

# J&K Admin focussing on women-led development: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that Jammu and Kashmir Administration is focussing on women-led development with unwavering dedication and determination to support gender parity and gender equity.

"Today Nari Shakti is at the forefront of our developmental journey and taking lead in the nation building", the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the National Commission for Women's event themed on 'Celebrating Inspirational Women' titled 'Tu Bol', at Convention Centre.

He commended the endeavour of the National



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing the NCW event at Convention Centre.

Commission for Women to bring together women achievers to share their inspirational journey ahead of International Women's Day on 8th March.

He said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the socio-economic empowerment and

equal opportunities to women has eliminated the barriers created under the guise of Article 370.

The Lt Governor lauded the remarkable achievements and invaluable contributions of

women across diverse domains.

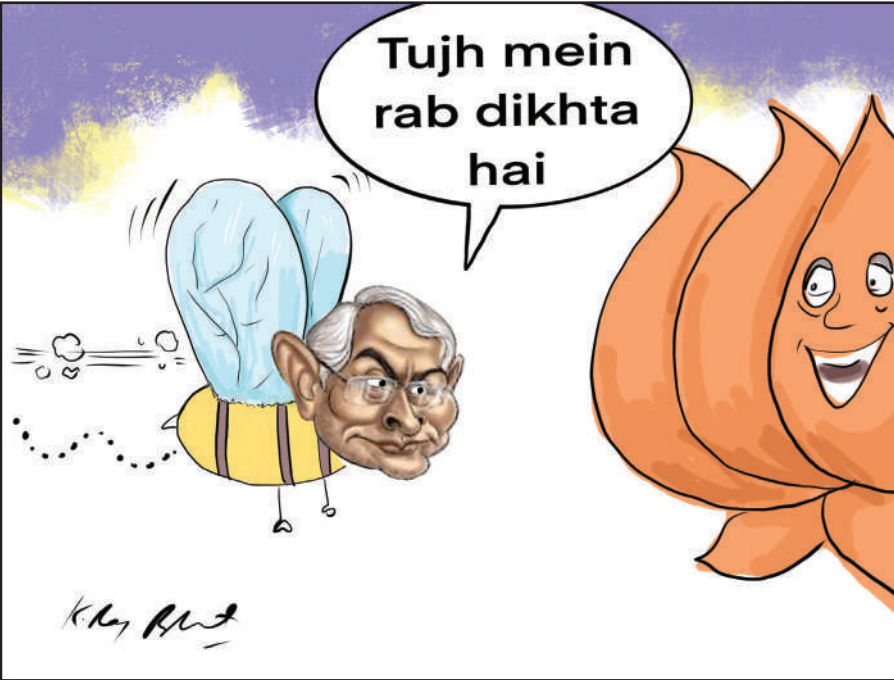
"I am proud of our Nari Shakti. From Education to Entrepreneurship, from IT to Agriculture sector, from Sports to Science, they are scripting their own success sto-

ries," the Lt Governor said.

Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, in her address, emphasized the importance of encouraging young women to speak fearlessly and to promote empowerment and equality.

On the occasion, women achievers shared their stories of struggle and journey towards success and motivated others to pursue their dreams.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; officials of National Commission for Women and Social Welfare Department J&K, women achievers and people in large number were present.



## BJP prepares for PM's first Srinagar visit since repeal of Art 370, expects 1 lakh people at rally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The BJP is finalising preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir on March 7, with party leaders saying they expect around one lakh people at his first rally in the Valley since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Modi would address the rally at Bakshi Stadium here.

A meeting of the BJP was held here on Saturday to discuss the preparations and arrangements for the rally.

"Discussions took place over the preparations for Modi's rally. Different departments of the party were given different tasks and party leaders were

asked to mobilise people," BJP's Jammu and Kashmir spokesman Altaf Thakur told PTI.

He said over one lakh people are expected to attend the rally.

"It will be a mega rally and people from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir will attend. People will come in droves and flood the venue to listen to the PM," he said.

Thakur said that at a meeting here on March 4 BJP general secretary and J-K incharge Tarun Chugh would review the party's preparations for the rally.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, senior BJP leader and Kashmir division in-charge Sunil Sharma said it would be a huge rally.

"Today we had called all the district presidents and senior leaders. Discussion was held regarding the numbers in this rally so that people can attend it from different places.

There is a lot of excitement about the rally. There is a lot of enthusiasm about this rally in Kashmir as well as across the country," Sharma said.

He said there was enthusiasm among the people in Kashmir "where the BJP was regarded as untouchable before".

"Today, every poor, every person, woman and elder have full faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And you will get to see that yourself on March 7," Sharma added.

## CS for taking strict measures against illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday stressed on taking strict measures as per law against those involved in illegal mining across J&K.

The Chief Secretary was speaking in a meeting called to assess the working of the Mining Department here. Those who were present includes Commissioner Secretary, Mining; Director, Social Forestry, Director, Mining besides other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the availability of RBM (minor minerals) for construction of infrastructure projects in the UT. He also directed for ensuring availability of construction material to public readily at government approved rates.

