

LG Saxena hands over renewed lease deeds to 79 Housing Colony residents

LEH, APRIL 15: In a landmark development, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today handed over renewed lease deeds to 79 residents of Housing Colony at a function held at the District Panchayat Resource Centre, Agling.

The renewal of lease deeds, which was pending for several years, will bring significant benefits to residents by ensuring legal ownership and security of tenure, enabling access to banking services such as loans, facilitating smooth property transactions, and allowing land to be sold at fair market value. In the first phase, 79 lease deeds have been renewed, benefiting numerous families.

Addressing the beneficiaries, the Lieutenant Governor termed the occasion historic, stating that the renewed lease deeds would ensure legal security, peace of mind, and financial empowerment. He emphasized that homes represent



the aspirations and hard work of families, and that providing legally valid documents is essential for their stability and future.

Highlighting that the initiative aligns with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for "Housing for All" and improved ease of living, he stated that the renewal of lease deeds is a significant step towards realising this vision, particularly in a geographically challenging region like Ladakh, by ensuring that citizens have secure housing rights and access to essential services.

He informed that special

campus were organised under his direction to expedite the resolution of pending cases. The process has been carried out under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, ensuring full legal validity and enabling beneficiaries to access banking services and undertake property transactions.

Reiterating the Administration's commitment to transparent and people-centric governance, he assured that similar camps would be organised to clear all pending cases of expired lease deeds, reduce the

government backlog, and bring relief to the people, ensuring that no genuine beneficiary is left behind.

On behalf of the residents, Nambardar, Housing Colony, Shri Stazin Otal expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor and the UT Administration for resolving the long-standing issue and benefiting hundreds of families. He informed that some residents, who have been residing in Housing Colony since 1975, had expired lease deeds, due to which they were unable to avail banking loan facilities or sell their land.

Nambardar Ibex Colony, Shri Sonam Rigzin, also informed that around 1,000 households reside in Ibex Colony, many of whom had served in the Indian Army in different wars. He requested the Lieutenant Governor to also look into their land-related issues, which will bring much-needed relief to the residents of Ibex Colony.

FADA Chairperson meets Transport Commissioner

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 15

A delegation led by Mr Sanjay Aggarwal Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations Jammu (FADA) met Mr Vishesh Paul, Transport Commissioner J&K. Mr Aggarwal was accompanied by FADA Jammu Regional Directors Mr Sanjay Mahajan, Mr Manik Batra, Mr Ravinder Gandotra, Mr Prateek Jain, Mr Ashish Gupta, Mr Vikas Rathore, Mr Kanav Aggarwal, Mr Pradeep Jain, Mr Sumit Malhotra, Mr Atul Abrol and Mr Rohan Kotwal. Mr Anju Gupta Additional Commissioner, Mr Vikas Anand Joint Commissioner, Mr Jasmeet Singh RTO Jammu, Mr Qazi Irfan RTO Kashmir and other officials of Transport department were present in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the various issues and challenges faced by automobile dealers in J&K.

Mr Aggarwal raised the issue of End-of-Life Vehicles - ELVs which are coming for re-registration from other states in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir leading to regulatory concerns. He said that, in the absence of stringent regulations in J&K, many such ELVs are being diverted to the UT for re-registration, taking advantage of relatively relaxed norms. The influx of these outdated vehicles is leading to congestion on roads and putting extra pressure on existing infrastructure. He proposed the introduction of a Green Tax @ 10% on such unsafe and unfit polluting vehicles.

Mr Aggarwal said that current EV policy of J&K which is under formulation, and primarily extends benefits and incentives only to Electric Vehicles (EVs). Several states across the coun-



try have adopted EV policies, wherein Strong Hybrid, and CNG vehicles are also included and are recognized as environmentally friendly alternatives. He requested to consider revisiting the EV policy for J&K and expand its scope to include, Strong Hybrid, and CNG vehicles, to make it inclusive in the larger interest of environmental sustainability and public convenience. He also shared that VAT % on CNG is the highest in the country 21% and this needs to be looked into.

Mr Aggarwal said that RVSF centers in J&K should be opened at the earliest as the consumers are currently unable to avail the benefits of scrapping their End-of-Life (EoL) vehicles in J&K. It is estimated that there are nearly 2 lakh such vehicles in J&K that are due for scrapping. He highlighted that for Government vehicles in J&K, an age limit of 15 years has already been prescribed for scrapping. In line with this, we request that a similar age-based criterion be introduced for private/passenger vehicles under the scrapping policy.

