

# Amit stresses for innovation during Srinagar Press Visit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: Amit Sharma, Secretary, Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings Department, Government of J&K on Saturday conducted a maiden inspection visit at Government Press Complex located at Sempora, Srinagar after taking over the charge of the department.

Secretary was accompanied by his team comprising of Syed Muried Hussain Shah, Additional Secretary, Aadil Bashir, Under Secretary, General Manager Srinagar Press Aijaz Akhoun, Gurjeet and Nadeem.

Secretary Amit took an extensive tour of the Press Complex and visited its different sections wherein work was going-on in full swing.



Secretary, ARI&TD, Amit Sharma during visit to inspect Government Press Complex Sempora, Srinagar.

He interacted with employees of the Press working in these sections to know about their well being, welfare measures being taken and alongside, he directed GM Press Srinagar to ensure total safety in terms of fire

safety / security and maintenance of total hygienic conditions inside the Complex especially in the washrooms and toilets.

Amit also took a round of the newly-inaugurated building within the Government

Press Complex and advised GM Srinagar to suggest a working plan for proper utilisation of same which is at presently being used only for Storage and Clerical Hall Working purposes.

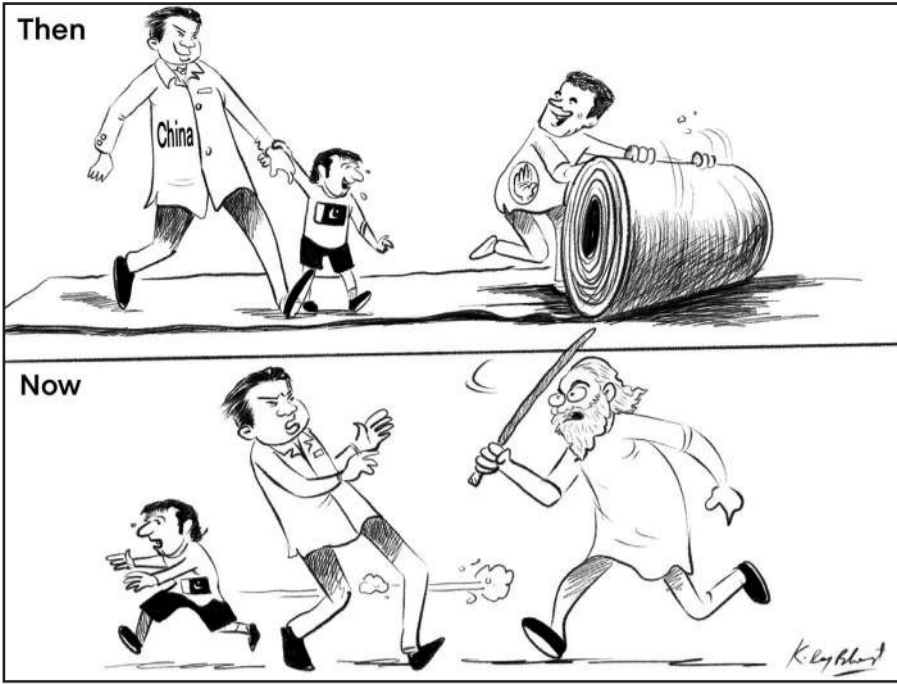
While expressing satisfaction over the working, Secretary Amit complimented them for developing Website of the Press in shortest possible time which shall be inaugurated soon.

He directed that both the Government Presses should adopted e-Governance models and come-up with innovative measures to revamp the working and capacity utilisation of the men & machinery installed there. Amit further reiterated that the General Managers should adopt a proactive approach and take

orders in future from various prestigious organisations like Universities, Banks, Autonomous Institutions which can give good business to both the Presses.

Secretary also gave a patient hearing to various issues of the Press Employees like service-related matters, shortage of staff, etc wherein he gave spot instructions to his teammates to note down and redress them in shortest possible time.

Before culmination the trip, Amit assured that there shall be total overhauling in the existing style of working so as to make them commercially viable and profit-making units, which is also one of the decided deliverables for this year of ARI & Trainings Department.



