

Chief Information Commissioner briefs Dr Jitendra, RTI disposal rate nearly 100%

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India, Heeralal Samariya gave an update on the working and progress of the Central Information Commission to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. This was CIC's first meeting with the Minister after the Modi 3.0 government assumed charge.

The Minister was informed that there was nearly 100 percent disposal of Right to Information (RTI) appeals, with pendency coming down every year.

Union Minister observed, "The pendency of RTI appeals is substantially reducing from 35718 appeals in 2019-20 to 29213 appeals in 2021-22, further reducing to 23087 appeals in 2023-24 and 22666 appeals in 2024-25," which is remarkable, he



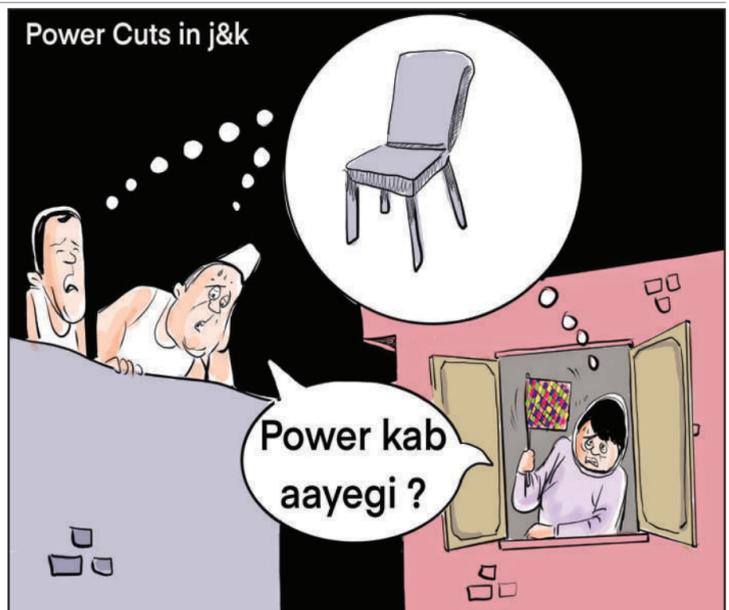
Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh being briefed by Chief Information Commissioner of India, Heeralal Samariya at New Delhi on Wednesday.

added.

The Minister appreciated the progress made in reducing pendency and increasing the ease of providing information to citizens by the proactive role played by the Information Commission. Dr. Jitendra Singh guid-

ed to further increase the disposal at a faster rate and continue to address the queries. He appreciated the efforts of the Information Commission and its leadership for achieving this feat. Assuring the Commission of PM Modi leadership and his support for citizen

centric governance, Dr. Jitendra Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is to usher transparency, accountability and good governance into the working of government. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the exemplary work done by CIC during Covid pandemic as they were functional throughout. He categorically mentioned the ease to residents of J&K after opening a branch in the union territory. The Chief Information Commissioner, Heeralal Samariya highlighted that the CIC got its independent office complex after 2014 when the new Government came, before that CIC was operated from a rented place. He also informed the minister about the steady progress and said the second appeals reaching to the CIC nearly 17000 appeals are disposed of every year.



Dr Andrabi leads clearance drive for rental liabilities of Waqf Board tenants

Sealing of commercial units in Waqf properties will begin soon if rental liabilities are not cleared: Darakhshan

STATE TIMES NEWS

H A Z R A T B A L : Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday led the Clearance Drive for rental liabilities of Waqf Board tenants at Waqf Complex in Hazratbal and received cash in cheques on the spot operating from the shop keepers in Waqf property there.

Dr Andrabi made this sudden tour after the Board's repeated notices didn't yield any results.

Waqf Board Tehsildar and the Board Magistrate Ishiyaq Mohiuddin along with the Waqf Officials accompanied Dr Andrabi.

She issued orders for fixing of minimal rent in favour of very old lady selling local pottery in Waqf Shop and also talked



Chairperson JKWB, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi receiving a cheque from the shop keeper.

to the tenants with huge rental liabilities and asked them to pay the balance without any further delay to avoid the sealing of their shops. Many shopkeepers cleared the liabilities in cash or by cheque on the spot.

Later speaking to media,

Dr Andrabi said that the Board will not waive any balance liabilities to anybody using the Waqf properties. "Sealing of commercial units in Waqf properties will begin soon if rental liabilities are not cleared without any delay", said Darakhshan.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for conceding to the most vociferously projected demand of the people of Jammu for not having RE blind wall between Kunjwani and Narwal, as part of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway.

In a statement, after meeting the Union Minister, along with senior BJP leaders from Jammu including Devender Singh Rana, Vikram Randhawa and Sham Lal Langar, Chairman of the party's Traders Cell, Jugal Sharma expressed satisfaction over the issue resolved at the high level meeting of the National Highway Authority of India, presided over by Gadkari.

