

GOC-in-C, Northern Command visits his first Commanding officer & mentor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: GOC-in-C, Northern Command, Lt Gen YK Joshi on Monday paid a visit to Colonel KS Jamwal, VSM (Retired), his first Commanding Officer at his residence in Jammu.

Army Commander was commissioned into 13 JAK RIF the "Bravest of the Brave", and the unit with two Param Vir Chakra awardees of Kargil War.

Col KS Jamwal has been a role model to emulate, contributing immensely in the glorious military career of Gen Joshi spanning nearly four decades.

The meeting was a nostalgic throwback of Gen Joshi's association with Col KS Jamwal with both sharing and reliving the old memories.

The meeting was a tribute by the General to his mentor who groomed him during the formative years of military career, giving a strong foundation to later grow into a war hero, an inspiring military leader and a soldier's General.

The gesture reflects the General's connect with his roots and attitude of gratitude towards the veterans and elders.

Gen Joshi believes that first



GOC-in-C, Northern Command, Lt Gen YK Joshi along with his first Commanding Officer, Colonel KS Jamwal, VSM (Retired) at his residence in Jammu.

few years of unit life have been the most valuable part of his foundation as Army officer and he credits Col Jamwal for grooming and shaping him for future challenges and enriching contributions.

Expressing gratitude to Col Jamwal, he said "You're an incredible trainer, and I'm grateful for your guidance, encouragement and constant motivation, which pushed me to immense heights, I never imagined. Thank you for inspiring me to be excellent in everything I do."

Col Jamwal said "Gen Joshi was commissioned in 13 JAK RIF as 2nd Lieutenant and joined in Nagaland when I was commanding the unit. Right from his early service days, he exhibited the winning streak and was always in the forefront

with a sound professional approach. I remember distinctly that difficult assignments of the unit were given to Yogesh and he always led the team to excellence. I'm truly proud of him and his achievements."

The general officer also commanded 13 JAKRIF in Operation Vijay and Parakram. Gen Joshi caught the attention of the nation during the Kargil War with his outstanding leadership and led his unit to unprecedented success.

In Operation Vijay under his command, the unit was awarded a total of 37 gallantry awards including two Param Vir Chakras, eight Vir Chakras and fourteen Sena Medals.

The unit was also awarded the Chief of Army Staff unit citation and the 'Bravest of the Brave' award.

ACS Finance launches e-Abgari Portal of Excise Department

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo, on Monday launched e-abgari portal of Excise Department in presence of Excise Commissioner J&K, Kishore Singh Chib; Deputy Excise Commissioner; Accounts Amarjeet Singh; Addl SIO, NIC, Salim Khan; Senior Programmer; Sandeep Kumar and other officers from Finance and NIC.

Officers of NIC West Bengal also joined through virtual mode.

The ACS, Finance impressed upon the officers to effectively implement the project by taking all stake holders on board through hands on trainings. He directed them to make all the functions of the department IT based, hassle-free, transparent and without any requirement for any to visit the offices physically. He asked them to implement all the phases in a time bound manner.

It was said that the e-Abgari, portal is an e-Governance project that provides end-to-end solution in workflow for comprehensive transformation of Excise Department. It was added that it would also bring total transparency and efficiency in service delivery by the department.

The portal, as said, has been developed in line with the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) of the Govt of India to provide ease of doing Business. It is going to eliminate totally the physical interaction of Licence holders and other stake holders with the Department. They can now apply online for all the services and can also keep a track of status of their application.

The said move is also going to expedite the service delivery and bring in total transparency in the system. The project has in-built system for calculation of applicable duties and their remittance on-line through e-GRAS portal of the government thereby weeding out role of any intermediary to take the undue benefit out of it.

The e- Abgari project, as informed on the occasion, covers all the core activities and functions of the department covering all the stages of business right from manufacturing, import, transport up to final sale of the product. It shall automate the process of issuance of Licenses, Label Registration, issue of Permits /Passes/ EVCs for import/export/transport etc, as revealed by the programmers who developed the portal.

