

# LG asks PDD to address problems of common man with seriousness, commitment

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of Power Development Department at the Civil Secretariat.  
The meeting discussed various measures for enhancing sustainability, resilience and efficiency of the power sector and steps to achieve targets to reduce AT&C losses.  
Issuing directions to the PDD officers present in the meeting, the Lt Governor said that monitoring mechanism of power projects should be strengthened to meet the energy goals and aspirations of the people and businesses.  
We need to have multi-pronged strategy for energy security and decisions



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a review meeting of Power Development Department.

taken during winter preparedness meetings should be followed in letter and spirit, he further said.  
The Lt Governor impressed on the Department to address the problems of

demand-supply deficit, status of ongoing projects; implementation of the short-term, medium term and long-term action plans. Earlier, H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department gave a detailed presentation on the power scenario of Jammu Kashmir.  
Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr RP Singh, Chairman JKPCCL; Jagmohan Sharma, Chairman JPDCL; Shiv Anant Nayal, Managing Director, JPDCL; Ch. Mohd. Yasin, Managing Director, KPDCL, besides senior officers of Power Development Department and Power Distribution Corporations were present.

# NC Provincial VP, prominent political activists join BJP

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a major political development, National Conference Provincial Vice President Jammu, Surinder Singh Bunt, prominent political activist Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Provincial Secretary National Conference, Pinki Bhat alongwith prominent National Conference activists, Sarpanchs, Ex- Sarpanchs, Niab Sarpanchs, Panchs of Nagrota constituency, a retired Chief Engineer and Executive Engineer and others also on Tuesday joined the BJP and reposed their faith in the firm and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Welcoming the new entrants, BJP Pradesh President Ravinder Raina and senior leaders Devender Singh Rana, Sham Lal Sharma, Surinder Choudhry and Balwant Mankotia described their joining as a step in right direction in the larger interest of peace and progress of Jammu and Kashmir that has undergone most turbulent times post 1990. "Successful BJP governments at the Centre in the intervening times during the past over three decades brought about a discernible change in the security scenario notwithstanding the heavy dent caused by the Congress during intervals but the NDA government led by



Newly joined BJP members being welcomed by senior leaders.

visionary Prime Minister Modi took terror head on and succeeded in breaking the vicious ecosystem comprising secessionists and their sympathizers with determination and precision", Raina said. Referring to the strides taken by India during the past eight years, domestically as well as globally, Raina said the strong and decisive leadership of the Prime Minister is fast steering the country as Vishva Guru and the people across the world are looking towards this great nation with hope and promise.  
Raina said India's growth story owes its genesis to the visionary mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas.  
Devender Rana exuded the confidence that under the bold leadership of the Prime Minister, all the regions and sub

Girdhari Lal, Shailo Ram, Kaku Din, Rajinder Kumar Pithi, Ajeet. Mushtaq Ahmed (Jhajjar Kotli), Jugal Sharma, Dr. Subash, Pritam Chand, Kuldeep Raj, Ramesh Chander, Gola, Haji Feroz Din, Balwan Singh, Mastram, Mohinder, Bali Ram, Devender Kumar, Khair Din. Mushtaq Bhatti, Banath and others (Nogrota), Sanjay Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Sham Lal, Rampal, Dr. Randeep Singh Parihar, Mohd. Sadiq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Bhushan, Sher Ali, Munshi Ram, Sohail, Chhara Dass, Vice-President NC Pinky Bhat, NC Secretary Rekha Manhas, Block President Amit Sharma, Vice-President Sanjay Gupta, Distt. Vice-President Virender Singh Jamwal, Distt. Vice-President Virender Singh Jamwal, Distt. Vice-President Sanjeev Handa, Worker NC Sardar Minder Singh, Secretary Surinder Khanna, Vice-President Ashok Singh Parmar, Youth AAP Dikshant Sharma, Anil Sharma, Sarder Khan, Dishaat Gupta, Ashok Pawar, Ajay Gupta, S. Mohinder, Varinder Singh Jamwal, Sanjay Mahajan, Mohd. Malik.

