CS calls for completing average 7,000 works per month

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday called for completing at least 7000 works each month across the Union Territory for even distribution of workload through-

Virtually participating in the numerous panchayat level convergence meetings held first time at the beginning of new financial year 2023-24 across the Gram Panchavats, he also advised for fixing monthly targets for both physical and financial completion of works so that projects are completed efficiently throughout the year.

Dr Mehta, during this interaction, impressed upon the Prabhari Officers of each Gram Panchayat to take full of responsibility representing Government in their concerned Panchayats. He exhorted upon them to create a proper mechanism of escalation of grievances at an appropriate level so that each of them are resolved up to the satisfaction of the people.

Regarding the development of panchavats he asked the District Administration to make comprehensive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) in consultation with PRIs by calling the Gram Sabhas on 10th of April and finalizing the same by 15th of the month. He told them to ensure conthe District and UT plans as per the nature and scope of the work.

He emphasized on avoiding the 'March Rush' of presenting bills in treasuries and sought completion of all the works physically by the end of the year.

He made out that the micro plans for Employment, Education, Sports, Culture, Health, Tourism, Cleanliness and Heritage like aspects are the way forward to make overall progress at the grassroots level. He termed employment generation as the top priority area and called for making plans to provide employment to all who are in search of it. He emphasized that Planning should be focused on finding solutions to real problems of people rather than expenditure. We should focus on efficiency of expenditure as a major goal.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary interacted with the PRI representatives, visiting Prabhari Officers, officers of line departments attending the meeting besides Numberdars, Chowkidars and the people assembled for attending this monthly convergence meeting. He asked from the representatives and vil-

Schools, Anganwadi Centres and other village institutions. He also took appraisals from them about different amenities like condition of roads, water, electricity and monthly ration provided to them. He

even enquired from each

of them about the status of Sports stadiums, online services and Door-to-Door collection of waste in their villages. The Chief Secretary encouraged them to raise their grievances in these meetings for their resolution. He maintained that the UT has enough resources to meet the basic requirements of these villages. He directed for seamless connectivity of Numberdars/Chowkidars

with higher authorities so that the real

motive of 'people first' approach adopted

by the LG Administration is implement-

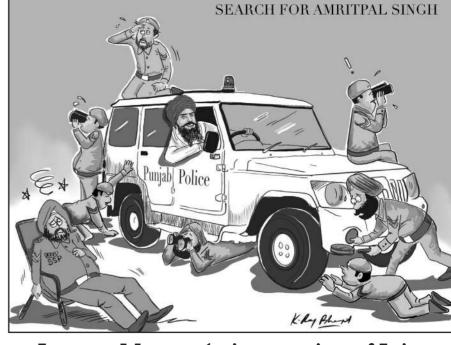
ed right from our villages. Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kaur during this interaction stressed on holding this panchavat level convergence meeting each month without any fail. She also emphasized on framing the minutes for each of the meeting held and uploading the same over the JK Panchayat portal. She directed the Assistant Commissioners

of Panchayats to consolidate these records for their concerned districts for onward submission to Administrative Office through Deputy Commissioners.

She told them to ensure the presence of the representative from each of the line department. She also took appraisal of the status of Panchayat Ghars in these villages and told the Panchayat Secretaries and Panchayat Accounts Assistants to work in coordination with each other for timely implementation of GPDPs on ground.

Some of the panchayats with whom the Chief Secretary interacted today virtually included Pinglish (Tral), Kuchhal-B (Kishtwar), Barda Kalan (Akhnoor), Tahab (Pulwama), Lasjan-B, Nowgam, Souteng (Srinagar), Upper Kud (Udhampur), Choon (Budgam) etc.

Pertinent to mention here that it was the first convergence meeting held across the panchayats of the UT for this financial year. The Chief Secretary has made it a regular feature to reach out to people at grassroots level for directly taking feedback from them about the working of administration and listening to their suggestions and grievances for making instant resolutions and passing on directions to the concerned officers for taking necessary



Jammu Mayor chairs meeting of Joint Commissioner Works, Executive Engineers

Stresses on fast-tracking of dev works

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Mayor of Jammu, Rajinder Sharma on Monday chaired a meeting of Executive Engineers of all the six divisions and stressed on fast-tracking of the developmental works ensuring appreciation certificates for timely completion of work and blacklisting of the concerned contractors for delayed completion.

