

J&K possesses vast potential for entrepreneurship, innovation, incubation & startups: Advisor Bhatnagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 27: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today remarked that Jammu and Kashmir has vast potential for entrepreneurship, innovation, incubation and start-ups and a lot of growth and development is happening across the region from the last three years.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the inaugural of five day Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development for Aspiring and Existing Entrepreneurs.

The program has been organised by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu in collaboration with Skill India and Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at KC, City Centre here.

Addressing the large gathering of aspiring entrepreneurs, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the present period is 'Sunrise Period' for entire Jammu and Kashmir as the UT is witnessing tremendous growth and development from the last three, four years owing to constructive and reformative policy making. He added that our country is emerging as 'Land of Opportunities' and the growth story of India has no parallel across the world.

The Advisor further highlighted that the J&K has offered best industrial investment package to



Advisor Bhatnagar with Milind Kamble and Prof B S Sahay at inaugural of Capacity Building Programme by IIM Jammu on Monday.

the industrial sector and the region witnessed remarkable investments in last couple of years. He added that the present LG led Administration is providing all possible assistance and support to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Highlighting the significance of this capacity building program, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this program aims to provide participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to start, grow and sustain a small business. He added that the program will offer a range of training sessions on topics such as business planning, marketing, financial management, and legal considerations to establish successful enterprises.

The Advisor also said that the participants will have the opportunity to learn from experienced entrepreneurs, industry experts, and business professionals, who will share their knowledge and expertise. He added that the participants will also be able to network with other entrepreneurs and build relationships that can help them in

their business journey.

Advisor Bhatnagar also highlighted that the UT Government is in the process of establishing one Small Business Development Unit (SMDU) Centres in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to cater to the growing needs of aspiring entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM, Jammu, Milind Kamble said that this is a historical day for Jammu and Kashmir as the budding entrepreneurs have the ability to upscale the economy of our country.

Addressing the participants, Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S Sahay said this is a platform to transform small businesses into large scale enterprises as well as a stage for aspiring entrepreneurs to learn about how to establish good enterprises.

During the sidelines of the Capacity Building Program, Advisor Bhatnagar also interacted with the participants and spoke in length with them about their futuristic entrepreneurial plans.

Srinagar City set to be at its charming best by mid April: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 27: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today had a whirlwind tour of Srinagar City. He took on-spot assessment of different developmental works taken up under Smart City and by other executing agencies around the city and also fixed timeline for completion of each.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC; VC, LCMA; and many other concerned officers of Police and Civil administration.

Dr Mehta observed that the city is going to change for better by mid April this year. He said that the city is going to change its outlook altogether with the completion of these projects at different stages of execution presently. He further added that these works would give a massive facelift to the city thereby enhancing its appeal for all the residents and tourists.

The Chief Secretary visited different project sites under Smart City Mission. He took stock of the progress of work on each of them and passed on several directions for their early completion. He stressed on timely completion of all these works in the wake upcoming tourist season.

While taking on-spot assessment of the Jhelum River front

development the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to complete the work by 15th of April.

At Polo View, the Chief Secretary emphasized on making the entire area aesthetically appealing adopting an integrated approach. He asked for facade improvement of adjoining buildings and carry out other beautification works simultaneously.

On visit to Dal Lake, Dr Mehta inspected the work of lake front development along Northern Foreshore Road of the Lake from Nishat to Naseem Bagh including pedestrian walkway. He urged the authorities to ensure its completion by 15th of April this year. He also instructed for completing the lighting of Western Fore Shore Road by 15th of March itself.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the need for connecting all the houseboats with the STPs. He directed for utilizing the 36 MLD capacity of Sewage Treatment optimally and connect all the 900 houseboats in the lake with the Sewage lines. He asked them to divert the residual to oxidation ponds out of the 48 MLD produced daily.

