

# Govt reviews arrangements for upcoming Administrative Reforms Conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A comprehensive review meeting was held on Wednesday under the chairpersonship of Amit Sharma, Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings Department regarding the upcoming important two-days Regional Conference on the theme "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms" which is to be held on 16th and 17th May in Srinagar jointly by Department of Administrative Reforms, Public Grievances, Government of India and Government of J&K Union Territory. Secretary ARI & Trainings Department Amit Sharma is the Nodal Officer of the said Conference for the Government of Union Territory, which is being jointly organised by ARI & Trainings Department and J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development, who took a detailed review of the arrangements including accommodation, transportation, security, protocol, exhibi-



Amit Sharma, Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings Department chairing a meeting.

tion stalls and all related arrangements in which Director Hospitality & Protocol, Special Secretary Social Welfare, Additional Secretary Revenue, Additional Secretaries of ARI & Trainings, Additional Secretary Rural Development, General Manager, JKTCDC, Joint Director, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Deputy Secretary Home, Deputy Director Planning IT, Manager JaKeGA, Under Secretaries of ARI were assigned

important roles for this upcoming Good Governance initiative being taken in the Union Territory. This is to showcase lot of administrative reforms which have been initiated in J&K during last two years. A special feature of this Conference is that PMO, MoS Dr Jitendra Singh shall inaugurate the Conference alongwith LG, J&K Manoj Sinha on the first day and they shall simultaneously inaugurate Exhibition Stalls of different departments who have

brought important administrative reforms respectively in which all States/UTs GAD Secretaries' and Administrative Reform Secretaries' have also been invited to attend this special Srinagar event.

Apart from this, Award-Winning initiatives and best practices of different states shall be presented in different sessions of this two-day Conference by senior officers who shall visit Srinagar to attend it.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Secretary ARI & Trainings J&K Amit Sharma alongwith Saurabh Bhagat DG, J&K IMPARD have been making requisite arrangements to make Regional Conference on Administrative Reforms, a great success, on the pattern of last year's Conference where-in Declaration of 'Kashmir Ilania' was made under which lot of initiatives are being taken till date like Mid-Career Capacity Building at Mussoorie Academy for JKAS Officers, launch of NeSDA Survey and District Good Governance Index in J&K.

## Transparent system for opening of donation boxes at shrines has been put in place: Dr Darakhshan



Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi during visit to Ziyarat Babarish.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday on Wednesday visited Ziyarat Babarish and took stock of the facilities there. She was accompanied by CEO of the Board Mufti Fareed & representatives of Police & Administration. It was Dr Darakhshan Andrabi's first visit to famous shrine after taking over as Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board. She directed the Chief Executive of the Board to initiate digitization of all records of

the assets and accounts of the Ziyarat immediately as it will ensure transparency. Dr Andrabi assured people that the Board will soon put in place safe donation systems at all shrines in J&K. She reaffirmed her resolve to put in place an online financial management system at all shrines throughout the Union Territory soon. Dr Andrabi said that soon the Board will constitute Committees headed by J&K Waqf Board Members to ensure Transparent Donation Management at Shrines. These donation boxes will be

opened under camera on spot by the committees comprising of J&K Bank Officers, Police Officers, Waqf Administrators at each shrine from now on.

"We want to assure people that every penny donated at Shrines will have a transparent online record & with the help of the dedicated staff of Waqf & the people, we will utilize the donation money with extra care to create requisite facilities at all shrines. The institutions run by Waqf need an up-liftment and we are committed to do that," said Dr Andrabi.

She announced that the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has sanctioned Rs 3 crore for the development of Babarishi shrine-park under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on her recommendation.

"We will construct a Community Hall & develop the park to make the campus of this famed shrine a huge attraction for all pilgrims," said Waqf Board Chairperson.

## Mufti's tweets indicate her frustration on growth of India as World Leader: Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking a dig on recent provocative tweets by Mehbooba Mufti, President of PDP wishing Indian economy to go Sri Lanka ways, Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday said in press release that such tweets are being made to provoke sentiments of public.

Other recent tweets of Mufti indicates her bent of mind in raising communal frenzy for petty political gains.

Chief Spokesperson of J&K BJP, Sunil Sethi said that India has strong economy and has taken care of its public during difficult COVID 19 pandemic which has been appreciated by whole world.

Tweets of Mufti indicates her frustration on growth of India as world leader and destructive situation existing in Pakistan whose economy is in shambles as also its very existence, he said. Having frustration because of pathetic conditions in Pakistan, Sethi said, she is venting all her frustration and anger towards India.

He further pressed that such statements are testing the patience of Indian public.

In New India there is no place for such political blackmailing which unfortunately was tolerated and accepted during Congress regimes at Centre, he said adding that gone are the days when such elements like Yassen Malik had easy access to even Prime Minister of the country despite being involved in genocide of Kashmiri Pundits and targeted killings of security personnel. Mufti should have learnt lesson from this, he said.