# CCI delegation calls on J&K Bank MD & CEO, put-forth issues of business fraternity



JCCI delegation members during meeting with J&K Bank MD/CEO Baldev Parkash.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A delegation of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on Tuesday called upon the J&K Bank MD and CEO Baldev Parkash at the bank's corporate headquarters to discuss the issues faced by the business community and also the way forward.  
The Jammu Chamber delegation led by President JCCI Arun Gupta while Secretary General Gaurav Gupta, Rajeev Gupta Vice President, Rajesh Gupta Secretary and Rajesh Gupta Treasurer also present.  
The CCI delegation, while expressing gratitude to the MD & CEO for his timely outreach to the bank's different

stakeholders especially business community besides extending the much needed financial support to the affected, raised some issues concerning Jammu business community and also suggested that customer service at operative levels needs to be improved and made more responsive.  
Arun Gupta urged the MD and CEO that there are certain issues which need to be addressed on priority in the general interest of business community. He suggested that the bank should immediately reduce the Lending Rate of Interest, waive off commitment charges, no charges to payee on cheque bouncing and leaving of processing charges.

In the light of bank's uninterrupted financial support besides its world-class banking services, Arun Gupta appealed to the people especially business community to strengthen their bonds further with the flagship financial institution of J&K UT. He said that the J&K Bank should grow as this is the only bank from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which has its branches all over India.  
The MD & CEO Baldev Parkash assured the delegation members that their suggestions and the issues discussed would be considered by the bank on merit and resolved in a time bound manner.

# Kashmir all set to welcome tourists in winters

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to keep open doors of all hotels and restaurants across the valley, including Gulmarg, Pahalgam or Sonamarg, as all these three tourist destinations receive huge snowfall in winters, thus making a merry for tourists to enjoy the climate. With 1.62 crore tourists having visited J&K since January 2022 to present date, the tourist footfall in Union territory this year is highest ever recorded in history of J&K. Tourism department and all hotels, restaurants and cafes, all across the Kashmir valley are bracing up for winter tourism and are expecting huge tourists in winters. Sonamarg hosted its first ever

'Snow Shoe' event with local athletes competing in the invitational Snow Shoe run conducted by J&K Snow Shoe Association, with an aim to promote Sonamarg as winter sports destination. Local young people, who are associated with tourism industry, seem very optimistic and confident for offering exclusive online services or corporate information to visitors. Tour and travels Associations are very keen to get maximum numbers of tourists during winter season as top national tour operators from Delhi, Maharashtra, Pune, Surat, Gujarat, Jaipur, Bangalore had already visited Kashmir. As per a tour and travel operator from Srinagar, "Tourist flow was good as compared to other years in autumn season

in Kashmir. As winter is approaching, huge foreign and domestic tourists are expected in Valley especially in Gulmarg, where winter games are scheduled and for which booking has already started in hotels. If snowfall will happen in full swing at Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg etc, it will attract more tourists," he added.  
The beautiful sanctuaries of Jammu & Kashmir reward nature seeker with views of diverse topography as well as the rarest species of wildlife. All the three top tourist destinations viz Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg are the perfect choice for every tourist to cherish cold of winter and enjoy snowfall besides feeling real fragrance of 'Paradise on Earth'.

# J&K ANTF arrests three inter-state drug smugglers

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drug trafficking from its gross root level under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) Jammu arrested three inter-state drug peddler and recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from their possession.  
ANTF Jammu, a specialized unit to check rising menace of drugs, achieved another success on Tuesday after it foiled a bid to smuggle commercial quantity of Poppy Straw worth lakhs of rupees.  
Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) ANTF Jammu Vinay Kumar said, "ANTF" Jammu received a specific information that one Truck bearing registration No. JK02AH-6695 driven by Javid Shah, son of Mushtaq Hussain Shah, resident of Kothhara Rajouri and co-driver Abid Shah, son of Fazal Shah, resident of Kurhad Rajouri and Irfan Bukhari, son of Saghir Shah, resident of Sangpura Rajouri with common criminal intention and motive of Selling/smuggling has concealed a large quantity of Poppy Straw in the Truck which came from Kashmir Valley and going out