He exhorted upon the concerned to start the motorboats to commence their cruise and initiate water sports activities in the lake by 15th of March. He asked them to repair all the Jetties and segregate them from the ones for motor boats. He told the Culture Department to start their activities full throttle at 5-Chinar by 15th of March and turn Pratap Park in the heart of the civil lines of the city into a culture centre.

Regarding other works he instructed for ornamental plantations on road medians, painting of grills/kerbs, improvement of Dal Gate and Gupkar junctions, erection of around 1500 lights in the lanes and bye-lanes, erection of view cutter on all flyovers, sprucing-up of Iqbal Park, Boundary wall of Hazratbal shrine, Macadamization of city roads and the parking lot near Lal-Ded Hospital before April.

British Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, holds high-level delegation talks

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 27 : British Minister, Christina Scott today called on 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 at the Ministry of Earth Sciences headquarters at Prithvi Bhavan here today.

She was accompanied by a high-level delegation of 25 members including some eminent scientists who held over an hour and a half long talks with the Indian delegation in presence of the Indian Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said, not only both the countries are in the same hemisphere but it is easier to work with the United Kingdom as the comfort level in our relationship is quite high.

The Minister inaugurated the 4th "WCSSP-India Annual Science Workshop - 2023" and said, there is big scope for collaboration between India and the United Kingdom in Weather Forecasting.

"Both societies face similar situations, which makes us look at issues including weather forecasting, with a common perspective," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said weather prediction has become a science of precise modelling and involves critical technology and data assimilation.

"Weather forecasting has become an essential part of the life of the common citizen," he said, stressing on the need for continuous improvisation.

Speaking on the occasion, Christina Scott hoped the Workshop will help formulate the right kind of response to severe and extreme weather phenomena affecting both countries. The two countries are also working closely on building Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, she said.

Addressing the workshop, Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said this Workshop is being held

February 2019. It followed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India and Met Office, UK on 28th January 2019.

Around 25 UK scientists and around 70 Indian scientists/researchers will physically participate in the workshop in addition to more than 50 online participants. The deliberations and discussion during the meeting are expected to give new ideas and directions called on him at the Ministry of Earth for this collaborative Sciences headquarters, at Prithvi Bhavan, effort to improve the weather and climate forecast capabilities, especially of the high impact weather over the Indian region.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh with the British Minister, Christina Scott who, along with a high-level delegation, ideas and directions called on him at the Ministry of Earth for this collaborative Sciences headquarters, at Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi on Monday.

weather and climate forecast capabilities, especially of the high impact weather over the Indian region.

The key science objectives of WCPSS-India Project through India-UK collaboration include research on natural hazards in the South Asian Monsoon system and improving tools and techniques for risk based forecasting of natural hazards at a range of prediction timescales.

The Workshop is being held as part of the Implementation Agreement related to the project "Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership India (WCSSP-India)", signed on 7th

Cold store construction at Chenani

Arun Manhas sets deadline of March 31 for completion

Excelsior Correspondent

CHENANI (UDHAMPUR), Feb 27: Managing Director, J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited (JK

the district. This facility will help in income generation for the farmers by way of selling their produce in the market when the rates are appropriate.

Pertinently, the 320 MT Cold Store was approved under NABARD loan scheme for an amount of Rs.282.17 lakh. The building for the said project was handed over to the department of Agriculture Jammu to the JK AIDCL for creating



MD JK AIDCL Dr Arun Manhas during a visit to the construction site at Chenani.

the Cold Store facility. This cold store will cater to the requirements of farmers in and around district Udhampur and it will be used for storing fruits, vegetables etc.

MD directed the contractor to pace up the construction work and complete the project by 31st March, 2023.

MD said that this cold store facility is first of its kind post harvest support to the farmers of

Be responsive to public issues, beware of black sheep: DSS to LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 27: Former minister and president, Dogra Sadar Sabha, Gulchain Singh Charak has expressed serious concern over a spate of non-popular and harsh decisions of the UT administration and ignoring some of the most important issues of the UT (particularly Jammu region) that have invited ire of one or the other section of the local population.

inconvenience, growing restlessness amongst unemployed youth and casual labourers/ daily wagers, PM Package employees refusing to serve in Kashmir province because of selective killings and security threats, no action on deportation of Rohingyas, Charak has said that gradually, the nationalist forces in the UT are finding themselves on a defensive as people have begun to question the benefits of abrogating Article 370 of Indian Constitution and partitioning the State of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh into two Union Territories.

