# Modi Govt committed to equitable empowerment of 'Divyangs': Dr Jitendra

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A delegation of All India Federation of the Deaf (AIFD) called on Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, here ON Wednesday ahead of the 68th Flag Week of the Deaf from 1st to 7th February.

The delegation led by its General Secretary Roshan Kumar pinned a sticker flag on the self of the Union Minister to mark the commencement of the Flag Week of the Deaf.

Underlining that the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the welfare and equitable empowerment and welfare of the "Divyangs", Dr Jitendra said a path-breaking MoU was signed between the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 29th July last year to revolutionise and standardise Deaf Education with Indian Sign Language (ISL). On 23rd September 2023 to mark the World Sign Language Day, 10,000 ISL dictionary terms and Video Relay Service for the deaf com-

munity through WhatsApp

video call were launched,



A delegation of the All India Federation of the Deaf (AIFD) calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Wednesday.

including 260 signs of finan-

cial terms, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports centre Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday last year. In a bid to further enhance financial inclusion and foster economic empowerment among the Divyangjan, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) announced 1% interest rate rebate under National Divyangjan Finance and (NDFDC) loan for timely repayment

Stating that Divyangs are an integral part of human resource, Dr Jitendra said, the Government is all committed to work for an inclusive society and empowerment of persons with disabilities

"Be that the fee remission for Divyangs in Civil Services Examination, two choices of home cadre for Divyangs qualifying Civil Services Examination, increase in the Divyang pension, hike in attendant allowance etc., all possible steps have been taken by this government for the welfare of Divyangs," he said.

Dr. Jitendra said that around 15,000 posts meant

for Divyangs, which were lying vacant for long years, were filled under a special drive by

idea of PM Modi who gave the title 'Divyang' (Divine Body) instead of 'Viklang' to address persons with disability.

In the Ministry of Science & Technology also, Dr Jitendra informed, several schemes had been introduced in the last ten years to support Divyangs in science, technology StartUps.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the government has set up a special sports training institute for the Divyang at various places in the country including



# Secy Cooperative visits CCB, Jammu Central Coop Bank

JAMMU: Secretary Cooperative, Babila Rakwal, on Wednesday visited the Citizens' Cooperative Bank Central and JammuCooperative Bank to assess the operational efficiency and systems, financial strength and contributions in promoting financial inclusion and cooperative values.

During the visit to the Citizen's Cooperative bank, the Secretary accompanied by the Joint Registrar (Banking and Finance) Rakesh Dubey and Deputy Registrar Jammu Bhumika Sharma, interacted with the Chairman Parveen Sharma and other members of the Board and discussed the bank's ongoing initiatives and strategies for enhancing financial services for its customers. She praised the bank's commitment towards



fostering economic growth through cooperative princi-

"I appreciate the way the Citizens' Cooperative Bank for providing services to its clients at par with any other nationalized or private sector bank. The main aim of the however, should remain aligned with the principles of economic growth through cooperation. The should

strengthen itself financially also to safeguard the interests of the large number of shareholders of the bank",

maintained Babila Rakwal. Pertinently, the Citizens' Cooperative Bank Limited is the largest and oldest Urban Cooperative Bank of Jammu and has been at the forefront of empowering individuals and businesses through its cooperative banking model, facilitating financial literacy

programs, and offering tailor made banking solutions to cater to the diverse needs of its clients since 1978.

Parveen Kumar Sharma apprised the Secretary of various issues the bank is facing in smooth deliverance of services to the targeted clients. The Board shall remain dedicated towards fostering economic prosperity and financial well-being of our members, he added.

Babila Bakwal also conducted section wise tour in the Head Office and assessed the working and systems. She emphasised the need for capacity building of human assets of the bank so that they are able to handle the banking activities efficiently in times to come. She assured full cooperation in resolving various pending issues at the

Department's end. The members of the Board who present on the occasion Bharat Bhushan were Gupta, Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Sumant Singh Jamwal, Varinder Singh Jamwal, CA Joginder Singh and Sunil Gupta besides Ravi Kant. Managing Director of the Bank.

