

# ‘LG’s Mulaqaat’ Committed to serve all equally: LG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Reiterating the government's commitment to serve all equally, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said: "We have made significant progress in addressing people's concerns, and need to work as a cohesive unit to sustain and build upon all that we have achieved."

Interacting with the people and addressed their grievances during this month's "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing at Civil Secretariat, Sinha said the expectations of the people have grown immensely as a result of socio-economic success and a responsive service delivery system. It is also our responsibility to encourage common man to participate in the governance process, he added.

Taking first hand appraisal of the grievances of randomly selected applicants of JK-IGRAMS from across the UT, the Lt Governor issued on spot directions to the concerned officials for taking prompt action.

Addressing the grievance of Rattan Lal from Jammu regarding the dilapidated condition of a Government



*Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting addressing public grievances during "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing.*

Middle School building, the Lt Governor directed the School Education Department to conduct a survey of the status of school buildings. Directions were passed to Deputy Commissioners to take up unsafe school buildings on priority in District Plans. "Timely redressal of grievance is an important instrument for initiating and managing social change," the Lt Governor said.

A complainant from Kathua apprised the Lt Governor about the non-availability of Ultrasound operator in Sub-District Hospital Bani, on which the Lt Governor passed explicit directions to Director Health

Services to ensure that the health equipments are operational and submit a report in this regard.

While addressing a grievance pertaining to the revenue records, the Lt Governor sought a detailed report from Financial Commissioner Revenue on the measures taken to ensure early disposal of cases in revenue courts.

On the complaint of Mohd Yusuf Mir from Budgam regarding land dispute and encroachment of land, the Lt Governor instructed the concerned Deputy Commissioner to personally look into the issue and make necessary intervention.

A complainant namely

Rameez Ahmad Mir from Ganderbal drew the attention of the authorities to the under construction bridge at Shilvata-Guzhama Ganderbal. Principal Secretary to the Government Public Works (R&B) Department informed the chair that the project is currently under procedural process.

On a complaint regarding non-functional hand pump in a village at Rajouri, the Lt Governor issued directions to the engineers of Jal Shakti department to monitor the functioning of hand pumps on a regular basis.

The Lt Governor took assessment of the progress made on JK-IGRAMS and

directed for monitoring of grievance disposal at all levels. He further asked the officers to put special focus on the issuance of certificates, sanctioning of benefits under various schemes; resolving grievances with regard to development projects; uploading Action Taken Report; satisfactory disposal of grievances and clear response by the department.

The applicants expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor's administration for redressal of their grievances through JK-IGRAMS.

Rehana Batul, Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances briefed the Lt Governor about the progress and status of grievances, and moderated the interaction.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs; HoDs and other senior officers, in person and virtually, were present during the interaction.



## CJ inaugurates 'e-Sewa Kendra', 'Helpdesk Counter for e-Filing' for HC's Jammu Wing

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Ali Mohammad Magrey, in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson IT Committee and other companion Judges on Saturday inaugurated "e-Sewa Kendra" and "Helpdesk Counter for e-Filing" for Jammu wing of the High Court.

Pertinently, the e-Sewa Kendra will help and facilitate the Advocates and the litigants in accessing the fruits of e-Courts projects in a hassle free manner. The information pertaining to case status, next date of hearing and other details of a case, facilitation for purchase of e-Stamp papers and downloading the Mobile App of e-Courts for Android and IOS etcetera shall readily be available at this Kendra.

The e-Filing Helpdesk Counter will facilitate the litigants and the lawyers in e-Filing their matters before the High Court apart, guiding them how to create the User ID etcetera on this e-Filing application and to file the petitions and documents by use of the same. This e-Filing application in the coming days is going to



*Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Ali Mohammad Magrey inaugurating e-Sewa Kendra and Helpdesk Counter for e-Filing at Jammu.*

substitute the present filing procedure at the High Court by a system which is hassle free, transparent, time saving, efficient and more effective. By use of this application, a Lawyer or a litigant just from his workplace or any other place of his convenience can file a matter before High Court by logging into the e-Filing Portal.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Justice Rahul Bharti joined the Chief Justice and Chairperson IT Committee in the inaugural ceremony.

