

LG calls upon Private Educational Institutions to complement government's efforts toward transforming education sector

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon the private educational institutions to come forward and discharge their responsibility towards the society.

"Transformation of education sector should be our commitment. Private educational institutions must adopt some measures to ensure that education is accessible, affordable to all so that marginalised section of society is benefitted and education sector is truly inclusive," he said after inaugurating the new campus of Asian School at Miran Sahib, Jammu.

Sadhvi Ritambhara, Founder Vatsalyagram Vrindavan also graced the occasion.

The Lt Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to the management of the premier co-education



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at inauguration ceremony of new campus of Asian School at Miran Sahib, Jammu on Monday.

Boarding School of Dehradun, Uttarakhand for starting its branch in Jammu. He said the reputed institution is making an immense contribution in imparting value-based quality education to the students.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor talked about the educational reforms introduced, under the guidance of Prime Minister, to establish India as a knowledge economy.

"Our education sector had witnessed stagnation for more than three decades. It had adversely impacted the society's morale and the country's confidence was shaken. Prime Minister Narendra Modi instilled new confidence in the society. He has restored the ancient glory of Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor urged the teaching community to encourage hands-on, experi-

ential and collaborative learning and develop an enabling environment for the all-round development of students.

One of the most important

resources for our nation's growth is youth. The education must strengthen the contribution of youth in India's march towards Viksit Bharat, the Lt Governor further added.

Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Madanjeet Singh, Chairman, Asian School, Dehradun; Rajeev Gupta, Managing Director RDI India; Ankush Mahajan, Chairman, New Gandhi Memorial Educational Society; members of the School management, teachers and students were present.

Nitish's Oath



Women employee can now nominate son, daughter instead of husband for pension: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a path breaking decision with far reaching socio-economic impact and in keeping with PM Narendra Modi's policy to provide equitable rights to women, the Government has amended the long standing established rule, thereby granting the woman employee the right to nominate her son or daughter for family pension, instead of her husband as has been practice so far.

Sharing this with the media, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare has introduced an amendment to the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, allowing female government employees or pensioners to grant family pension to their eligible child/children after their own demise, instead of their spouse.

The amendment will also address situations where marital discord



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh briefing the media at New Delhi.

leads to divorce proceedings or cases filed under acts such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Dowry Prohibition Act or the Indian Penal Code, the Minister said.

Previously, family pension was granted to the spouse of a deceased government servant or pensioner, while other family members became

eligible only after the spouse's ineligibility or demise. However, the new amendment allows female government servants or pensioners to request the grant of family pension to their eligible child/children after their own demise, instead of their spouse.

Hailing the move, Dr Jitendra said, the amendment is in line with the Modi Govt's policy of giving equitable, just and legitimate rights to the women functionaries in every sector, whether it be Permanent Commission to Women in the Armed Forces or Women's Reservation Amendment in Parliament.

In an office memorandum, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW), said the female government servant or pensioner must make a written request to the concerned Head of Office, stating that family pension should be granted to her eligible child/children in precedence to her spouse, in the event of her death during the ongoing proceedings. If the female government servant or pen-

sioner passes away during the proceedings, the family pension will be disbursed accordingly.

The DoP&PW notification said, if a woman employee is survived by a widower with no eligible child, the family pension will be payable to the widower. However, if the widower is the guardian of a minor child or a child suffering from a mental disorder, the family pension will be payable to the widower; as long as he remains the guardian. Once the child attains majority and remains eligible for family pension, it will be payable directly to the child.

For cases where the deceased female government servant or pensioner is survived by a widower and children who have attained majority but are still eligible for family pension, the family pension will be payable to the widower. After all eligible children cease to be eligible for family pension, it will become payable to the widower until his death or remarriage, whichever occurs first.

Awareness camp on Road Safety held at Narwal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In line with the ongoing National Road Safety Month, Team Regional Transport Jammu under the direction of RTO Pankaj on Monday organized a Road Safety Awareness Program at Narwal Jammu. The event aimed to sensitize the general public and drivers about the importance of safe driving and adherence to traffic rules. During the program, more than one hundred drivers were educated about the road safety norms. Assistant Regional Transport Hq, Rehana Tabassam emphasized the significance of different traffic rules and urged the stakeholders to acknowledge their responsibilities towards better traffic management and road



Assistant Regional Transport Hq, Rehana Tabassam and other officers at a camp in Jammu on Monday.

safety. MVI Surinder Kumar, highlighted that while changing driving behavior may take time, education remains the key to achieving this transformation. The event was organized by Everest Transport Company and is a part of a broader initiative to promote responsible

driving practices and reduce road accidents.

M.D. Rakesh Chander Gupta welcomed and appreciated the M.V.D for organizing camp for drivers at Narwal.

