

CM pays obeisance at Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani's (RA) Shrine at Charar-i-Sharief

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday paid his respects at the revered shrine of Charar-i-Sharief, commemorating the Urs of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), the venerated saint and spiritual guide of Jammu and Kashmir.

Accompanying the Chief Minister were the Minister for Rural Development, Javid Ahmad Dar and Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani.

Together, they participated in the Urs, honoring the life and teachings of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), known for his contributions to the spiritual heritage of the region.

On this auspicious occasion, Chief Minister Abdullah offered prayers for enduring peace, prosperity, and strengthened bonds of brotherhood



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paying obeisance at revered shrine of Charar-i-Sharief, commemorating Urs of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA).

across Jammu and Kashmir. Nouruddin Noorani (RA) imparted, In his message, the chief minister emphasized the timeless message of unity and compassion that Sheikh Pro-tem Speaker, Jammu and

Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul also paid obeisance at the revered shrine and prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, Mubarak Gul emphasised the importance of proper arrangements for the comfort and convenience of large number of devotees who visit the shrine. He instructed the Auqaf management to ensure that all necessary facilities are in place. He also directed the Floriculture Department to undertake the development and beautification of nearby park, enhancing the serene environment for the visitors.

The deep concern of the Pro-tem Speaker towards development of the holy Shrine reflected a commitment towards honouring and preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.



Sham Lal lays foundation stone for development works at GGHS Patta Borhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued commitment to improving educational infrastructure, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and Former Minister of, today laid the foundation stone for major development works at Government Girls High School, Patta Bohri.

This project is aimed at creating a more supportive learning environment for students, providing them with essential facilities to enhance their academic experience.

During his address, Sharma underscored the importance of adhering to a strict timeline and maintaining the highest quality standards.

"These development works reflect our dedication to enhancing educational spaces for our students. It is crucial that we meet the established



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma laying foundation stone for major development works at GGHS Patta Bohri.

deadlines without compromising on quality. Our young learners deserve nothing but the best, and we are committed to ensuring that these improvements allow them to flourish," he stated.

Sharma expressed gratitude to all stakeholders involved, noting that the collaborative efforts of community leaders, school staff, and government officials are essential in bringing positive changes to the

Dr Jitendra to inaugurate 4-day International RSSDI Diabetes Conference

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also a nationally known Diabetologist, will inaugurate and also be the chief guest at the upcoming International 52nd Annual Conference of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), one of the largest global societies of diabetes physicians in the world. The Conference is set to be held from November 14 to 17 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi.

National President of the RSSDI, Dr B.M. Makkar confirmed this after calling on Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday and seeking his consent to be the chief guest. Pertinent to mention here that Dr Jitendra Singh also happens to be the Life Patron of the RSSDI and a Lifetime Achievement Award



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh being briefed about the upcoming international conference of Diabetes by the National President RSSDI, Dr B.M. Makkar at New Delhi.

winner. This prestigious premier event, which is held by rotation at different venues, was last held in Delhi in 2013 when incidentally Dr Jitendra Singh was himself the Scientific Chairman of the Conference.

advance collaborative efforts in tackling diabetes. With an anticipated gathering of over 20,000 participants, this year's RSSDI conference promises a robust and varied program designed to stimulate advancements in diabetes treatment and public health approaches. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in an array of keynote lectures, plenary sessions, interactive workshops, research presentations, and poster sessions, covering crucial topics spanning diabetes research, clinical care, and public health strategies.

The 52nd Annual Conference of RSSDI will also feature an impressive lineup of 27 internationally renowned faculty speakers, each bringing unique

expertise to this prestigious event. These global luminaries, who are leaders in diabetes research, clinical practice, and public health, will share their insights and latest findings, enriching discussions on managing and preventing diabetes. Their participation underscores the conference's significance as a platform for exchanging knowledge on a global scale, promoting innovative approaches, and fostering international collaboration in diabetes care. This event holds promise not only for the diabetes community but for the nation, as it brings focus to the collaborative role of research, medical expertise, and governmental support in achieving a healthier future.

ACB, NZATI organise workshop on Preventive Vigilance



DIG Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu, Vikas Gupta speaking in a workshop on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Muthi, Jammu, in collaboration with the Directorate of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K, hosted a significant workshop on Preventive Vigilance here on Wednesday under the aegis of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024.

