CM reviews development of emerging tourist destinations in J&K, launches Tourism App

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the development of emerging tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTDC Shreya Singhal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, and other concerned officials, both in person and through

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to initiate site-specific Tourism Development



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

focus on Master Plan for each destination. He highlighted the importance of creating dedicated solid and liquid waste management systems to ensure environmentally sustainable tourism. He also underlined the need to have Project Management Unit in

place with adequate staff to strengthen institutional mechanism. He called upon Tourism Department to furnish the proposals for cabinet approval in earnest.

The Chief Minister further stressed the importance of establishing multiauthorities, local bodies, line departments and between J&K Government and Government of India to ensure smooth execution of projects as per

On the occasion, a presentation was given on the tourism potential of emerging destinations and the employment opportunities they could generate for local youth.

The Chief Minister urged the concerned departments to ensure that while developing emerging destinations, a careful balance is maintained between Economy, Ecology, and Equity (the 3E principle).

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Tourism App which would help tourists and all interested to explore J&K tourism destinations, facilities available and host of other relevant information.

The Rising YouTubers Hi guys Welcome to my channel Which channel?? Is it Doordarshan

Yudhvir Sethi starts development works at Karan Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed Main Gate along with lanes and drains development work at Karan Nagar, Ward No. 9, under Jammu East constituency.

The project, launched at a cost of Rs 10 lakhs, aims to strengthen local infrastructure and provide better civic amenities to the residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said the government is committed to ensuring equitable development across every ward and neighborhood.

"Vikas Ka Safar - Har Gali, Har Nagar is not just a slogan but our mission. We want every household to feel the benefits of better infrastructure and civic facilities. These developmental works will ease the daily lives of people and improve hygiene and connectivity in the area," he remarked.

Sethi also highlighted that public participation and cooperation are key to susMLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi starting development work on Ward 9.

tainable development. He Scores of local residents attended the event and thanked the residents for their constant support and assured them that more projects are in the pipeline

ing demands. On the occasion, AEE Sahil Arora, JE Ralesh Ex-Corporator Kumar. Ward No. 9 and BJP Jammu District General Secretary Suneet Raina, BJP District Vice President Asha Gupta, Ex-President Ambphalla Mandal Raman Sharma, Ward President, Shakti Kendra Parmukh. and all Booth Presidents of

Ward No. 9 were present.

to address their long-pend-

expressed gratitude to MLA Yudhvir for fulfilling their demands. They hailed the timely execution of works. which they said would bring significant relief to the area. Other prominent persons

present included Rajiv Sethi, Nepun Malhotra, Tahir Abbas, S. Charanjeet Singh, Gujandir, and Sanjay. The event concluded with

residents extending thanks to the MLA Yudhvir Sethi for taking concrete steps to ensure the area's holistic

Bag manufacturers call on Sat, seek **GST** revision on school bags



Deputation of All Jammu and Kashmir Bag Association calling on J&K BJP President Sat Sharma.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of the All Jammu and Kashmir Bag Association on Tuesday called on J&K BJP President Sat Sharma at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and submitted a memorandum requesting revision of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on school bags. J&K BJP General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, District Presidents Adv. Rajesh Gupta, and Rajeev Pandita and other party leaders were also present. The deputation, representing Micro, Small and

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR: Democracy is not

merely a modern system of gov-

ernance but a way of life deeply rooted in India's civilizational

ethos. References to democratic

thought can be traced back to

Vedic literature and ancient

texts, and that great thinkers

like Chanakya laid the founda-

tions of political ethics and gov-

ernance in India. This was stat

ed by the Lieutenant Governor

of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta,

while addressing the India

Youth Parliament held in

Jaipur, Rajasthan, on the occa-

sion of Democracy Day. The Lt

Governor, who was the Chief

Guest, said that after 2014.

under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi,

democracy in India has been

infused with new energy and

strength. With the mantra of

"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,

Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in the manufacturing and supply of school and college bags, highlighted that while essential educational items such as books, stationery, shoes, tiffin boxes and water bottles fall under the 5% GST category, school bags remain excluded and are taxed higher. They stressed that school bags are indispensable educational utility items and largely cater to students and middle-class families, a highly price-sensitive segment. The Association pointed out that over 70% of

bag manufacturers belong to the MSME sector, providing employment to thousands of skilled and unskilled workers, including women and rural artisans. They appealed that a reduction in GST would not only make school bags more affordable for families but also help sustain this labour-intensive industry, promote Make in India, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan and Atmanirbhar Bharat, and allow domestic manufacturers to compete effectively with lowcost imports from neighboring countries. While interacting with the deputation, Sat stated that the GST reforms under present government have already brought relief to people's pockets, and the issues raised will certainly receive sympathetic consideration at appropriate forum. He further assured that the matter will be taken up with the concerned quarters for review, keeping in mind the wider interest of students, parents, and the MSME

