

# Raj Bhawan celebrates Assam Day

## LG pays tributes to Swargadeo Chaolung Sukapha, Veer Lachit Borphukan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan celebrated the Assam Day, on Saturday. Security personnel, Students, and the people of Assam living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the cultural event organized on the pious occasion.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his felicitations to the people of Assam and the distinguished guests on Assam Day.

Paying tributes to the founder of great Ahom dynasty, Swargadeo



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at Assam Day celebrations at Raj Bhawan, Jammu.

Chaolung Sukapha and Veer Lachit Borphukan, the Lt Governor said the two great personalities have made a

significant contribution to the making of a modern, strong and self-reliant Assam.

Litterateurs, artistes and various other great personalities of Assam have ensured national unity and

integrity through their priceless contribution and it is our greatest strength, he said.

He said the cultural event organized today at Raj Bhawan is a reflection of unity in diversity. Such occasions provide us a great opportunity to share the values of our rich culture and strengthen the bond between people, he added.

The Lt Governor also congratulated the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages for their captivating performances.



## Police acting swiftly to combat challenge of drugs: DIG

### ■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Central Kashmir Sujit Kumar on Saturday said that police is acting swiftly to combat the challenge of drugs in the Valley.



Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an anti-drug rally here, DIG Sujit Kumar said police is actively fighting against drug addiction in Kashmir.

"Those involved in drug trade are being chased by police. Properties of drug peddlers are being seized, kingpins are being tackled and drug de-addiction programmes being run for victims," DIG Kumar said.

He said that stringent action is underway against drug peddlers to protect youth from menace of substance use. Apart from

recovery of psychotropic and other contraband substances on daily basis, a number of cases have been registered and drugs worth crores seized by the police, he added.

To save society from this menace, Police is seeking cooperation of the community members and to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood. He said police is actively conducting awareness and counselling sessions in schools and colleges. "Through collaboration with religious leaders, awareness is being disseminated in social spaces and mosques," he said.

He urged media persons to come forward and play an active role in combating the menace for the larger interest of society.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: One feels immensely pleased to see that the schemes that we devise for the welfare of people of the country are really and effectively transforming the lives of people for better on ground.

Secretary DFS, MoF (GoI), Dr Vivek Joshi made these heartfelt remarks today at J&K Bank corporate headquarters during the event titled 'Swarozgar Utsav' on the first day of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The event was attended by the Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, General Managers, DGMs, entrepreneurs, beneficiaries, farmers, home-stay owners, media persons and other senior officials of the Bank. Representatives of KCCI and CA Stores Association (Lassipora) led by their respective Presidents Javed Ahmad Tenga and Ajaz Ahmad Qureshi were also present on the occasion.

Secretary DFS Dr Vivek



Secretary DFS, MoF (GoI), Dr Vivek Joshi at J&K Bank corporate headquarters during the event 'Swarozgar Utsav'.

Joshi, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, further said, "Through my brief interaction with the entrepreneurs manning the stalls established under 'Swarozgar Utsav' here, I could see the admirable job J&K Bank is doing in the effective implementation of government schemes here. And I commend you for the deep sense of connect with the beneficiaries that was quite apparent during my interactions with them at the stalls."

At the event, sanction letters worth Rs 45 Cr were distributed among beneficiaries

## J&K Bank hosts Secretary DFS Dr Vivek Joshi

### 'I could see the admirable job J&K Bank is doing in the effective implementation of government schemes'

availing Bank finance under different products and sponsored schemes. A corporate movie capturing the snapshots of Bank's 85 year journey was also screened on the occasion and was followed by a detailed presentation.

The Chief Guest termed both the movie of Bank's journey and the presentation on its systemic significance as impressive, saying, "The graph of J&K Bank has consistently been on the rise because its leadership has handled all the difficult situations very well like that of

COVID19 etc."

"Now I understand why J&K Bank is the most popular bank here", he added.

Pitching for the aggressive propagation and implementation of newly launched PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Secretary DFS said, "The scheme has been designed to extend end-to-end holistic support to traditional artists and craftspeople engaged in 18 identified trades through access to skill training, collateral free credit, modern tools, market linkage support and incentive for digital transac-

tions."

"The scheme has been devised in furtherance of the Prime Minister's vision of inclusive development, and the idea is to upgrade both the mental horizon and tool-kit of artisans and craftspeople and transform them into entrepreneurs of tomorrow", he added.

While stressing upon the need to deepen digital penetration, he also urged the banks to scale up the public awareness programs about the digital frauds, which are on the rise across the country.

Earlier, Dr Vivek Joshi had a guided tour of the stalls manned by the entrepreneurs who have availed Bank's finance under various products and different employment generation schemes sponsored by the Government. He interacted with young entrepreneurs and listened to their experiences and feedback about the schemes and services of the Bank.