The meeting was also attended by Joint Commissioner Works, Rajesh Sumbria while the Executive Engineers of Civil Works present were including Executive Engineers of Division-I Arun Gunta Division-II Dev Anand Sethi, Division-III Ajay Gupta, Division-IV Hans Raj, Division-V Lokesh Gupta and Division-VI Firdous Ahmed

The Mayor sought feedback from the Executive Engineers on how the developmental works can be done on fast-track and money lapsing of funds can be avoided.

He instructed all the Executive Engineers that by April 15, 2023 all the estimates shall be uploaded on BEAMS and by April 30 all the tendering process should be completed while the allotments of the



Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma chairing a meeting of Executive Engineers.

works should be made by May 30 as the government will not delay in releasing funds.

Rajinder Sharma said that for ongoing works the money will be released by April 10 while the first 50 per cent of budgetary allocation shall be released by April 20.

opmental progress in the city," he maintained.

Laying strict instructions for the contractors, the Mayor said that for 15-20 per cent below quoted rates, the contractors shall have to deposit 5 per cent performance guarantee, for 20-25 per cent below quoted rates 10 per cent performance guar15 per cent performance guarantee. This time the performance

"If these works are done well in time it will be better for devel-

antee and for 25-30 per cent

guarantee will be taken before allotment of works and if it is not done by the contractor concerned within 10 days of L-1, then he will be blacklisted and if the work is not started after 10 days of allotment, then also the contractor will be blacklisted,' Mayor continued. However, he said that for executing the works on fast $_{
m the}$ track. Executive Engineers will be given Performance Certificate by the Mayor. He stressed on all to change the work culture so as to convert maximum of the

Corporation budgetary allo-

cation into expenditure.

Dr Rashmi Singh felicitates officers, officials of STD

Asks officers to maintain integrity of tax system

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner State Taxes Department (STD), J&K, Dr. Rashmi Singh on Monday remarked that the Department has created an ecosystem, where it acts as a facilitator as well as an awareness generator, adding that revenue augmentation can only be achieved through consistent efforts both at level of jurisdictional circles as well as enforcement wings The Commissioner made

these remarks during the felicitation ceremony of officers and officials of State Taxes Department (STD) at Excise & Taxation Complex, Railhead here for their exceptional performance and special efforts in detecting cases of GST evasion and subsequent realization of tax and penalty from the evaders, thereby making significant contributions to J&K's revenue collection.

While congratulating the officers and officials for their outstanding achievements, Dr. Singh appreciated their hard work and dedication towards duties. She emphasized that there is a need to continue with

Commissioner STD J&K, Dr. Rashmi Singh posing with officers and officials. their efforts in future also to maintain the integrity of the tax system and ensure that J&K's revenue collection targets are

The Commissioner said that the department is in the process of strengthening its human resource through a process of regular training and workshops of the staff as well as knowledge sharing with the different states. She added that "KAR-TAVYA" -a tax awareness initiative recently launched by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha needs to be carried forward through continuous awareness making tax compli-

All business establishments in Leh

remain shut to condemn heinous crime

remained complete shut on

Monday to observe a black day

to condemn the recent kidnap-

ance a norm among the public. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Commissioner State (Administration & Enforcement). Jammu. Namrita Dogra highlighted the achievements of the department stating that J&K registered a substantial increase in the tax revenue for financial year 2022-23 due to the concrete efforts of officers and officials. She added that a number of steps have been taken by the department for strengthening of tax mechanism like setting up of Zonal Convergence Forums, GST Suvidha Kendra, Audit Wing and Special Investigation Unit

ping, attempt to murder and

The Bandh call was given by

Association (LBA) and the

Association and appealed to

the public to support the

Bandh call to condemn the

heinous crime and to show

solidarity with the victim.

Therefore, all business estab-

lishments, shops, and restau-

rants throughout Leh district

remained completely shut for

Buddhist

Gonpa

Ladakh

Ladakh

(SIU) to ensure revenue augmentation through Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence. During the felicitation ceremony, the officers and officials were presented with cash awards under the reward scheme of the government. The reward scheme recognizes the efforts of officers and officials who detect cases of tax evasion and contribute significantly to the State's revenue collection.

