

# CIC updates Dr Jitendra about RTI disposal rising above 90%

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India, Heeralal Samariya on Sunday called on Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh. He also updated the Minister about the RTI disposal rate this year rising above 90%.

This is the first meeting between the CIC and the DoPT Minister since Samariya, who was working as an Information Commissioner for three years, was sworn in as the CIC on 6 November, 2023.

During an hour-long meeting with the Minister, Samariya informed the Minister that the disposal rate of Right to Information (RTI) Appeals/Complaints has, for the first time, crossed 90% in the current Financial Year of 2023-24. Dr Jitendra lauded the Central Information Commission for achieving consistent decline in pendency with corresponding rise in disposal of the RTI appeals.



Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India, Heeralal Samariya calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Sunday.

As per CIC data available as on November 9, 2023, 11,499 RTI Appeals/Complaints were disposed of while a total of 12,695 were received, marking a disposal rate of 90.5%. In 2022-23, a total of 19,018 Appeals were registered, while in 2021-22, a total of 19,604 appeals were registered and in 2020-21, a total of 19,183 RTI Appeals were registered. The figures for RTI Appeals disposed of in 2022-23, was 29,210; in 2021-22, 28,793 Appeals were disposed of and

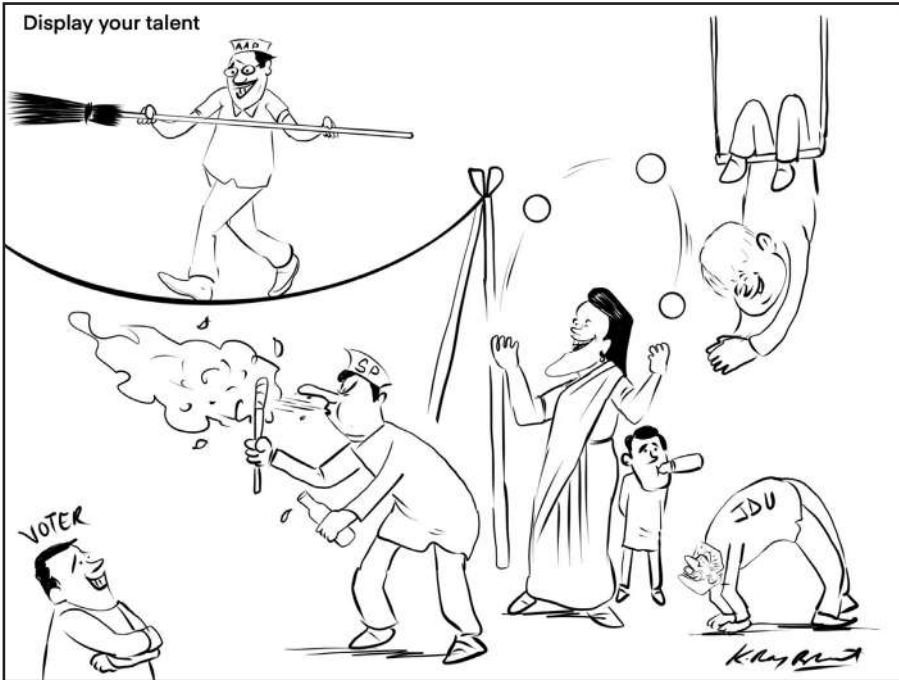
in 2020-21, a total of 17,017 Appeals were disposed. Figures include the backlog of pending RTI Appeals also disposed of during the respective year. The Minister applauded the office of Chief Information Commission for being the first Government body to use Artificial Intelligence for study, analysis and pattern of RTIs and also checking credentials of RTI applicants. CIC also apprised the Minister of the hybrid mode, - physical cum video conference-

ing, introduced in the office of CIC for hearing and disposal of RTI appeals. Dr Jitendra told the CIC to urge the State Information Commissions to also introduce the hybrid mode latest by this year end. The Commission conducted 4,783 VCs in the year-2020-21, 7,514 in the year-2021-22 and 11,090 during 2022-23. With such improvements the pendency of appeals and complaints was brought down progressively from 38,116 in the year 2020-21 to 29,213 in 2021-22 and

further to a record low of 19,233 in the year 2022-23.

The Union Minister said that it was during the Modi Government that a 24-hour portal service was introduced for e-filing of the RTI applications at any time of the day or night and from any part of the country or abroad. It was during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, he said, that the office of Central Information Commissioner was shifted to its own exclusive office complex.

Dr Jitendra reiterated that the role of the Central Information Commission is important to live up to PM Modi's vision of transparency and citizen participation in the functioning of the government.