Dulloo impressed upon the concerned to go tough



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

against the illegal miners. He told them to use the provisions of enforcement measures quite rigorously for putting total end to this illicit practice.

He even enjoined upon them to see the models adopted by other States/UTs in auctioning of their mineral blocks especially in Gujarat, Rajasthan and MP for realizing maximum revenue out of them. He also asked for completing the new initiatives like establishment of Mining

Surveillance System and Mineral Check posts for curbing this menace effectively.

In his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, Mining, Vikramjit Singh informed the meeting about estimates of different mineral blocks identified in various districts of the UT. He gave out that J&K has about 3400 MT of Limestone, 43 MT of Gypsum, 427 MT of Quartzsite, 3826 Cu Mtrs of Granite besides quantities of

dozens of other minerals.

Regarding the enforcement measures taken by the Department it was said that more than 6000 vehicles involved in ferrying of illegal minerals have been seized by the Department realizing an amount of Rs1627 lakh as penalty from offenders.

The meeting was further informed that the Department had granted 205 minor mineral leases so far besides identifying 60 new blocks of RBM across

districts. The department has realized Rs130.58 Cr as bid amount/ royalty and penalty against these mineral blocks upto January this year, the meeting was apprised.

Moreover it was added that the Directorate of G&M has constituted provincial level flying squads to conduct surprise checks and monitor/prevent illegal mining and penalizing the vehicles/machineries involved in illegal extraction.

The Department has also launched e-Market Place/ e-challan web portal for ensuring transparency, accountability in Sale/Purchase and transportation of minerals on notified rates from source to destination in J&K. As on 01 March this year 2282391 e-challans had been generated to facilitate mineral business in J&K, as was given out during this meeting.

## RBI Ombudsman organises consumer awareness program at Sopore

Educates consumers about protection and grievance redress mechanism under 'One Nation-One Ombudsman Scheme'



Ramesh Chand, RBI Ombudsman for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh speaking at consumer awareness programme on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: With a view to enhance awareness about consumer protection and grievance redressal mechanism available under Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021, Office of RBI Ombudsman (Jammu) organized a Consumer Awareness Programme today at Auditorium of J&K Bank's Zonal Office (Baramulla) at Sopore.

The programme was chaired by Ramesh Chand, RBI Ombudsman (RBIO) for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Besides J&K Bank Zonal Head (Baramulla) Shri Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, AGM & in-charge RBI (Srinagar) Shri Sanjeev Sharma, General Manager J&K

Grameen bank, Cluster Head J&K Bank and other senior bankers, the programme witnessed extensive participation of around 250 customers of regulated entities of RBI.

In his keynote address, Shri Ramesh Chand apprised the audience about various steps taken by RBI towards consumer education and protection including alternate grievance redress mechanism, the Charter of Customer Rights, Internal grievance redress mechanism of regulated entities, etc. in detail. Thereafter, he explained in detail the customer centric features of the Reserve Bank Integrated Ombudsman Scheme-2021 (RBIOs-2021), Complaint

Management System (CMS) Portal, role of Central Receipt and Processing Centers, Contact Centre of RBI, Toll Free number, etc.

On the occasion, he informed the participants about various ways of lodging complaints under RBIOs-2021 and encouraged them to use CMS portal, which is the most simple and convenient mechanism for lodging complaints.

He highlighted the need of adopting safe digital practices while availing digital financial services and shared various precautionary measures that need to be taken while performing digital transactions. He cautioned the participants about the use

of different innovative methods of digital frauds by the fraudsters and appealed to the participants to stay away from the lure of such tricks/offers.

While apprising the participants about various modus operandi used by fraudsters to lure and defraud the customers by taking advantage of their ignorance, he emphasized on the need of timely reporting of instances of unauthorized transactions to the regulated entities so that the liability of the customers is limited in the event of any unauthorized transaction taking place in their accounts.

RBIO also made the participants aware about the precautions to be taken

while carrying out banking transactions through net-banking/debit/credit card. The Ombudsman also encouraged the participants to come forward and raise their queries, which were clarified on the spot. Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat explained the Internal Grievance Redress Mechanism available in J&K Bank for the knowledge and convenience of the participants and also thanked RBI Ombudsman Office for conducting an awareness initiative in the region.

The meeting was concluded with a quiz round for all the participants and winners of the quiz were felicitated with attractive prizes.

## Gandhis neglected even constituencies which elected them: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AMETHI (UP): Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that Gandhis neglected even the constituencies which elected them.

Amethi was traditionally with the Nehru-Gandhi family for several years, but it remained deprived of all the development which was taking place elsewhere across the country, he said.

Dr Jitendra was addressing "Intellectuals Meet" organised by BJP during his visit to Amethi and Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

"After PM Modi took office in 2014, a series of pro-people welfare schemes were unleashed across the country, but Amethi remained underdeveloped and even some of the basic amenities were lacking," he said.

Transformation came in 2019 when BJP candidate Smriti Irani got elected and meanwhile there was also a double engine government in Uttar Pradesh in the form of Yogi Adityanath as Chief



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing "Intellectuals Meet" organised by BJP at Amethi, UP on Saturday.