Sharma described the deci-



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma interacting with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

sion taken at the meeting with regard to preserving the commercial grandeur of the highway between Kunjwani and Narwal as fulfillment of the aspirations of the people of the Temple City, who had been peacefully highlighting this demand under the aegis of the BJP. "Today's decision has brought cheer to the people in general and respite to the stakeholders of the business hub in the Jammu outskirts", Sharma said while lauding the

Jugal led delegation meets Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister Gadkari agrees to no RE blind wall between Kunjwani to Narwal Expressway: Jugal

pragmatic stewardship of the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister. He said the stakeholders have been seeking vehemently demanding construction of flyover between Kunjwani, Sainik Colony, Channi Himmat and Narwal Sector as the RE wall would have meant choking of business hub, impacting the sustenance of thousands of stakeholders directly or indirectly. They had always welcomed the Expressway to have seamless

journey of spiritual bliss seekers to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji but were seeking flyover instead of RE wall.

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh had also taken up the issue with Gadkari, keeping in view the concerns of the stakeholders, as the thickly populated city area, comprised schools, hospitals, local markets, shops, malls, banquet halls, mainfruit Mandi, Main-Vegetable Mandi, Transport Nagar, ISBT bus stand and new railway station platforms with entrance and exit axis. Therefore, the blind wall would have spoiled all the establishments and also created obstacles in free movement of people. It may be recalled that a deputation of the prominent citizens of the affected areas besides those engaged in trade and commerce, led by senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and comprising Sham Lal

Langar B-JP Traders Cell and Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce Jammu had called on the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari a couple of weeks ago with this demand of immense public importance.

The Union Minister had assured the delegation that necessary instructions would be issued to the National Highway Authority of India, keeping in view the public sensitivity over the issue.

"Finally, after several rounds of meetings, the Union Minister has been kind enough to communicate the decision to the National Highway Authority of India that there will be no RE wall between Kunjwani and Narwal sector of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway", Jugal Sharma and congratulated the people in general and the stakeholders in particular for fulfillment of their urges and aspirations.

Weekly Block Diwas: DC Rajouri addresses public grievances at Teryath



DC Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat distributing appreciation letters to the persons who rendered their selfless services.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: To address public grievances, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat chaired a comprehensive public outreach camp at Teryath today as a part of weekly block Diwas, facilitating a direct communication between the district administration and the local residents. A diverse range of issues were projected by local residents seeking the macadamization of roads, up-gradation of government institutions, meeting shortage of staff in these institutions, augmentation of water supply and health infrastructure. Specific demands highlighted during the event were adequate staff for GHSS Teryath, speedy implementation of JJM schemes, provision of electricity poles, sanctioning additional handpumps, renovation of Teryath to Sunderbani road.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all their grievances have been properly documented. He committed to addressing genuine concerns in a phased manner, involving the concerned departments. He emphasized on the importance of raising mass awareness about the Government schemes to extend benefits to maximum number of the eligible persons.

Responding to the demands, DC Om Prakash Bhagat issued on the spot directives to the concerned departments to prioritize and resolve the issues highlighted by the public in a time-bound manner.

Several issues were resolved on the spot with the intervention of the concerned authorities. He underscored the need for sustained progress and cooperation among all stakeholders.

The Weekly Block Diwas at Teryath facilitated meaningful discussions on various public issues, and many issued were resolved on the spot. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also handed over appreciation letters to the persons who rendered their selfless services in evacuating the injured persons during the militant attack on a pilgrim bus ferrying the pilgrims to the Holy Shrine of Shiv Khori (Reasi).

The event was attended by the DDC Member Moughla, Shamim Akhter; ADC Kalakote, Mohd Tanveer; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; CMO, Dr. Manohar Rana; CEO Education, Mohd Mushtaq; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

Despite assurances, Gandbal Bridge fails to meet June 30 deadline

MASROOR AHMAD SRINAGAR: The authorities have failed to complete the vital Gandbal Bridge despite their assurance it would be completed by June 30th.

Delay has caused frustration among the locals, who fear a repeat of the tragic incident which claimed six lives including children.

Expressing their anger, local residents said that at the time of the incident, all the top officials of the UT visited the spot and promised that the bridge would be completed in record time, with the deadline set for June 30th. However, for unknown reasons, the bridge remains incomplete.

Officials from the R&B Department, Kashmir blamed the delay on tensions between the two areas of Gandbal and Batwara. They stated that the work on the bridge was halted for two weeks due to this tension, resulting in the delay.

Earlier, the officials had set the deadline for the end of last month, but due to the tensions between the two areas, the bridge could not be completed on time.

They now claim that it will take another 15 days to finish the bridge.

The locals have stated that they already expected the bridge wouldn't be completed due to the slow pace of work. They claimed that only 2-3 workers were assigned by the contractor for this crucial project.

The bridge remained incomplete for the past 15 years until an inevitable tragedy occurred, claiming the lives of six people, with one person still missing. Despite this, the administration does not seem serious about completing the bridge, even though they claim to have made Srinagar city better, locals added.

"If any other such incident occurs, as people have no alternative but to use boats, who will be responsible?" questioned an elderly man from Gandbal.

He added, "Were the lives of those who lost their loved ones in the tragedy not valuable? Why is the administration silent on this and why are they waiting for a repeat of the incident? Who will be responsible then?"

