

Union Secretary DFS chairs 12th UT Level Bankers' Committee meeting with special focus on PM Vishwakarma Scheme



Union Secretary DFS, MoF, Dr Vivek Joshi chairing the 12th Meeting of J&K UTLCB at SKICC, Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Implement and Popularize PM Vishwakarma Scheme to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools so that they take advantage of the comprehensive scheme, which is one of the stepping stones in realising the all important milestone of Prime Minister's Vision to see India as a developed country by 2047.

This was stated by Union Secretary DFS, MoF, Dr Vivek Joshi while chairing the 12th Meeting of J&K UTLCB at SKICC, Srinagar here. The meeting reviewed the performance of banks in delivery of credit under various schemes during the half year ended September 2023 and a special focus was given to the implementation of PM Vishwakarma scheme in J&K.

MD & CEO J&K Bank and Convenor J&K UTLCB, Baldev Prakash; Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya; Administrative Secretaries; Regional Director, RBI Kamal P. Patnaik; Chief General Manager NABARD Bhallamudi Sridhar; General Manager, RBI Sandeep Mittal; representatives of MSME MSDE and METTY and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI,

NABARD, Banks, Departmental Heads of J&K Government, insurance companies and Lead District Managers were present on the occasion.

Dr Vivek Joshi said, "I am here to impress upon you all that PM Vishwakarma is an ambitious programme of the Union Government. With its primary focus on quality, the scheme has been devised in such a way that it could well serve as a template for all upcoming schemes of the Central and State Governments."

"Targets set for this scheme are very much achievable and J&K has potential to take this scheme forward. Bankers and line departments have a huge role to play to ensure that all the eligible Vishwakarmas avail benefits under the scheme and contribute to their self-sufficiency, improved productivity besides the Nation's self-reliance," he added.

Pointing to the gaps in the storage capacity and apple production in J&K, Dr Vivek Joshi directed the Banks to extend credit linkage to all the CA Stores through pledge financing against Electronically Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (ENWR).

He further said, "While the apple growers need to be made aware about all the

Central and State Government Schemes with outcome-oriented approach, there is a need to replace old and low-productivity orchards with high density investment and gestation period of 4-5 years", he stated.

"I also urge UTLCB and Lead District managers to keep monitoring the progress under various flagship schemes being implemented through banks. All bankers should whole heartedly commit themselves to achieve saturation of all eligible persons under social security schemes", he further said.

Earlier, Union Additional Secretary Ministry of MSME, Dr Rajneesh gave an exhaustive presentation on the coverage, benefits and processes involved in availing the finance under PM Vishwakarma scheme. With around 19,000 applications received across the UT, he stated that aspiring artisans and crafts people are actively participating to reap benefits of the scheme. "This is where the Panchayat Raj Department and Banks have a crucial role to play", he said. He also stressed for 100% on-boarding of Gram Panchayat Pradhans on PM Vishwakarma portal and immediate completion of 1st and 2nd stage verification."

"Pitching for Aadhar enabled payments by March 2024, Principal Secretary Finance urged the Government departments and banks to utilise digital platforms of Government of India for 100% KCC saturation. "The focus need to shift from digitally-enabled to digitally active accounts."

"Developed Mind-set and Developed Skill-set are pre-requisites for becoming a developed Nation. And that is where this PM Vishwakarma assumes great importance and needs to be implemented with diligence and sufficiency", said Regional Director, RBI, Kamal P. Patnaik