Later, the Secretary visited the Head Quarters of Jammu Central Cooperative

Administrator of the Bank. Dubev Rakesh Managing Director, Sultan Mirza were present on the occasion.

She also visited various sections of the bank and interacted with the staff. She directed the Administrator to expedite implementation of CBS in the Bank as early as possible so that the institution can come at par with other financial institutions in

## HC transfers trial of Adv Babar Qadri murder case to Jammu tial trial. It needs to be noted

Development Corporation

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Justice Rajnesh Oswal of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Wednesday transferred the murder case of Advocate Babar Qadri from Srinagar NIA Court to Jammu NIA

While allowing the petition, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, observed that for a fair and impartial trial of a criminal case, it is imperative that the witnesses are in a position to depose in an atmosphere, which is free and not hostile.

Because of this reason only, appropriate measures have been put in place to ensure the protection of the witnesses, more particularly in criminal cases

"It is also borne from the record that the applicant is investigating the matter in respect of the video uploaded by the deceased Babar Qadri wherein, he had leveled certain allegations against some Advocates.

Normally, this Court would have directed the applicant to provide security to the witnesses but it is also borne

from the record that the complainant could not lay a motion before the learned trial court for seeking further investigation as no lawver from Srinagar was willing to render legal assistance to him, due to involvement of some influential lawyers based at Srinagar", it was observed.

"The father of the deceased Advocate had also pleaded that he was forced to sell his house and shift in rental accommodation because of threats and hostile situation. This court does not have even an iota of doubt that the fair trial of the case is not possible in Srinagar.

In view of the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case as mentioned above, this Court is of the considered view that once the material witnesses are facing threats for deposing in favour of the accused persons and no counsel was willing to render legal assistance to them in court at Srinagar. the present application deserves to be allowed for fair, transparent and imparthat the respondents have been causing appearance before the learned trial court through virtual mode, as respondent Nos. 1 and 3 are lodged in Rajouri Jail, respondent No. 2 is lodged in Udhampur Jail, respondent Nos. 4 and 5 are lodged in Jhajjar Jail. The accused No. 6 has been reported to be dead as is evident from order dated August 30, 2023", with these observations, Court allowed the present application and ordered that the challan No. 5 titled, 'State vs. Shahid Shafi Mir & Ors' arising out of FIR No. 62/2020 of Police Station, Lal Bazar, pending before the court of Special Judge Designated under NIA Act, Srinagar is transferred to the court of Special Judge Designated under NIA Act, Jammu for trial in accordance with law and directed the Special Judge Designated under NIA Act, Srinagar shall send the record of the charge sheet to the transferee court forth-

## Newly promoted Directors of Planning call on CS

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The newly promoted Directors of Planning on Wednesday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and conveyed their gratitude for their career progression after putting in the necessary service periods as Joint Director Planning.

The Chief Secretary encouraged them to work with dedication and honesty as their role in the progress and development of the UT is pivotal. He congratulated them for their elevation to the posts of Directors of Planning here.

Earlier on the recommendations of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee sanction was accorded to the promotion of the 13 Joint Directors as Directors of J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service in the pay Level-13 (123100 -215900) with effect from 26.12.2023. Subsequently the promotion order was issued by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department vide No. 11-JK(PD&MD) of 2024 Da t e d: 30-01-2024.

These includes Khursheed Ahmad Khatana, Madan Lal Madan Gopal Sharma, Sheikh Shavaiz Ahmad, Suneel Kumar Pandita, Imtiyaz Ahmad Ganai, Sukhleen Kour, Tarsaim Kumar, Abdul Majid Karnai, Mohd. Ashraf Mir, Sapna Slathia, Parshotam Kumar and Yasir Latif Anbar.

# Two-day election training for civil, police officers concludes

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two day election training for civil and police officers in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 concluded here on Wednesday. The a training program was attended by 25 to 30 police officers of Deputy Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of Police rank besides 30 to 40 civil officers of Jammu division. The training was aimed to enhance understanding of the participants regarding security modules critical for ensuring a smooth to secure electoral process. The training on systematic Voters Education and Rlectoral Participation (SVEEP), Model Code of Conduct, Media certification and monitoring committee and social media was imparted to civil officers of ADC, ADDC, SDM, ACR and other district officers rank.

Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, emphasized upon the dynamic nature of technology and the challenges it poses in the evolving landscape. He stressed upon the extensive media coverage of

implementing corrective measures swiftly. The training provided a crucial opportunity for the police officers to adapt to new strategies and techniques for maintaining security during elections. National Level Master trainers Chand Kishore Sharma and Riaz Ahmed Butt imparted training on several topics including security deployment, role of CAPF, issues pertaining to Model Code of Conduct, Election Expenditure monitoring, vulnerability mapping, MCMC and Social Media.

election related events and the difficulty in

The session was also attended by  ${\rm Dr}$  Narupa Rai, Special Secretary O/o Chief Electoral officer and Akhtar Hussain Qazi, Deputy Director Information.

Chief Electoral Officer, in his closing address. apprised the officers of various security related aspects, ranging from suspect vehicle checks for illegal transportation of cash or liquor to the management of polling stations on Election day. He emphasized the importance of maintaining good practices and transparency to ensure peaceful and fair elections in the UT.

## KPDCL bans sale, purchase or use of Nichrome coil-based crude gadgets heaters, boilers and steam-

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Distribution Power Limited (KPDCL) on Wednesday ordered a blanket ban on sale, purchase or use of Nichrome Coil based crude gadgets, directing all subdivisional officers to implement the government order by circulating its copies amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment or items.

A complete ban was imposed on manufacture or import or transport or sale or purchase or use of Nichrome Coil-based crude heaters, boilers and steamers, as these do not conform to the required speciInternational Electro-Technical Commission, as per an official order.

'All electrical divisions have done a remarkable job in seizing these crude heating appliances from a vast majority of the consumers. However, it has been observed that after seizure, the consumers buy fresh Nichrome coil-based crude gadgets from the market where these are easily available, and revert to abuse of electricity, thereby nullifying your tireless efforts put in," read the

In order to permanently remove the availability of Nichrome Coil based

Court awards 10 years RI, fine

ers from the markets, all sub-divisional officers of KPDCL are hereby directed to implement the aforesaid Government order by circulating a copy of the same amongst the business outlets dealing in electrical equipment/items. They shall be advised not to procure and sell any Nichrome Coil based heating gadgets, failing which the same shall be seized, read the order further. This order comes at a time when the KPDCL has already launched a campaign in all 10 districts against con-

sumers involved in illegal hooking and power theft. An official said that the

primary objective behind the campaign against crude gadgets is to conserve energy and raise awareness among consumers about the benefits of using energy-efficient

"Crude gadgets like boilers or heaters consume uncontrolled energy. Due to this, a significant amount of energy is wasted. If consumers switch to energysaving gadgets like gevsers and induction cookers, it will contribute to saving energy," the official said, adding that the move is as a proactive measure to

cerns over power theft and illegal hooking in the region. In November last year, the government has directed the officials of Kashmir Power

Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to constitute checking squads to check the use of crude and banned power gadgets by consumers. The action was been taken following the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. who stressed the need for a campaign against the usage of such devices during a

review meeting.

## DGP J&K sanctions retirement gift of Rs. 1.06 Crore in favour of police personnel

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ment gift of Rs 1.06 crore in favour of 106 Police personnel of J&K Police who are retiring from services today after attaining superannua-

tioned welfare/parting gift of rupees three lakh and sixty thousand in favour of nine SPOs who have attained the age of 60.

one lakh each has been sanctioned vide PHQ J&K order No. 250 of 2024 in favour of four gazetted officers, seventy-two non-gazetted officers, twenty lower subordinates &

eight followers. These personnel belong to different units and wings of the department. The amount has been sanctioned out of the Contributory

Vide another PHQ Order No. 259 of 2024 welfare/parting gift of rupees forty thousand each has been sanctioned in favour nine SPO who had been disengaged from the rolls of SPOs after attaining the age of sixty. The amount has been sanctioned out of SPOs Contributory

dered to the department.

