

## Dr Karan Singh unveils Golden Jalheri of Shivling at Karaneshwar Temple

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, today unveiled a magnificent gold-plated Jalheri of Sphatik Shivling, costing approximately Rs 15 lakhs, at the Karaneshwar Temple within the premises of Shree Raghunath ji Temple, Jammu.

The cost of this Golden Jalheri was paid by Dr Karan Singh from his personal expenses. A team of highly skilled goldsmiths from Amritsar was specially brought in to create this marvelously crafted Golden Jalheri, showcasing their expertise and craftsmanship.

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

Ajatshatru Singh, Ranvijay Singh and Martand Singh, all Trustees, accompanied the Chairman Trustee at the unveiling of Golden Jalheri.

On Thursday, the Hawan was started by Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of the Trust, which culminated today with the Puran Aahuti by Dr Karan Singh. The decoration of the Karaneshwar Temple was made by the Royal family.

In addition to this momentous occasion, Dr Karan Singh conveyed his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, fostering a sense of unity and



Dr Karan Singh with Ajatshatru Singh, Ranvijay Singh and Martand Singh at the unveiling of Golden Jalheri.

goodwill among the community. He shared that this Natraj ji Temple holds a special significance as it was personally got built by him. He highlighted the rare Sphatik Shivling which was specially imported by him from Germany, enriching its spiritual ambience.

Expressing his commitment towards preserving and enhancing the temples falling under the ambit of Dharmarth Trust, Dr Karan Singh emphasized the organization's dedicated efforts in ensuring the maintenance and provision of modern facilities for devotees.

During his visit, Dr. Karan Singh also interacted with devotees and distributed Prasad among them.

Later, Dr Karan Singh pre-



Lt Governor along with Shazia Amin Mir on Friday.

## Chairman DDC Budgam, Educationist call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 7: Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman, District Development Council, Budgam called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today.

The DDC Chairperson expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for facilitating the land transfer for the establishment of District Hospital Budgam. He also apprised the Lt Governor of other issues of public importance of district

Budgam. Mohammad Amin Shah, President BJP Ganderbal also met the Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to the development of district Ganderbal. He was accompanied by Ruheena Shahzad and Javid.

Later, Shazia Amin Mir, Educationist and Social Activist also called on the Lt Governor apprised him of the public issues of the district Poonch.



Col Wangchuk being honoured during a function in Leh. -Excelsior/Basharat

## Army recalls heroic role of "Lion of Ladakh" Col Wangchuk

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, July 7: An important Army event took place in Sonam Valley, Leh to acknowledge the heroic deeds of Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, who is fondly known as the "Lion of Ladakh."

Colonel Wangchuk, a distinguished member of the Armed Forces, attended the Officers Training Academy in Chennai and was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, The Assam Regiment. He was later deputed to the Indus Wing of the Ladakh Scouts Regiment.

The main focus of the event was to commemorate Colonel Sonam Wangchuk's pivotal role during the Kargil War in 1999. As a major at the time, he fearlessly led an operation against Pakistani troops on Chorbat La Top, which resulted in a remarkable victory for the Indian forces. For his exceptional bravery and leadership, he was honored with the prestigious Maha Vir Chakra. The capture of Chorbat La Top served as a turning point in the Kargil War and set the stage for subsequent successful battles fought by the Indian Armed Forces.

The event commenced with Colonel Sonam Wangchuk recounting the tale of the Kargil War and how the collective efforts of the Indian forces led to victory. His first-hand account provided invaluable insights into the challenges faced and the determination required to overcome them.

A screening of the inspiring film "Lion of Ladakh" took place, showcasing the extraordinary courage and resilience displayed by Colonel Wangchuk and his fellow soldiers. The film captivated the audience and served as a tribute to the bravery exhibited during the Kargil War.

Some prominent speakers shared gripping anecdotes from the war field of 1999. Their stories shed light on the indomitable spirit of the Armed Forces and the sacrifices made

## CJ visits Kupwara, inspects district court; interacts with Judicial Officers, Bar members

Excelsior Correspondent

KUPWARA, July 7: Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, on his two days visit to district Kupwara inspected functioning of District Court, interacted with bar and Judicial officers, besides he also inspected under construction district court complex here.

Chief Justice was received by Principal District & Sessions Judge Kupwara Shazia Tabasum; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan and SSP Kupwara, Yougal Manhas.

On the occasion, Chief Justice was accorded guard of honour by contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

He inspected proceedings of the court and also inspected fast track court Kupwara where an under trail accused was presented through virtual mode before the court of Additional District Judge (NIA Court), Khem Raj Sharma and Chief Justice watched these proceedings of the open court keenly.

Chief justice later inspected Legal Aid defence Counsel (LADC) and Vidhik Seva Kendra (District legal Services Authority) here where he checked the



CJ during visit to Kupwara District Court Complex.

progress and performance of PLVs (Para Legal Volunteers).

On the occasion, the Chief Justice directed staff of the court and PLVs to display their identity cards so that Public doesn't face any problems in locating them.

Justice Kotiswar Singh further directed staff of the court to update and upload data as data entry operations are very important for efficient delivery of judicial services.

Chief Justice also visited under-construction court complex Kupwara which is being executed at a project cost of Rs 12.57 crores under PMDP (Prime Minister's Development Programme). Chief Justice asked executing agency to complete the under progress court complex before 31 March 2024

(timeline) and establish facilities for specially abled persons and install back facilities by using solar panels.

Justice Kotiswar Singh also visited bar room where members of bar association Kupwara led by President Bar association Kupwara Adv. Shafiq Ahmad Qureshi received the Chief Justice.

