

J&K Bank MD calls on Lieutenant Governor Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: J&K MD & CEO Baldev Prakash called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig. (Dr) B D Mishra at Leh. During his courtesy call to the LG Office, MD was accompanied by Deputy General Tsewang Dorjay and Zonal Head (Ladakh) Dorjay Angchuk.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor enquired about the Bank's strategy towards financial inclusion pro-



J&K MD & CEO Baldev Prakash calling on Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig. (Dr) B D Mishra at Leh.

gram in remote areas of Ladakh.

While stressing upon the need for maximum coverage of women under the programme, he urged the Bank to carry out a study of areas which are still deprived of banking facilities.

While thanking the Ladakh Administration headed by Lieutenant Governor for continued support to the Bank, MD & CEO apprised the LG about Bank's functioning and its latest performance.

He also presented an overview of banking and financial services extended to the people of Ladakh besides detailing the efforts being made by the bank for greater

financial inclusion in the UT.

MD Baldev Prakash also met Advisor to LG Ladakh Umang Narula and informed him about the Bank's plan to expand its footprint both in traditional and digital domains across the UT.

Besides, MD Baldev Prakash had a meeting with the members of the Executive Council LAHDC led by Deputy Chief Executive Councillor (Leh) Tsering Angchuk.

Other participants present on the occasion were Executive Councillors Ghulam Mehdi, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Stanzin Chosphel.

Govt's Grievance redressal rate crosses 1 lakh per month: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking to media at New Delhi.

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NEW DELHI: Government's Grievance redressal rate has crossed one lakh cases per month and this is for the first time since the inception of Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in the Union Ministry of Personnel.

This record figure was registered during the course of regular weekly and monthly monitoring of the disposal and redressal of public grievances.

Disclosing this here on Friday, Dr Jitendra Singh said that when Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister in 2014, the number of grievances filed per year from across the country was hardly

2 lakhs which has now crossed 20 lakhs per year and the grievance redressal rate gone up to more than 1 lakh per month.

He said, this was possible because under the constant supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of personnel was able to set up a vibrant grievance redressal mechanism, wherein timelines were fixed and written disposal of the grievances/ complaints was promptly done and also followed up with a telephone call by one of the functionaries to the concerned complainant.

As a result of this, he said, people of this country gained confidence that there was a government headed by Prime Minister Modi which was prompt and sincere to respond to their grievances and to encourage the citizen participation in the governance.

Elaborating before the media, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Government has taken several initiatives to improve quality of grievance redressal and reduce timelines of disposal.

The Minister further added that the average disposal time of Central Ministries/Departments has decreased from 32 days in 2021 to 27 days in 2022 to 19 days in January 2023.

The 2022 Feedback Call Centre report indicated 2,51,495 successful calls, of which 57,486 had excellent and very good feedback and 73,817 calls where citizens expressed satisfaction.

In case of poor rating the option of appeal to higher officers is provided to the citizen. Nodal and Sub-Nodal Appellate Authorities have been operationalised in all Ministries/Departments.

Deptt of Psychology, JU organises Lecture Cum Interactive session on 'Military Psychology in India'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Psychology, University of Jammu organized a lecture cum interactive session on "Military Psychology in India".

Dr. Nity Sharma, Scientist 'E' at Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Delhi was the resource person.

The resource person spoke about the various options students can exercise in military services in India she started her session by explaining the importance of defence services.

She elaborated on the roles, importance and contributions of psychologists in defence services.

She further stressed upon the various career options in military services and the different recruitment processes in

DIPR as well as in military services.

She further highlighted the significance of psychologists in the recruitment process of armed forces and in the Service selection board as well as in the short service commission.

She further motivated the students by telling about her own journey and her experiences and expressing her gratitude of being a psychologist in DRDO.

Prof. Satnam Kour, HOD Department of Psychology, presided over the event and presented a formal vote of thanks and felicitated the resource person and also expressed her gratitude.

Earlier, Harshika, student MA Psychology Sem -I welcomed the resource person and other dignitaries. Around 45 students and research scholars Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Priney Koul, Dr. Karuna Gupta, and Dr. Dharvinder Singh were present at the occasion.

Rahul Gandhi disqualified from Lok Sabha



Pradeep Dutta of Times Now bags 'Duggar Ke Karamyodha' Award for Ukraine War reporting



On behalf of Pradeep Dutta, his father G S Dutta & nephew, Arjunveer Singh, receiving Duggar Karamyodha award from Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Ramdas Athalwe during a function organised by Women Club- Meri Pehchan at Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Editor Times Now, Pradeep Dutta, bagged the 'Duggar Ke Karamyodha' Award- initiated by Women Club-Meri Pehchan for reporting from Ukraine-Russia war zone and his contribution towards society.