# DB grants time to file response in PIL seeking implementation of Right to Education Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a PIL filed by Umar Farooq, hailing from Dialgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, it has been said that Government respondents should implement Right to Education Act in letter & spirit in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Srinagar wing comprising Chief Justice

Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi directed AAG to file response within a month.

In the PIL, it has been submitted that due to the unprecedented situation in Jammu and Kashmir post July 2019, private schools remained non-functional due to one reason or another. Now, most of schools in J&K have started pressurizing parents to pay full monthly payment, including

tuition fees, transport charges and other incidental charges, the PIL states, adding that the right to free education is an essential sovereign function of welfare state. "Despite fact that none of aforesaid facilities have been utilised by school-children, the parents are being told to pay tuition fee. Moreover, the children have not been taught by teachers during the period the schools remained

closed," the PIL states, praying the court to direct respondents, including the Chief Secretary, UT of J&K, Commissioner Secretary, Education Department, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Director, School Education, Kashmir, to ensure that no tuition fee, bus fee or any other incidental fee is charged from students by any educational institutions in J&K from

August 2019 onwards till normal class work resumes. When PIL came-up for hearing, the Division Bench observed that Shah Aamir, the then AAG was granted time to file response to petition but till date no response has been filed. As Asifa Padroo AAG was present in court and sought a months' time for filing response, the DB granted a months' time to file the response.

## People yearning for change, want riddance from BJP's misrule: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Claiming that people were "disturbed over the change in BJP's attitude after getting a clear mandate", JKPC Working President, Raman Bhalla on Wednesday said that the public would teach a lesson to the BJP in J&K Assembly elections due later this year.

"It will lick dust in the coming J&K assembly polls," Bhalla said while interacting with people of Barzala upper and lower Barzala, Chatha Farn.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Amrit Bali Vice Chairman JKPC Refugee Cell, Pawan Bhagat Gen Secretary SC Cell, Panchs Raj Kumar, Sandesh beside others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla alleged that BJP is full of arrogance over the majority that it got and has not fulfilled even a single promise that it made to people of J&K.

"People have now come to know its reality," he said. He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir are also eagerly awaiting for the next available opportunity to teach BJP and its allies a lesson for letting them down and not fulfilling promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhalla claimed that people are yearning for a change and



JKPC Working President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

want riddance from the BJP's misrule in view of the dangerous attempts to polarize the country on religious lines for narrow electoral gains.

Bhalla gave a clarion call to the people to prepare themselves for giving a befitting reply to the divisive forces led by BJP as the opportunity would arise in the coming Assembly elections.

"You must question BJP leaders including the area MP and former Ministers when they approach you for votes as to why they failed to fulfill their promises of all round development and resolving the problems of particularly vulnerable people living in miserable condition," he said.

He pleaded for the "clean politics" to take the mission of Congress president Rahul Gandhi to the grass roots level and redress the sufferings of common man.

Bhalla further said that BJP govt has already wasted seven years of their tenure and

the only net gain has been fulfilling of their vested interests at the cost of the common man.

He also alleged that the BJP had gained power after "betrayal of the mandate" and its experiments cost too much to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who lost their identity as a state besides all safeguards to their land and jobs.

The people will not spare BJP for its total failure and arbitrary and undemocratic decisions besides imposing heavy taxes, price hike and economic crises and failures on health and medicare, Bhalla alleged.

"The people are fed up with the bluffs and failures of the BJP and said his party would emerge stronger to gain power in the next elections in Jammu and Kashmir and would always give due representation and special focus to the backward and underdeveloped regions of Jammu and Kashmir:

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Rahul Bharti directed Commissioner/Secretary Health Department to file affidavit regarding non-functional Genetic Counseling Centre.

When PIL came-up for hearing, the Division Bench observed that

response has been filed by Director Health Services, Jammu. DB observed that reply from the Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Health Department, UT of J&K is necessary in matter with a view to deal comprehensively with issues that have been raised in the writ petition and the timeline within which the Genetic Counseling Centres,

Genetic Clinic, Genetic Laboratories etc need to be established.

During the course of hearing, Adv Navneet Dubey stated that according to the response filed by the Director, Health Services, Jammu, wherein it has been asserted that one Genetic Counseling Centre has been established in SMGS Hospital Jammu, which has since been closed/ non-func-

# Domestic violence goes unabated in Valley, another woman lost life

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: In a shocking incident when entire country was celebrating Eid, a woman from Baramulla District lost her life in domestic violence. The victim was not even 30 years old and lactating a one-and-a-half year old toddler. The victim, a resident of Baramulla, had two daughters, including toddler, the elder being three years old.