Printing, distribution of Smart Card Driving Licenses started by Transport Department

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a big move, the Transport Department, UT of Jammu and Kashmir has started centralised printing and dispatch of Driving Licenses providing much awaited respite to the license card seekers. The printing of approx two lakh Driving Licenses which was pending since more than One and Half year has been resumed in collaboration with the Ministry of Road Transport, Government of India with the target to print and dispatch all the pending Driving Licenses within the next two months. According to Rajinder Singh Tara, Transport Commissioner, J&K, the Motor Vehicle Department has also introduced a major facelift in the new cards both in terms of durability and standards as the Department has decided to issue the QR code enabled Smart Cards as envisaged in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 marking a major shift from the issuance of normal laminated cards. The Department has also made all necessary arrangement with Postal Department to ensure the delivery of the licenses through Speed Post within 24-72 hours depending upon the distance, he added. The applicant will also get tracking ID through SMS from Postal Department on their Sarathi registered mobile number for easy tracking of delivery of their Driving License.

Dr Darakhshan inspects Waqf properties at Udhampur, Ramban



Dr Darakhshan inspecting Waqf properties on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Chairperson of JK Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday toured Udhampur and Ramban districts and took a survey visit at Jamia Masjid Complexes at Eid Gah Road in Udhampur and at Ramban.

She was accompanied by Waqf Board Member Nawabuddin and CEO of the Waqf Board Dr Majid Jahangir.

Dr Darakhshan was briefed about the developmental proposal of Udhampur Jamia by the Board Member and ACR of the district.

Dr Andrabi also inspected many Waqf controlled and managed properties in both the districts. She met different delegations of people and representatives of

many public social organisations.

Dr Andrabi assured the people that Waqf Board will surely look into the proposals submitted by many shrine management committees and public representatives regarding taking over of the shrines into Waqf Board management system.

"People's trust in honest working of the Board is our earning and we are committed to listen and respect all genuine public demands. The Board doesn't belong to us but to everybody and in the coming months, we will be taking over many shrines in the UT after a proper consideration by the Board", said Dr Andrabi. She said Waqf Board is regularly taking up new developmental works throughout J&K and this will continue.

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: It is the unwavering trust and goodwill of our clientele across the country that continues to inspire us to reach newer heights as we are carrying forward the journey of creating fresh milestones with our performance.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash made these remarks while chairing the main function of Bank's 4th country-wide customer-outreach program at Mumbai.

The function was part of Bank's customer-meets organised to listen, understand and resolve the issues faced by its clientele across its operational geographies.

Among few of the Bank's recent milestones, he spoke about the record annual profit of Rs 1197 Cr posted for FY 2022-23, rolling out of advanced and competitive digital offerings during the last years like Online Account opening Facility, STP platform enabling disbursement of loan upto Rs 1 Cr in just 10 seconds, mPay Delight Plus etc, besides the unprecedented market response to our Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) - a capital raising tool - that resulted in raising CET1 capital of Rs 750 Cr.

While enumerating the Bank's recent milestones on the occasion, he further asserted, "With our 9-month profit already at Rs 1128 Cr

J&K Bank organises 4th country wide customer-meets

Your feedback is crucial for our success and resilience: Baldev Prakash



MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash speaking at country wide customer-meet.

In December 2023, we are all set to break our highest-ever annual profit record posted last FY at Rs 1197 Cr. And all this successful performance is because of your unflinching loyalty that has been the cornerstone of our progress. And your feedback is crucial for our success and resilience."

The Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta presided over one such customer-meet at Zonal Office Jammu Cluster-1 and appreciated the Bank's clients for their participation. "Thank you all for being part of this customer meet. At J&K Bank, our commitment to excellence is unwavering. Your trust fuels our dedication to providing innovative banking solutions. We value your feedback and are continually striving to enhance your banking experience. Since our success is intertwined, therefore, let's strengthen our bonds further to create a more prosperous J&K", he said on the occasion.

One such meeting was also conducted at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, which was chaired by Divisional Head (Kashmir) Tabassum Nazir.

Perennially, around 2800 valuable customers attended 28 such meetings that were also conducted simultaneously at Cluster and Zonal levels of the Bank across the country.

Meanwhile, welcoming the participants at their respective places, the Bank's General Managers, Divisional Heads, Zonal Heads and Cluster Heads apprised the participants about the Bank's performance highlights, consistent progress and future goals. Emphasizing upon the need for continuity in Bank-customer communication, the Bank's management underscored the importance of feedback for achieving excellence in service delivery systems and stressed upon the symbi-

otic nature of relationship between the Bank and its customers.

Lauding the emotional-attachment between the Bank and its customers as unparalleled in the country, the speakers echoed the common purpose of the customer-meets saying, "These interactions would definitely reinforce and strengthen our unique bonding that has always withstood the test of time."

Acknowledging the Bank for its consistent customer-outreach at country-level, the customers present at these meetings appreciated the Bank's recent performance and recognized its efforts at making the services better. Airing their views at these gatherings, they requested the Bank to carry forward the two-way communication so that their relationship with Bank keeps refreshing and strengthening with passage of time.