The workshop, centered on the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nations' Prosperity", brought together key officials and stakeholders from various government departments.

Vikas Gupta, Deputy Inspector General of Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Distinguished attendees included Rajesh Kotwal, Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu; Irshad Ahmed, Deputy Director

Prosecution ACB Headquarters and Amit Mahajan, Deputy Director, Audit & Inspections, Jammu. Bharti Sanbyal, Director Finance and Principal, NZATI, Jammu extended a warm welcome to the delegates and set the tone for the proceedings with her opening address.

During the workshop, Irshad Ahmed delivered an insightful presentation highlighting corruption's detrimental impact on organizations. Through detailed case studies, he emphasized the critical importance of maintaining financial propriety and ethical office practices.

Ela Chowdhary, FA/CAO offered a unique perspective on corruption's psychological dimensions, examining how it becomes institutionalized through various mechanisms

including self-justification, misguided concepts like "Robinhood Corruption," and collective emotional responses.

In the keynote address, DIG ACB, Vikas Gupta invoked the principles of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel while discussing the imperative of raising public awareness about corruption, particularly within the public sector. He stressed the importance of stakeholder engagement and advocated for strengthening the role of Departmental Vigilance Officers as primary ombudsmen within government offices. The DIG particularly emphasized the crucial role of Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) in maintaining internal checks and ensuring accountability.

The workshop saw active participation from diverse attendees, including staff

members from the Directorate of Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu, Audit & Inspections personnel and the Probationers of JKAS Batch 2023 and 2024. The Finance Accounts Assistant also participated in the proceedings.

The event was successfully coordinated by a team of Accounts Officer (Probationers) including Jagtshwar Singh, Dr. Annie Jamwal, Dr. Sahil Dutta and Shreya Proch.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jammu Smart City Ltd. (JSCL) and Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav conducted an extensive inspection drive across Jammu's e-bus routes on Wednesday to ensure service quality and gather passenger feedback.

The drive, led by Dr. Devansh Yadav, commenced at 5:00 AM and continued throughout the day.

Dr. Yadav was accompanied by senior officials from JMC and JSCL, including Senior General Manager Finance Ashish Anand, AEE Civil (Manager Depot) Ravi Salgotra, Manager Enforcement Rakhvinder Singh, and others.

Dr. Yadav and the accompanying officials traveled alongside regular commuters on the e-buses, assessing passengers'



CEO JSCL, Dr. Devansh Yadav interacting with officials.

daily experience and collecting direct feedback.

He interacted with passengers, aiming to understand their experiences regarding the operational efficiency, cleanliness, and reliability of the e-buses.

Senior officials also inspected the buses' hygiene standards, addressing passenger concerns regarding service quality.

The inspection drive also aimed to address frequent issues raised by passengers,

such as inconsistent ticketing practices, fare-related concerns, and overcharging. Dr. Yadav instructed the crew to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience for passengers during this festive season.

He also directed the crew to adhere to the timetable, ensure that buses stop at designated bus stops, and strictly follow the established routes.

Dr. Yadav highlighted the importance of these interactions, stating, "The primary

purpose of today's inspection is to travel alongside the people and directly understand their experiences. We are here to gather feedback on the successful operations that passengers have appreciated, as well as tackle recurrent issues like ticketing problems and overcharging firsthand."

He assured the public of continued improvements, especially in the punctuality and operational standards of the e-buses.

He remarked, "In the coming days, our teams will strive to make e-buses even more efficient, ensuring they reach stops on time and provide an improved public transport experience."

Dr. Yadav emphasized the commitment to offering an efficient and accessible transportation system, aiming to set a new standard in the city's evolving public transport network.

DC Jammu calls for speedy verification of scanned, digitised revenue records

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday chaired a meeting with officers from the Revenue Department to review the ongoing verification process of previously digitised land and revenue records.

Post digitisation, the current focus is

on quality-checking and validating the scanned records for seamless access on web-based platforms, ensuring they are user-friendly and accurate for public access.

The meeting was attended by SDMs, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Tehsildars, who

were briefed on the need for swift completion of the verification to facilitate public access at the earliest.

