



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with the students of Delhi Public School, Srinagar and students presenting cultural programme.

## India's population dividend could be instrument of nation building: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, addressing a programme commemorating "9 Years of Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Thursday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that India's population dividend could be an instrument of nation building. Apart from youth, the elder citizens including the pensioners could also be channelised for building a strong and prosperous India.

Addressing a programme commemorating "9 Years of Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare" at Vigyan Bhawan here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, if the 70 percent of the population of India is below 40 years of age, this is also a new reality that the actual number of 60 plus is increasing fast in India and they are not only fit

and agile, but have a vast experience of administrative and sectoral sectors to contribute to India's "Vision of 2047".

Dr Jitendra pointed out that radical pension reforms and change in rules and regulations were carried out at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014 in response to emerging societal needs.

Dr Jitendra also informed that at the behest of the Prime Minister, the Department also

started a portal entitled "Amubhav" to show-case the experiences in Government of retiring officials which has now become a huge resource base for us. The Department not only introduced the concept of Pension Adalats but has leveraged technology to hold digital Adalats through video-conferencing.

Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, V. Srinivas said in his address that DoPPW has commenced

a series of awareness programs for Bankers with a view to provide information about the latest pension rules/procedures reforms and welfare initiatives to Bank's field functionaries, handling pensions. He said, in line with the Government's objective of transparency, digitization and service delivery, the Bhavishya platform has ensured End-to-End digitization of the Pension processing and payment.

From the retiree filing his/her papers online till issue of the PPO in electronic format going into the Digilocker, this platform has showcased the intention of complete transparency and efficiency of the Government, the 'Bhavishya' platform, an integrated online pension processing system was made mandatory for all central government departments w.e.f. 01.01.2017.

## Union MoS takes strict note of neglecting Mayor at Govt function: Councillors



JMC Councillors addressing a press conference at Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two young Councillors of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) have brought to fore the bossism and negligent attitude of bureaucracy in J&K.

In a press conference here on Thursday, Anil Kumar JMC Councillor from Ward 68 and Kapil Singh Chib, Ward 64 Councillor said that

Union MoS Defence, Ajay Bhatt visited Jammu few days back and he was official chief guest at a Rozgar Mela.

"The information regarding visit of the Minister was not shared by the district administration with Mayor's office due to which Bhatt expressed resentment as the institute of democratically elected representatives was ignored by the bureaucrats," the Councillors

told reporters.

They informed that the Minister has expressed anguish over the wrong happening and had said that if elected representatives of the public are not informed then for whom the bureaucrats are working.

"If the bureaucrats are not upholding the integrity of their office and are not following the moral procedure of Constitution then what for they are working," the Councillors said quoting the Union MoS.

They also said that after this the Minister had personally rang up the Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma and the Mayor informed him that he was not intimidated about the visit of the Minister.

The Councillors further informed that the Union MoS has taken a strict note of the negligence.

## Photography workshop organised by Department of Journalism and Media Studies, JU

Media students hone their skills in digital storytelling



JU faculty presenting sapling to Photography Officer of PRO Ministry of Defence, Jammu Shib Narayan Acharya.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-needed and most effective storytelling skill for media students through digital photography marked its beginning at the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, here on Thursday.

Two times National Award-Winning, Photography Officer of Public Relations Office, Ministry of Defence, Jammu Shib Narayan Acharya is conducting the two-day workshop on photography, photojournalism and visual storytelling with a special focus on digital photography. In her welcome address, Dr. Garima Gupta, HoD, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu encouraged the budding journalists to make the best academic use of such workshops that enables them with industry-specific skills. She also said that such initiatives help in establishing the quality of work being done by the media department at University of Jammu. She appreciated the faculty members for initiating ideas that help media students navigate through their journalistic training with excellence. Prof Sucheta Pathania, Dean, Faculty of Arts, congratulated the Head of Department, Journalism and Media Studies Dr Garima Gupta for always embarking upon ambitious and exciting projects despite being the youngest department of the University of Jammu. In her presidential remark, Prof Pathania told the students the importance of photography and its essential relationship with the profession of Journalism. She emphasized on the use of photos to tell stories effectively.

SN Acharya started the workshop by sharing the history of photojournalism and explained the basic components of a professional camera and scientific principles of photography. He also explained to the students some important 'formulas' of photography and videography that can help in capturing the subject with fine details. Students were given training to cover photo features on day-to-day-situations, with an eye for details that tell a story through multiple dimensions. He also shared his work with the students and discussed the story ideas that lie in the eyes behind the lens along with techniques that help in capturing the best shots.

