

## ‘LG’s Mulaqaat’

# Responsive governance, consequent accountability led to manifold increase in citizens complaints: LG

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday addressed the public grievances during ‘LG’s Mulaqaat’- Live Grievance Hearing here at Civil Secretariat.

While interacting with the randomly selected individuals from across the UT, the Lt Governor issued on spot directions to the officials to take proactive measures to resolve people’s grievances.

The Lt Governor observed that public grievances are being addressed promptly through ‘LG’s Mulaqaat programme’.

He said that responsive governance and consequent accountability in the system have led to manifold increase in citizens’ complaints on JK-IGRAMS.

The Government has taken all possible steps for public outreach and grievance redress efforts, he added.

LG Mulaqaat is playing a pivotal role in improving public policy, delivery of public services and encouraging the constructive participation of common man, the Lt Governor said.

DCs, HoDs & Administrative Secretaries have a constitutional duty and a moral obligation to see that every complaint from the citizens is addressed within a reasonable time frame. Regular performance & compliance audit would be a productive exercise to strengthen accountability structure, he added.

The Lt Governor directed the



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha addressing public grievances during ‘LG’s Mulaqaat’.

SSPs of all Districts to explore the possibility of organizing ‘Thana Divas’, on the lines of Block Divas to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in policing.

In today’s LG Mulaqaat program, with the intervention of Lt Governor, an applicant from Kathua namely, Rakesh Kumar will now receive his Old Age pension.

One Munish Badyal from Upper Roop Nagar Jammu projected the issue of non-availability of street lights the area, upon which the Lt Governor directed the Commissioner JMC to take appropriate action on priority.

On the issue put forth by Moolraj Chanayal from Udhampur regarding the completion of sewerage work, the Lt Governor directed the concerned DC to take the issue on priority and submit the action taken report within 10 days.

Ashish Singh of Ramban drew the attention of authorities pertaining to construction of Jawahar Navodhay Vidhyalaya School. The chair was informed that the work on the school will be started in the month of April.

On the issue projected by Sh Ummer Hussain Bhat from Anantnag pertaining to the toilet facility at Toll Plaza Qazigund, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to take the appropriate action in this regard.

Similarly, redressing the grievance of Mohammad Maqbool Mir from Kulgam regarding better road connectivity in his area, the Lt Governor said the work would be taken up on priority.

Several applicants appreciated the LG led administration for resolving their grievances. Around two lakh grievances have been received in the last one year. Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama

emerged as top 5 performing districts in grievance redressal.

Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction; School Education; Higher Education; GAD; Health & Medical Education, besides Relief Commissioner Migrant J&K, Chief Engineers Distribution of KPDCL & JPDCL; CE PWD ( R&B) Kashmir, J&K Bank, are among best performing Administrative Departments and HoDs for effectively redressing the public grievances.

Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances moderated the monthly program of LG’s Mulaqaat and informed the chair about the progress and status of grievances received on JK-IGRAMS.

The Lt Governor also sought feedback from the people on the grievance redressal mechanism.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Nitishwar Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Heads of the Departments, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.



## Bhalla visits affected people, seeks rehabilitation of uprooted families

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and working President JKPC Raman Bhalla has urged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter of arbitrary action of demolition in different locations without prior notice causing huge damage to the personal properties besides throwing the families on roads.

Bhalla visited different areas where demolition drive was conducted yesterday and met the affected families who charged the government of being arbitrary and selective in the action.

They narrated their woes and complained that they were in occupation for decades and earning their livelihoods but government has rendered them shelterless and jobless forcing them to beg for sustenance.

They also complained that big industrial houses and establishments in the same localities were either not touched or regularised while the poor and common people were targeted against all norms of Justice and fair play and human rights.

Bhalla expressed solidarity with the affected people and urged the LG Manoj Sinha to listen to their grievance and resettle and rehabilitate them besides compensating them for the huge losses to individuals.

## Women Police constitute an important component of security grid: ADGP Jammu



ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh addressing Darbar of officers/officials of IRP-15th.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Jammu Mukesh Singh, who is holding the additional charge of Armed/IRP Zone, on Wednesday chaired a Darbar of officers/officials of IRP-15th Battalion to redress the grievances of police personnel of the Battalion at the Battalion Headquarters Jammu here.

Mukesh Singh was accompanied by S.O to IGP Armed/IRP, Manjit Kour. During his visit to the IRP-15th Battalion Mubassir Latifi, CO IRP-15th Battalion, welcomed the ADGP Jammu Zone and briefed him about the various achievements of the Battalion and applauded the role of women Police personnel.

He briefed in detail about the personnel management, various

deployments, nature of duties, infrastructure requirement, welfare measures and various trainings being imparted to the Police personnel.

He also projected the requirements of the unit. The police officers/officials also put forth their requests and grievances which were taken note of. While interacting with the Officers and women Police personnel, the ADGP exhorted upon them to respond to the public issues promptly and adopt a public friendly approach to win the hearts and minds of the public which should be the, sole aim of J&K Police. To be good and friendly to general public and to remain polite in their public dealings which will help in good policing, he added.

ADGP Jammu Zone listened to various issues raised

by the women police personnel during the Darbar; their individual grievances and general problems being faced by them while performing their duties.

Various issues which were highlighted included transfer on compassionate grounds, career progression and need of better infrastructure.