The inaugural function was also attended by D C Raina, Advocate General,

M K Bhardwaj, President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, designated Senior Advocates, Registrar General of High Court, Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, Shahzad Azeem, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Rajeev Gupta, Principal District & Sessions Judge Jammu, Sanjay Parihar, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, M K Sharma, Registrar Judicial, Sobha Ram Gandhi, Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee, Amit Gupta, Central Project Coordinator, e-Courts, Anoop Kumar Sharma, Joint Registrar Judicial, Dinesh Gupta and other officers and officials from the Registry of High Court as well as members from the Bar.

## Dy Excise Commissioner holds different activities on day 2 of B2V4 at Upper Ban Sultan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: On second day of Back to Village 4 (B2V4) programme, an initiative of J&K Government, Nodal Officer Kusum Sharma, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu along with Swati Gupta (Excise and Taxation Officer, City Excise Range South) and other two invites Dr Sanjan Sharma (Child Specialist), Dr Juhi (Medical Officer) and Sarpanch of Upper Ban Sultan visited Kothi Sheikh area where a special programme for women empowerment was organized, as directed by e Nodal Officer. A large number of women of Kothi Sheikh area attended the programme where Kusum Sharma, Deputy Excise



*Nodal Officer Kusum Sharma, Dy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu along with Swati Gupta (Excise and Taxation Officer, City Excise Range South) and others at B2V4 programme.*

Commissioner (Executive) talked about the value of the females physical and mental health, sanitization and cleanliness.

She also suggested participants to start a help group or some kind of enterprises that for starting tiffin services, different working group scheme at their area. Other invitees also emphasis on

women health and values, some of the women demand opening of hospital at their village, some of women belong to AWW highlight several issues, which were listened by Kusum Sharma. She assured for taking up the same with higher authorities. Kusum Sharma also advised participants to perform Yoga daily for leading a stress-free

life. Later, she also addressed a Bal Sabha at Panchayat Ban Sultan Upper and discussed topics like Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan etc.

Kusum Sharma also visited houses of those who got benefits of Indira Awas Yojana, Anganwari center and Poshan Vatika (ICDS proj-

ect). Later, she presented Baby-kits under Ladli Beti programme and participated in plantation drive. Sham Choudhary (Ex-MLA), Sarpanch Dev Raj Sharma, Panchs Veena Sharma, Anita Sharma, Mamta Devi, Ajay Kundal (Naib), Pawan Sharma, Ashok Sharma and Rohit Sharma were also present on the occasion.

## Kashmir almond losing market to Californian counterpart

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**

SRINAGAR: Budgam and Pulwama districts, once famous for their almond orchards, are being converted into concrete commercial areas and residential colonies are spreading everywhere. Massive urbanisation over the years, poor prices for local varieties and competition from imports have contributed to dwindling production of almonds in Kashmir. "Due to poor rates, we were forced to remove all almond trees from our land," said a farmer, who once had acres of land where he grew almonds.

In Budgam itself, many almond growers have started growing apples instead, said Mohd Younis Mir, another farmer. In 2015 alone, the district lost 5,665 hectares of land where almonds once used to be grown. "Almost every farmer from Budgam and Pulwama has converted a major portion of their almond orchards into apple gardens. The reason is that Kashmiri almond was losing market to California varieties," he said. While he has a few Kanals of land still under almond cultivation, he is in dilemma whether to convert it too or wait for some time. "If the situation continues like this, more farmers may shift to apple cultivation," Mir added. The area under almond cultivation has declined by nearly 70 percent in last 10 years. Official figures reveal that the area under cultivation has declined from 16,418 hectares in 2011 to mere 5483 hectares in 2021.