# Audit Diwas Week Celebration takes off in Jammu

## Ace athletes cheer up participants as PAG J&K organises Marathon run, Cleanliness Drive

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The week-long Audit Diwas celebration, being observed from 19th to 24th November 2023, took off in Jammu on Sunday on a high note as Principal Accountant General, Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu, organised Audit-Run-Marathon and a mega cleanliness drive here.

Amid enthusiastic participation of 300-350 people including senior functionaries of Audit/Accounts/Regional Training Institute, their children and Family members, besides Ace Athletes and civil society members, the Audit Marathon Started from Muthi Side Flyover at 8:15 A.M. and Culminated at Canal head at 9:00 A.M.

The Chief Guest, Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh, International Wushu Champion flagged off the 4.5 Km and 2 KM Audit Marathon in presence of Ravinder Singh, Sr. Dy. Accountant General, Jagbir Singh, Dy. Accountant General, Sukhdarshan Singh, Dy. Accountant General, Surinder Kumar, Assistant Accountant General, Sanjay Sharma, Sr. Ranji Player and



Chief Guest, Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh, flagging off Audit Marathon in presence of Ravinder Singh, Sr. Dy. AG, Jagbir Singh, Dy. AG, Sukhdarshan Singh, Dy. AG, Surinder Kumar, Assistant AG Sanjay Sharma, Sr. Ranji Player and Ranjit Bali, Sr. Ranji Player.

Ranjit Bali, Sr. Ranji Player.

Cleanliness Drive started from Canal Walk way Opposite PAG office at 10.A.M and culminated at the exit point of the walkway Near Pawan Ice cream at around 11:00 A.M.

Senior officers, employees and people from Civil society attended the cleanliness drive in great numbers. The Officials from Jammu Municipality along with man and machinery were also present on the occasion to provide logistic support. Prize Distribution for winners

of the Audit Marathon followed by distribution of light refreshments among all those who participated in the twin events. In the 4.2 Km male Category, Ramdayal Ji secured 1st Position, Arjun Singh was first runner up and Samanyu Cyrish finished as second runner up.

The Youngest participant Shreyan Kumar, 8 year old was awarded a consolation prize in the 4.2 Km male. In the 4.2 km female category Antekshika emerged winner, while Veena

Sharma stood 2nd and Navmeeta Kumari ended as 3rd. In the 2 Km male category Adil Singh stood 1st, Vipin Kumar, 2nd and Arvind Verma 3rd. In the 2 Km female category, Shivani Sharma stood 1st, Sanjana Kachroo Stood 2nd and Kiran Jyoti Wattal Stood 3rd.

The mega event was coordinated by Manish Sambyal, Senior Audit Officer and Nodal Officer, Audit Marathon and Cleanliness Drive and his team.

# Week-long Shrimad Bhagwad Katha concludes at Village Dhammi, Jagti

## Inculcate spirit of devotion to lead a harmonious life: Yudhvir

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The week-long Shrimad Bhagwad Katha came to a soulful conclusion in the village of Dhammi, Panchayat Jagti, on the outskirts of Jammu.

On the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K BJP was the Chief Guest.

Emphasizing the significance of spirituality for achieving true emancipation, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the need for inbibing knowledge and cultivating devotion as key to leading a successful and harmonious life.

The senior BJP leader elaborated on the transformative power of spirituality in freeing individuals from the constraints of self-interest, greed, and hatred. He underlined that spirituality paves the way towards love and righteousness, which he described as the core of all religious beliefs.



J&K BJP Vice President at closing ceremony of Shrimad Bhagwad Katha.

Sethi said Bhagwad Katha, a revered scripture in Hinduism, holds a place of paramount importance in fostering spiritual growth and ethical living. Its teachings, centered around the life and philosophy of Lord Krishna, offer profound insights into the nature of existence, duty, devotion, and the ultimate pursuit of Moksha, said, adding that the Katha serves

as a beacon of wisdom, guiding individuals towards a life of purpose, selflessness, and universal love. It transcends religious boundaries, promoting a message of universal harmony and peace. This week-long event not only reinforced these timeless teachings but also provided a platform for communal bonding and spiritual rejuvenation, resonating deeply with the

core values of Indian culture and spirituality, he added. Sethi urged for the strengthening of brotherhood among diverse social groups and the promotion of social justice.

Katha Vachak Narayan Bharati Ji, during his enlightening discourse, encouraged devotees to adhere to the path of truth as the true method of divine realization and a means to attain Moksha. He emphasized the importance of understanding the concept of 'God' through the teachings of Ved Puranas, particularly the Bhagvat Purana, under the guidance of a learned Guru.

The event saw the participation of notable figures including Nand Kishore, BJP leader, Panch Rattan Singh, Panch Pt Ankush Jamwal, Vicky Singh, Sanjay Sharma, and Arun Sethi.