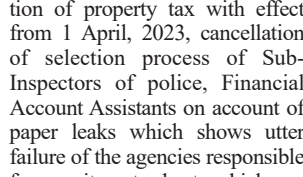
Addressing a press conference

State of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh into two Union Territories.

He said that although cosmetic touches are being given and infrastructure is being developed under the Smart City Jammu Project, but regrettably, the heritage value of its monuments within the walled city Jammu is not being taken proper care. Even the roofs of the whole Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex have been dismantled and exposed to vagaries of weather damaging the fabulous, artistic, priceless interiors and the work is nowhere nearing completion.

Charak said that it appears some black-sheep in the administration within the Union Territory and even at the Union Capital are misguided the UT top-brass and national leadership and not bringing the reality of grassroots level to their knowledge. He apprehended a conspiracy at different levels to widen the gulf between the government and the common people and asked the PM, HM and LG to be aware and more accessible to voice of the people.

Senior members GA Khawaja, Col Virender K Sahi, Gambhir Dev, CM Sharma and Amant Ali Shah also accompanied.



DSS president Gulchain Singh addressing press conference in Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

Jammu today, Charak while citing the recent ill planned drive on retrieval of encroached lands and constructions, decision on imposition of property tax with effect from 1 April, 2023, cancellation of selection process of Sub-Inspectors of police, Financial Account Assistants on account of paper leaks which shows utter failure of the agencies responsible for recruitments, due to which carrier of thousands of highly qualified youths is put to risk, besides creating anxiety and restlessness among the youths and cancellation of results of recruitment to two Border Battalions of Jammu and Kashmir Police following discrepancies noticed in the software application of the implementing agency, playing down of environmental degradation, landslides and incidents of damage to houses and lands along Jammu - Srinagar highway caused by faulty execution of road widening project, breach of Ranbir Canal at Dharap putting thousands of farmers to

ADG reviews security in Pulwama

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 27: Additional Director General of Police Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, today reviewed security in Pulwama a day after the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit bank security guard.

measures put in place by the participating officers.

During the meeting, ADGP impressed upon them to implement additional security measures in order to prevent such militancy incidents.

While instructing the officers present in the meeting, the ADGP stressed to enhance counter-militancy operations in Pulwama district.

He also directed police officers present in the meeting to generate more human and technical intelligence and further launch counter-militancy operations along with security forces.

Besides, the process for identifying hybrid militants and taking appropriate actions were also discussed in the meeting.



AAP leaders protesting at Jammu against arrest of Manish Sisodia.

AAP gheraoes BJP office in Jammu to protest arrest of Delhi Dy CM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 27: Jammu Province unit of the Aam Aadmi Party today gheraoed the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar and staged a vigorous protest outside it to resent the arrest of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

friends of PM Modi while the Education Minister of Delhi who is making constant efforts to provide better education to poor children, has been arrested.

Aam Aadmi Party workers said that they will not tolerate this at any cost and will start a big movement against it on the streets. AAP leaders called upon the party workers to unite people against such anti-democratic steps of the Central Government and teach a befitting lesson to the BJP in the coming elections.

Alleging that the BJP Government at the Center was misusing various agencies to arrest the opposition leader by implicating them in false allegations, AAP claimed that this BJP will have to pay heavy price for its anti-people moves in the next Lok Sabha elections.