The DC emphasised the importance of cross-verifying the data against the Land Records Information Management System (LRIMS) to enhance transparency and service effi-

ciency. He underlined that these records should be clear and accessible online to avoid complications in public access and record retrieval. Further, all stakeholders were directed to adhere to the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) timelines, ensuring prompt and efficient service delivery.

Rationalisation of service conditions even at gazetted level too needs attention of Omar Cabinet

Although as CM of UT Omar has some Legislative & Executive limitations but still he can freely do some Good & Undo some Bads With elected popular government in place distantly placed J&K Subjects once again hope for Administrative & Legislative Rationalization

DAYA SAGAR

From those in government service one category is of the Gazetted Engineering Services/ those enter through JKPCS. It will be a surprise for many to know that in UT of J&K the pay scale of SE and CE (Chief Engineer) is same i.e L-13 of VIII Pay Commission and young engineer entering service through PSC at the age of 23-24 years can progress only to L-13. With the intervention of Court J&K Government with SRO-403 of September 14, 2018 amended the JK Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 1992 by adding to the Schedule proviso 2nd, saying "The SE only shall be deemed to have been placed in Pay Scale of 4500-5700 in place of 3150-4500 notionally w. e. f. April 1, 1987 and monetarily from 01-04-1990". With the issue of SRO=403 the pay scale of SE is now equal to Level -13 but the CE's are in Level -13 Grade. Why has Government not made the needed correction for pay

scale of CE also at the time of issue of SRO-403 in 2018 itself? Should not governments apply correction without waiting for someone from affected cadres to run for judicial remedies? The pay scales mentioned herein are as per VII PC Gazette notification and may not be covering all amendments if made at some levels after that. Even CAT had on March 22, 2021 conveyed somewhat a positive view in favour of the Chief Engineer post in (Central Administrative Tribunal disposed of TA No. 3749/2021 with order "We, therefore, dispose of the T.A., directing the competent authority, i.e. respondent Nos. 1 and 2, to pass appropriate orders on the representations submitted by the applicants on 03.09.2018 and subsequent thereto, within three months from the date of the receipt of a copy of this order. We, however, make it clear that we did not express any view on the merits of the matter. Any benefit, which may result on account of such revision, shall

be prospective in nature." Which was also challenged in J&K & Ladakh HC through the



A Look through the Mist Part-IV

medium of WP(C) 1722/2021 and the High Court on 09.09.2021 passed order as : "Meanwhile, respondents shall consider the representations of the petitioners submitted on 03.09.2018 and subsequent thereto, within three months from the date copy of this order is received for the benefit sought and the portion of the order impugned to the extent of rider is stayed and shall not come in the way of the respondents" but still the Administrative Department / Government disposed the application of Chief Engineers with no convincing note under order No 319 F of 10-12-2021. So strangely a human resource issue was not processed by J&K GAD but got examined by finance department justifying that keeping pay same scale for CE

and SE technically valid. Not only that there is no provision for Non Functional Grade Promotion for Gazetted Engg Services where as medium of JKAS/JKPS/ Animal husbandary/ Statistics Department / Ayurvedic Doctors/ etc . The Engineering Graduates entering gazetted services had higher pay scale to start with than most of the services mentioned here. It was reported in media on 11-05-2018 that J&K Cabinet had accorded sanction to the implementation of some thing like the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme in respect of the Gazetted Service of Engineering Departments so as to ensure a minimum of 3 Time Bound promotions in a span of 20 years for the members and had authorised the Finance Department to notify the Scheme in that regard. But had remained a

paper news only So, question is why the position with regards to service matters of even senior officers , mostly with "other services", is irrational and frustrating for many and the Human Resource management for gazetted levels in State Services / Provincial services is not so encouraging

have to get approval of LG for every subject / action are totally wrong .No doubt in a UT with legislature the powers/jurisdictions of Cabinet / Legislature are limited as regards public order, police, and land where LG could be said to have ultimate control but the limitations are surely not like making the Chief Minister 'totally ineffective' for all purposes . Omar Abdullah lead & Congress supported J&K UT government can still very well work on ground in relation to number of subjects worth the delegated administrative & legislative authority in terms of the J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019, Act 34 of 2019 for executing a number of programmes & promises in terms of the election manifesto of National Conference and promises made by allies like Congress.

To be continued (The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs).