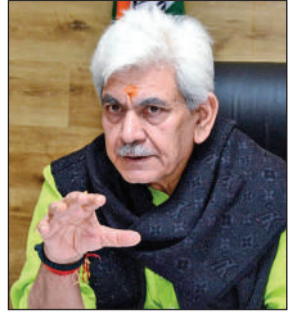


# LG praises Uri resident for his suggestions on financial literacy

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha in his 10th episode of public outreach programme 'Awam ki Awaz' praised the suggestions of Uri resident, Mohd Iqbal Badana regarding the financial literacy among rural masses.



The LG has appreciated Iqbal for coming forward with his suggestions and said that financial literacy is pivotal in efficient management of resources by the people. The LG has assured in his talk show that government is alive to such mass awareness programmes and is on the path of making all the people aware about its benefits.

resources to make progress. He believes that as far as J&K is concerned there is a meagre knowledge of financial management among the masses that is preventing them from taking any steps to maximize their wealth. He says that in order to progress in a real sense, imparting financial literacy among masses at large scale is prerequisite. Giving the roadmap, Iqbal postulates that it can be achieved by conducting awareness camps at panchayat level for a better outcome. He adds that university students studying the Financial Management courses should also be encouraged to play their role in this direction.

Iqbal paid his gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for giving consideration to his suggestions. He says, "I'm highly thankful to LG Sahib for incorporating my suggestion in his address". Exuding hope he says, "It is a great honour for us to have availability of such a platform to present our views even to Lieutenant Governor". He also opines that the program Awam ki Awaz is a great platform by which common people can share their suggestions and can become part of policy making for the first time in the history of J&K.



## Statements of Rahul-Omar on Art 370 misleading & bundle of lies: Sethi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Taking a dig at the statements of Rahul Gandhi and Omar Abdullah former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, on abrogation of Art 370 and its after affects, Jammu and Kashmir Bhartiya Janata Party termed the statements as bundle of lies and result of lack of understanding of the issue as has become hallmark of both leaders in making senseless statements.



Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi said in press release that Rahul Gandhi should have tried to understand the mode and manner of bringing in of Art 370 and Art 35 A in the Constitution of India and their impact on Jammu and Kashmir in particular and India in general before venturing to make statements on the issue. He said that both these articles were harbinger of Separatism and hatred and were major blockage in progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir beside being responsible for killings of thousands of innocent persons. These articles had sown seeds of Separatism

to create hatred for People of UP and Gujarat in the mind of people of Jammu and Kashmir. Sunil Sethi Chief Spokesperson also said that Indians from every nook and corner of country had laid down their lives in defending Territorial Integrity of India in Jammu and Kashmir for which Nation is indebted. Role of civil servants from other parts of India in serving in Jammu and Kashmir during difficult times is also well appreciated. It is unfortunate that leaders of these political parties instead of contributing to unite people, are trying to divide them by spreading lies and hatred. He reminded Rahul Gandhi to read history to know who are responsible for creating problems in Jammu and Kashmir by deliberately taking incompetent political decisions and also to acquire knowledge about people responsible for creating hurdles in claiming back territory of Jammu and Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan in 1947 itself before barging on make statements for petty political gains.

## MD SBI Ashwani Bhatia visits J&K Bank CHQ

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Managing Director, State Bank of India (Corporate Banking & Global Markets) Ashwani Bhatia on Tuesday paid a courtesy visit to the J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters. The distinguished guest was warmly welcomed by the Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, Executive President Sunil Gupta and other senior management executives of the Bank.



MD & CEO Baldev Prakash, Executive President Sunil Gupta and others welcoming MD, SBI Ashwani Bhatia.

He was accompanied by General Manager SBI (Rupee Market) Samir Sawhney, Head ISD (SBI Mutual Fund) Pradeep Singh and other officers. While appreciating the whole-hearted welcome

and hospitality, MD SBI Ashwani Bhatia wished them well on the auspicious occasions of Maha Shivratri & Shab-i-Meiraj. Recalling the times when he first came to Kashmir after joining SBI, he said, "Coming back to Kashmir is always a pleasure, for its beauty never fails to surprise the visitor." Lauding the Bank's motto of 'Serving to Empower', MD SBI stated that it touches upon the very core of banking - which is service. He emphasized upon the need for all the banks to adapt to the rapidly-shifting landscape of financial services towards complete digitalization. Earlier, expressing his deep gratitude to the visiting dignitary, MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash said, "Since I have had the privilege of working under your able leadership at SBI, I feel greatly honoured to welcome and receive you here. My colleagues in management also feel elated to have with us one of the leading figures in banking and financial landscape of the country, a thorough professional and a great human being."

## J&K BJP delegation calls on Home Minister, seeks revival of VDCs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A delegation of Bharatiya Janta Party led by its Kashmir Incharge Sunil Sharma met Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and discussed issues related to Village Defence Committees (VDCs) and Dhok Defence Committees (DDCs). Acting on the directions of BJP J&K Chief, Ravinder Raina, the delegation highlighted a number of issues. "While apprising Home Minister regarding various problems being faced by VDCs/ DDCs, the delegation also briefed him about long pending demands of these committees which included regularisation of VDCs/DDCs, regularisation of their salaries, filling vacancies urgently and providing salaries to unpaid members of the committees also through Direct Benefit Transfer in their accounts," a member of delegation said.



Delegation led by BJP's Kashmir Incharge Sunil Sharma handing-over memorandum to Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

resolved soon. Those who accompanied the delegation included Thakur Basant Raj, Narinder Kotwal, Mohan Lal (Udhampur), Uttam Chand ( Kathua), Suresh Kumar (Samba), Suresh Kumar (Doda), Prateek Kumar, Chuni Lal, Amar Chand and Joginder Kumar (Paddar). Pertinent to mention here that Village Defence Committees (VDCs) were first setup in mid-1990s in Chenab Valley for enabling people to adopt self-defence in

hilly villages against terrorism and consisted of villagers as well as police officers. Following, killing of a Kashmiri Hindu Sarpanch in June 2020, former J&K Police Chief Shesh Pal Vaid had said that Hindus and minority Muslims should be armed and Village Defence Committees be set-up with proper planning. The first VDC was set up under supervision of Shesh Pal Vaid when he was a Superintendent of Police in Bagankote village, Udhampur (now Reasi) in 1995.

## 2 among 3 students reach home safely in Udhampur from Ukraine

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Two students of Udhampur district, who were studying in war torn country Ukraine, have reached home safely, even as another student is still stranded there. Meanwhile, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib, Tehsildar Udhampur Amit Verma today visited the residence of the three students. The visiting officer met with Vijay Kumar, father of Parul Mahajan, who is still stranded in Ukraine. Parul is a resident of Sallan Talab area of Udhampur district. The Tehsildar also met with Arjun Singh, father of Aheena Rajput, who is doing MBBS in Ukraine & has returned to her home at Phangial village. The Tehsildar also met Sanjay Kumar, father of Stuti Kashyap who also returned safely from Ukraine. The visiting officer assured the families of all possible support from district administration. He apprised the family members about the tireless efforts being made by the Central Government for safe evacuation of the students.

## 11 persons injured in gas leak incident at MCCH Anantnag

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
ANANTNAG: A gas leak incident took place at the ticketing counter at MCCH Anantnag on Tuesday. No loss of life was reported from the site however 11 persons received minor injuries and all the injured were admitted at GMC Anantnag and were reported out of danger. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla has ordered a probe into the incident by an ADC level officer and has also asked them to submit the report within 7 days. He has further said that the Government will bear medical expenses of the injured. Umar Gulzar, Tehsildar Anantnag said that the employees present at the ticket counter have received burn injuries. Further, patients waiting at the ticket booth have also received injuries. He informed that the injured include 2 kids aged 4 besides, 3 employees and 6 attendants.

## After a long gap, schools to reopen today for offline classes in Valley

**SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: As per decision of Jammu & Kashmir Government, all primary and middle schools will open for routine offline class work from Monday after a long closure. Notably, the winter vacations for all classes up to higher secondary level in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu ended February 26 (Saturday), following which schools were expected to reopen from February 28 (Monday). The State Executive Committee (SEC) had also ordered reopening of schools after February 28 in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu division. However, Principal Secretary School Education (SED) Bishwajit Kumar Singh said that schools will reopen for routine functioning from March 2. "The SEC has ordered reopening of schools after February 28 while March 1 is a holiday. So, the first working day in schools will be March 2, 2022," the Principal Secretary informed, adding, "Students of primary and middle classes could not even believe Government's order regarding reopening of their schools, as they had not seen their teachers and classmates for past several years." "I am eagerly waiting for resumption of offline

classes. I remember that in 2019, when I was in second grade, I used to go to school after which for a long time, no offline classes were there," said Shahzadi Eleeza, a student, while talking to STATE TIMES. "Now I'm in 5th standard. I just remember the name of area where my school is located but have forgotten the way and passage to my school," she added. Notably, the Higher Educational Institutions and schools in Jammu reopened for routine schooling in a phased manner from February 14, 2022, after which necessary preparations were made for reopening of schools in Valley as well. Majority of private schools have already notified their schedules to reopen the institutions in a phased manner. Many have decided to resume routine schooling for higher classes from March 2 while junior classes will resume offline classes, a week later. Pertinent to mention here that schools have been directed to ensure smooth transition of students, from online to offline mode, by creating a favourable environment. The managements of schools have been asked to adopt a fun-way of learning for students for first two weeks instead of rushing for home assignments and unit-tests.

## Delimitation Commission Order cannot be questioned in any court & hence DC has 'extra' responsibility

# Do Kashmir valley leaders accusing DC mean to say BJP is working in interest of Kashmir Valley?

**DAYA SAGAR**  
The task before the Delimitation Commission (DC) for UT of J&K for delimiting 90 Single Member Constituencies of 1st Legislative Assembly of UT is to be conducted in terms of Section -60 of The J&K Reorganisation act of 2019 ( Act no 34 of 2019). (1) First task for delimitation is to decide the number of territorial constituencies in which the UT is to be decided and that has already been decided Section-60 as 90. (2) Second task is to set basis for determining number of seats to be reserved and that has also been laid down in the Act 34 and the DC has to only calculate the number of such seats in proportion to population of SC/ST in 2011 census (3) 3rd task and the most intimate tasks is to decide and draw the extent of each of constituency and for that Section-60 (2) lays down guidelines saying that the Election Commission shall have regard to the provisions, namely:- (a) all the constituencies shall be single-member constituencies; (b) all constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and conveniences to the public; (4) 4th task is to mark the seats which shall be reserved for the SC/ST keeping in view the population of SC/ST in the carved out constituencies as per 2011 census and the (5) the fifth task is any needed adjustments in the boundaries and



A Look through the Mist

description of the extent of the parliamentary constituencies. Section-60 (2) the task (3) is the most important & most taxing part of assignment before the DC and that too, more so, since it is for UT of J&K which has areas that were part of the 'State of J&K' extending over 83 out of 87 MLA Constituencies of the LA of J&K State where right since 1951 deciding constituencies for the Constituent Assembly and Delimitations MLA segments of Legislative Assembly till 1995 had remained under valid question marks; and any observer may possibly get carried with illusions that may be created by immediately available historical information like in the Legislative Council of J&K State the areas in Kashmir Valley had constitutionally ( Section-50) only 12 elected MLCs and the areas outside Kashmir Valley ( now in UT) had 14 elected MLCs but strangely Delimitation Commission order of 1995 had so irrationally distributed 46 MLAs in Kashmir Valley as against only 37 MLAs over areas outside Kashmir Valley in total violation of even clear working parameters being there as per J&K RPA 1957 { Section- 4, Sub Section -2-a (i) : Population(ii) : Geographical Compactness : Kashmir Valley 15948 sq km Jammu region sq26293 km ( iii) :Nature of Terrain (Jammu Region 60 to 70 % difficult & bad, Kashmir Valley 25 to 30 % max bad ) iv) : Facilities of Communication ( in 1987 Jammu Region only 18 % covered by roads and Kashmir valley 40 % covered by roads ) ( v) : And like consid-

erations }; similarly presently there being 10 District Administrative Units each in Kashmir valley as well as out side Kashmir valley where as before 1979 there were only 3 Districts in Valley as against 6 Districts outside Kashmir valley ( Jammu region).

**The task before the DC is the one may be no any commission has had before.No doubt delimitation has to be done in principle on UT basis but case of J&K is a typical case where DC will have to take a JK- UT-specific approach like first drawing out a macro model on regional basis & then laying constituencies at micro level taking district as a unit since very intimate corrections are needed to undo the shadows of irrational wrongs of earlier Delimitation order of 1995 which can surely disturb some people.But the challenge has to be taken and real truth placed before common masses one day.**

A Delimitation Commission (DC) for a Legislative Assembly is not a simple court where people have to place their case for redressal of grievance and plead. Section-60(5) of the Act-34 says :: The Election Commission shall(a) publish its proposals for the delimitation of constituencies together with the dissenting proposals, if any, of any associate member who desires publication thereof in the Official Gazette and in such other manner as the Commission may consider fit, together with a notice inviting objections and

suggestions in relation to the proposals and specifying a date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it; (b) consider all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified; and (c) after considering all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified, determine by one or more orders the delimitation of constituencies and cause such order or orders to be published in the Official Gazette, and there upon such publication, the order or orders shall have the full force of law and shall not be called in question in any court. In other words DC is body appointed by government to execute an assignment as per the parameter-constitutionally laid down after obtaining all types needed data / information, analysing the same, then laying down the real maps of the individual segments of a Legislative Assembly and finalising the same only after taking opinion ( though opinions not binding ) of Associate Members and all the stake holders. The responsibility on the DC is huge since its final order can not be challenged in any court of law. where as even judgement order of HC or SC can be challenged. So, the responsibility on the Delimitation Commission is huge and a Delimitation commission should not leave even a bit of scope to enable any body allege that the laid down parameters in law have not been due considerations like has been the case with the Delimitation order of 1995.

...Continued.