In scores of villages of Pulwama, which is the largest producer of

almonds, people have completely shifted to apple and other farming. Hundreds of acres of land have been lost to either apple or some other crop in Koil, Payar, Chandigam, Lajoora, Pahnard, Pachnargd Parigam, and Thokernag. Similarly in Budgam district Chadoora, Charrar-e-Sharief, Gowher Pora, Dalwan, Panzan Roopwan, Old Airport site and many other areas have lost hundreds of acres of almond orchards. "It didn't happen overnight. Farmers, after witnessing that apple was fetching good money, gave up almond cultivation. Pulwama had a reputation for producing quality almonds, but now hardly any farmer is growing almond," said Ahsaanul Haq from Parigam, Pulwama. "Kashmiri almond is very sweet and has good oil content. Still, it couldn't survive the invasion by California variety," said Mohd Younis, an almond supplier. As per the figures, 115.05 metric tonnes of almonds were imported to India in 2019 compared to 34.36 metric tonnes in 2008. A Dry-fruit seller from Srinagar said almonds from Afghanistan, Iran and California are majorly being sold to the customers. "It is because these almonds are bigger and inexpensive. Kashmir almond is small but tastes good," he added. An official from the horticulture department said that department is working to revive the almond cultivation in Kashmir. "We are encouraging farmers to grow almonds and even department supplies saplings to growers," he said.

## Dr Darakhshan, Shameem Dev, Dr Shant presented Harmony India Awards

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 8th Edition of the Harmony India Awards function was organized by Harmony Cultural Foundation in which 18 awardees were felicitated for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields including Visual Art, Literature, Music, Acting, Sports, Journalism, Social Work, Community Services.

Harmony India Special Award for this year was conferred upon eminent politician & writer Dr Darakhshan Andrabi for her social and intellectual contribution. Dr Andrabi while receiving the award said that she felt like standing at her maternal



*Dr Darakhshan Andrabi receiving Harmony India Award.*

home and mentioned that this award will always remain special to her as she receives it from her own people who are committed with missionary zeal for harmony and brotherhood. The Lifetime achievement award was con-

ferred upon Prof Rattan Lal Shant for his outstanding contributions in field of Kashmiri Literature and Language. National Icon Award was presented to M K Raina for his outstanding contribution in the field of

Acting & Direction. Others who were presented awards included Jitender Singh Shumty, Veerinder Patwari, Rajendar Tikku, Brij Kishori Zutshi, Pooja Shali, Jatinder Singh, Kuldeep Handoo, Nirmala Dhar, Sumeet Bhat,

Manoj Bhat, Namrata Hakhoo, Surrender, Nalini Sadhu, Pallavi Sareen and Sumanda Khajuria.

The award ceremony was held at Shri Ram Centre, Mandi House, New Delhi and began with lighting of lamp by Guests of Honour Dr Sudhir K Sopory (Indian educationist, Eminent Scientist and former Vice chancellor of JNU), Shah Faesal (Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture), Veer Munshi (Eminent Visual Artist), Ravinder Kaul (Journalist & Art Critic) followed by Saraswati Vandana. Nirupama Kotru, IRS was the Chief Guest while Prof Aparna Sopori, Bollywood

Actor Kuldeep Sareen, Pt Vijay Shankar Mishra, Dr Ashwani Pandita (MD, Swami Nand Lal Hospital), Santoor Maestro Abhay Sopori, Dr Rajender Dhar (Judge, Consumer Court), Bhavna Pandita (Asha Foundation), Mushtaq Ali Ahmed (Actor & Director) were the special guests. Jury of Harmony India Awards includes Veer Munshi and Ravinder Kaul. A special film screening on life of Santoor Maestro & Music Composer Padmashri Pt Bhajan Sopori was showcased followed by first Pt Bhajan Sopori Smriti Samman which was conferred upon Shameem Dev Azad.

## ‘Modi at 20’ lays foundation for ‘India at 2047’: Dr Jitendra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHENNAI: 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 on Saturday said that Narendra Modi's governance model has sustained over the last 20 years, with the promise to sustain in future as well and at the same time, it prepares India for a quantum jump to overtake other countries of the world in the next few years, which in a nutshell would mean that "India at 20" lays the foundation for "India at 2047".