In its commitment to provide hands-on training to the media students, the department of Journalism and Media Studies, JU, is actively inviting experts from the industry on a regular-basis. Such initiatives will create opportunities for media students and help in bringing quality to the field of journalism in J&K. The interactive workshop ended with a round of questions and answers.

## DB directs respondents to reconsider case of appellants for their regularization

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi came to the rescue of petitioners who were engaged as Lecturers/Demonstrators in various branches of the education department on academic arrangement basis commencing 1994. While setting-aside the judgment of writ court dated 06.05.2015 passed in SWP No. 1874/2012, by the writ Court, directed respondents to reconsider the case of the appellants for their regularization in terms of the provisions of Act of 2010. Taking into account the fact that the appellants have given their youth in the service of respondents and have spent good amount of time in litigation pursuing the cause of their regularization, the respondents are commanded to reconsider regularizing their services in terms of Section 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Special

Provisions) Act, 2010, within a period of one month from the date copy of this judgment is served upon them, notwithstanding the age factor of the appellants.

While allowing the LPA, DB quotes "The sword of Damocles Hangs by a thread right over one's head, ready to drop and rip one's head right off. It means living one's life under a constant fear or threat, which you always know about, but you only have a choice to live with it with the belief that the danger will never materialize".

DB observed that the cumulative analysis of the above discussion is that the appellants are the consolidated/temporary employees and deserve to be treated as such in terms of the provisions of the Act of 2010, notwithstanding the nature of their initial order of engagement.

DB further observed that the respondents are also not justified, rather are absolutely on wrong footing, to say that the appellants have been and are continuing on the posts

on the basis of court orders. The fact of the matter is that respondents have allowed them to continue as per their sweet wish without there being any compulsion from any quarter to do so, they appear to have been in need of their services and are now contemplating to show them the door or deny them the usufruct of their services in complete disregard to the decades long services rendered by the appellants for the department by taking recourse to Section 3(b) of the Act of 2010. The law cannot be made applicable selectively to extend benefit to few and deny it to others. We, therefore, do not subscribe to the view that the appellants fall within the exception as prescribed under clause (b) of Section 3 of the Act of 2010. On the contrary, we find the case of the appellants tilting more towards Section 5 of the Act of 2010, as they satisfy its requirement in its entirety. In the instant case as detailed out hereinbefore, the appellants have not only been continued for an indefinite period in contraven-

tion of the scope and concept of the academic arrangement, but have even been ordered to continue till further orders, which, to our view, connotes that the exception to Section 3 in the shape of clause (b) of the Act of 2010, has completely lost its significance vis-a-vis the appellants. The question so formulated in the preceding paragraphs is, accordingly, answered on the above lines. It is made clear that the repealment of the Act of 2010, by enactment of J&K Re-Organization Act, 2019, shall not wipe out the accrued rights of the appellants. In view of above, the writ Court does not appear to have appreciated the controversy in its right perspective.

Accordingly, in acceptance of the present LPA, we set aside the impugned Judgment dated 06.05.2015 passed in SWP No. 1874/2012, by the writ Court. The writ petition of the appellants as a sequel to above is also allowed. The impugned rejection orders of the

Empowered Committee dated 18.07.2012 and 25.07.2012 are also quashed by a writ of certiorari. The respondents by a writ of mandamus are commanded to reconsider the case of the appellants for their regularization in terms of the provisions of Act of 2010. Given the fact that the appellants have given their youth in the service of respondents and have spent good amount of time in litigation pursuing the cause of their regularization, the respondents are commanded to reconsider regularizing their services in terms of Section 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Special Provisions) Act, 2010, within a period of one month from the date copy of this judgment is served upon them notwithstanding the age factor of the appellants.

DB further said that the instant case has been decided on the basis of its chequered history and in the peculiar circumstances, therefore, it shall not set precedence in any manner whatsoever.

## Delegation of senior Political Leaders calls on Lt Governor

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of senior Political Leaders called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Thursday.

The delegation comprised of former Ministers, ex-Legislators and politicians including Sh Sham Lal Sharma, Sh Sat Sharma, Sh Surjeet Singh Slatia, Sh Balwant Singh Mankotia, Sh Vibodh Gupta, Sh Sunil Sethi, and Advocate Abhinav Sharma highlighted various issues of public importance.

The Lt Governor assured the delegation of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues projected during the interaction.

## Commissioner Secretary I&C interacts with prominent Investors

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, on Thursday held an interactive meeting with prominent investors in J&K from different sectors at Srinagar.

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen ties between the government and the investor community, explore potential partnerships and discuss opportunities for mutual growth of J&K and Industrial sector as well as to discuss ways to alleviate challenges in grounding investment in the UT.