# at Amar Singh Club

Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar inaugurating Micro-brewery at Amar Singh Club.

Club.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Vice President of Amar Singh Club, Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday inaugurated the long awaited Micro-brewery at Amar Singh Club in the presence of Anil Kapahi, Secretary Amar Singh Club and Commissioner Excise

Pankaj Sharma along with the Executive members of the

Div Com inaugurates micro brewery

Ramesh Kumar congratulated the Executive Committee of the Club for adding another feather to its cap by becoming the first Social Club of J&K to establish a micro-brewery to cater to the long pending demand of its members.

Sandeep Bhatnagar, the owner of Total Beverages, the company that installed the micro-brewery equipment explained to the gathering that in the first phase three flavours would be brewed for the guests with two lager beers and one ale. He also highlighted that the raw material used for brewing were all imported from the United States. The flavours of the brewed drinks would be tweaked to suit the tastes of the club guests. Prominent among those present included Naresh Gupta, Sanjay Sethi, G P Singh Chahal, Vikram Puri, Dr Nandita Mehta, Deepak, Deepali Handa, Dr Renu Nanda, Ritika Mahajan, Amit Mahajan and Dr Vikram

## Labour Com reviews progress of transition of JKEPFO to Central EPFO

## Labour

Commissioner J&K. Charandeep Singh, Wednesday reviewed the progress of transition of Jammu and Kashmir Employees Provident Fund Organisation (JK EPFO) to the Central EPFO, GoI after implementation of the Central EPF Act at Shram Bhawan Jammu.

Additional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kashmir, Deputy Provident Fund Commissioner (Central), Chief Accounts Officers Kashmir ,Jammu & Central and Assistant Provident Fund

Organization were present. While reviewing the

progress of transition of JKEPFO to Central EPFO, GoI which is in its final the Labour stages, Commissioner was apprised that about 5.09 lakh subscriber accounts were digitized and transferred to Central EPF Database. Further, it was informed that JK EPF organization has completed the annual accounts till financial year 2020-21 for the CAG audit of the Organization as per the government guidelines.

The Labour Commissioner

was also apprised about the status of compliance of the Government order No.37-L&E of 2023, Dated 11-07-2023 viz-a-viz allocation of assets, manpower, buildings etc between the J&K Government and Central EPFO, GoI. Expressing satisfaction with

regard to the overall progress of transition, the Labour Commissioner directed immediate action on any pendency. He also directed redressal of Grievances of subscribers and prompt resolution of residual issues pertaining to the closure of the JKEPFO as per the government orders.

Principal Sessions Judge Rajouri on Wednesdsay awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment and fine Rs 1 lakh to Naseer Ahmed, who was facing trial in NDPS case. The brief facts of the

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

case are that on November 21, 2014, the police officials had laid a naka at Maradpur and were checking the vehicles; at 4:00 PM, one vehicle No. JK02BG-8366 was coming from Jammu, same was stopped, one person carrying a bag boarded off the vehicle and tried to

fled away; the police officials stopped him, checked his bag and 276 capsules of Spasmo Proxyvon, 169 capsules of Primyvon Spas, 180 tablets of Nindra 0.5 and 65 bottles of 100 ml each Rexcof were found in the bag; the accused disclosed his name Naseer Ahmed and commission of offences U/Ss 8/21/22 NDPS Act were alleged to have been committed by the accused;

Mohd Zahoor for registration of FIR. It is on this

docket was prepared and

sent to Police Station

Rs 1 lakh in NDPSA report, FIR No.607/2014 for the commission of offences U/Ss 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered. Principal Sessions Judge

Rajouri RN Wattal after hearing PP Shaheen Ahmed Khan for the Ut, ordered that the convict is, as such, sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of Rs.1.00 lac for the commission of offences under Section 8 r/w Section 21(c) of NDPS Act and in default in payment of fine, the convict shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for one year.

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, R.R Swain has sanctioned retire-

tion or voluntary retirement. The DGP has also sanc-

Retirement gift of rupees

Police Welfare Fund.

Welfare Fund.

The gift is sanctioned to police personnel/SPOs at the time of his/her retirement and serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services ren-