# Modi Govt committed to welfare of tribal communities: Kavinder

Participates in two-day National Conclave in Mumbai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
MUMBAI: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that the BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to welfare of tribal communities as every effort is being made to uplift this underprivileged section across the country.

The senior BJP functionary was speaking during the two-day National Conclave of Akhil Bhartiya Adivasi Kshyap Kahar Nishad Bhoi Samanvay Samiti in Mumbai.

On the occasion, Niranjan Jyoti, Minister of State for Rural Development, Government of India; Gopal Das Shastri from Agra and Swami Gorakh Nath from Kollam district Kerala were the main invitees.

Kavinder Gupta said that for the first time in the history of independent India, any government has done so much for the tribal community which traditionally craved for the mere basic amenities for all these years under the successive regimes.

Citing the example of Tribals living in J&K,



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta at National Conclave in Mumbai.

Kavinder said that the Modi Government has empowered the community by providing many avenues to this marginalized section.

He said that the Government is relentlessly making all out efforts to protect the interests of tribal people, including their land, education and upliftment of their socio-economic status.

In this regard, J&K government has recently scripted history by handing over individual and community rights certificates to the beneficiaries of Gujjar, Bakarwal and Gaddi Sippi communities under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

He also mentioned that it was first time in the history that a good number of seats have been

reserved for the Scheduled Tribe community in the UT of J&K, thus making it amply clear that BJP Government has fulfilled the aspirations and expectations of the people as far as the policy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is concerned.

The former Deputy Chief Minister however stressed on chalking out a pragmatic plan to uplift the Kshyap community and provide vistas of opportunities to people belonging to this tribal section of society.

Kavinder also expressed gratitude to Ramesh Patil, Member of Maharashtra Legislative Council and National President Koli Mahasangh Maharashtra, for inviting him in the National Conclave.

# Rahul Bhat's killing: KPs take out protest march in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: Chanting 'Om' at the historic Lal Chowk's clock tower, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits, carrying placards asking "aakhir kabtak", staged a protest demanding their relocation following the killing of Rahul Bhat by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists 10 days ago.

Marching from the Lal Mandi area of the civil lines, 200 to 300 protestors from the community staged a sit-in and raised slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration for "turning a deaf ear" to their demands.

Bhat (35), who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2012-11, was shot dead by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists at his office in the Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on May 12.

According to Kashmiri Pandit rituals, the 10th day signifies the end of the mourning period.

The protestors, men and women, carried placards asking "Aakhir Kab Tak?" (till when) and demanding "relocation/deputation of all Valley-posted migrant employees to any other place in India to stop our bloodshed".

Raising slogans against the administration, the Pandit employees said their protest would continue till this "deaf administration" listens.

Before leaving the Lal Chowk area, the protesters en mass chanted "Om" and then marched to the BJP's state office in the Jawahar Nagar area of the city where they raised slogans against the party.

The protestors dispersed peacefully afterwards.

In the Mattan area of South Kashmir, similar processions were held against the union territory administration.

Braving unseasonal rainfall, the Kashmiri pandit employees marched towards the famous Martand temple where some of the youths tansured their heads as per ritual followed on the 10th day after death.

They raised slogans like "Rahul Bhai amar rahe" and demanded their relocation to safer places. Protests have been held at several places in Jammu and Kashmir over the killing of Bhat as well as the "failure" of the administration in providing security to Kashmiri Pandit employees.

# J&K Cong to hold its own 'chintan shivir' in Patnitop on June 1, 2



Former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad speaking at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir on Saturday said a two-day meet will be held next month to discuss the strategy to strengthen the party in the Union Territory.

Mir made the announcement at a meeting held at the party headquarters here to pay tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 31st death anniversary, a party spokesperson said.

Senior AICC leader and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also attended the meeting amid reports that he would get a key role ahead of the next assembly polls likely to be held later this year.

Azad's supporters including many former ministers and

legislators have, in the past, voiced resentments against Mir, seeking his removal besides making Azad the party chief ministerial candidate in J&K.