VC JDA inspects development works at Gole Gujral, Udheywala Housing Colonies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vice Chairman Development Jammu Authority (JDA) Rupesh Kumar inspected the pace of the ongoing development works at Gole Gujral and Udheywala housing colonies, here today. The visit aimed to assess the progress of key infrastructure projects being executed by the Authority.

During the inspection, the VC reviewed different components of the development works including construction, roaddrainage systems, landscaping and other essential civic amenities. He directed the engineering wing and field staff to uphold quality standards and ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

Reaffirming JDA's commitment to building wellplanned and sustainable

that the true spirit of democra-

cy lies in dialogue, cooperation,

and civic responsibility. Young

citizens, he said, must go

beyond applause to offering

constructive suggestions and

engaging in areas like cleanli-

ness, environment, education,

and technology to further

The Lt Governor also lauded

Ashutosh Joshi National

Convenor of the Indian Youth

Parliament, for organising the

event and providing a meaning-

ful platform to young people to

express their views, engage in

dialogue, and strengthen demo-

Concluding his address,

Kavinder Gupta called upon

the younger generation to

uphold the values of unity, har-

mony, and national integration,

stating that the strength of

India's democracy lies in the

strengthen democracy.

Chairman emphasized the need for regular monitoring, prompt redressal of public grievances and proactive removal of any bottlenecks hindering progress. He further stated that modern infrastructure and improved facilities remain a top priority for the Authority in enhancing the liveability of its colonies.

The inspection reflects JDA's ongoing efforts to deliver improved urban infrastructure and better services residents colonies.

Kumar Narender (Superintending Engineer, JDA), Sumir Sharma (AEE, Electrical), D.P. Singh (AEE, Mechanical), Bhuria (AEE, along with concerned Junior Engineers and field staff accompanied the Vice Chairman during the visit.

Jammu BJP office becomes Sanskritized; all LG Kavinder asks youth to take lead in nationoffice bearers display nameplates in Sanskrit

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: With the aim of promoting and spreading the Sanskrit language, the inspiring campaign "Har Ghar Sanskrit" (Sanskrit in Every Home), initiated by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President and State Awardee of Shri Kailakh Jvotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Jammu & Kashmir, has reached a new milestone today

the Jammu BJP office. As part of this initiative, all office bearers and representatives working at the Jammu BJP office have displayed their nameplates in Sanskrit, conveying a message of language preservation, cultural enhancement, and pride in tradition.

On this occasion, Sat Sharma, President of the Jammu & Kashmir BJP, stated, "Sanskrit is the treasure of our ancient tradition, knowledge, and



ated by Mahant Rohit Shastri is a significant effort to raise awareness about the language, instill self-pride, and revive Indian culture in society. The BJP family supports this campaign and is committed to spreading it widely across the commu-

R.K. Chibber, Trustee of the Trust, said, "Sanskrit is not just a language, but the foundation of our cultural identity, religious scriptures, and scientific knowledge. If it reaches every home and office, not only will the younger generation stay connected with their roots, but the spiritual strength of India will also be fortified. Installing Sanskrit nameplates at the Jammu BJP office is an inspiring step in this direction.

Leading members and office bearers present at the event shared their views on the importance

of Sanskrit. All took a pledge to promote the use of Sanskrit in their families, society, and workplaces. During the program, Sanskrit verses were recited, making the atmosphere even more motivating.

This campaign will expand further in the coming days. The Trust plans to reach schools, colleges, ashrams, social tions, and businesses by installing Sanskrit nameplates, conducting Sanskrit learning camps, and organizing cultural seminars to create aware-

Leaders such as Sunil Sharma (Leader Opposition), Gururam Bhagat, Sangeeta Dogra, Pramod Sharma, Rajan Sharma, Verma, Mahajan, Balbir Ram Rattan, and others were also present at the event.