Registering his good experience with the Bank, owner of M/s Rana Constructions and Enterprises, Vishal Pandoh, a client who attended Jammu meet said, "I began my relationship with the Bank in the year 2021 and I am very satisfied with the services and especially with the treatment I receive at the Bank's Talab

Tilloo Branch in Jammu."

At a similar Srinagar meet, a long-time customer of the Bank, Shafat Naqshbandi asserted, "Being a loyal customer of J&K Bank, I am happy that the Bank has connected us to the world of digital banking through its latest digital products. We did face some glitches during the installation of the Bank's technology-enabled services but one can feel an enhanced banking experience clearly now."

"I am very glad that the Bank has improved the Turn-around Time (TAT) while putting in place an effective structure for resolution of issues", said a client named Ganesh Gupta during the Mumbai meet while appreciating his relationship with the Bank.

Perennially, the meetings started with a video-message from the Bank's MD & CEO that was followed by power-point presentation providing an overview of the Bank, its business share in UTs of J&K, Ladakh and RoI, its distinctions, recently received awards and accolades, awareness regarding cyber-frauds, grievance redressal mechanism in place and remedial measures taken for addressing customer grievances etc.

75th Republic Day celebrations culminate with Beating Retreat Ceremony

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Customary 'Beating Retreat' ceremony marked the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations, at the MA Stadium, on Monday. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was the Chief Guest for the ceremony.

Marching Bands of Armed Forces played the enchanting patriotic tunes on the Brass bands and Pipe drum bands on the slow and quick strathspey.

The mesmerizing musical tunes of Ae Mere Watan ke Logon, Anar Senani, Dhawajke Rakshak, Jai Bharti, Veer Gorkha, Kaisa Sunder aur Bahadur Bharat Desh Humara and Maa Tujhe Salam on Brass Band, and India Gate, Chandani, Gorkha Brigade, Surya, Kargil Hill, and Almora on Pipe Band enthralled the



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha felicitating R-Day participant.

audience. The Lt Governor felicitated the contingents of Jammu Kashmir Police and Security Forces; Parade Commander, Dy Parade Commander, marching contingents of cadets from NCC (Boys), contingents of schools (Boys and Girls), cultural performers, Gymnastics and Tableaux of different departments for their outstanding display at

the grand event. He also awarded the winners of the Patriotic Song Singing competition organized by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations.

The Beating Retreat ceremony was concluded with the ever-popular 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' with simultaneous display of spectacular fireworks and sound & light display followed by the National Anthem.

JU holds its 121st Syndicate meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 121st Syndicate meeting of the University of Jammu (JU), chaired by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, showcased a collaborative effort towards academic enhancement.

Prof. Rai expressed gratitude to Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, J&K UT, Santosh D. Vaidya, Principal Secretary Finance, J&K Government (Financial Advisor Universities), Prof. J.P. Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow and Prof. Sunita Singh Sengupta (Department of Management Studies, Delhi University) alongwith other Syndicate members.

Prof. Rai emphasized the paramount importance of focusing on teaching and research for achieving academic excellence. Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu, presented various agenda items. The Syndicate gave nod to the proposal to increase the intake capacity of seats in the M.Sc. Microbiology program at the School of Biotechnology, addressing the growing



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai chairing 121st Syndicate meeting of JU.

demand for microbiology professionals.

The Syndicate endorsed the introduction of Tourism and Travel Management in the Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) from the Academic Session 2024-25, aligning with the NEP-2020. Additionally, the Syndicate endorsed the adoption of the University of Jammu's Sports policy.

The Syndicate endorsed amendments in the Clause 5(b) in the Students Aid Fund Regulations for the session 2022-23 and onwards. Furthermore, the Syndicate endorsed initiating a Ph.D. program in "Rural Studies" at the

Department of Life Long Learning (DLLL), responding to consistent demand from the stakeholders in various governmental and non-governmental departments of the UT of J&K.

In order to give a flip to the holistic development of the students in sync with the NEP 2020, corpus fund of Rs. 2 crore was approved for 12 clubs under Utsah- The Club Consortium.

In order to ensure sustainability and long term success of the Litzine Magazine, a corpus fund of Rs. 50 Lakh was also approved. The Corpus Fund will enhance Litzine Magazine's finan-

cial resilience, ensuring its ability to navigate challenges without compromising its mission. Special invitees Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, and Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director DD&OE played a crucial role by providing valuable insights during the meeting.

The Syndicate meeting was attended by distinguished academicians namely Prof. Chandra Bhushan Sharma (Department of Education, IGNOU), Prof. Sunita Singh Sengupta (Department of Management Studies, Delhi University), Prof. Nazir Ahmed Nazir (Dean, School of Business Studies, University of Kashmir), Prof. Aneesa Shafi (Dean Students Welfare, KU), Prof. Arifa Bushra (Dean, School of Arts, Literature & Languages, KU), Prof. K.S. Charak (Dept of Mathematics), Prof. Seema Langar (Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences), Dr. Manisha Kohli (Principal, GDC, Bani), Dr. Mohd Abbas Shah (Principal, GDC, Marwah).