On the occasion the Excise Commissioner informed that the project has various modules for different services which are being implemented in a phased manner. He further informed that the stake holders have been provided User-id and Passwords for logging into the portal for availing various services, the Commissioner said. Training has also been imparted to ensure hassle free shifting of the services from offline to on-line mode. Besides, the department has set up a help desk to provide real time assistance for any glitch in the process of service delivery, as was presented by the concerned officers. Pertinent to mention here that the portal has been developed by NIC West Bengal in collaboration with NIC J&K and Excise Department J&K.



DGP stresses for fast tracking process for implementation of ERSS



DGP, Dilbag Singh chairing the State Steering Committee Meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Director General of Police J&K Dilbag Singh on Monday stressed for fast tracking the process to ensure integration of other already existing helpline emergency numbers with Nation-wide Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) setup as soon as possible in Jammu and Kashmir.

DGP was chairing the State Steering Committee Meeting for the implementation of Nation-wide Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) number (112) in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir here on Monday.

The meeting was attended by ADGP Hqrs M. K. Sinha, IGP Hqrs Garib Dass, SSP PCR Jammu Dr Mohd Haseeb Mughal, AIG (P&T) PHQ Gurinderpal Singh, CAO PHQ, and DySP IMS at PHQ. While other committee members Manav Gupta Director Finance Home department J&K, Virender Manyal from social welfare department, SSP PCR Srinagar Zubair Khan, Shri Anil Kumar from NIC, Rajeshwar Addl. Secy. Health and members of C-DAC company attended the meeting via video conferencing.

The main agenda of the meeting was the inte-

gration of helplines of other emergency departments like Fire & Emergency department, Health & Medical emergency department, Social Welfare emergency numbers and State Disaster Management Authority with ERSS in J&K and the other agenda point was setting up of Mini Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) at PCR Jammu. The DGP directed the participating committee members to take all the necessary initiative to fast track the process to ensure integration of other already existing helpline emergency numbers with ERSS setup as soon as possible in Jammu and Kashmir. He directed the C-DAC agency to liaise with SSP PCR Jammu to work out modalities for integration of ERSS with other emergency departments and also work at tentative financial implications involved for the purpose. To avoid further inconvenience to the general public of Jammu region, the DGP directed C-DAC implementing agency to expedite the works of setting up another PSAP at PCR Jammu.

He earmarked SSP PCR Jammu as nodal officer to liaise with other emergency departments and work out details for setting up of ERSS in J&K.

This National Voters' Day let us also add to Theme 2022++ 'Vigilant Voter & Ethical Electoral Process'

For executing NVD Pledge 2011 Voter's belief in Multiparty Democratic System has to be strengthened Replacing NOTA with NTC can add to strengthening faith of the Voter Citizen in democratic system

Today 25th January is the 12th National Voters' Day. The National Voters' Day (NVD) was first celebrated by the Pratibha Devi Patil, the then President of India on 25th January 2011 (63rd Foundation day of Election Commission of India) with the objective of increasing voter enrolment focusing specially on new voters. On the 1st National Voters' Day the newly enrolled electors were given a badge with the slogan "Proud to be a Voter-Ready to Vote" and were administered a pledge that goes: "We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language, any emotional inducement or material allurements ?.

Earlier the voter eligibility age was 21 years which has now been lowered to 18 years, the age where majority in India is just completing school education, has a clear/ innocent/easily impressionable/ sensitive/ imaginative and ambitious mindset (even in socio-political environment that we have in 2022) 'hoping' that elders must have prepared a level playing field for him/ her to step in. How far the political environment of the day is truthfully ready to receive one with 'said' hopefully hoping 'new voter' has to be kept in focus while setting the Theme- 2022 NVD instead of drafting the same simply for making more numbers to come to booths (more under pressures of 'personal' needs) but more valuing the duty of citizen towards the needs of the country since on the voting day one writes the fate of his/ her country for next five years for which one's belief in the democratic system must be firm and in this regard the ground status of the day is not encouraging.

No doubt focus has to be on creating awareness for participation by more old and 'young' voter for exercising the franchise but more is the need for strengthening the belief of voter citizen in quality/style of democracy that our elders had conceived which was more based on ethics than the 'political' 'morals' of the day that appear only focusing more on how to carry a voter to one's symbol.