On the occasion President Bar Association Kupwara demanded rolling out of health insurance policy for advocates.

While addressing the Bar association Kupwara Chief Justice assured all possible support He said, that for dispensation of Justice, cooperation and coordination among all the wings of Judiciary is must.

## Div Com takes spot appraisal of works under SSCL

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 7: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday night took spot appraisal of pace of progress on works conducted under Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) in Srinagar City.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aijaz Assad; Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Athar Amir Khan and other officers of SSCL and various line departments besides the concerned contractors.

During the visit, the Div Com undertook tour of various project sites of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) including redevelopment of Lal Chowk, upgradation of Ghanta Ghar, improvement and upgradation of Batamalo Moominabad Road, improvement and upgradation of Batamalo Qamarwari Road, upgradation of Gole Market Srinagar into High Street and Jehlum Riverfront



Div Com Kashmir inspecting development works.

Development Right and Left Bank.

The Div Com took stock of each project and gave directions with regard to completion of all projects at an accelerated pace. He directed completion of Lal Chowk Project including Ghanta Ghar by ending July 2023.

With regard to other projects, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir

directed that projects shall be fast paced by ensuring at least two shift systems.

The CEO SSCL briefed the Div Com about the proposals in respect of each project aimed at upgradation of infrastructure, beautification of the city and ease of living of the common citizens particularly with regard to their daily lives, including mobility of each and every segment of society.

The Div Com Kashmir directed that the free movement of vehicles and pedestrians shall be ensured at each junction in view of high footfall and heavy traffic.

He also directed that the storm water drainage in the projects under implementation by Smart City shall be given due priority as the city is prone to water logging and urban flooding.

## Farmers embrace lavender cultivation in Kashmir for higher benefits, lower risks

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, July 7: Lavender cultivation has emerged as a profitable and sustainable alternative for the farmers in Kashmir, enabling them to improve their economic prospects and enhance their livelihoods with fewer agricultural inputs.

The 'Aroma Mission' or 'Purple Revolution,' initiated by the Central Government in 2016 through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission, has played a transformative role in the lives of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir. The mission aims to support the domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by shifting from imported aromatic oils to locally grown varieties.

Officials said lavender cultivation has gained significant traction across all twenty districts of Jammu and Kashmir, and its future in the region looks promising, fuelled by the increasing demand for lavender and its derived products both domestically and internationally.

While highlighting the benefits of cultivating lavender, Madintha Talat, a successful lavender farmer, said that the export market for lavender surpasses that of traditional crops, making it a more profitable and long-lasting option.

"Over the past few years, I have dedicated my farms to cultivating lavender. The benefits are immense, as we can simply



Women working in the vibrant lavender fields in Banoora area of Pulwama in South Kashmir. -Excelsior/Younis Khaliq

dry the lavender and use it as tea, which holds great value internationally. In addition, we extract lavender oil, which is highly sought-after for its use in aromatherapy, catering to the growing demand for organic living," she said.

Dr Shahid Rasool, Senior Scientist and Incharge at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR IIIM), oversees operations at Banoora Pulwama, one of the largest lavender field stations sprawling over an impressive 1600 kanals of land.

He highlights the significance of lavender as a signature crop globally due to its extensive applications in industries such as toiletry, cosmetics, fragrances, and aromatherapy. "The environmental characteristics of the valley are suitable for this crop. The antimicrobial, antifungal, and antibacterial

properties of lavender make it an ideal choice. By avoiding the use of agrochemicals, lavender promotes ecological sustainability, which is crucial in our hilly region," he said.

Dr. Rasool further explains that farmers who have started cultivating lavender have witnessed its immense potential for increasing profitability in their fields. The raw materials generated, especially lavender essential oil, have high remunerative value, selling for 10,000 to 15,000 rupees per kilogram. "The value-added products derived from processing lavender also offer significant benefits to farmers and the industry," he said.

The agro-climatic conditions of Kashmir provide the perfect environment for lavender cultivation, as it thrives in mild summers, bright sunshine, and even marginal soils. "As land holdings and natural resources are shrinking, lavender cultivation requires fewer inputs, less irrigation, and can thrive in stress conditions, making it a promising future crop," he said.

In addition to the economic benefits, lavender cultivation has also created livelihood opportunities for local women. At the Banoora Pulwama field station, around 30 girls are working on the farms, supporting their families, and contributing to the growth of their community.

"For the past three years, I have been harvesting approximately lavender daily, earning around 340 rupees. With nearly 30 girls working here, we are not only supporting our families but also contributing to the growth of our community," she said.

## TBS JU ranks among top B-Schools of country

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: The Business School, University of Jammu, has become the only B-school from the J&K to bag a prestigious ranking among the top B schools of the country.

TBS has been placed at rank 11 in Return on Investment (ROI) and 33 among top Government B-Schools of India by one of the most credible and exhaustive Best B-School ranking by Business Today -MDRA, released on July 6, 2023. This places TBS in a coveted list of the top Management Institutions of India.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, congratulated all the faculty members of TBS and appreciated the efforts of other stakeholders from the department and the

University for this achievement. He stressed upon the need and relevance of participation in such rankings and emphasized upon the adoption of newer pedagogies and initiatives for strengthening corporate linkages to achieve institutional excellence.

As per Prof Vinay Chauhan, Director of The Business School, ranking is the outcome of sincere and dedicated efforts of the faculty; performance of students and alumni in the corporate along with the adoption of best practices focused on industry academia connect. In pursuit of excellence, is committed to establish a strong brand in management education through path breaking initiatives such as Executive Education, Management Development Programmes, Consultancy, Incubation and Entrepreneurship development etc, he added.

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