A senior doctor, privy to her condition at hospital, said that she was 'brought late' to the hospital. "She had an extradural hematoma, which is a treatable condition. But she was brought late to hospital in a crucial condition," the doctor said. He said that patient had a

low GCS score and was brain dead on arrival. "She was put on an ambu bag and later on a ventilator but family was well aware about her grievous condition," he said.

A relative of the victim, on condition of anonymity, said that patient received 'best care at hospital' but had multiple injuries. "During three days in ICU, we recorded multiple wounds on her face and body," he said. He said that the in-laws of victim had informed her parents about 'a fall from kitchen counter'. "Her dorsal nasal bone was injured, she had an injury on chin and it seemed from her wounds that she had been beaten up and dragged," he said. The relative expressed

guilt over the 'feeling that she suffered domestic violence for years without anything being done to help her by family, including himself'.

He said that the violence was not related to dowry but 'the husband was just violent and suppressive and other family members also took it over from him'. "She never informed her parents because she feared societal reprisal for speaking against husband.

This is what killing our daughters, the pressure of society," the relative lamented.

Years ago, the Government of India constituted a task force and instituted a fund to help prevent violence against women and help those

undergoing it. The One Stop Centers for Women and Nirbhaya Fund were constituted to reach grass roots and provide much needed, sometimes life saving intervention to victims of violence, but it has not met the objective.

Harvendar Kour, the newly appointed Mission Director Integrated Child Development Program who also holds charge of Women and Child Development Department in J&K said that Baramulla victim 'might never have heard of anything like One Stop Center. She said that department would launch a door to door awareness programme about One Stop Centers and help women get to gather confidence.

District Development Commissioner Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar has also condoled sad demise of woman and assured justice to bereaved family under law. "In view of sensitivity of case, FIR No 42/2022 under sections 307, 323, 498A of IPC has been registered at police station Kreeri and a Special Investigation Team is constituted for speedy/quality investigation," reads a police statement, adding, "SIT is directed to carry out investigation of the case on professional lines and ensure that no lacuna is left in the investigation. The team shall conclude the investigation of the case on its merits at an earliest."

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## Sadhotra expresses concern over power, water crises; decries proposed hike in power tariff

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing grave concern over water and power crisis across J&K, former Minister and senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Wednesday lambasted the administration for pushing the people to wall during the current spell of the brute heat-wave across the Jammu region, especially Jammu.

"The situation has become all the more critical with mercury breaching 40 degree Celsius", Sadhotra said while addressing a public meeting at Lale-da-Bagh Nai Basti. Sadhotra said the failed BJP Government is mulling a big hike in the power tariff to silence the people from rising against the unprecedented crisis that has jeopardised the normal life. Any raise in the power hike is not only unacceptable



Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra with new entrants in party fold at Jammu.

to the people but would be overwhelmingly opposed, he added. He accused the BJP Government of having miserably failed in maintaining the curtailment schedule as frequent unscheduled power cuts for hours together has become a norm. If this is the scenario at the beginning of the summer, what can be the scene in coming months, especially during monsoon, is anybody's guess, he asked while attributing the nightmarish breakdown to mis-

management, lack of vision and administrative inertia.

He sought formulation of a summer power and water plan to meet the requirements of the people well ahead of monsoon sets in.

The Senior National Conference leader asked the government to shun its anti-people and anti-poor policies to relieve the common man from constant miseries. The lack of accountability has further added to their woes, he said.

## Successive Govts lacked guts, willpower to tackle Kashmir imbroglio: Kavinder

'Long rope given to Geelani, Yasin, Shabir deteriorated situation'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Successive Governments in the centre and the erstwhile state of J&K lacked guts and willpower to tackle Kashmir problem leading to mayhem in the region.

This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta during a party programme held in Gadigarh area falling in Ward No. 73 wherein scores of people including women political workers embraced BJP and pledged to carry forward the mission of making India more stronger and development oriented.

Kavinder said, "J&K has witnessed destructive politics in the last over 40 years during which people like Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah were allowed to deteriorate the situation as the then governments preferred to look the other way around". He alleged that these so-called Kashmiri representatives were responsible for exodus of Kashmiri Pandits as they mislead the youth in Valley to satiate their vested interests and were also extensively involved in give and take

of terror funds.

The senior BJP leader reiterated that the then governments in the region and at Centre showed no spine to contain the situation rather some of those ignited the fire through playing a complacent role. The leaders like Geelani and Yasin enjoyed security and other facilities under the successive regimes, he added.

Kavinder said it was the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi which took over the reins of the country in 2014 and changed the entire scenario. "The anti-nationals which used to rule the roost have started running for life with many shown the doors of the other world", he said adding that the BJP government has tightened the noose around those who were posing to be detrimental for the country.

"Today there is no stone pelting, terror funding has become a thing of the past as accounts of beneficiaries have been sealed and no one in Valley now dares to raise Pakistan flags", he said adding that people now are talking about retrieving PoJK from illegal clutches of Pakistan.