# Congress remembers Indira Gandhi on her 106th Birth Anniversary

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rich tributes were paid to Indira Gandhi former Prime Minister of India, on her 106th Birth Anniversary on Sunday. Congress organized several functions across the state, to celebrate the day.

An impressive function was held at Indira Chowk Jammu where floral tributes were paid by garlanding the statue of Indira Gandhi by the PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani, Working President Raman Bhalla, senior Vice Presidents Th. Balwan Singh, Vice President Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma(Mian), besides PCC General Secretaries, Secretaries, Frontal Organizations heads, DCC, BCC functionaries and others.

The function was organized by the Dist. Congress Jammu Urban led by Th. Manmohan Singh.

Interacting with the media persons at Indira Chowk PCC Chief, Vikar Rasool Wani recalled the bold leadership of Indira Gandhi, as she led the nation to great heights in her life and took courageous decisions in her life for the might of the nation.

The Country progressed on all fronts



Senior Congress leaders paying tributes to Indira Gandhi.

and faced numerous challenges successfully.

He lashed out at those forces who are trying to belittle the role and great works of top stalwarts of Congress especially Nehru - Gandhi leadership for political vested interests.

He said the present BJP regime led by Modi is making every effort to distort the historical facts to divert the attention of the nation from contribution of Congress and its great leaders.

Wani said that people of Jammu and Kashmir will not forgive BJP for its historical blunder of disbanding a full-fledged state Jammu and Kashmir and downgraded it to UT.

In this way the people have been deprived of their powers and rights in an arbitrary and undemocratic manner.

The party shall strive for seeking the full fledged status of the state and other constitutional safeguards for the protection of the rights of the people and youth of the state, he added.

Raman Bhalla while paying rich tributes to Indira Gandhi, said that Indira Gandhi was one of the strongest leaders of the world so far and will always go down in the history of the world as the iron lady of India.

She led the country to new heights in every sphere and enhanced the image of the country worldwide.

She always took revolutionary steps keeping in view the poor and down trodden sections of the society and was a source of empowerment for women in the country. She nationalized the private banks, abolished privy purses and launched 20 point programme for the welfare and poverty alleviation programme for the poor.

He said that Indira ji was known for her bold decisions and she led the country to victory during the 1971 war; leading to creation of Bangladesh and the surrender of over 90 thousand Pakistani troops before the Indian forces, ignoring the threats of United States.

Former Minister and Member PCC Executive Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Vice Presidents Trilok Singh Bajwa, Ved Mahajan, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma, DCC President Rajouri Shabir Ahmed Khan, DCC President Jammu Urban Th. Manmohan Singh while addressing described Indira as leader of firm determination and great courage who took revolutionary steps during her leadership of the Country and sacrificed her life for the unity and integrity of the Country.

# Display Your Talent-2023: Three Fine Arts events held on day 4



Participating students posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three Fine Arts events, Painting, Cartooning & Clay modeling were conducted today in ongoing 'Display Your Talent-2023' organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, Prof. Monika Chadha, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Associate Dean SW, Dr. Pritam Singh alongwith the Judges and Teachers Incharge of the events felicitated the winners. In Painting students expressed their creativity on the topics, Waterfall, New Jammu Kashmir & Shringhar: Shahzad Ahmed and Preeti Manhas, both from IMFA secured first and second. The third position was secured by Khem Raj from GDC, Kathua. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Rashita Baji from the Department of Mathematics, JU, Iram from Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research and 'Tanya Rajput from GCET. Dr. Rajbir Singh Sodhi was the Teacher Incharge and Bhushan Kesar, M.A. Anasir and Reecha

Gupta were the adjudicators of the event. In Cartooning, the topics were Artificial Intelligence, Mobile Mania and Pollution Ka Solution. Skanda Sharma and Ashmeet Kour, both from Institute of Music and Fine Arts clinched first and second positions. Third position was secured by 'Tanya Rajput from GCET. Certificate of Merit was awarded to Iram from Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research. Manoj Chopra, Chander Shekhar and Raj Bhagat were the adjudicators of the event. In Clay Modeling, students expressed their creativity depicting the topics The Beauty of Nature and Child Labour. Paramveer Singh and Shivam Gupta, both from IMFA secured first and second positions. Mehak from GDC Akhmoor stood third. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Aditi Verma from MIER and Nivedita Sharma from Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research. Dr. Shalhu Selgal was the Teacher Incharge and Ganesh Sharma and Malti Sharma were the adjudicators of the event.

The events were managed by Mohmeesh, Night Mir, Urvashee, Idrees Pahali, Kanya (Cultural Representatives) Kulbhushan Thakur, Balwant Sathia, Arif Paul, R.P. Singh, Sachin Sharma.