Mr Aggarwal raised the issue of delay in RC transfer for used cars in J&K. He said that there should be a Fixed time line to approve/reject an application from RTO. He request

for a dedicated portal to used cars dealer for RC transfer like we have in new car department. Currently dealers are uploading documents through RTO website, which becomes difficult at certain time due to website issues. He also suggested that the transfer of Registration Certificates (RCs) for used cars be facilitated at the dealership level, similar to the process currently followed in Rajasthan. Implementing this at the dealership end would streamline the ownership transfer process, improve customer convenience, and ensure better compliance and transparency he added.

Mr Aggarwal said that Vehicle Location Tracking Device VLT Approval for commercial vehicles should be online form ARTO end. The dealer should be allowed to make delivery of vehicle after fixing number plate and the process of VLT approval & RC should be made in grace period of 15 days.

Mr Aggarwal said that to promote and support automobile business in J&K, Government of J&K should give 50% discount on registration of vehicles by organising Mega Trade Fairs from time to time on the similar lines of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa, which is being conducted

successfully for the past few years and has resulted in enhancement of Automobile Business and Revenues for the government.

Mr Aggarwal suggested Formation of Automobile Service Center Cluster in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Automobile Service Centre works as an industrial activity and should be established in the industrial area. In this regard we propose the formation of an automobile service center cluster in the industrial area of various districts of the Jammu and Kashmir region. A designated area in the industrial estate should be earmarked for formation of Cluster for Automobile service Centre.

Mr Vishesh Paul, Transport Commissioner J&K gave a patient hearing to all the issues and suggestion given by FADA and said that the issues discussed are quite relevant and will be given due consideration. He directed the delegation to adhere all the norms while selling the vehicles and follow all the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. He also requested all the dealers to create awareness among their customers regarding road safety measures. He also suggested for organizing joint campaigns related to road safety measures and safe driving.

Medical Camp, Yoga awareness program held at Government Polytechnic Reasi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 15

As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched by District Administration Reasi, today a Yoga and Wellness-focused awareness program and Medical camp was organised at Government Polytechnic College Reasi under the able guidance of worthy Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Sh. Kumar Abhishek (IAS). The event was organised by AYUSH, Health and Social welfare Department to promote health awareness and encourage a healthy lifestyle among students.

The program began with welcome address by Principal of college Dr. Arun Bangotra, who motivated the students to stay away from drugs and stresses on the ill effects of drugs and emphasized the college's resolve to continue the campaign's objectives. Dr. Kamal Kishore Dubey, District Nodal officer AYUSH Reasi highlighted the importance of wellness and healthy living. This was followed by a health check-up and med-



ical session conducted by Dr. Sonal Bhola, Medical Officer AYUSH Reasi. A yoga session was then conducted by Sh. Majid Malik (Yoga Instructor, AYUSH Reasi), where students actively participated in various asanas.

Further, Sh. Pankaj Kumar (Medical Assistant) and Sh. Nadeem Khan (Pharmacist) from AYUSH Reasi, Smt. Shuruchi Sharma from Social Welfare Department Reasi also shared valuable insights on health and wellness. A speech on mental well-being

was delivered by Er. Rajesh Kumar Banotra (Superintendent, ITI Reasi). Dr. Bilal Ahmed (Doctor, District Hospital Reasi) addressed the students and emphasized the importance of maintaining good health. A motivational speech on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also delivered by Sh. Yograj Mengi, senior citizen.

On the occasion a pledge ceremony under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also organized, where students and staff pledged to stay away from drugs and

contribute towards a drug-free society. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from approx 270 students and staff, making it a successful and impactful initiative.

On candidates undergoing Capacity Building training programme under Mission YUVA was also present. The event was conducted under by overall supervision of staff of Ayush Department, Health Department, Social welfare department and staff of Government Polytechnic Reasi and ITI Reasi.

GCW Gandhinagar organizes orientation Programme on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 15

Government College for Women (GCW), Gandhinagar organized an Orientation Programme on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Policy 2026 as part of the ongoing 100 Days Campaign initiated by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to intensify efforts towards a drug-free society.

The programme was conducted under the able supervision and visionary guidance of the esteemed Principal, Dr. Kulvinder Kour, who has been actively promoting initiatives aimed at student welfare, awareness, and social responsibility. She addressed the students about the practical realities and challenges associated with drug abuse in today's society.