The awardees expressed their gratitude towards Department and pledged to continue their efforts towards maintaining the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in carrying out their duties. Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement, Samba, Sanjay Gupta; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes

Taxes (Recovery), Jammu, Bal Krishan; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Kathua) Lakhanpur, Ranjeet Singh; Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (North) Udhampur, Anil Kumar Chandail; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Central), Ritu Deputy Mahajan; Commissioner State Taxes (Appeals-II), ShaziaKousar; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes (IT, Data Analytics & Intelligence. Economic Jammu), Kanchan Bala; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Headquarter, Ashima Sher and other officials of the

(Appeals-I), Shehnaz Akhter;

Deputy Commissioner State

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

department were also present

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Nagri, Saidpur, Khokval, Airwan, Hospital, Nagri Industry and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 04 and 05 from 9 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Bhudal Town, Kewal, Phalni, Jabbar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 04 from 10 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Suhagpur, Nandpur, Pindi, Kotli Jabowal, Part of Arnia, Allah, BSF, Nandpur, Miran Sahib, Bhour Camp, Govindpura, Khandwal and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 05 from 9 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply to MES Kaluchak and Ratnuchak shall remain affected on April 05 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Locals directed to destroy poppy cultivation or face legal action in Valley

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Locals in Kulgam have been warned to destroy the illicit poppy cultivations within five days failing which legal action under rules will be initiated against them. The order comes as part of the Government's ban on cultivation of harmful and illegal substances including cannabis and poppy under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Tehsildar Kulgam Bilal Ahmad issued directives in a bid to clamp down on illegal drug cultivation, according to whichall Kulgam Tehsil residents have been advised to refrain from engaging in such unlawful and illegal activities. If any person found involved in such serious crime, strict legal action (imprisonment) will be initiated against him.' the order states, adding that those who have done such cultivation should dispose it within five days positively. Those who will not comply to directives will face severe legal consequences, the order warned. Tehsildar Damhaal Hanjipora also issued a similar order giving three days to locals to destroy cannabis cultivation, if

any. Meanwhile, 21 Kanals of illicit poppy cultivation was destroyed by officials of Revenue and Excise Departments in jurisdiction of Tehsil

Last year on August 12, 2022, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court dismissed bail plea of farmers for cultivation poppy seeds in their respective lands terming it as a heinous crime. The court was hearing a bail plea filed by a group of farmers of village Chee, Anantnag seeking bail in anticipation of their arrest in FIR for offences under Sections 8/15/25 of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act registered at Police Station Anantnag.

Systematic efforts by the State Excise Department to eradicate crop began in 2019 and authorities have destroyed poppy over 1,427 Kanals in South Kashmir, 520 Kanals in North Kashmir and 780 Kanals in Central Kashmir.

In 2022, more than 350 Kanals land of illicit poppy cultivation was destroyed and more than 30 FIRs were registered against cultivators in

Those entering Gazetted Engineering Services in 'J&K' have reasons to complain of 'unfair' discrimination

Why no Non-Functional Grade Promotions for Engineering Gazetted Services in UT of J&K and like?

DAYA SAGAR

LEH: All business establish-

ments across Leh district

any may not believe that as on date in J&K the pay scale of Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer is same i.e Level -13 only. But That is not the end of the agony of the Gazetted Engineering

Main Bazaar during Leh Bandh on Monday.

It must have been surely with the intervention of the then Governor and the prevailing practices of not only 'promoting'/ 'posting' engineers in the Gazetted service cadres in one I/C capacity to another higher post in I/C capacity but even retiring some engineers as 'I/C Chief Engineers' worth getting pension only in the grade of Assistant Executive Engineer that J&K State Administrative Council (SAC) had on 22-10-2019, inter, alia, directed that the proposal for regular promotions in the Engineering cadre of the Power PDD be processed for consideration of the competent authority government through the Establishment cum Selection Committee, even without reference to the J&K PSC as one time exception for completion by 30.11.2019.So painfully

by then even a few Un-regularised

JKPDD retired Engineers had expired

without seeing the light of their regularisation and some who had retired even 7-10 years back after working as I/ C Chief Engineer were still getting pension only in the grade of AEE (Asstt. Executive Engineer) for no fault of their's. SAC had surely been considerate enough at least on 22-10-2019 to fix a little over one month for disposals of pending files and it was hoped that atleast the cases of retired engineers would be decided by 30-11-2019.But it was only after about 30 months in 2022 with Nitishwar Kumar, IAS Principal Secretary taking over PDD and A.K. Mehta IAS as Chief Secretary the process of deciding case files of retired incharge promotees of PDD appeared to have been given due priorwhen orders like Government Order No. 49 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 promoting Er. Vinod Khajuria (who had retired in 2012 after working as I/C Chief Engineer) as Ex. Engr w.e.f 15-09-2006, G.O. Order No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022Dated: 22-04-2022 (same day) promoting Er. Vinod Khajuria as SE w.e.f 15-09-2010 and $\,$ G. Order No. $51\text{ -}\mathrm{JK}$ (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 (same day) promoting Er. Vinod