About 50 investors representing diverse sectors like Pharmaceutical, Power,



Comm Secy I&C, Vikramjit Singh interacting with prominent investors in J&K at Srinagar.

Hospitals, Packaging Industry, Food Processing, Manufacturing sector, Tourism Sector, Private Industrial Parks, IT and ITES, CA stores and Start Ups expressed their keen interest in J&K's investment prospects. They lauded government's efforts to facilitate

a conducive business ecosystem.

Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of collaboration between public and private entities to drive innovation, foster entrepreneurship and unlock full potential of Industries in J&K. He assured the investors

that their feedback and suggestions would be taken into consideration, aiming to address any barriers and enhance the ease of doing business. The Government's ongoing efforts to streamline processes, provide service delivery through Single Window system and foster a skilled workforce were also highlighted during the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary mentioned that such meetings will be held atleast once in every quarter to further strengthen ties with the investors. He assured that there would be an open house on every Friday where any investor can meet him and

discuss their issues.

This meeting signifies government's strong commitment towards forging meaningful partnerships with investors and fostering an environment conducive to sustained economic growth.

The meeting was also attended by Director General Industries and Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra, Managing Director, J&K Trade Promotion Organisation, Khalid Jehangir, Director Industries and Commerce Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Additional Secretary I&C, Abdul Aziz and other senior officers of Industries and Commerce Department.

## DC Jammu inspects arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner, Avny Lavasa, conducted an extensive tour on Thursday to review the preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, SANJY-2023, at Mahajan Sabha, Ram Mandir and Geeta Bhawan Jammu. Accompanied by ADC (Adm) Jammu, Sandeep Sointra, SP Jammu Kuldeep Honda, DIO (NIC) Sanjay Kapoor, Nodal Officers, security officers, and officials from Jal Shakti, Power and other relevant departments, the Deputy Commissioner assessed various aspects, including accommodation, security arrangements, public address systems, dustbin installations, uninterrupted power and water supply, cleanliness, sanitation, toilets and medical facilities at registra-



DC Jammu Avny Lavasa to review preparations for SANJY-2023 at Geeta Bhawan Jammu.

tion counters.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the registration process for Amarnath pilgrims and the issuance of RIFD cards.

Emphasising the need for timely completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to ensure all yatra arrangements are in place before the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji

Yatra. She further urged them to mobilise their field functionaries to ensure the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the nodal officers and senior officials overseeing the smooth conduct of the yatra to ensure that the pilgrims face no inconvenience concerning basic amenities in their respective jurisdictions.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of District Kathua and Samba to oversee and assess the arrangements being put in place for the ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas; DC State Taxes, Ranjit Singh; SSP Kathua, Shivdeep Singh Janwal; ADC Deepika Rana and other concerned officers.

At Kathua, the Divisional Commissioner visited Lakhanpur and took went around the Lakhanpur Corridor and inspected the existing infrastructure and the status of civic amenities viz drinking water; Sanitation, Reception centre, provision of



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar conducting tour of District Kathua to review Amarnath Yatra arrangements.

Public Address System for facilitation of Yatris, medical facilities, besides he also enquired about the arrangement of lodgement centres for pilgrims in case of Yatra halt.

Emphasizing on adequate provision of basic amenities, the Divisional Commissioner stressed on the need for close

coordination among all stakeholders involved in the preparations.

The Div Com directed the Executive Officer Lakhanpur MC to take measures to maintain cleanliness and sanitation in the area. The installation of signage for assistance of Yatris coming for pilgrimage

was also stressed upon.

He also inspected the area earmarked for Langar facility as identified by the district administration and directed for improving sanitation conditions, drinking water facilities and other logistics.

Ramesh Kumar also directed the concerned authorities to start the face-lifting and other necessary repair works well in time. He instructed the representative of NHAI to expedite the pace of work of Blacktopping of Lakhanpur corridor area and ensure completion of all works by June 20. The Div Com also inquired about the putting up of hoardings at Lakhanpur by the Tourism Department to showcase and promote the prominent tourist locations in Jammu region.

Reviewing the arrangement

for the security of Pilgrims, the Div Com asked the police to devise a foolproof security plan. He passed directions to the SSP Kathua for deployment of a sufficient number of personnel and installation of additional CCTV cameras to ensure hassle free & secure experience for the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma and other district officers took stock of preparations at lodgement centre in Chichi Mata Premises for pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He directed district administration Samba to ensure regular water, power supply besides regular cleanliness at all the identified lodgement centres in the district during Yatra days.