The orientation session was delivered by Dr. Rachna Devi, Convener NCORD and Clinical Psy-



chologist, GCW Gandhinagar. In her detailed and insightful address, she highlighted the objectives and key components of the NMBA Policy 2026, focusing on prevention, awareness, early intervention, and rehabilitation. She sensitized the audience about the harmful psychological, physical, and social consequences of substance abuse and emphasized the importance of resilience, informed choices, and community participation in eradicating the menace of

drugs. She also encouraged students to take an active role as change-makers in society.

The programme was efficiently organized by Dr. Renu Anand, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Head of the Department of Environmental Science Dr. Nazia Latifi. Ms. Anita Kotwal, Hostel Warden, extended her valuable support in ensuring enthusiastic participation, especially from hostel residents.

As part of the 100 Days

Campaign, a pledge-taking ceremony was also organized during the week long activities under NMBA. Students and faculty members collectively took a solemn pledge to remain drug-free and to actively contribute towards spreading awareness against substance abuse in their families, communities, and society at large. The pledge reinforced the spirit of commitment and collective responsibility towards achieving the vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

SMVDU's SCSE Students Participate in Industry Speaks 2.0 at IIT Jammu



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 15

Students from the School of Computer Science & Engineering (SCSE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, actively participated in the prestigious "Industry Speaks 2.0" event held at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu. The event, centered around the theme "Powering the Future: AI, Semiconductors and the Next Tech Revolution," brought together eminent industry experts and academicians to discuss emerging technologies, evolving skill requirements, and future career opportunities. During the two-day event, 20 students along with faculty members attended the panel discussions on Day 1, followed by 13 students and

faculty members on Day 2. The major representation was from SCSE, along with participation from other Schools including School of Electrical Engineering (SOEE), School of Mathematics & Computing (SoMNC), and School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE), as well as one student from the M.Sc. Data Science program.

The event featured distinguished speakers from leading organizations such as AMD, Microsoft, IBM, Samsung, HP, Dell, Birlasoft, ZF Group, Pegasystems (Gen AI), GSPANN, SuzeGA, and Agilisium, who shared valuable insights on AI-driven careers, semiconductor ecosystem development, and the alignment between academia and industry needs. Students gained sig-

nificant exposure to key aspects such as developing a strong problem-solving mindset, understanding the importance of clarity in defining real-world problems, and the responsible use of AI tools.

The discussions emphasized that while data and resources are widely available, the real challenge lies in their effective utilization and in building strong conceptual understanding rather than relying solely on automated solutions. During the interactive sessions, students actively engaged with the panelists by raising thoughtful questions on academia-industry collaboration, problem-solving approaches, and the effective use of AI. Students including Shubham Saini, Tanvi Jammwal, Naresh Kumar, Maneesh Kumar, Mukti

Porwal, Subham Prasad, Rimjhim Kri Gupta, Jugraj Singh, Shailja Kumari, Rishu Patel, and Srishti Jaiswal participated in the discussions and gained valuable insights. A notable contribution was made by Dr. Sonika Gupta from SCSE, whose active participation and insightful interactions during the panel discussions were highly commendable.

Her engagement not only enriched the learning experience for the students but also reflected the strong academic presence of SMVDU at the event. The sessions further highlighted the importance of adopting a "problem-first" approach, ethical responsibility in AI, critical thinking, and the need to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations.

2-Day Consultative Meeting on framing regulations of JKSSSA Commences in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: A two-day consultative meeting for the formulation of regulations of the Jammu and Kashmir School Standards and Safety Authority (JKSSSA) commenced here today at JKBOSE, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, subject experts, and representatives from NIEPA, New Delhi, the School Education Department, JKSCERT, Higher Education Department, Universities of the UT and Administration.

The meeting aimed to de-



liberate upon and develop a comprehensive, robust and contextually relevant framework of regulations to guide the functioning of JKSSSA. The initiative is a

significant step toward strengthening institutional mechanisms for ensuring quality standards, safety protocols and infrastructural parameters across

schools in the Union Territory. During the inaugural session, Gh. Hassan Sheikh, Chairperson, JKBOSE, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the importance of establishing a transparent, accountable and forward-looking regulatory architecture aligned with NEP 2020 and contemporary educational needs.

Prof Rasmita Das Swain from NIEPA, New Delhi highlighted the necessity of integrating best practices, stakeholder perspectives, and field realities into the bylaw framework.