ADGP in his address assured the officials that all these issues will be redressed at appropriate level. He also appreciated the work and duties being performed by the Lady Police who constitute an important component of the security grid.

Amongst others the Darbar was also attended by all officers besides women Police personnel of the Battalion. The Darbar was held in open environment and everyone was free to speak about their genuine requirements/problems.

## Ensure early disposal of cases, provide timely justice: Justice Magrey

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In order to give impetus to the preparations for the next National LokAdalat to be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, on Wednesday chaired a meeting with all the Chairpersons and Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities, Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee and other judicial officers through Video Conference.

Justice Magrey impressed upon the participants that settlement of disputes in an amicable way is the hallmark of any civilization. He called upon the Secretaries DLSAs to reach out to the people in far flung areas and educate them about the benefits of settlement of disputes through Lok Adalat.

He also emphasized the participants to hold meetings with all the stakeholders like insurance companies, banks, district administrations and police etc to identify the cases to be taken up in the Lok Adalat.

He further informed that for the last four decades there is much thrust on resolution of disputes through alternate means specially through Lok Adalat because Lok Adalat is seen as the most practical solution not only in solving the dispute but also to prevent further litigation between the parties.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority, M.K. Sharma gave an overview of the performance of Legal Services Institutions across the UT of J&K in the year 2021. He apprised the Justice Magrey that in 2021 as many as 1,66,544 cases were disposed off in which an amount of Rs. 260 crores (approx. ) was settled. He further informed that this is the highest number of disposal in one year in the Lok Adalats held so far.

At the end, Justice Magrey asked the participants to ensure early disposal of the cases and directed to provide timely justice to the parties approaching the court. This would elevate the confidence of the people not only in the judiciary but in the Legal Services Institutions as well.

## AJKPC accuses LG administration of making ‘mockery’ of Panchayat institutions

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A day after Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressed 20,000 panchayat members, an organisation of elected grassroots level representatives alleged that only tutored people were allowed to speak during the programme.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Conference (AJKPC), an organisation working for the welfare of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), accused the administration of making a mockery of PRIs in the Union Territory.

Sinha had on Tuesday addressed 20,000 PRI members virtually and said “by strengthening the PRIs, we are empowering a more effective system to truly realise the vision of Gram Swaraj in the Union Territory”.

“Jammu and Kashmir administration in the name of empowering elected panches and sarpanch-

es, district and block development council members is playing a fixed match and hoodwinking the central government,” AJKPC president Anil Sharma told reporters here.

Flanked by senior office bearers of the organisation, Sharma criticised the administration for allegedly making a mockery of PRIs and said “only tutored people were allowed to speak up during the programme to show that everything is hunky-dory under the LG’s administration which is far from the truth”.

He said there were many elected PRI members who wanted to raise their genuine issues before the Lt Governor but they were “restrained” and “not allowed” to speak.

Sharma said they had made several representations to ensure that funds worth crores of rupees meant for developmental work be carried forward to

the next fiscal year 2022-23 but the administration did not agree.

“J&K is already a financially starved region and this lapse of funds at the end of this financial year 2021-22 would be a huge setback for the PRIs,” he said.

He claimed that the administration is yet to release part installments of funds to the PRIs under the 14th and 15th financial commission.

The AJKPC president also accused the bureaucrats of deliberately delaying the finalising of tender terms and conditions and formally floating a tender for developmental work, resulting in a delay in award of contracts and completion of projects.

Sharma asked the administration to revisit its policy of e-tendering for work below Rs 5 lakh and demanded that such contracts should be awarded to locals of the panchayat and blocks.

## 340 pc rise in drug abuse, overdose deaths on rise

### ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: With heroin addiction assuming horrifying proportions in Kashmir, deaths caused by drug overdose spiked up, experts believe. They call for a review and want to know real cause of all deaths.

As per data from Kashmir’s only full-fledged drug de-addiction centre at SMHS Hospital, over 90 per cent of people seeking treatment for substance abuse are taking Intravenous (IV) Heroin, a serious life-threatening substance. The chances of overdose, in Heroin, as per doctors, is very high and there have been instances when they received patients with complications. Between 2019 and end of 2021, there was a 340 percent increase in number of patients seeking treatment for Intravenous Heroin abuse.

Psychiatrists working in SMHS Hospital said the fact that a large number, running into many thousands, are a monthly affair at Hospital’s De-Addiction Center. Every day, distraught families accompanying their loved ones suffering substance abuse visit the hospital in hope of a miracle. “They

expect magic results at times. At times, the families are aware of how addiction is a disorder and needs long term, continuous treatment and monitoring,” said Incharge Drug De-Addiction Treatment Center GMC Srinagar.

Heroin Addiction, he said, could prove life threatening, especially if it is taken intravenously. The pattern revealed dangerous trend of a thickening web of IV Heroin in Kashmir. Not just IV Heroin, its consumption through other routes, such as sniffing and fuming has also seen a rise.

According to health experts that Heroin is a highly addictive substance and often the abusers find it difficult to give it up, even with treatment. “It needs psychosocial support and counseling and medication under a qualified specialist,” he said, adding that many people have overcome the addiction and freed themselves from the clutches of the drug. Over past three years, J&K Government has framed the J&K Drug de-Addiction Policy to involve multiple stakeholders and Government Departments in fight against drugs.

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