It is time to pay back to the party and strengthen it, which is the need of the nation. The party leaders should rise above their self-interest and work for strengthening the party as resolved in the Udaipur Chintan Shivir, Mir said, addressing the condolence meeting.

He announced that a similar Shivir' of J&K Congress leaders would be held at Patni top in Udhampur district on June 1 and 2 to discuss the strategy for strengthening the party.

Azad, in his address, asked

the party cadres to work for peace and harmony and to strengthen the party to fight communal and divisive forces and defeat the politics of hate .

The strength of the nation lies in its unity in diversity and the spread of hate in society is weakening the nation, Azad said, adding the Congress and its leadership always promoted religious brotherhood and harmony in the society as Hindu-Muslim-Sikh unity is very vital for the strength of our pluralistic nation .

Azad recalled the contributions of Rajiv Gandhi as prime minister on various fronts, especially in the field of science and technology and the Panchayat Raj system in the country.

# Lack of fire safety management policies behind increase in fire incidents

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Rising fire incidents in Kashmir Valley necessitates the importance of a fire safety management policy at commercial centres and delay on this count would only see such fire incidents occurring and reoccurring season after season and year after year at key commercial centres of Srinagar and major towns of Kashmir valley. Fire safety management policy is not suited to fire safety only at hotels, houseboats and hospitals but it is equally suited for the fire safety of commercial complexes, shopping malls and places of greater public attraction in both cities and towns. Initially, the Fire and Emergency Services Department blamed local residents for excessive use of heating gadgets in their homes, but the question arose there, during the last two days on May 19 and 20, fire caused damage to the Traffic Police Control Unit and in the second incident Police Station Kothibagh got partially damaged. In addition, government offices, newly constructed shopping complexes, Mosques and many buildings are burning. So how can the Fire and Emergency Services Department just call it a human error? It is worth mentioning here that in 2017, the then government had decided to conduct a fire safety audit of all government and non-government establishments, which is still in a queue. Recently, when a fire broke out at the Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla Srinagar, the Divisional administration once again issued a fire audit order to all hospitals and government buildings, but this order is yet to be completed on the ground.

Last month a massive fire broke out in Gojwara Chowk of the downtown area of the Srinagar city, damaging a mosque and two shopping complexes. The Fire and Emergency Services official said the incident was caused by a short circuit, but it was not immediately clear if it was a short circuit or something else.

The data prepared by the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) department revealed that property worth Rs 4572.26 lakh and belongings worth over Rs 40306.38 lakh was damaged in these incidents.

# J&K ICAI organises seminar on 'Incorporation of Companies & LLPs'



Chairman of the J&K Branch of ICAI, CA Nakul Saraf and others during a seminar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Branch of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organized a seminar on Practical learning of Incorporation, Annual Compliances and Closure of Companies& LLPs at ICAI Bhawan, here on Saturday.

CA. Nakul Saraf, Chairman of the J&K Branch of ICAI, welcomed the guest speaker, Members and students and delivered the inaugural address.

He also thanked all the

previous committee members right from the inception of the Branch for giving wonderful legacy and setting high standards.

CS. Divesh Goyal from Delhi was the speaker on the occasion.

During the first half, CS Divesh gave a detailed presentation on Practical learning of Incorporation of Companies & LLPs.

Later, he discussed on Annual Compliances of Companies and LLPs along with the procedural aspects of striking off the same.

Further, he also highlighted various aspects related to changes in Schedule III of Companies Act 2013.

CA Vineet Kohli, Secretary of the branch conducted the proceedings of the seminar.

CA Vikas Purdhani, Vice-Chairman of the branch presented the vote of thanks.

CA Ayush Sawhney, Treasurer, CA Sourav Pargal and CA Priya Seht, Executive Members were also present along with number of Chartered Accountants on the occasion.

