

## Div Com Jammu reviews winter preparedness

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

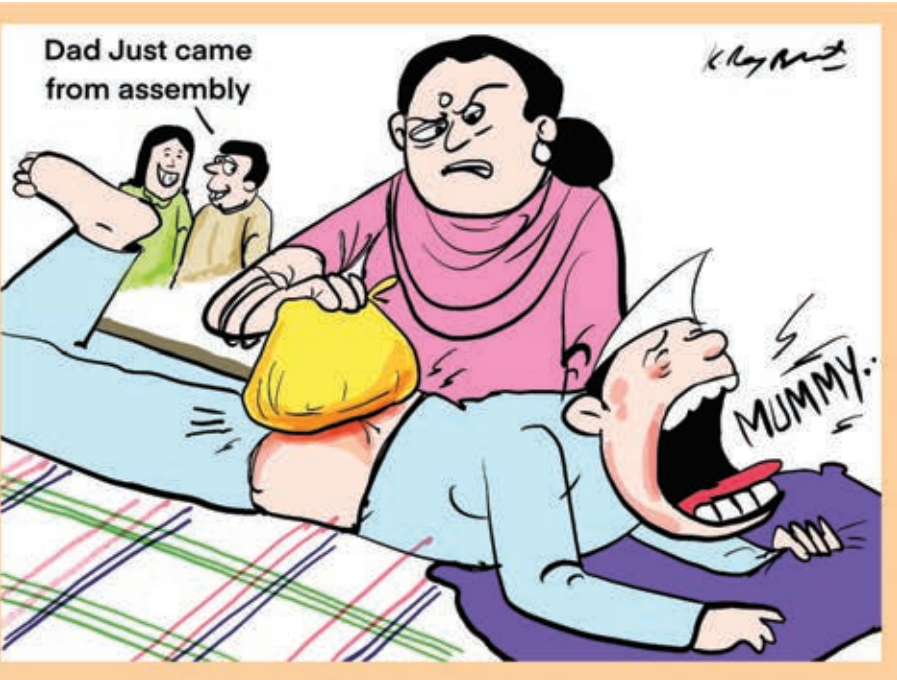
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, chaired a meeting on Friday with Deputy Commissioners and department heads to review winter preparedness across the division.

The meeting focused on ensuring the availability of essential supplies, snow clearance machinery, and uninterrupted services during harsh winter conditions.

The Div Com directed the stocking of rations, LPG, and other essentials in snow-bound and remote areas well in advance. He also reviewed the readiness of PWD, NHAI, BRO, and MED to keep roads open during snowfall, with Chief Engineers instructed to deploy men and machinery at strategic locations.

Ramesh Kumar emphasized maintaining a buffer stock of transformers and setting up 24/7 district-wise control rooms to handle public complaints and restore services. He also directed the Director of Health to ensure adequate medical staff and supplies.

Additionally, measures for fire prevention in wooden houses and availability of firewood and petroleum were also discussed.



## BJP Mahila Morcha launches Membership Drive



Ashok Koul, Organizational General Secretary, J&K BJP speaking in a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahila Morcha on Friday launched the "Membership Drive" in the presence of Ashok Koul, Organizational General Secretary, J&K BJP, Priya Sethi, former Minister, Munish Khajuria, Convenor membership drive, Ankush Gupta Co-convenor of the BJP membership drives at the party headquarters, here.

All the District

Presidents of the BJP Mahila Moreha alongwith their teams joined the program virtually. Ashok Koul, while addressing the Mahila Moreha leaders, explained the Primary and the Active Membership in detail and asked the Mahila Moreha leaders to put more hours daily to the drive in order to ensure the maximum membership drive in the women.

He said that the membership drive is the backbone

of an organization and added that the Mahila Moreha activists of the party should work harder to reach the target set up by the party and have to approach all the prominent women in the society, working in their respective fields. Priya Sethi, while addressing the Moreha activists, emphasized that women constitute 50 per cent of the population and as such no programme can achieve success without the active participation of the

women's power.

