininity. She gave a detailed presentation on the difference between sex and gender, patriarchy and other related concepts. She also explained that how patriarchy operates in different institutions and at differ-

ent levels in society. Besides she spoke in detail about whether all women are feminists and also whether men can be feminists. The workshop was attended by a large number of participants comprising of Research scholars and teachers from various departments of the University and from outside the University. The open session of the workshop where participants narrated their own experiences and asked questions related to various concepts and issues like stereotypical roles, Violence, Women in Media, Gender and culture was very interesting and generated a lot of interaction. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Saranjit Kaur, faculty, Centre for Women's Studies who also presented the formal vote of thanks.

Retreat ceremony at Suchetgarh will boost tourism: Parneesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Convener, Department of Training, BJP J&K on Wednesday welcoming the decision of the government to start a retreat ceremony at Suchetgarh Border claiming that the move will boost the tourism manifold in Jammu region. In a statement issued today, the senior BJP leader said that the government has fulfilled another promise made to the people of the region thus showing once again that step by step all the assurances made by the BJP leadership will become a reality with people getting what they have never imagined even in their dreams.

Dr Parneesh said that the move to start a retreat cere-

mony will bring along so many avenues for the people of Jammu region as this will give a reason to people visiting the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi to prolong their visit to Jammu to have the experience of this impressive ceremony.

"This surely will give edge to the hotel industry, transport industry and other stakeholders. This is simply the masterstroke of the government to boost-up the economy by way of wooing tourists to be a part of this ceremony", he said, adding that the introduction of Suchetgarh in the itinerary of tourists will help in making Jammu an independent tourist destination. He said that there are several other tourist projects which are in

pipeline to boost tourism in Jammu and once all these are opened up for the visitors Jammu will become a hub of tourism. The BJP leader congratulated the people of Jammu in general and Suchetgarh in particular for this new avenue which will prove out to be a game changer for them as things have been envisaged on the lines of Wagah border retreat ceremony though Pakistan has not been engaged in Suchetgarh.

Dr Parneesh said that it is just a matter of time now as the government has so much in offing for the people of J&K that in coming times there will be several vistas of opportunities for them to flourish and lead a life full of dignity and pride.

AYUSH medicines distribution camp held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking forward the service and dedication campaign by the BJP, Jammu Municipal corporation (JMC) Ward 53 Corporator Jyoti Devi, in collaboration with Directorate of AYUSH (Ayurvedic and Homeopathy) organised a camp for free distribution medicines at Maratha Basti in Gandhi Nagar constituency.

BJP senior leaders Harinder Gupta and Baldev Singh Billawaria were present on the occasion as a Chief Guests.

A team of doctors from the Directorate of AYUSH highlighted the benefits of AYUSH in fighting with viruses and boosting immunity.

Harinder Gupta, who dis-



Doctor and other dignitaries at a camp.

tributed medicines among the poor along with other prominent invitees in the camp, urged upon the people to take maximum benefits of such medicines which are distributed free of cost among the poor and needy ones, who cannot afford costly immunity

boosters.

He urged upon the people to follow the appropriate COVID behaviour to stay safe as prevention is better than cure.

Billawaria said it is need of the hour that such camps are organise at booth level in periodic

manner so that the medical facility is provided at doorsteps of the needy persons.

He said that the workers of Bharatiya Janata Party will stand by the people in the hour of crisis with service and dedication and will provide all possible help.

He congratulated the Department of AYUSH for organising camp and sensitizing people about the precautions to be taken to prevent COVID-19 infection, besides highlighting the importance of corona vaccination.

The camp was attended by Dr. Kuldeep Gupta, Dr. Harbaksh (Camp incharge), Dr. Rozy, Dr. Lotika, and paramedical staff Neelam, Pankaj, Sohail rendered their services in the camp.