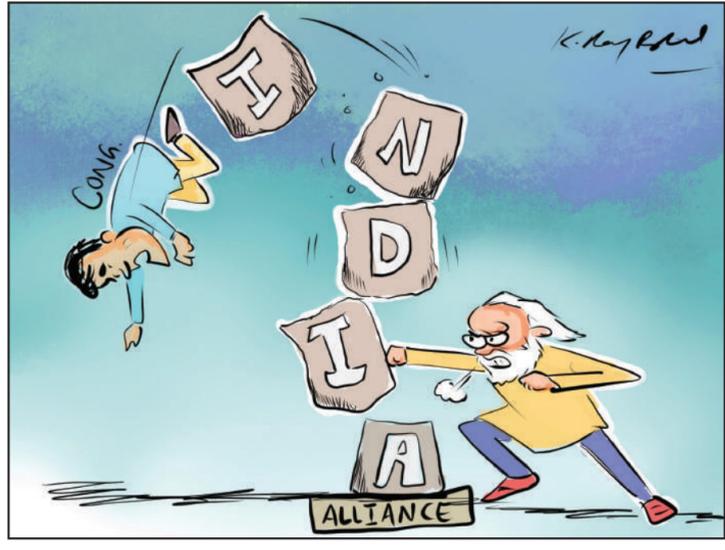
In his welcome address, Convenor UTLCB and MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash hailed DFS Secretary's painstaking concerns in implementation of Government schemes across the country. He also appreciated the policy making efforts of DFS in orchestrating India's successful journey towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

He also expressed gratitude to recently retired J&K Chief Secretary Dr AK Mehta for his contribution as administrative head of the UT in ensuring successful implementation of various government schemes in J&K. He also reiterated that Banks

would continue to provide all possible support to the UT government in employment generation, poverty alleviation and taking the government initiatives to the last mile of the UT.

Earlier, General Manager J&K Bank, Syed Rais Maqbool while making presentation on the financial achievements of various banks in different sectors during the first half year ended September 2023 informed that banks in J&K have achieved 75% of the Annual Target under ACP by disbursing credit of Rs.38,909 Crore to 12,19,877 beneficiaries which included Rs.21,796 Crore disbursed to 6,87,338 beneficiaries under Priority Sector and Rs.17,113 Crore to 5,32,539 beneficiaries under Non-Priority Sector.

It was also informed that banks have sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs.1,214 Crore to 25,875 beneficiaries under major employment generation schemes during the period. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Sudhir Gupta Executive Director J&K Bank who thanked the Secretary DFS for his invaluable insights saying, "I believe, these insights will benefit not only the bankers present here but people at large."



BJP workers celebrate historic victory in 3 states at Srinagar office

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: The Bhartiya Janata Party supporters in Srinagar enthusiastically celebrated the mega victory of the party in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan assembly elections.

BJP workers were seen bursting fire-crackers, exchanging sweets and playing instruments in front of the party office at Jawahar Nagar while senior leaders said the party's lead in these three states is a result of people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development guarantee.

"As BJP workers, we are thankful to the people of these three states. This resounding mandate reflects the unwavering trust and support of the people in the BJP's vision and leadership", they said.



At the party office, the BJP leaders chanted slogans hailing PM Modi. Expressing gratitude to the voters for their overwhelming mandate, the BJP leadership acknowledged the responsibility bestowed upon the party to uphold the trust placed in them. These victories underscore the BJP's commitment to inclusive governance, development, and progress in every region it represents, they maintained.

Looking ahead with determination and optimism, the BJP is committed to serving the people of Kashmir. The party aims to engage with the populace, understand their concerns, and strive to bring progress and development to the region, aligning with the ideals of a united, prosperous India, they added.

DDC Member, Rising Athletes Organisation of J&K delegation call on Lt Governor



Rising Athletes Organisation of J&K delegation calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Er. Wajid Bashir Khan, DDC Member from Mendhar Poonch called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Monday. A delegation of Rising Athletes Organisation of J&K led by its President

Sahil Pandita met the Lt Governor and briefed him on the upcoming endeavours to promote sports in the region. Akash Parihar, Chairman, Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation, apprised the Lt Governor on various issues of public importance of Doda. Abhinav Anand, President, Trikuta Nagar Traders Association, Jammu also called on the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations that the issues projected by them will be looked into earnestly for early redressal.

DM Jammu reviews preparations for Panchayat Secretary Recruitment exam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya led a series of consecutive meetings on Monday to review preparations for the upcoming recruitment exam for the post of Panchayat Secretary.