Khajuria as Chief engineer w.e.f 12-09-2012 were issued. Similarly Er. 8.K

Raina had been promoted as SE vide G.O. No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 w.e.f 14-09-2006 and Vide G.O 51 -JK (POD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 as Chief Engineer w.e.f 14-09-2007. Similar orders were issued in favour of other

retired engineers also. No doubt some affected retired engineers are said to have then shown resentment against rejection of their case files/ or still not settled after years but the process started for acceptance or rejection of cases needed to be appreciated. But at the same time the state affairs as regards handling the Human Resource Affairs Administrative departments for gazetted engineering cadres those heading the Administrative departments and promoting one from a I/C capacity to another I/C capacity of next higher level post cannot be left unquestioned. Even after that the 'bad' process (promoting same officer from I/C status to another higher level post as I/C (I/C EE to I/C SE) and once again promot-

A Look through the Mist

to I/C SE to I/C CE) did not appear to have taken notice of since such actions continued after 2019 like GO 57 PWD(R&B) of 30-01-2021 issued promoting I/C SE as I/C CE in Engineering Department only but also in some other departments too (like order no 35/ PDMD of dated 17-02-2023 Planning and Monitoring Department promoting after about 5 years some officers working as I/ C since 2018 - Directors / Joint Directors of J&K Economics & Statistics (Gazetted) Service to the

2nd I/C level to 3rd high-

er level post as I/C (I/EE

13 (123100 -215900)) Gazetted Engineering cadres are even facing uncertainty in timely career promotions in addition to there being no regular ranks being available for them beyond Level -13 posts in terms of 7th pay commission pay scales

Special Scale (Directors) in the Level-

Formany of other gazetted services there have been some relief since the system / provision for length of service linked non Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) has been ordered in their favour worth relieving them atleast of

ing the same officer from some social depressions and economic fall backs. But there have been no sanction of non functional grade promotions for Engineering Gazetted services when such provisions are there for Health &Dental (G.O595-HME of 1988 dated: 2/07/1988. GO No.388-HME of 2005 Dated: 30-06-2005, G.O HME-Actt:-DHSL 04-05 Dated29-07-2005) / Animal Husbandry / Sheep Husbandry -SRO-13 of 17-02-2004; SRO 43 and OM no.A/98(2001)-115 dated 17th November 2005, G Order No.3- ASH of 2010 dated 1st January 2010 / ISM (1st. 2nd and 3rd Time bound Promotion pursuant to Govt, order 493-HME of 1999 dated 05- 10-1999 and Govt. Order No. 242-HME of 2008 dated 31-12-2008) / JKAS{SRO 198 dated 25-04-2018 Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) } /JKPS { SRO. 215 dated 18 May 2018 - Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS)}

Not only that one who may enter through PSC the Gazetted Engineering service at Level 8A pay scale after obtaining Graduate Degree in Engineering from IIT or any reputed institution through JKPSC at age of 23 or 24 years has regular promotion

avenues available for reaching a post of ofL-13 only Commissionwhere aseven a KAS officer entering throughPSC with a graduate degree only in Level-8 scale post can reach upto L-14 of 7th Pay Commission and even beyond if inducted in IAS . Ofcourse IAS entering through UPSC enters L-13 post / Grade in 14 years of his entering service and has avenues to reach beyond L-17 post. Not only that in some other J&K departments regular posts/ avenues are there to reach to the levels of L-13A and L-14 post (equivalent to super time scale of IAS).

So surely there is enough worth in the grievances that the officers of J&K Gazetted Engineering Services are expressing and the due should be extended to them without waiting for / contesting any judicial litigations. Atleast the pay scale of the Chief Engineer should be made higher than Superintending Engineer i.e raised to Level -14 for which there need be no wait for representations.

To be continued (The author is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).