She said that the women of the nation have developed faith on Modi government and the party activists have to just approach the women's power to enroll them as the primary members. Munish Khajuria asked the Moreha leaders to take the Membership Drive to Shakti Kendra level and asked them to plan their visit in their respective areas.

Neha Mahajan, General Secretary, Mahila Moreha conducted the proceedings of the program and Reema Padha presented the vote of thanks.

Mahila Moreha State Team, councilors, District President Jammu South Divya Jain, and District President Jammu Savita Anand alongwith their teams were present in the program.

## Protests in Jammu region over VDG killings, Kishtwar observes shutdown

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR/JAMMU: There were sporadic protests in the Jammu region on Friday over the killings of two Village Defence Guards by terrorists the previous day, while a complete shutdown was observed in Kishtwar with demonstrations against Pakistan.

Security has been beefed up in Kishtwar district -- from where the two Village Defence Guards were abducted and killed -- as people came out in large numbers to give vent to their anger and demanded "immediate elimination" of the terrorists involved in the killings.

All shops and businesses were closed and traffic was off the road in the district, while there was thin attendance in schools and other educational institutions.

Protests were also reported from Kuntwara, Thakurie, Paddar and other areas early this morning, with slogans of "Pakistan Murdabad" being raised and a sit-in on the roads.

Terrorists killed two VDGs after abducting them in the higher reaches of the Kishtwar district. Jaish-e-



Protesters blocking road at Kishtwar.

Mohammad offshoot Kashmir Tigers has claimed responsibility for the attack.

As the news spread about the killings, hundreds gathered in the Drabshalla area of the district Thursday morning, chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', and burning tyres and blocking roads. They also raised slogans against Pakistan and terrorists.

In the Kishtwar town, a women-led protest march was organised by the Sanatan Dharam Sabha, hey sat on a dharna at the main chowk, burning tyres and the Pakistani flag.

"We want decisive action against Pakistan, its terrorists and its ecosystem in

Jammu and Kashmir. There should be massive crackdown to eradicate terrorists and its supporters," said Satoshi Devi, one of the protestors.

Drabshalla resident Kuldeep Singh said, "This kind of incident has not happened in this area for a long time. The victims were grazing their cattle when terrorists kidnapped and killed them. This is an act of cowardice. We cannot tolerate this. People stand firmly against terrorism."

"We demand a massive operation to eliminate the terrorists involved in this act. Security forces should sweep the entire hills so that people feel safe to go out to graze cattle in these areas,"

he added.

The Sanatan Dharam Sabha urged the general public in Kishtwar to fully support the bandh call and keep all their business establishments, educational institutions and shops closed.

Kishtwar MLA Shugan Parihar condemned the killings and said, "I am deeply saddened by the horrific killings of our VDG brothers, Nazir Ahmed and Kuldeep Kumar, in a heinous act of terrorism in the forest area of Kuntwara, Kishtwar district. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of these brave martyrs".

She added, "The grief and pain of losing someone in this manner is something I deeply feel."

In Jammu, protests were held by the Kishtwari Sangathan and they burnt the effigy of National Conference (NC) and its leaders. They demanded beefing up security areas of Kishtwar where the minority community lives, and carrying out operation to clear the hills of terrorists.

Protests were also held in Udhampur, Samba, Kathua and Reasi districts.

## Vibrant Creativity marks day 3 of 'Yuvtarang-2024' at CLUJ



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The on-going cultural extravaganza, 'Yuvtarang-2024,' organized by the Department of Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Senior Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, saw a spirited display of student talent on its third day, hosted at Government College of Education (GCOE), Jammu under the meticulous guidance of Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of GCOE.