District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting at Jammu on Monday.

The examination, being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, is scheduled to take place on December 10 across 90 centres spanning 86 locations in the district. As many as 35306 candidates of Jammu District are going to appear in the Exam. The meetings were held at Teachers Bhawan with attendance of key stakeholders, including SSP Jammu, Dr Vinod Kumar, SSP Security,

SSP Traffic, ADC, Sub Divisional Magistrates and RTO Jammu. The DM said that all necessary arrangements have been put in place to conduct the examination in a free and fair manner. He urged the officers to strictly adhere to procedures for a transparent examination in their respective centers. The Magistrates and

observers received comprehensive briefings on their roles and responsibilities during the critical recruitment process. The ADC, Anusya Jamwal, while presiding over the similar meetings early in the morning with School Principals and Superintendents and others concerned directed them to ensure the exam's fair and

transparent conduct. Member JKSSB, Atul Kumar gave a presentation detailing the standard operating procedures for all the stakeholders during the occasion. Logistics plans for the examination day were thoroughly reviewed by the DM, who emphasized the importance of proper lighting, seating arrangements, and

bold signages across all examination centers. Ensuring candidate facilitation, he stressed the need for adequate drinking water and toilet facilities. Notable attendees also included PO ICDS, AC Nazool, Chief Education Officer, District Education Planning Officer, Nodal Officer Colleges and Center Supervisors.

JAKFAS delegation calls on CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Finance and Accounts Society (JAKFAS) on Monday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dullo here at Civil Secretariat.

The delegation included Mahesh Das, Director General, Accounts and Treasuries; Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, Director General, J&K Funds organization; Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, President JAKFAS; Ashok Kumar, Director Finance, GAD; Anil Dogra, Director Finance, Social Welfare Department; Araf Khan, Director Finance, LG Secretariat; Rashim Deepika, FA/CAO Science and Technology Department and

Sonam Singh, Vice President Career Progression (ACP) & demanded same in favour of J&K Accounts Service. Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation that all genuine issues would be looked into and resolved on merit.

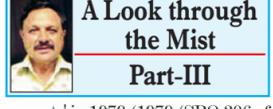


JAKFAS delegation calling on Chief Secretary, Atal Dullo at Civil Secretariat.

Can 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



A Look through the Mist Part-III

Constitutional reorganisations of District Administrative Units had been done in erstwhile state of J&K by 'elected governments' in 1979 (SRO 306 of 6/6/1979) and 2007 (SRO 185 of 22 May 2007), corrections have not been made even after that by any popular government.. Going by the experiences during president rule in the past so still some good could be expected in 2023 since the UT of J&K is under President rule and LG Manoj Sinha, an elder and senior leader; can get applied the corrections before return of the 'popular' government by appointing a high power Reorganisation Commission (with some private members also) for reassigning more district administrative units in Jammu Division to settle the demands/grievances of some backward/demanding areas so as to bring the administration more near to the common man in Bani/Basoli/Billawar, Nowshera/ Sunderbani/ Kalakot, Akhnoor; Rajouri, Buddal/ Mendar; Mohore/Gool, Ramnagar; Bhaderwah/ Thathri/ Gandoh, Gulabgarh/Paddar, Hiranagar; R.S.Pura; Ramban, Kargil, Zanskar, Leh, Nubra, Changthang, Sha, Dhahan, Doda, Kishitwar, Bani, Basolli and the like as was done in 2007 (SRO