# 'Super Senior' Pensioner cannot afford to run for following up their Pension cases

Courts uphold start of additional pension/ family pension from the 80th Birthday & not from 81st

■ DAYA SAGAR

SLP (Civil) Diary No. 18133/2019 Union of India & Ors Versus Virendra Dutt Gyani (for Admission and IR and IA No.84980/2019-condonation of delay in filing and IA No.84981/2019-exemption from filing C/C of the impugned judgment ) was filed by Government in Supreme Court against Gauhati High Court Judgement of 15-03-2018 in WP(C) 4224/2016 {( Item No.21 Court O.1 Section XIV Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No. 18133/2019), and SC too ordered on 08-07-2019 < "Delay condoned. Having heard learned counsel for the petitioners and on perusing the relevant material, we are not inclined to interfere. The special leave petition is accordingly dismissed. Pending inter-lodged applications, if any, shall stand disposed of ">

In view of the above, it is expected that the Departments/Regulating

authorities/ Disbursing officers in the Union Government / States /UTs, where ever provisions have been ordered for age related ( we may say "super age" or super "senior Citizen") "additional quantum of pension or family pension", take the direction as also vetted by Supreme Court as regards interpreting the said rules with descriptions similar as in Section -17B of The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 for implementation. To quote the orders/rules exist with similar descriptions as ordered by Central Government (Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021. Rule 44(6) Amount of Pension) as also by J&K State Government(J&K Civil Service Regulations, 195. SRO-138 of 25-04-2016 issued by Finance Department J&K under A/14/85 - II/375 25-04-2016 Rule "240-A (viii) Elderly pensioners additional pension". (See Table-A ). But it has been observed that the beneficiaries are not

being entertained by the concerned authorities/ disbursing officers. It is not out of place mention here that the orders in this regard provide even 100 % additional pension over basic pension for 'super seniors' of age 100 years or more. No doubt with the interpretation as has been given by the Highest Court the increase in slabs have to start only a year earlier as against being observed by some governments like J&K but it is the question of fair justice and honour for 'our' elders.

Even courts have while making judgement said that the gesture expressed by the governments has been in terms of the fair needs of the aging and the dealing government departments and officers should also appreciate that the Super senior Citizens may not find it easy / workable to make representations, make running around for follow ups and enter into litigations.



A Look through the Mist Part-II

Intentions of those in power seats who framed the provisions for "Additional" pension to the aging could be seen even from note-5 appearing SRO 138 dated 25-04-2016 of J&K Finance department where it says <" Note-5 : The pension Disbursing Authority/Bank will make payment of additional pension in the above manner, on provisional basis, upto a period of three months from the month in which the proof of age/date of birth is submitted by the pensioner. In such cases, the Pension Disbursing authority/Bank will immediately send one copy each of the document submitted by the pensioner to the Accountant General for formal authorization of the additional pension. The pension disbursing authority /Bank will make a payment of additional pension beyond a period of three months only on receipt of such an authorization from the Accountant

General">.

So concerned department related to superannuation pension for ex government employees /Pensioner's Welfare may kindly issue necessary orders for payment of pension / family pension at enhanced rate / with additional pension ( where ever provision exists) to the Pensioners/Family Pensioners like starting after completion of 79 years followed by 84 yrs,89yrs,94yrs,99 yr , i.e., starting from the beginning of 80th year as against the existing practice being followed by some of completion of 80 yrs , 85yr,90yrs,95yrs,100 yrs . Since the judgement of Gauhati HC in ref that has also been upheld by the Supreme Court to avoid multiplicity of litigation Governments like UT of J&K may hence issue ( if needed and not yet issued after SC vetting the Gauhati HC order on 08-07-2019) orders/instructions/clarifications to the disbursing officers so that the super seniors have not to run around / go for litigations in

their last years. While addressing the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts on April 30th, 2022 where The Prime Minister and Law Minister were also in attendance, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana stated that the Judiciary, Executive, and Legislature must work together to tackle India's judicial pendency problem which was solely not due to Judges and had urged the government to fulfil its responsibilities such that citizens are not forced to approach the Court for every problem adding that the government is the biggest litigant in India, accounting for 50% of all cases filed before the Courts. Prime Minister too had expressed his earnest commitment to delivery of good governance and see that government works for getting the justice delivered with no undue costs in time & money.

(The author is Sr Journalist,Social Activist &Analyst J&K Affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).