So this 12th NVD which is being observed a day before 72nd Republic day there is need for making the voter citizen introspect how far the franchise is being cast in terms of the Pledge taken on 1st NVD and also for making the 'Vote Seekers' to introspect how far they have been able to provide to the Voter Citizen environment worth voting in election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language, any emotional inducement or material allurements ?.

It is also the political culture of the day which is responsible for lesser participation/ lesser interest the common man (particularly the new generation) shows in the elections / debates in the legislature where among other things the elected legislators & politicians frequently are seen shifting loyalties.

In the multiparty democratic system that India has this day (as enshrined in constitution of

India) it is believed that those who would be hoping to hold and those who hold the reins must be focussing their energies on the subjects & projects irrespective of particular sect/caste/religion/region / minority/ majority/ economic allurements and in case they divert from the ethics then there would be exiting simultaneously social / community institutions who would remind those in power / those seeking vote for power of the basics of a democratic system of governance. But looking at the environment that we are presently living in , such median / middling institutions are nearly missing and where ever some of the 'type' exist they are weak enough to correct the faulting politicians or cultivate awareness in the voter citizens about the rights and value of the indirect 'legislative' authority one carries. So need is also to strengthen the social / community institutions worth motivating for / forcing for behaving truthfully to ethics of democratic principles enshrined in the constitution of India so as strengthen the belief of the citizen in the voting process that is initiated every 5 years.

Need is more for making the people sensitive about the value of vote and the affect of their vote on the future of the nation. So going by the political culture we are living in the 'Theme NVD 2022 needs to be pointedly focussing worth making the voter citizen more aware of his/ her responsibilities as voter as well as for creating conditions worth making the political leadership holding the reins of governance / hoping to hold reins of governance to nourish a conduct where in the voter citizen starts believing in the responsibility one has towards the nation and the power one's vote has on ground to make the elected representatives tread the path towards and in legislature truthfully (ethically). There is utmost need for even some more intimate administrative and constitutional reforms for which pressures need be build on those who seek vote since only those in legislature and executive (cabinets) will have to do such reforms. No doubt surely there are many in political arena who have intentions and desires for holding to the truthful democratic principles but the majority culture makes them too ineffective.

In our country elections for all State Legislatures and Lok Sabha are not held at the same time (every year there may be elections to 3 to 4 state legislatures or Lok Sabha) compelling senior political leadership to remain

involved more in party politics / political gamesmanship/ voter luring than working on ground in truthful & rational manner. Hence those in power instead of leaving the assessment of their work to common man are often found Self-Auditing their projects/schemes' and spending time, money & energies for advertising work done only in terms of 'financial inputs'/ numbers.

So, for strengthening the belief of a voter citizen in the democratic system (i) there should be ban on sanctioning of any type of new freebies for the poor & BPL / new monetary benefits for the government servants/ pensioners by the government 9 months before elections to a legislature / Lok Sabha (ii) ban on laying of foundation stones of new state projects / midway inauguration of projects not likely to be completed atleast 6 months before the elections are due (iii) no new high value projects should announced for a State by the Union Government 6 months before elections (iv) no community / region related specials should be announced 6 months before elections are due (v) no IAS/IPS/IRS who resigns from government service should be allowed to contest elections on a political party before one year after retirement (vi) anti defection law need be amended like (a)MP/MLA elected on a party ticket if resigns should stay independent (b) any Legislator/ MP who leaves his party after announcement of elections should be allowed to contest as only independent (c) independent MP/MLA may support a party but should be allowed to join a party whose candidate had contested against him/ her as second highest (d) party whip system should be only to the extent of asking members to remain present during voting and whipping an opinion (vii) candidate's brief past history on past party associations, criminal record should be printed on posters (viii) NOTA (None Of The Above) should be replaced by NTC (Not This Candidate) there by introducing the system of negative voting which would be a more better use of voting right where under a voter can still contribute by reducing one vote of a candidate who one may think to be worst of all. NOTA is wastage of vote but NTC would do some service (ix) and like.

(Daya Sagar is Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).

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