of J&K UT is parked near Transport Yard Narwal, Jammu."  
On this information, he said, a case FIR No.17/2022 under Section 8/15/29 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station ANTF Jammu and ANTF team immediately swung into action and spotted the truck near try ground Narwal.  
During search, SSP ANTF said, 680 Kg of poppy straw was recovered from the aforesaid truck by ANTF team.  
The accused persons have been arrested in the instant case and truck used in the commission of crime has been

seizedm he said adding that ANTF is investigating forward and backward links of this racket.  
"Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested drug peddler was going to sell the same contraband among the youth and other drug peddlers at Punjab," SSP ANTF said and appealed to community members to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood.  
"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure," he added.

# Anganwadi Workers are ‘Soul’ of 47-yr old ICDS of GoI but why are they not regular employees?

## Why engaged over 14 lakh AWWs on honorarium & not as regular employee when their job is regular?

■ **DAYA SAGAR**  
Bali Bhagat Sr. BJP leader and Ex. Health Minister J&K has on November 12, 2022 urged the J&K UT Administration to settle salary issue of Anganwari Workers once for all by creating a 'Corpus Fund' for timely disbursement of salaries to them so that the Anganwari workers receive timely salaries. The suggestion has real merits since monthly "honorarium" to Anganwadi Workers is paid out of the funds provided by GoI for Anganwadi Service Centres ( under Integrated Child development Scheme (ICDS of GoI) which are released by GoI on six monthly basis and there have been regular procedural delays thereby making 'workers' to remain for months without even the small amount presently paid as 'honorarium' (1st instalment is released before 15th April every year & 2nd instalment is released upon receipt of utilization certificate supported by required documents). Delayed payments of their 'monthly dues' (honorarium), low amount of honorarium and no job / social security (even in a welfare programme of GoI) being operated over last 47 years are the issues that keep the AWWs under regular socio-economic stresses.

unique early childhood development programme, aimed at addressing malnutrition, health and also development needs of young children, pregnant and nursing mothers. ICDS consists of 4 different components, namely: 1. Early Childhood Care Education & Development (ECCED) 2. Care & Nutrition Counselling 3. Health Services 4. Community Mobilisation Awareness, Advocacy & Information, Education and Communication. In implementation of the ICDS scheme, convergence is brought in between many Central Ministries and their services are framed into the 4 different components of ICDS. The real status of the target beneficiaries of this scheme and the socio-economic status of the work force retained by government particularly, the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)/ Asst Anganwadi Helpers ( AWWs) could be read from "2017- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Manual" for District- Level Functionaries .  
The AWW is at the core of scheme and services to the beneficiaries are in a way delivered directly more by Anganwadi Worker so success of programme designed to capture even real time data on implementation & monitoring of AWWs across the country as also 5-tier monitoring & review mechanism designed by Government of India at the National/State/District/Block levels primarily depends on the AWW who leads the Anganwadi Centre (AWC ).In other words Anganwadi worker plays a role of bridge between the community and the Integrated Child Development Scheme

(ICDS). Regretfully Department of Women and Child Welfare has not been fair to the AWWs as regards to remunerations and their job security.  
Surely it was on the basis of the terms of engagement of AWWs that Supreme Court of India in a ruling of December 7, 2006 in Civil Appeal No. 4853-4957 of 1998 - State of Karnataka & others vs. Ameerbi & others must have held that Anganwadi Workers/Helpers do not hold any civil post. In a written reply to a Lok Sabha question on February 7, 2020 Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani too had informed (i) that the Central Government is providing honorarium of Rs 4,500 per month to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Rs 3,500 per month to AWWs at mini-AWCs & Rs 2,250 per month to Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs). Even in Feb 2020 The Minister of Women and Child Development had also informed the Parliament on February 7, 2020 that (ii) there was no proposal under consideration to increase the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (iii) Minister had also informed the Parliament that AWWs/AWHs are honorary workers who come forward to render their services on payment of monthly honorarium (iv) in view of the very nature of the role of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers, it is not feasible to declare them as regular/permanent employees (v) 14 Out of 16 recommendations /observations made by the Dr. Chandresh Kumari Committee have



