

# LG Kavinder asks officials to remain vigilant, responsive, people-friendly approach

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEIH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting on the prevailing law and order situation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Director General of Police Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, Additional Director General of CRPF Rajesh Kumar, and senior officers of the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

The officers briefed the Lt Governor on recent developments, preparedness measures, and inter-agency coordination to maintain peace and normalcy.

Taking stock of the ground situation after the relaxation of restrictions in some areas, the Lt Governor commended the



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a high-level review meeting.

people of Ladakh for their responsible conduct.

He noted that citizens have displayed maturity, restraint, and a deep commitment to peace during a sensitive period. "The people's cooperation reflects the true spirit of harmony that defines our region," he said.

Acknowledging the efforts of security forces, police, and administration, Kavinder Gupta urged officials to remain vigilant, responsive, and adopt a people-friendly approach. He stressed that law and order should be enforced firmly yet sensitively, keeping public welfare and sentiments in mind.

The Lt Governor directed enhanced intelligence gathering, regular community engagement, and swift redressal of grievances to strengthen trust between citizens and the administration.

He appealed to the youth to channel their energies towards constructive nation-building

and assured that every legitimate concern of the people would be addressed through dialogue and democratic means.

Calling peace the foundation of development, Kavinder Gupta urged all sections of society to uphold unity and harmony while resisting anti-social and anti-national elements.

Reiterating his government's commitment to safeguard Ladakh's unique culture and aspirations, he said sustained peace and stability would pave the way for growth and greater opportunities in the region.



# 99th Birth Anniversary of Rishi Kumar Koushal marked with grand educational outreach in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The serene surroundings of Rishi Kumar Koushal Chowk, Reasi came alive with a spirit of reverence and community service as hundreds gathered to celebrate the 99th Birth Anniversary of Late Rishi Kumar Koushal, a revered social worker and guiding light for generations in the region.

The occasion was not only a remembrance of an extraordinary life dedicated to public welfare but also a reaffirmation of his enduring legacy through meaningful acts of charity and education.

The commemorative event was graced by Yograj Mengi, a prominent social reformer from Reasi, who highlighted the importance of carrying forward Rishi's mission of selfless service.

The family members of the late reformer, led by his sons-Dr. Vipin Koushal, Raman Koushal and grandson Abhiudit Koushal ensured that their father's



Dignitaries paying tributes to Late Rishi Kumar Koushal.

cherished values of education and empowerment remained the focal point of the celebrations.

In a remarkable display of philanthropy, the Koushal family, in association with NGO Vishav Manav Ruhani Kendra Nawanagar (Haryana) of revered Sant Baljit Singh, distributed school bags, books & other stationary items to 2,000 students (covering other 30 government schools as well) of District Reasi at Govt High School Kaimbal Danga, Reasi.

This noble initiative marks

a significant expansion of their annual outreach, which last year benefited 800 students-a testament to the growing scale and impact of their efforts to uplift young learners in the region.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Vipin Koushal emphasized the role of education in shaping a better society, describing it as "the most powerful tool of transformation," while expressing gratitude to the NGO partners and local volunteers who made the large-scale distribution possible.

Raman Koushal recalled

his father's deep connection with Reasi and his lifelong belief that true social reform begins with empowering the next generation through knowledge.

The presence of community leaders, educators, and parents added to the atmosphere of respect and admiration for Late Rishi Kumar Koushal, whose life remains a beacon of service, humility, and dedication to human welfare.

The smiles on the faces of the young beneficiaries-many of whom received essential educational materials for the first time-echoed the enduring message of the day: that service to humanity is the greatest tribute one can pay to a noble soul.

As Reasi prepares to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Rishi Kumar Koushal next year, this year's milestone serves as a powerful reminder that the seeds of compassion and education he sowed continue to flourish, inspiring both family and community to reach greater heights in social service.

# Dogri play 'Chanchlo' staged at GCW Parade in collaboration with Rangyug, 92.7 BIG FM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Performing Arts, Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, in collaboration with Rangyug - Theatre for Social Change and Self-Realisation, and 92.7 BIG FM under their initiative Hands for Humanity, successfully staged the much-acclaimed Dogri play Chanchlo at the college auditorium today.



RJ Dr. Juhie Mohan performing in Dogri play 'Chanchlo' at GCW Parade.

Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Dr. Vijay Puri, and Dr. Randheer Kaur.

The 90-minute performance kept the audience riveted and concluded with a standing ovation, underscoring the production's artistic merit and social relevance.

An adaptation of Nadira Zaheer Babbar's iconic Hindi play Sakubai, the Dogri rendition brought alive the struggles

and resilience of a domestic worker navigating exploitation, displacement, and survival. Dr. Juhie Mohan's emotionally charged performance left the audience deeply moved.

Speaking on the occasion, Nodal Principal All Colleges Jammu Division, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, praised the initiative, calling it a live masterclass for students pursuing skill

courses in theatre. He highlighted how the production showcased every aspect of theatre-acting, direction, lighting, stage management, props, and technical design-offering students valuable exposure to professional practices. Director Deepak Kumar stressed Rangyug's collaboration with GCW Parade in Theatre in Education, aiming to foster

holistic development, confidence-building, and creative expression among women students. "Through productions like Chanchlo, we inspire young minds, raise awareness on social issues, and provide practical exposure to live theatre," he said. The performance was supported by a creative team including Ashish Sharma (Assistant Director and lights), Shivan Gupta (music and sound), Shammi Dhamir (make-up), and Neharika (props), with production support from Sumit, Poonam, and students of the Skill course in Theatre. The event also reflected Rangyug and 92.7 BIG FM's Hands for Humanity campaign, linking art with humanitarian causes, including support for flood-affected families in J&K.