The protest was led by AAP leader Surinder Singh Shingari, Ravi Shastri, Amit Kapoor, Namrata, Reena, Partap, Gunmeet, Rajesh Pangotra, Sandeep Sharma, Jayesh Gupta, Amrik Singh, Rajesh Bali, Raju Salania, Raman Sharma, Paminder, Amritwatal, Mohinder Pal, Gokdy, Raj Kumar, Nisha and others.

taken up for further detailed work". The detailed work was undertaken, as recommended by the Sharma-Uppal team, only in 2020-22. More such promising rocks are expected in the belt.

Both of them spoke of their experience during survey and said that what has come to light is one of the six such patches of Lithium deposits. Sharma said that the investigation of the rare strategic mineral was conceptualised and framed by the then Director GSI late M R Kalsotra, also a Life Member of the Association, in 1995.

Speaking on the occasion, J K Vaid, former Director, GSI and former General Secretary of the Association, strongly discounted misleading media reports of negative fallout on environment due to 'mining' of Lithium ore in the area and said that Li exploration in similar Geological set up is taking place all over the country and around the globe. He clarified that the deposits are occurring as blanket deposits on the surface and mining would involve just scraping of the upper infertile crust of the ore with hardly any environmental concern.

Indo-American NRI delegation calls on JU VC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 27: Indo-American NRI delegation comprising of Shashi Chopra, President Gandhi Global US and Retd Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma, under the aegis of Mahatma Gandhi too was of the same opinion. He emphasised on experiential learning and said that in this direction, the University of Jammu is taking various student-friendly initiatives and trying to develop a curriculum based on direct experience in order to increase knowledge, develop skills and clarify values. He further highlighted the achievements, University has achieved recently that includes constitution of the Women's Collegiate Board, establishment of the Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Skill Development Centre (IIESDC) with the Verticals i.e Entrepreneurship Development, Skill Development and Career Planning, Business Incubation and Innovation (BII), Industrial - Academia Partnership.

delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Umesh Rai quoted excerpts from the book of Acharya Vinoba, who always emphasised on hands-on experience learning of which Mahatma Gandhi too was of the same opinion. He emphasised on experiential learning and said that in this direction, the University of Jammu is taking various student-friendly initiatives and trying to develop a curriculum based on direct experience in order to increase knowledge, develop skills and clarify values. He further highlighted the achievements, University has achieved recently that includes constitution of the Women's Collegiate Board, establishment of the Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Skill Development Centre (IIESDC) with the Verticals i.e Entrepreneurship Development, Skill Development and Career Planning, Business Incubation and Innovation (BII), Industrial - Academia Partnership.

Earlier the delegation was formally received by Vice-Chancellor and Baldev Ballowria, the Deputy Mayor, JMC who joined the University fraternity to welcome the

protesters were raising slogans against the BJP Government at the Centre. Opposing the arrest of Manish Sisodia, they termed the Modi Government as a Hitlerite regime.

The protesters alleged that the BJP Government at the Center was arresting opposition leaders through various agencies by implicating them in various scams so that pressure can be put on them to suppress their voices. Describing the arrest of Manish Sisodia as a Hitlerite move of the Government, they said that the people who are involved in scams worth crores of rupees have remained

providers of India and abroad.

To meet the desired objectives, eminent guest speakers from Police and different academia have been invited.

The course was inaugurated by Rajinder Kumar Gupta (SSP), Deputy Director (Indoor, Trainings). In his inaugural address, Gupta said it is the need of hour for the police to understand how to get the evidences from social media, how to use the social media for enforcing law and order and how to use social media for changing the perception of police in general public.

The inaugural function was also attended by Summati Gupta (Deputy SP) and Sukhvinder Singh (Deputy SP, SKPA).

The course is being coordinated by Inspector Ajay Singh Chib.

CGPWA honours K K Sharma, S C Uppal for exploring Lithium in Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 27: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu today honoured two of its Life Members, K K Sharma & S C Uppal, former



Two Geologists of GSI being honoured by CGPWA for their exploration of Lithium ores in Reasi belt.

Geologists of GSI, for their pioneering exploratory survey of area in Reasi that led to discovery of Lithium ores in abundance in the belt.