Minister, said the Union Minister.

Dr Jitendra said, even the MPs with much less influence are passionately concerned about the well-being of their Lok Sabha constituencies because they have a huge stake in seeking re-election. But here it was the scion of the ruling dynasty, who was considered as the Prime Minister-in-waiting bit still he could not ensure even the minimum development for his areas, he said.

"This was also because the Gandhis were given to a different kind of approach and lifestyle, and hardly spent time in their constituencies," he

said. This resulted in the Congress party cadre in this constituency shifting itself to BJP and Congress today is at a loss to even find party workers for the upcoming election, said Dr Jitendra.

"Uttar Pradesh is a shining example of how lawlessness has been checked and for the first time criminals have fear of being under the watch of police," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the common citizen is keen to be a part of India's mainstream development journey towards a Viksit Bharat led by PM Modi.

## Provide immediate relief to windstorm, rain affected victims: Azad



Chairman DPAP, G.N Azad interacting with deputations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Ghulam Nabi Azad, Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), on Saturday expressed deep concern over the widespread damage inflicted upon hundreds of houses and livestock sheds across various hamlets in Reasi, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri, and Poonch districts due to gusty winds, heavy rainfall and snow. Azad urged the Lieutenant Governor's administration to assess the damage caused by heavy rains and pay adequate compensation to victims. The adverse weather conditions have not only caused significant damage to residential structures but have also led to disruptions in electricity and water supply, as well as severed surface connectivity in the upper reaches of Pir Panjal, Chenab, and parts of South Kashmir, he said. Azad emphasized the urgent need for the administration to promptly reach out to the affected communities with adequate relief and compensation. He called for the swift deployment of teams at the district level to assess the extent of the losses incurred by the victims. He emphasized the government's responsibility to ensure the clearance of roads in snow bond areas, as the lack of accessibility hinders patients from reaching hospitals in a timely manner.

Meanwhile Azad met with several deputations in Srinagar party office, who highlighted various pressing issues. He assured the deputations of their grievances being addressed and resolved promptly.

## Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar NH suspended due to multiple landslides

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: Traffic was suspended on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway early on Saturday after heavy rainfall triggered multiple landslides and shooting stones in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked at over half a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal, they said.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have mobilised men and machines to clear the highway for one-way traffic, officials said. Traffic on the highway has been restricted to one-way since February 26 and was being used alternatively from Jammu and Srinagar after heavy rains and snowfall damaged the arterial road at several places last week. According to the meteorological department, Banihal recorded the highest 74.4 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours, ending around 8.30 am on Saturday. It said snowfall in high-altitude areas and rains in the plains will continue at most places in the Union territory. The weather is likely to improve gradually on Saturday night.

## Chairperson NCW presides over 4th monitoring committee meet of special cells for women

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Rekha Sharma, on Saturday chaired the fourth monitoring committee meeting of special cells for women within police system, supported by National Commission for Women and implemented by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, held at Udyog Bhawan, Jammu.

Pertinently, the Committee has been constituted under "Violence Free Home, a Woman's Right" project, demonstration of pilot Special Cells for Women in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh located in all districts of both the UTs.

Dr. Trupti Jhaveri Panchal, Member Secretary of the Committee and faculty at TISS, Mumbai highlighted the achievements and activities of the



Chairperson NCW, Rekha Sharma chairing monitoring committee meeting of special cells for women on Saturday.

Committee.

The work progress on Special Cells for Women of both UTs from 1st June 2023 to 31st January 2024 was presented by Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW, TISS. He highlighted the efforts initiated by the social workers on ground for effective functioning of these Special Cells. During this period, the Special Cells have reached out to 2317 women survivors of violence, he added.

Rekha Sharma appreci-

ated the working of Special Cells and emphasised on further strengthening of coordination among all stakeholders. She further emphasized on increasing the outreach of special cells on social media by making pages on Instagram and Facebook.

The Committee member ADGP, Jammu suggested the need for creating a portal of Special Cell for Women where the case related information is accessible for Police and Social Welfare department for close monitoring can

be done. Further, the proposal of institutionalisation of Special Cells for Women was shared with the members of the Committee.

The meeting was attended by members of the Monitoring Committee including Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, ADGP, Ladakh, Anand Jain, ADGP, Jammu, Harvinder Kaur, Mission Director, Mission Shakti, Social Welfare, J&K, Debalina Banerjee, Head, North-East and Anti Human Trafficking Cell, NCW, Chandrika

Prakash, JTE (Legal), NCW, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Department of Social Work, Central University, Jammu, Dr. Yangehan Dolma, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University College, Leh, Balwant Singh, Coordinator, RCI-VAW, Saima Shah, Coordinator, Special Cells, Kashmir Division and Priksha Sharma, Coordinator, Jammu Division.

Padma Angmo, Commissioner Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare, Ladakh, Tashi Dolma, Director, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Ladakh; Qazi Qayoom, Joint Director Prosecution, representative of IGP, Kashmir Division, Dr. Shazia Manzoor, HoD, Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir participated in the meeting virtually.