The valedictory and prize distribution function was graced by Prof. Chandershekhar Dean Sciences CLUJ and Dr. Vishal Sharma; Dean Social Science graced the occasion as special Guests. Prof. Chandershekhar, Dean Sciences CLUJ and Dr. Reena Salaria, Head Department of Linguistics

CLUJ acted as observers for the day's events. At GCOE, the events were coordinated by Dr. Davinder Kour, Cultural Convenor GCOE along with her team. In the Painting event, Harsinran Kour of GCOE Jammu claimed the top position, followed by Simran Rakhwal of School of Sciences at second place whereas Simran Choudhary of GCW Gandhi Nagar got the third position. In Poster Making event, Pranav Verma of SPMR College of Commerce emerged as the winner, with Sania of GCW Gandhi Nagar and Madhav Sountra of MAM College securing the second and third positions respectively. In Cartooning event, the first prize was awarded to Mohammad Zaigham Salaria of GGM Science College, Vrinda Bhagat of School of

Humanities and Libral Arts took second place, and Shine Salathia of MAM College secured third place. Adjudication for the events was conducted by judges Prof. Samridhi Arora of Department of Home Science, University of Jammu, Chandershekhar eminent cartoonist and Dr. Amarjeet Singh of IMFA. The events were managed under the supervision of Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean Students Welfare and coordinated by Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Cultural Convenor, Dr. Babita Jamwal, Chairperson Campus Cultural activities, with support from Associate Deans Prof. Tarsem Lal, Prof. Amit Pal Kour, and Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Assistant Deans Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Prof. Sunita, Prof. Paramjeet, Mohd. Ashraf & Dr. Roomi Rani.

## VC JU expresses gratitude to LG Sinha for strengthening Institution with key appointments

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jammu (JU), Prof. Umesh Rai, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir UT and Chancellor of the University, Manoj Sinha, for his vision to strengthen the University through the permanent appointments of its three key administrative positions of Registrar, Controller of Examinations, and Finance Officer.

These appointments mark a significant milestone after years of these positions being temporarily filled through internal adjustments within the University.

The University had to rely on ad hoc internal arrangements for these positions for many years due to one or the other reason.

Recognising the critical



Vice Chancellor JU, Prof. Umesh Rai with other faculty members at a programme.

need for permanent, dedicated appointees to ensure greater stability and efficiency, Prof. Rai took proactive steps to initiate a formal recruitment process. With the support of the Lieutenant Governor only, these efforts led to the recent appointments.

It is pertinent to mention that the University has been recently sanctioned 19 new faculty positions in various departments in Phase-I to continue its journey towards

achieving academic excellence. In the year 2022, the Higher Education Department had sanctioned 17 positions in various teaching departments, including Journalism & Media Studies, Philosophy and Directorate of Hindi besides sanctioning 68 teaching and non-teaching positions for University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma has

been appointed as Registrar, Sanjeev Mahajan as Controller of Examinations, and Dr. Jitender Khajuria as Finance Officer, each bringing significant expertise and dedication to their respective positions.

Prof. Rai expressed his deep appreciation towards the LG for recognising the importance of strengthening the University's core administrative framework.

"These appointments represent a transformative

phase for the University of Jammu, providing us with a stable and capable leadership team. I am deeply grateful to the LG for his support for advancing our University's mission," he said.

Prof. Rai acknowledged the valuable contributions of the outgoing Registrar, Prof. Rahul Gupta, and warmly welcomed the new appointees. He expressed optimism that their appointments would mark a new chapter in the University's administrative journey, affirming his confidence in their abilities to elevate the University to new levels of excellence.

The outgoing Registrar, Prof. Rahul Gupta has been given the charge of Rector Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, in addition to his existing duties.

# When Modi talks of UCC he is for fulfilling obligations of Govt as enshrined in Art-44 of Constitution of India

**Better place the draft UCC Bill in public domain so that specific suggestions could be made by all stake holders**  
**Had not been lost in political gamesmanships UCC would have been amicably in place long back**