The Patron of the CGPWA, S S Wazir along with two former Chief Secretaries, B R Kundal & B R Sharma and former Secretary to Govt of India, Ashok Angurana, presented mementos to K K Sharma & S C Uppal in recognition of their pioneering exploratory work in mid-nineties. Both Sharma & Uppal had surveyed the area as a GSI team for final report in December 1999.

General Secretary, CGPWA, K B Jandial, said that the services of the former Geologists of GSI need to be recognized by the Govt and the Society for their painstaking exploratory work. Their work has finally led to discovery of crucial reserves in abundance that can be the game changer in the economic development of Jammu and the country.

Sharma & Uppal team had conducted geochemical survey of 350 sq km area for base metal and lithium in Sirban group of rocks in

Parikshat takes stock of Grade-8 exams



Prof. Parikshat Manhas inspecting an examination Centre at Srinagar on Monday.

an examination centre where the Children With Special Needs (CWSN) were taking the examination, emphasized the importance of providing everything the kids would need.

Pertinently, some 1741 children with exceptional needs from both the divisions are taking the exam as well.

The SCERT and the associated District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) are supervising the entire process of conducting the examinations.

2-day training program for JKP officers commences

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 27: A 2-day training programme on "Social Media Challenges in Law & order and Radicalization" commenced today at SKPA.

Eighteen officers of the rank of SI to Deputy SP of different wings of J&K Police (JKP) participated in the course.

The training programme has been designed to meet the basic objectives like to understand the role of social media in Police behaviour, perception and challenges, role of social media in better policing, various types of crimes on social media and legal provision thereof to safe guard Police interest, online crimes and abuse on social networking sites and how to get evidence from different social media service

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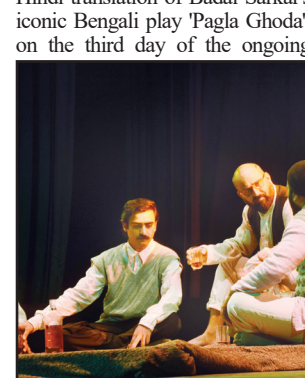
Badal Sarkar's modern classic play 'Pagla Ghoda' staged

Lalit Gupta

JAMMU, Feb 27: Hill Thespians staged an absorbing presentation of Pratibha Agarwal's Hindi translation of Badal Sarkar's iconic Bengali play 'Pagla Ghoda', on the third day of the ongoing

men to share their stories. They narrated love stories by each man in a roundabout revealing guilt in sacrificing his love instead of taking a risk in fear of social disapproval.

Directed and designed by young Sunil Sharma, today's play was an engaging presentation by five amateur actors who were able to glide between the intense layers, subplots, and intertwining backstories of all five characters. Sunaina Kumari effortlessly slipped into multiple roles of Malti, Mili, Laxmi, and Ladki. Her perfect timing of intermittent dialogues and free-flowing on-stage movements knitted the narration. She successfully modulated her sonorous voice along with changing the colors of her dupattas rendering individuality to all four women characters.



Artists performing during a play at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. - Excelsior/Rakesh

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Sunil Sharma as Satu, Javed Gill as Karim, Neeraj Sethi as Shashi, and Shubham Rajput as Heemadadi, spoke respective lines with the flow and drove the play forward. The production design was marked by well thought and executed blocking, movements, and physical behavior. The music and light design also added emotional intensity to the scenes.

Tomorrow, on Feb 28, Bhartiya Kala Sangam, will stage the play 'Bali and Shambu', written by Manav Kaul and directed by Mohit Mehra.

Festival of Plays, organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, at Abhinav Theatre, here today.

The modern Indian classic play written in 1967, deals with women question and emphasizes her subjugation in the patriarchy-entrenched Indian social system and its influences on both men and women.

The play which uses surrealistic elements opens in a cremation ground at night, where four men are waiting for the incineration of the corpse of a young woman who has committed suicide. To pass the time, they play cards and drink liquor. The spirit of the young, nameless girl on the pyre motivates