Dutta was given this award by Ramdas Athalwe, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, during a function organised by Women Club-Meri Pehchan here on Friday. Pradeep Dutta is the only journalist from Jammu and Kashmir to cover Russia-Ukraine war. He was appreciated for his war cover-

age amid flurrying bullets and bomb explosions in Ukraine war zone. Besides reporting, Dutta with his motivational lectures and poetry inspires youngsters towards nation building. Sandhya Gupta, Chairperson Women Club - Meri Pehchan initiated these awards to honour people from different fields for their contribution towards society.

Last year Pradeep Dutta was adjudged best journalist during the prestigious 14th Edition of ENBA-2021 news broadcasting awards. He got this award in spot reporting category for his reportage on Pakistan terror tunnel.

In year 2022, Pradeep Dutta, was conferred with state award by Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for his excellent and bold journalism.

On behalf of Dutta, his father G S Dutta and his nephew Arjunveer Singh took award. Award included citation and trophy.

Pradeep-one of India's best known broadcast journalists, with over 20 years of experience in covering counter insurgency and counter terror operations was in Ukraine for more than month covering various aspects of Russia-Ukraine war from ground zero.

Banking, finance performance reviewed in Jammu Distt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Chander on Friday reviewed a series of meetings related to banking and finance in the district for the third quarter ending December 2022. It was reported that the percentage of loans given out by banks compared to their deposits in Jammu district increased by 2.30% to 36.42% compared to the previous quarter.

The meeting discussed how different banks performed in giving out loans under different categories. A total of Rs 3677.87 crore was given out as loans under priority sector and Rs 5041.62 crore under non-priority sector till the end of December 2022.

The performances of banks under various govern-



ADDC Jammu, Ramesh Chander chairing a meeting on Friday.

ment schemes were also discussed and banks were instructed to cover all eligible customers. The Lead District Manager of Jammu spoke about improving the loan-to-deposit ratio to a minimum of 40% in the next quarter.

The Annual Credit Plan for 2023-24 was approved and a booklet regarding potential credit plans for 2023-24 was released. The

progress of RSETI for the quarter ending December 2022 was presented and land issues were discussed.

While reviewing bank performances, Chander emphasised that coordination and clear communication between banks and departments is essential to achieve targets. He instructed stakeholders to submit an Action Taken Report with clear observations and rea-

sons for any failed targets or achievements.

The meeting was attended by senior district officers including senior officer from RBI, Kriti Bhushan; DDM NABARD; Director RSETI, Assistant Project Manager JUDA; and officials from various banks including SBI, J&K Bank, PNB, JKGB, EDB, BOI, CBI CANARA Bank, UCO Bank, IOB Bank and others.

SED mega enrolment drive ended with 'positive' results

District Budgam showed highest response

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The mega-enrolment drive in various districts of Kashmir division to enroll more children in the government schools is showing good results and has gained the attention of many parents towards the government-run schools.

The teachers said that in addition to new admissions, they have been able to enroll back the out-of-school children who had left their studies.

Headmaster, Government Middle School, Soiteng, told, that the response towards the drive has been "positive".

"Despite having tough competition from the private schools around us, we have been able to have a good number of students and function smoothly. Our teachers have also gone for a door-to-door campaign which was very well taken by the people. Young teachers have also come to know about the importance of having good enrolment in their schools as it is a service to society. In our schools, two of our staff members have also enrolled their kids in the government school which is a positive

step," he said.

In south Kashmir's Pulwama district, a rally was conducted by the teachers of various schools led by Director, School Education Department, Tasaduq Hussain Mir. The rally went to the remotest habitation Bagandar.

"During the rally, Education Department reached the farthest area where people hardly have any knowledge about education. The Director Education was actively involved and talked to the locals," a teacher said.

For the past many years, to retain the students' population, the School Education Department has taken a number of initiatives to tackle the decline in school enrolment.

The teachers said the streamlining of the out-of-school children and students with special needs has been the priority.

A teacher from Srinagar said, "People participated in the motivation camps where students performed skits highlighting female education and how education can be the ray of hope for a better future.

The drive has attracted students of private schools and it emphasizes strengthening the pre-schooling which is the base of every child."

125 dropout students have returned to school in 13 educational zones of this central Kashmir's Budgam district.

An official of the CEO said that the enrolment drive had been started in every educational zone of the district.

"Under this enrolment drive, 2849 students across Budgam were admitted in Government schools, out of which 125 dropout student have re-joined for further education, while 681 students got fresh admission", he said. The officials said that during the drive the highest number of students was enrolled in the Soibugh zone where 457 students got admission to seven government schools.

In the Khanshab Zone, 422 students were admitted to three government schools while other educational zones, 1950 students were enrolled, he said. The 10-day mega enrolment drive started in Kashmir on March 15.

Zang Trai celebrated with religious fervour

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JAMMU: Zang Trai, the festival of Kashmiri Pandit community, falling on third Navreh was celebrated on Friday with religious fervour. On the occasion, a grand function was held at Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram, Udhewala, Bohri.