In his welcome address, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash highlighted the Bank's lead role in implementing different schemes sponsored by the Union and UT Government. "In addition to that - I feel delighted to share that under the employment generation campaign in J&K titled 'Swarozgar Utsav'- banks have provided credit of Rs 1598 Cr to around 38000 youth thereby benefiting more than 96,000 persons during the last five months. And being the premier financial institution here, J&K Bank alone has contributed over 90% of the sanctioned credit", he said. The function concluded with the vote of thanks presented by the Bank's General Manager Ashutosh Sareen who said, "Receiving sanction letters at your hands has boosted the morale of beneficiaries and will motivate them further to become job providers rather than job seekers", he said.

## Quick disposal of old cases must to reinforce the confidence of litigants: Justice Tashi Rabstan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/KATRA: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for district Jammu), Chairman, Building and Infrastructure Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority held an interactive meeting with Judicial Officers of district Jammu here this afternoon to take stock of pending cases and discuss steps being taken to lessen the backlog of cases.

Justice Tashi was received by Bala Jyoti, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases) Jammu, Tahir Khurshid Raina, Special Judge, Anit Corruption, Jammu and V. S Bhoun, 1st Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu along with other Judicial officers posted at the Headquarter.

During interaction, Justice Tashi impressed upon all the Judicial Officers present in the meeting to prioritize listing of old cases and take them up for hearing on day to day basis to ensure their quick disposal in order to reinforce the confidence of public in general and litigants in particular in the judicial system.

Justice Tashi instructed the judges of district judiciary, Jammu to employ all possible



Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh being received by Sonia Gupta, Principal District and Sessions Judge Reasi during visit to under construction New Court Complex at Kotli Bajalian, Katra.

measures under law in ensuring execution of processes of the court as well as seek explanation, whenever and wherever necessary, from the executing agency for non-compliance. During the meeting, Justice Tashi urged the presiding officers of Family Court, Motor Accident Tribunal and all the Magistrates dealing with the Cheque Bounce cases under Negotiable Instrument Act to refer maximum number of cases to the Lok Adalats for listing them before the upcoming 4th National Lok Adalat scheduled for December 9, 2023 for their amicable, quick and cost-effective settlement and disposal. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Tashi highlighted the importance of digital technology in bringing about the transparency in working of the courts and impressed upon the Judges to upload

daily orders enabling the litigants, Advocates and all other stakeholders to keep them abreast of the proceedings conducted in their respective cases. Adding further, Justice Tashi said that this would not only bring transparency in the working of the judicial system but would also reinforce the confidence of a litigant in our judicial system. Justice Tashi patiently listened to the issues raised by the judicial officers in the meeting and assured them of their early resolution. Justice Tashi also inspected the ongoing work of POC SO Court in the District Court Complex, Jammu.

Later in the afternoon, Justice Tashi visited the under construction New Court Complex at Kotli Bajalian, Katra where he was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. Justice Tashi Rabstan was received by Sonia Gupta, Principal

District and Sessions Judge Reasi, along with Sunil Kumar Sub Judge Katra, Lakshay Badyal Munsiff Katra, Vipan Chandran SP Katra, Advocate Parvesh Kant President Bar Association Katra, DGM I Housing Board Parvaiz Malik, Advocate K.K Dubey and other bar members.

Justice Tashi Rabstan had interaction with the officer concerned of J&K Housing Board and other government departments and passed on the spot directions for completion of the project strictly within the time period stipulated for projects under Central Sponsored Schemes.

Justice Tashi Rabstan interacted with the judicial officers and members of the bar and addressed their issues. He also directed the concerned executing agency to provide status report on fortnightly basis.

## Yasha Mudgal assumes charge as Mission Dir HADP

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives and ARI and Trainings department, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday assumed the charge of Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

After assuming the charge, the Mission Director took a meeting in which she reviewed the progress on implementation of HADP and Competitiveness Improvement of the Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (JKICIP), funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing on holistic approach from all stakeholders, the Mission Director stressed that short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals should be identified to ensure a comprehensive and strategic roadmap for the projects. The Mission Director reiterated the critical role of District Magistrates, who, by virtue of being the chairmen of district-level committees, must monitor the performance of project implementation on a regular basis.

Mudgal underscored the importance of synergy among stakeholders and established effective communication channels to ensure seamless execution and coordination between



Comm Secy Cooperatives and ARI and Trainings Dept, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting after assuming charge of MD, HADP.

different project components and teams. Expressing optimism about the transformative impact of these projects on the agricultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the Mission Director highlighted that the collaborative efforts of the department, coupled with IFAD's support, anticipated to drive sustainable development, enhance agricultural productivity and uplift the livelihoods of

farmers in the region. The Mission Director stressed on the urgency of task completion, emphasizing that adequate time has already been invested in project take-off. She issued stringent directions to Heads of Departments to gear up and complete the assigned tasks on a mission mode, underlining that any lackadaisical approach will not be tolerated, given the projects prestigious status.