Delivering keynote address on the book "Modi @ 20 - Dreams Meet Delivery" at Vaishnav College for Women here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, to understand the essence and the spirit of "Modi@20", it is essential to read the book in its entirety and in its real context and perspective.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's visit to the State in May this year, Dr Jitendra said, Modi promised that the Centre is focused on ramping up the best infrastructure and outlined a commitment to further popularise Tamil. The Minister said, PM Modi described Tamil Nadu as a special place and lauded the Tamil language as eternal and its culture as global. Modi also quoted a popular verse of nationalist poet Subramania Bharathi in praise of Tamil and said that in every field someone from Tamil Nadu is excelling.

Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" is a compilation of chapters written by Amit Shah, S Jaishankar, Amish Tripathi, PV Sindhu,



*Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh delivering keynote address on the book "Modi @ 2.0 - Dreams Meet Delivery" at Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai on Saturday.*

Anupam Kher, and Sudha Murthy, among others.

Of the several chapters included in the book "Modi @20..." Dr Jitendra Singh referred to the chapter by Amit Shah titled "Democracy, Delivery and Politics of Hope", which traces nation's pessimism getting replaced with optimism and Sudha Murthy's chapter which illustrates the awakening of aspirational India under Modi. Lata Mangeshkar's chapter highlights Modi's ability to strike a personal chord, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that Narendra Modi is the only Indian leader to have completed 20 years as the Head of Government, first as Chief Minister and then as Prime Minister and across the world also this could be

a rare feat to have been achieved. Secondly, Modi was the rare case of a Chief Minister directly assuming the position of Prime Minister without having been a Member of Parliament in the past.

And most of all, the greatest distinguishing feature is that before Modi became Chief Minister in 2002, he had never held any post in the government or administration or not even contested any election in the past, either at local level or State level or national level, and was mostly occupied in the organisational activities.

The question, therefore, said Dr Jitendra Singh, we need to study and analyse what are the essential factors which have sustained Modi's governance model for 20 years and continue to sustain beyond 20 years also. Significantly, instead of being affected by the principle of diminishing returns, each passing year of Modi's governance of 20 years has yielded increasing returns and each new challenge has enabled this governance model to emerge stronger, more effective and enduring.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that soon after Modi took over as Chief Minister of Gujarat, his first challenge was a devastating earthquake in Bhuj and as he completed 20 years as head of government, the latest challenge confronted by him was the COVID pandemic sweeping across the nation of 140 crore people. A research study of how these challenges were successfully overcome and adversity was turned into virtue, will also bring to surface Modi's unique and exclusive work style highlighted by diligent 24x7 focus, his unquenchable quest to go deep into every subject so as to be able to provide new ideas even to the

officers who go to brief him, his long hours of introspection about how to innovate new ideas and his intimate connect with the ground which enables him to assure that "Dreams meet Delivery", as the title of the book suggests.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, while on the one hand, Modi brought in optimum use of technology for last mile delivery through measures like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), his governance became more and more technology driven which not only helped in ensuring ease of living for common citizen through measure like single portal, single form etc., but also enabled objective delivery of service by civil servants through innovative concepts like "Mission Karmayogi".

Modi has given a futuristic vision to India and spoke about "Startup India - Standup India" in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15 August 2015, when the StartUp concept was almost dismal in this country. Today, India ranks third in the world in the StartUp ecosystem.

Dr Singh pointed out that there is also a meaning in what Prime Minister Modi keeps reiterating about Amrit Mahotsav because he can foresee India's emerging role in next 25 years and his governance model seeks to build nation's capacity to make a mark in the global arena.

The book "Modi @2.0- Dreams meet Delivery" is about the rise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a watershed moment in Indian politics. This book discusses the magnitude of his influence on the country that India's governance paradigm and political history can be easily divided into two distinct eras- Pre-Modi and Post-Modi.