Dr Opendra Krishen Bhat introduced Santosh Shah Nadan, an ardent devotee of Bhagwan, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The programme started with lighting of Jyoti and with offering of flowers at Bhagwan's photograph kept at Ashram followed by Guru-Vandana. The Chief Guest was decorated with a Shawl. A number of ladies participated in the function and paid obeisance at lotus feet of the Master. Reputed artists namely Deepali Wattal, Ravi Bhan, Shanti Lal Sid, R.K. Saproo and others presented melodious devotional songs. Dr Opendra Krishen Bhat conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Meanwhile, Zang Trai function was also organized at Kashmiri Pandit Sabha,

the Tritiyam Tithi of Navratra - Maa Chanderghanta day. The day marks respect for womanhood, an embodiment of Jagat Janani Jagat Amba. It is the day, in ancient Kashmir, when married women used to visit their parent's house and is now celebrated as women-empowerment day by community. The function was celebrated with great fanfare and gaiety. Dr Usha Tickoo was the Chief Guest over the function, which was presided over by K K Khosa, President of Sabha. The function began with Jyoti Prajulan and offering rose petals to Mata Saraswati by participants. The hymns in praise of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Durga were recited by renowned Kashmiri artist Dr Deepali Wattal. K K Khosa desired for greater and responsible role of community women-folk in transforming the community into a model society. He stressed on responsibility of Kashmiri women folk in preserving the Kashmiri culture and language by way of imbibing the practice of conversing in Kashmiri lan-

guage with younger generation at home. Others present on the occasion included Prof J L Koul, T N Bhat, Ashok Braroo, J L Zutshi, Ashwani Koul, S L Bagati, Ashok Kher, Subash Dhar, Rajinder Tikku, Asha Kitchloo, Jitender Parimoo, Sunil Koul, Deepak Dhar, Kewal Sher, V K Bakshi, Satish Khoda and V K Mukhi. The programme was conducted by Dr Sujata Sathoo and G J Kampassi (Secretary) presented the vote of thanks.

Mata Baderkali Ashtapan Trust Thalwal organised a function to mark celebrations of Zang Trai. Prominent spiritual guru Dr Shiv Prasad Raina while addressing the session, spoke about the rich traditions of Sanatan Dharma and the significant role of the women of our society in maintaining cultural ethos and our centuries-old traditions. A special session was conducted by Kiran Raina, Urmila Pandita, Sunita Raina, Sunita Koul, Pooja and their group addressing the essence of 'Thal barun' and women headgear known as 'Targa'.

Advisor Bhatnagar launches Starbus web portal, Pathik Traveler Mobile App

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, on Friday chaired the 86th Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD, Shailendra Kumar; Secretary Transport Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; DG Codes, Managing Director, JKRTC, Chief Engineer MED and other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed various issues related to functioning of the Corporation including maintenance of the fleet, improvement of services, and expansion of corporation's operations. The board also reviewed financial performance of the Corporation and suggested measures to improve its profitability.



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chairing the 86th BoDs meeting of JKRTC at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon the management of Corporation for optimal use of its fleet (Buses/Trucks) besides exploring other possible avenues for generation of non operational revenue. He highlighted that the Corporation plays a vital role in providing reliable transport services to people of Jammu and Kashmir and therefore its imperative upon the corporation to keep evolving with the modern transportation system.

Advisor, who is also the Chairman of the Board, impressed upon the management of Corporation to

implement the latest technological advancements in the corporation so that best facilities are provided to general public. He also stressed on the importance of ensuring the safety and comfort of passengers using the corporation's services.

During the meeting, the Board took some significant decisions for improving the overall health and performance of the Corporation.

The Board appreciated the Corporation for implementation first phase of ITMS and asked them to make it fully functional within a period of one month so that general public and commuters are benefitted by

online ticketing facility.

The Board also directed the Corporation to devolve other means of earning non operational revenue. The Board asked them to utilise the spaces inside and outside the buses for advertisement purposes and prepare a thorough plan for the same in consultation with information department and other departments.

The Board also asked the Corporation to organise skill upgrading training programme for employees of Corporation in collaboration with IIM Jammu and IIT Jammu.

During the meeting, Managing Director,

JKRTC, gave a detailed presentation on performance and functioning of the Corporation.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also launched the Starbus web portal (<https://starbus.jk.gov.in>) and Pathik Traveler Mobile App of JKRTC on the occasion.

These IT initiatives are an end to end work flow based solution for complete automation of processes related to operation, management and maintenance of bus operations of the Corporation. These initiatives will also provide Automatic Fare Generation System, Station, Route and Service Management System, Fleet Management, Depot Automation, Work Shop Automation, among other end to end solutions to the corporation.

The initiatives will also provide easy to use online ticket booking system for travelers, equipped with search and booking facility in four easy steps.