Emphasizing on comprehensive evaluation, the Mission Director asked the officers that not only outputs but outcomes, as outlined in HADP, should be quantified and fixed for each financial year. She added that this approach ensures a subtle assessment of the projects impact, focusing not just on activities but on the broader goals of sustainable agricultural development.

## MASTA delegation meets CS Atul Dulloo

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of Medical and Surgical Traders Association (MASTA) led by Ashok Amla, Association Chairman, Vijay Bhardwaj, President and other members met the newly appointed Chief Secretary, Atul Dulloo on Saturday in his office.

They wished him a successful tenure and expressed their appreciation for his earlier initiatives.

Thereafter, the delegation



MASTA delegation members during meeting with newly appointed Chief Secretary, Atul Dulloo.

discussed key matters related to the health and medical sector with him and thanked him for his useful insights.

# Can J&K LG Administration correct the wrongs of District Reorganisations done by Elected Govts?

## People of Distant & Backward Areas lacking due Political & Adm. Empowerment keep falling back in Growth No government should wait for genuine demand protests growing 'wild' before they are 'heard'

### ■ DAYA SAGAR

In a democratic republic like India District administrative unit (District) is in general taken into consideration for over all broader prospective planning and allocation of plan funds. In view of the policies that existed after establishment of local democratic governments in India till 2018 as regards creation of new district administrative units in J&K it will not be wrong to say that keeping 'plan allocation & related deeds' in view the areas falling in Jammu Division of J&K would surely have possibly remained under more of disadvantage and it was so. Just for an idea sake it would be appropriate to quote here that including the areas illegally occupied by Pakistan in 1947/48 the then Jammu province had 5

district administrative units ( Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur; Reasi, Mirpur) and two Jagirs (Poonch, almost like the level of a district, and of Chenani) where as the Kashmir province ( excluding Ladakh & frontier areas Gilgit/Baltistan) had only 3 District Administrative units.( Anantnag,Baramulla,Muzaffarabad ). After 1947, for active administration, the unoccupied areas of J&K excluding Mirpur District of Jammu province & a very small part of Poonch Jagir were reorganized into 6 six District Administrative units of Jammu Division ( Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur; Doda,Rajouri and Poonch) ; the 2 remaining districts of Anantnag & Baramulla were reorganized as only 3 districts of Anantnag, Srinagar & Baramulla

in Kashmir Division a n d of course Ladakh too was a district of Kashmir Division. So upto 1978 there were 6 districts in Jammu Division and in Kashmir Division there were only 3 Districts of Kashmir Valley in Kashmir Division. But the reorganizations of district administrative units as were done by National Conference Government in 1979 (SRO 306 of 6/6/1979 ) and Congress-PDP Government in 2006-07 ( SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 ) which would fail any independent logical test since 3 districts of



### A Look through the Mist Part-II

Kashmir valley in Kashmir Division had been in 1979 increased to 6 and then again in 2007 from 6 to 10 where as the then 6 existing districts of Jammu Division had not been increased further in 1979 and it was only in 2007 that districts were increased and that too only from 6 to 10.

To have a rational view of the need that emerged after 2007 for carving out more new districts in the state of Jammu & Kashmir for correcting the wrongs done by the SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 where in a district like Rajouri with 7 Tehsils was not split in more districts where as in Kashmir Division a new district like that of Shopian with only one Tehsil was carved out.

In this regard for adopting a fair approach to apply corrections now worth satisfying the people of the areas that feel neglected it would be better to also see the number of Tehsils and Niyabats that were there in the 10 Districts of Kashmir Valley and 10 districts of Jammu Division before the issue of order No. Rev(s)169 of 18-07-2014 for creating more Tehsils. In 2006-07 for instance Rajouri District of Jammu Region already had 7 Tehsils spread over 2630 sq km( Census 2011 data) but this district was not split in more districts where as in Kashmir valley districts like i. Ganderbal with 3 tehils and 258 sq km area ( 2011 census) ii. Shopian with only 1 tehsil and just an area of \*312 sq Km (Census 2011 data) (iii) Bandipora with 3

tehsils and area of just 345 sq km (iv) Kulgam with 3 tehils and are of just 410 sq km ( census 2011) were created. ( \* different areas have been mentioned at different times / in different reports/ sites and actual area may be different but surely not much. There seems enough scope for raising the number of districts in Jammu Division from 10 to 15 or so but keeping only 10 in Kashmir Division taking leads from the size & status of existing districts in Kashmir Valley. It was expected in 2015 that BJP-PDP popular / elected Government would apply the corrections but no any step was taken in that direction.

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