JKEDI, IMS Jammu sign MoU on Entrepreneurship & Startup Services



JKEDI, IMS Jammu members at MoU signing ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Institute of Management Sciences Jammu on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together for entrepreneurship development and Startup related services.

The MoU was signed in a formal ceremony held at JKEDI, Barbrahmana campus and attended by key officials from both the institutions. The signatories were Mr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Director JKEDI and Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director IMS, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Director JKEDI, Sh. Rajinder Kumar Sharma (JKAS) expressed optimism about the partnership, highlighting its potential to create a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship in the Jammu region. "This collaboration with IMS Jammu marks a strategic step towards nurturing a new generation of entrepreneurial leaders equipped to drive socio-economic growth in the region," he said.

Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director IMS Jammu, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the role of education in empowering youth and fostering innovation. "By integrating JKEDI's expertise

with our academic offerings, we aim to empower our students with the skills and mindset needed to excel in today's dynamic business environment," she remarked.

The purpose of the MoU between the two institutions is to work together for Curriculum Design, by way of providing valuable inputs in teaching/training methodology and suitably customize the curriculum so that the students fit in the entrepreneurial scenario meaningfully, followed by industrial training and visits, Internship for the students, Research and Development, skill development programs and guest lectures.

Industry and Institution interaction will give an insight to the latest developments and requirements of the industries, so that the training and exposure provided to students and faculty through this association will build confidence and prepare the students to have a smooth transition from academic to working career.

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment in the region through training, research, and development activities. It aims to create a conducive ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation.

J&K's first human milk bank to come up at Maternity and Child Care Hospital, Gandhi Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu and Kashmir's first human milk bank is coming up at Maternity and Child Care hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu and full-fledged preparations in this regard started in Gandhi Nagar Hospital.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the setting up of J&K's first 'Milk Bank' i.e., Comprehensive Lactation Management Centre (CLMC) in the Maternity Hospital (MCH), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at a cost of Rs 47.20 lakh under National Health Mission (NHM).

Medical Superintendent, MCH Gandhi Nagar, Dr Arun Sharma while talking to STATE TIMES shared, "The project has been sanctioned with the continuous efforts of Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean, GMC&H, Jammu and Dr



Ghanshyam Saini, HoD Paediatrics under the supervision of Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Administrative Secretary, who is also chairman of NHM J&K. We are grateful for them to approve this. Preparations for Comprehensive Lactation Management Centre have started and the Milk Bank will be established on 3rd floor of the Hospital."

It is pertinent to mention here that Maternity and Child Care Hospital Gandhi Nagar is already running state of art 150 bedded NICU and taking load of SMGS Hospital as well as periphery to manage all sick neonates. Consultant Pediatrics, Dr Anish said, "The need of human milk bank was felt as some new-born babies

remain ill or admitted in ICUs of hospitals and their mothers cannot breastfeed them owing to several reasons such as sickness, inadequate lactation, IVF due to which they remain deprived of mother's milk.

He added that the human milk bank will benefit all those babies whose mothers are unable to breastfeed their babies due to illness, infection or some other issues. Once the bank will come up, we would be able to breastfeed such babies. Dr Anish further added that some mothers have excess lactation and such mothers can donate it to human milk bank, where it undergoes quality checks and is then pasteurized and stored in a frozen form and when recommended, some mothers that struggle with low lactation volumes can access donor breast milk from these milk banks for their babies.

Court set-aside discharge in NPDS, directs Trial Court to frame charge against respondent

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a petition filed by NCB against the order dated May 3, 2019, passed by Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu, vide which, respondent came to be discharged for commission of offences under Sections 8, 21, 29 & 60 of The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 ["NDPS Act"].

Justice Rajesh Sekhri of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court after hearing Adv Sumant Sudan vice DSGI Vishal Sharma for the NCB, allowed the petition and set-aside the order of Trial Court and directed Trial Court to frame charges against respondent and proceed with the trial in accordance with law.

Background facts of the case, set out by the prosecution in the trial court, are that on August 6, 2018, petitioner received a written complaint from SFO, Bahu Fort, Jammu that an information had been received regarding Narcotics consignment being carried in a truck bearing Registration No.

JK02AD-3965 and a request was made to depute a team so that appropriate legal action could be initiated. Consequently, a team of NCB

was constituted along with police team of Police Station, Bahu Fort and a Naka was laid at Rajiv Nagar Chowk, Narwal, Bye Pass, Jammu on August 6, 2018. At around 1300 hours, the aforesaid truck on its way from Kashmir to Jammu was intercepted. The driver and the conductor of the truck revealed their identity as Gurjit Singh and Ravi Kumar respectively, whose personal search was conducted in presence of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Jammu.

They disclosed that Heroin was concealed in a false cavity of the cabin in the backside of the truck, consequent whereupon 51 packets of Heroin weighing 50.300 Kgs (without packed material) was recovered and seized. Both driver and conductor of the truck, namely, Gurjit Singh and Ravi Kumar were arrested. During investigation, statements of aforesaid accused came to be recorded in terms of Section 67 of the NDPS Act, whereby accused-Gurjit Singh revealed that transaction of the seized contraband was being carried out on the instructions of accused-Ravinder Singh, the respondent herein, who was lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.