# GoC, 26 Infantry Div, Congress delegation call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Major General Mukesh Bhanwala, General Officer Commanding (GoC), 26 Infantry Division (Tiger Division) called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and briefed him on the relief and restoration efforts of the Indian Army in flood-hit areas under 'Operation Rahat'.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the Indian Army for minimizing the loss of precious lives by acting swiftly during the recent natural calamities and providing

humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

Meanwhile, A delegation of senior leaders of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee led by its Working President and former Minister Raman Bhalla called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The members of the delegation discussed various welfare issues of families and farmers affected due to recent natural calamities in Jammu Kashmir. They submitted a memorandum requesting the Central Government for a comprehensive relief,

rehabilitation, restoration, and re-construction package.

They further requested for the constitution of a high-level team of experts to visit the landslide and land sinking affected areas.

The delegation also demanded urgent repairs and restoration of damaged road infrastructure and completion of vital road projects in J&K.

The Lieutenant Governor assured that the issues raised during the interaction will be taken up on priority for early resolution.

# Union Secretary DoSEL calls on Sakeena Itoo



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Secretary Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Sanjay Kumar on Monday called on Minister for Education, Social, Health and Medical Sakeena Itoo, and briefed the Minister about his extensive field visit and assessment of various schools in Budgam and Srinagar districts.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu; Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma and other senior officers of education department were also present on the occasion.

During the deliberations, the Union Secretary assured the

Minister of full support from the Centre for infrastructure development and modernization of schools to ensure universal access to quality education for all children in Jammu and Kashmir.

At the outset, the Minister stressed the need for reforms in the Samagra Shiksha scheme to make it more student-centric and outcome-oriented.

The Minister also asked the Secretary to establish more ICT labs in schools, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. She also called the Secretary to make the provision for subject specific teachers under Samagra Shiksha or any other scheme.

"Our focus is on expanding vocational and skill-based edu-

cation, ensuring that our students are future-ready. For this, support from the Central Government is crucial to upgrade infrastructure and take the education sector of J&K to new heights", the Minister said.

She further said that the government is working to expedite the recruitment of teachers to increase the pupil-teacher ratio and strengthen the teaching-learning process.

Union Secretary appreciated the progress made by the J&K Government and said that the Centre is committed to extend all possible assistance to J&K in developing robust school infrastructure, digital learning platforms, and capacity building for teachers.

# JKAS officer gets bail in CBI bribery case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases) Kashmir, Srinagar, has granted bail to KAS Officer Sarfaraz Ahmad Bhat, who was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in a bribery case last week.

Bhat, serving as CTO Circle-B in the State Taxes Department, Srinagar, was arrested on September 19 following a trap laid by the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch. He was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 from a trader at Budshah Chowk, Srinagar, in exchange for clearing GST-related files.

The defence, represented by Advocate Farooq Ahmad Kathwari, argued that Bhat was innocent, had deep roots in society, and should be released on bail as he posed no flight

risk. The CBI, represented by Public Prosecutor Zahoor Malik, opposed the bail plea, citing the seriousness of corruption charges and the potential of the accused influencing witnesses.

After hearing both sides, the court observed that the maximum punishment for the offence is seven years, and keeping the accused in further custody would serve no purpose once recovery had already been effected. The court reiterated the principle that "bail is the rule and jail the exception", noting that every accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Bhat was admitted to bail on furnishing a bond of ₹1 lakh and was directed not to tamper with evidence, cooperate with the investigation, and not leave Jammu and Kashmir without prior court permission.

# Awareness event on POCSO Act, POSH, cyber crime, mental well-being held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mission Shakti, District Hub for empowerment of women Jammu in collaboration with the Institute of Music and Fine Arts on Monday organised an awareness session on the POCSO Act, POSH Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, legal awareness, cyber crime prevention and mental well-being for students and faculty members.

The legal awareness session was led by Advocate Meenu Padha, who educated participants about the provisions of the POCSO Act and POSH, along with cyber crime prevention measures and precautions related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). She also guided students on how to file complaints and safeguard themselves in the digital era. The mental well-being segment was conducted



by Dr. Manisha Gupta, who addressed issues such as anxiety, stress and depression, sharing practical tips for emotional balance and mental health care.

The event was graced by Principal of the Institute Dr. Shohab Malik and Head of the Fine Arts Department Rakesh Sharma, who motivated the students to stay aware and proactive.

The event was organised under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer Jammu Nawaz Sharief and District

Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti Shagun Manchanda.

Gender Specialist DHEW Sonali Rana, highlighted the ongoing initiatives of the mission for women's empowerment and adolescent welfare. Specialist in Financial Literacy from DHEW Sunil Choudhary responded to key queries at the interactive discussion, enriching the concluding session.

The program concluded with a lively Q&A, leaving students and faculty better informed about legal rights, cyber safety and the importance of mental health.