Sr No	Existing District	New possible Districts out of tehsils existing before issue of order SRO No. Rev(s)169 of 18-07-2014 when (i) Ganderbal with 3 tehsils and 258 sq km area (2011 census) (ii) Shupian 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 tehsils and are of just 410 sq km (census 2011)	Possible new district
1	Doda 2625 sqkm	Doda plus part of Thathri	Some part of Thathri, Bhaderwah and Gandoh Tehsils or Like
2	Udhampur 2637 sq km	Udhampur Chenani Tehsils 1200-1300 sq km	Ramnagar Majailta. (Dudu Basantgarh) Tehsils or like
3	Rajouri 2630 sq km	Sunderbani, Nawshera, Kalakote Tehsils	Large part Rajouri, Buddal, Some of Darhal, Some part of Thanamandi Tehsil or like
4	Kathua 2502 sq km	Billawar, Bani, and some part of Basoli tehsils	Kathua, Hiranagar some part Basoli Tehsils sq km or like
5	Jammu 2342 sq km	Akhnoor; some small parts of Jammu, Rajouri and Reasi Tehsils 1150-1250 sq km	Jammu, Bishnah, RS Pura Tehsils or like 1150-1200 sq km
6	Reasi 1719 sq km	Reasi borders Rajouri, Udhampur, Jammu Tehsils and Gool Gulabgarh (Borders Rajouri, Punch, Kulgam Ramban)	may have to also examine
7	Poonch (Punch) 1674 sq km	Haveli, Mandi, part Mendar part Surankot Tehsils	Small Part Surankot, Part Mendar small Part of Rajouri small Part Dahal small Part Thanamandi Tehsil or Like
8	Kishtwar 7737 sqkm	1 Marwah, Chattru 4, Kishitwar 3, 2 Atholi Tehsils	may have to also examine in view of terrain of Marwah, Chattru tehsils
9	Ramban 1329 sq km	Ramban, Banihal Tehsils	
10	Samba 904sq Km Census	Samba	



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating "Global Bio-India 2023 International Conference" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Monday.

World looking up to India as emerging Biomanufacturing Hub: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The world is looking up to India as an emerging Biomanufacturing Hub, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Monday. Biotechnology Startups and Institutional linkages with Industry will drive India's Bioeconomy in the years to come, he said. The Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said this while

inaugurating the "Global Bio-India 2023 International Conference" at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital. Dr Jitendra said that our Bioeconomy witnessed double digit growth rate year-on-year in the last 9/10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In 2014, India's bioeconomy stood at just about \$10 Billion, this fiscal we are likely to touch \$150 billion and we look forward to having \$300 Billion by 2030," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, India has made rapid strides in the last 8/9 years. "We had just 55 (Biotech) Startups in 2014, now we have more than 6,000," he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said, today there are over 3,000 Agritech Startups and are very successful in areas like Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution.

Indicators for likely possible final status do reflect from the table given here in. By do so the administrative bottlenecks would be surely be dismantled to great extent and people in the neglected areas would surely feel empowered worth making their demands well represented. Of course the delimitation commission 2020 and its order of 2022 did attempt to balance the scale but did that has not been complete apply some correction but that order has not been that fair since still the seats distributed over Kashmir valley are still more than Jammu Division and people will have to wait for Next Delimitation after 2031 sold the distant backward areas get fair representation by getting more seats like was the case in erstwhile legislative council of J&K State where as per Section -50 of constitution of J&K Jammu Division had 14 elected MLCs as

against 12 MLC for Kashmir division. How did this fact escape the attention of 2020 Delimitation Commission is not easily palatable which distributed more MLAs over Kashmir Division (47 MLAs over Kashmir division areas out of 90 when constitutionally erstwhile J&K State had 14 elected MLC in Jammu Division and only 12 MLCs in Kashmir Valley of Kashmir Division). no doubt that did happen during President Rule and not during 'popular' government rule, may be the local political leaders and administration was not able to provide the Delimitation Commission proper data or the Commission did not find it 'easy' to distribute less than 46 seats over Kashmir division even when the total seats had further increased from 83 to 90. Let LG Administration atleast correct the wrongs in reorganizations done as regards District Administrative units well taking leads also from Wazir Commission which had recommended in 1984 to increase the six districts of Kashmir valley from 6to7 and that in Jammu Division from 6to 9 and so erroneously the PDP-Congress government had increased the districts from 6 to 10 in Kashmir Valley as against from 6to 7 recommended by Wazir Commission in 1984.

Concluded (The author is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs. dayaagr45@yahoo.com).