Sainik Colony residents intensify fight for civilian rights, plan meetings with Registrar, Minister

building through democratic participation

Says India's democracy stronger and more inclusive under PM Modi

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta lighting

ceremonial lamp.

democracy

He highlighted how initiatives

like Jan Dhan Yojana, Digital

India, and Direct Benefit

Transfer have strengthened

transparency, accountability

and inclusivity, empowering

women, youth and rural com-

Kavinder Gupta emphasised

munities.

reached the grassroots level.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The residents of Sainik Colony have stepped up their struggle to reclaim civilian rights, intensifying their campaign against what they describe as the "dictatorial and unilateral functioning" of the Colony Sainik current Management Committee.

A significant development unfolded today as the second meeting of the newly formed Sainik Colony Civilian Residents' Rights Association (SCCRRA) was held at the Ram Mandir Complex, Sector

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that today, India's democracy is

more inclusive, participatory

and result-oriented than ever

before, evolving into a vibrant

The Lt Governor urged the

youth to actively participate in

democratic processes, from

Panchayats to Parliament, and

contribute responsibly to

nation-building. He stressed

people's movement.

D. The gathering brought together prominent local voices determined to challenge the status quo and demand accountability. During the core committee meeting, residents strongly criticized the Management Committee for allegedly ignoring a prior order issued by the Registrar, which they say was meant to ensure transparent and lawful administration of the colony. The residents accused the present com-

being of civilians." In a decisive step forward, the SCCRRA finalized a comprehensive action plan aimed at escalating their concerns to the highest levels of authority. The

mittee of bypassing democratic

processes, leading to a situation

they termed as "arbitrary gov-

ernance detrimental to the well-

key decisions adopted during the meeting.

The residents plan to approach the Registrar, demanding strict compliance with his previous directives, which they claim have been systematically flouted by the current management and a delegation representing SCCRRA will soon meet the concerned government minister to submit a detailed memorandum. The document will outline the grievances of the residents and urge immediate intervention to restore civilian rights and

transparent administration. SCCRRA spokesperson, while addressing the media, said, "Our movement is purely peaceful and democratic in nature. We seek the rightful restoration of civilian authority

and demand that all arbitrary actions by the existing committee be reversed. We will not relent until the dignity and rights of Sainik Colony residents are fully restored."

The movement has gained significant traction within the community, with many residents pledging active participation in upcoming events. The next phase will involve intense lobbying, legal representation, and public awareness campaigns as the residents aim to end what they term a "longstanding dictatorship" in their

The authorities have not yet responded to the announced plans of SCCRRA, but the coming days are expected to witness pivotal developments in this unfolding civic struggle.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu on Tuesday bade a farewell to three of its longest-serving faculty members-Anil Baru (Music Department), Tehmina Akhter (Urdu Department), and Veena Bakshi (Hindi Department)- as they retired after nearly three decades of dedicated service.

The farewell ceremony was graced by the esteemed management of DPS Jammu, including Ajatshatru Singh, President, Rajput Charitable Trust; Dr. Ritu Singh, Pro Vice Chairperson; and S.S. Sodhi, Director.

They expressed deep gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the retiring teachers and assured that the "doors of DPS Jammu will always remain open and the hearts of the DPS family forever warmed by their pres-

The ceremony was heartfelt and celebratory, with students, teachers, and staff showering flower petals on the retirees. Principal Ruchi



DPS Jammu feaulty according farewell to teachers.

Chabra garlanded them, and they were escorted amidst vibrant Dhol beats, creating a memorable and touching farewell.

Anil Baru, who served 33 years and was the founding Head of the Music Department, reflected on his journey from the school's early days as Saplings. Known for his mesmerizing violin solos and jugalbandis, he said, "DPS has been my home, my family. To see it grow into this magnificent institution is a privilege."

Tehmina Akhter, with 27 years of service, contributed beyond teaching Urdu, handling multiple administrative responsibilities. Known for her discipline and organizational skills, she also recited a self-composed Nazm dedicated to the school. She said, "This school gave me every opportunity to grow, and the bonds formed here will last a lifetime.

Veena Bakshi, who taught Hindi and Sanskrit for 22 years, was admired for her sincerity and mentorship. She shared, "Every child I taught has left an imprint on my heart. DPS Jammu will always be a part of me."

Principal Ruchi Chabra praised the trio as "lamps of

learning" whose dedication has shaped generations. She remarked. "As educators, we do not retire - we only move into a new phase where the love of our students and colleagues keeps us alive in memory and spirit.

The occasion also featured a soulful cultural programme by the Music Department, adding a nostalgic touch to the farewell, which was beautifully compered by Anuradha Anand and Lotika Mahajan. The event ended with warm wishes for the retirees' new journeys and gratitude for their lasting legacy at DPS Jammu.