A Look through the Mist

been implemented by the govt.{ Eighth Report 15th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject "Working Conditions of Anganwadi Workers? pertaining to Ministry of Women & Child Development presented to Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha on 10/08/ 2011 containing 16 observations/recommendation.  
In addition to the Honorarium fixed in the basic scheme the State Governments / UTs are paying some additional honorarium / allowances also but that is not uniform and do not make the total adequate. To quote NCT Delhi said in Feb 2022 to have increased (including allowances) total payment to Anganwadi Workers from Rs. 9678 to Rs.12,720 / PM and for the Anganwadi Helper from Rs.4839 to Rs.6,810.As per private sources Rs 6,500 /pm are paid in Chhattisgarh to AWW ( need confirmation)..  
Whereas from the AWWs almost full time involvement in time as well as commitment is expected {" 2017- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Manual for District- Level Functionaries .  
One would ask why when some employees unions , political parties ( occasionally near elections), NGOs, Labour Unions are found appearing before media expressing support to very genuine demands of such a large ( Lok Sabha was informed on 30-07-2021 that as on 31-01-2021 there were 13,99,697 sanctioned / 13,87,432 oper-

ational Anganwari Centres in India where J&K had 30765 sanctioned/ 28460 operational Anganwari centres ) "47 year" old AWWs community/ programme Government has not put them in regular employment or they are not paid atleast the wages equivalent to a Jr Asst/Clerk in govt.departments? Surely the support is not "honest". Social Voluntary mindset people too hence must study their plight.  
Even if one takes the Grade as 5200-20200 GP 1800 ( Level-2 VII PC 19900-63200) and not 5200-20200 GP 2400 ( Level-4 VII PC 25500-81100) still minimum wages& allowances per month as on 01-07-2022 with 38% DA, 9 % HRA , Rs.900x1.38 TPA would be approximately Rs. 32485/pm (19900+DA 7562+ HRA 3781 + 1242 pm). Ofcourse there will be additional entitlement for Rs.2250 per child/pm as education allowance &Rs.6250 / child /pm Hostel subsidy allowance ( max 2 children).  
Another question that could be asked is that when there is no job security, the honorarium paid is so 'poor', the working premises are not adequately equipped at many places , the job of AWW is nearly full time and AWW has to also do out of Anganwadi Premises duties on regular basis and lot of work of data collection and record keeping / reporting , then why often there is rush of applicants for seeking work on so low "honorarium" basis ( that too for the woman folk ) ? Are not both the AWWs and the beneficiaries not being properly looked after simply because there is lot

economic distress ?  
It was reported on 15 Jan 2021 quoting Director General Women and Child Development J&K, Mir Tariq Ali that pending salaries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) working for ICDS of Social Welfare Department would be released within a week since The Central government had released funds ( which had been delayed due COVID19 pandemic ) for 29,599 operational AWCs ( out of total 31,398) to J&K Finance Department. Convener Jammu and Kashmir Anganwadi Workers, Helpers Union, Latifa Ganie was also quoted as having said that their honorarium was pending for seven months (Rs 4050/pm centre share plus Rs.1100/pm).  
It could be hoped that the issues of the AWWs and the 1975- ICDS Programme of GOI would receive the 1st attention of Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani and LGs of both the UTs of J&K & Ladakh for taking them to logical conclusions but in the meantime atleast the Corpus Fund as suggested also by Bali Bhagat Ex Health Minister J&K will be installed immediately by LGs of two UTs so that the families of AWWs who do keep on working without 'payments' do not suffer which must be surely affecting the quality of the services that the AWWs are expected to deliver as Volunteers against a meagre "Honorarium".  
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