### ■ DAYA SAGAR

Public Notice of date 14th June, 2023 that was issued by the 22nd Law Commission of India ( Uniform Civil Code - Reg.) in terms of a reference dated 17th June, 2016 of the Ministry of Law & Justice , the Commission brought in public domain that the Law Commission of India (LCI) was still examining the subject matter of Uniform Civil Code although the 21st Law Commission had examined the subject . The Law Commission had even solicited the views of all the stakeholders through appeals along with questionnaires dated October 7, 2016, dated March 19, , 27.and April 10, 2018 where as per Commission overwhelming responses had been received and The 21stLaw Commission of India (LCI) had issued the consultation paper on "Reforms of Family Law" on 31.08.2018. After about 5 years it had been given to understand that bearing in mind the relevance& importance of the subject and also the various Court orders on the subject, the 22nd Law Commission

of India (LCI) had considered it expedient to deliberate afresh over the subject and had hence through Public Notice dated 14th June, 2023 again solicited the views & ideas of the public at large and recognized religious organizations ( who may be willing ) about the Uniform Civil Code with in 30 days from 14 June 2023 so as to reach Member Secretary Law Commission of India, 4th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi- 110 003 --memberssecretary-lci@govin ) in the form of consultation/ discussion/ working papers on any of the issues pertaining to the Uniform Civil Code.

Contents of the public notice issued by LCI did reflect that the Commission was "very serious" about the subject, particularly looking into the text of the notice where it said "If need be, Commission may call upon any individual or organization for a personal hearing or discussion."

Before one take / initiate to make suggestions / observations some of the references made in the public notice surely

called for careful & intimate deliberations / spade work keeping in view that during the process that was initiated by 21st Law Commission in 2016 to 2018 (A) 21st LC had though received overwhelming responses had not prepared any draft /sketch document on Uniform Civil Code but had only issued a "consultation paper" on "Reforms of Family Law", (B) The 22nd Law Commission had not carried further on the said "consultation paper" as reference which was said to have been drawn on the basis of 'overwhelming' response from state holders and hence bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject the 22nd Law Commission of India had considered it expedient to deliberate afresh over the subject and (C) Nearly five had lapsed after the date of "consultation paper" on "Reforms of Family Law" was issued by 21st Law Commission which remained



## A Look through the Mist Part-II

unconsidered and 22nd Law Commission had in 2023 to deliberate a fresh on the subject.

So, it had become very pertinent and meaningful for some to request the 22nd Law Commission to (i) kindly also confirm that the 'consultation paper' prepared in 2018 though was titled as "Reforms of Family Law" but was it intended as Uniform Civil Code document (UCC Doc) , and if so that should also be provided ( with comments of 22nd Law Commission) to those intending to participate in the exercise which could save upon some time & efforts in sketching and drawing the requirements since the issue which is of a very broader prospective is already very old and time available for submitting proposals was very less (ii) ofcourse the issue of UCC which had remained in discussions / debates for years has been surely 'unduly' delayed for settlement looking at the manner it has been projected as an subject

of utmost national interests which had even been referred as an issue of national priority even by the Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar on July 4, 2023 ( while addressing the 25th convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati ) who was quoted as having said " The underlying sublimity of this has to be appreciated and understood as this will bind the nation more effectively. If there is further delay in UCC implementation, it will be corrosive to our values,"

To be brief there is no doubt that theoretically the references in Bharat for Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the past & in present have remained focused at replacing any personal / community / 'family' laws based on individual religions/ customs/ traditions with one 'common composite civilian code' for one & all citizens of India irrespective of religion/region/caste/sect/gender particularly in relation to marriage/ inheritance/ adoption/ succession etc. etc. But the subject has remained only an issue of

debates with the politicians tossing it more as which a issue of Hindu- Muslim controversy which otherwise surely UCC is not. It may be noted here that the term of the 22nd Law Commission had already been extended on February 22, 2023 upto August 31, 2024 ( may be hoping that UCC will be ready before 2024 Lok Sabha Elections).No any draft proposals or concept paper on UCC had been placed in public domain by 22nd Law Commission and during 2024 elections to Lok Sabha some people had once again tried to push in the subject of UCC. As per the information available 22nd Law Commission too had not placed any draft of UCC before the government / or in public domain and issue has been passed on to 23rd Law Commission which has been notified as constituted w.e.f from September 1, 2024 constituted for 3 years upto 31-08-2027.

**To be continued**  
**(The writer is a Sr Journalist, social activist, & analyst of J&K Affairs).**