# Iron is Hot-PAK is weak-UNSC has failed to get POJK vacated-time for NDA-III to strike for POJK

## Since not paid Claims for Properties Displaced POJK DPs 1947 request for getting vacated POJK areas POJK DPs ask how long they will have to wait for their return to 'parental' hearths in POJK?

### DAYA SAGAR

The only dispute / prime difference that India has with Pakistan is the illegally occupied areas of Indian state of J&K in 1947/48 and all other socio- economic issues that are often listed in the parleys / agreements / meetings between two countries are only ancillaries of very very minor significances.

It is over 75 after 1st January 1948 India approached United Nations Organisation with a complaint (under Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations) submitting that Pakistan had 'attacked' Indian territories in the State of J&K that acceded to India Dominion on 26th October 1947 and Pakistan be asked to vacate the illegally occupied areas. (Letter Dated 1 January, 1948, from the Representative of India to the President of the Security Council among other facts said "said The Government of India have instructed me to transmit to you the following telegraphic communication : "1. Under

Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, any Member may bring any situation whose continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council. Such a situation now exists between India and Pakistan owing to the aid which invaders, consisting of nationals of Pakistan and of tribesmen from the territory immediately adjoining Pakistan on the north-west, are drawing from Pakistan for operations against Jammu and Kashmir, a State which has acceded to the Dominion of India and is part of India...). But UNSC resolutions after that, were no more than formal drag on process, including UNSC Resolution 307 of 21 Dec 1971, which instead of making Pakistan to vacate the occupied Indian territories in Indian state of 'Jammu & Kashmir' demanded that a durable cease-fire be observed until withdrawals could take place contrary to Indian claims that / were are worth treating Pakistan as an aggressor. Areas

have not been vacated even when we are in November 2023.No doubt the prime issue with Pakistan still there in 2023 is of vacation of the illegally occupied areas of the "Indian State of J&K" but the agony of the 3rd/ 4th generations of the families displaced from the areas occupied by Pakistan in 1947/48 ( POJK DPs 1947) and staying in other parts of India ( including J&K) who are hopefully hoping to return to their "hearth" left behind in occupied areas of " J&K" in terms of the Policy of Government of India not treating them as refugees is still continuing even after over 7 decades in 2023 since the occupied areas have not been yet got vacated from Pakistan by India for their safe and happy return.

It is not out of place to mention here that decision regarding the accession of Princely State of J&K was delayed by the state for about two and half months



### A Look through the Mist Part-I

after 14th August 1947 and it was only when Pakistani 'raiders' openly attacked the Princely state on 22nd Oct 1947 the Princely State of J&K decided about its future status and decided to accede to India Dominion on 26th October 1947 well explaining the reasons for delay in a letter of even date. Majority of the people displaced from 'PoK' (POJK) were Hindu and those of Sikh Panth from Mirpur, Muzaffrabad Districts of J&K & some parts of Poonch Jagir , where as there was lesser displacement from Gilgit- Baltistan areas of Ladakh region of the then Indian Princely state of J&K (it was more due to distances/ remoteness and religious affiliations)..Almost all the Hindu population was displaced from Pakistan Occupied Areas ( Mirpur, Kotli, Deva Batala, Bhimbar, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, etc) of Jammu & Kashmir State in 1947 Sept -Oct /

November onwards due to Pakistan aided / sponsored/ tribal attacks. There was hardly any displaced family that had not lost a family member during the onslaught.

The families displaced from Pakistan occupied areas of India state of J&K (POJK) were not treated / are not treated as refugees by government of India since they had been displaced from their own lands and had found shelter in other areas of J&K State ( mostly in Jammu province (may be around 85 percent) and in other Indian states. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the then Prime Minister of J&K in 1950 named the uprooted local people of J&K as Displaced Persons vide order No. 1476-C of 1950 dated 16.12.1950 while those who had left Jammu & Kashmir and gone to Pakistan ( West Punjab) on their own in 1947/48 were termed as migrants. This clearly shows the graveness of the conditions under which people had to leave POJK. Many of POJK DPs were not able to carry even their

personal documents with them since they got no time for 'abandoning' their hearths and had remained occupied with horrific memories for atleast about 3 decades before they could even think of making some demands and providing socio- economic security to their families.

Government of India did not consider payment of compensation / claims for the properties/ assets left behind in Pakistan occupied areas of India state of J&K (POJK) as were paid to '1947' refugees from 'West Pakistan' pleading that the said areas will be got vacated and the displaced families shall be restored their 'hearth'. Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 and the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950 has not been made applicable to POJK DPs 1947.

To be continued (The author is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs. dayasagr45@yahoo.com).