

LoP Sunil Sharma discusses J&K's security, developmental projects with Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma, met Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in New Delhi. He, in this meeting, focused on the security situation in the region and the progress of key developmental initiatives.

During the discussion, LoP Sunil Sharma, expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra.

Highlighting the significance of infrastructure and economic projects in J&K, Sharma and Dr. Singh reviewed the ongoing implementation of central schemes, including the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), Jal Jeevan Mission, and the expansion of road and rail networks.

Dr. Singh assured full central support in accelerating project timelines without any administrative bottlenecks hampering progress. The



LoP in J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma meeting with Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

meeting also focussed on youth engagement and employment generation. Sunil Sharma advocated for increased central investment in skill development and startup programmes for local talent. In response, Dr. Singh mentioned initiatives under the Digital India and Skill India missions, designed to empower the youth of J&K with training and entrepreneurial opportunities. Terming the meeting fruitful, Sunil Sharma stated, "Today's interaction was constructive and focussed on both security concerns and long-term development goals for Jammu and Kashmir".

I'm confident that our collective efforts will lead to a stronger, more prosperous region, Sunil said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, called the meeting a positive exchange in the spirit of J&K's peace, progress and prosperity. He emphasized the Centre's commitment to ensuring peace, stability, and inclusive development in J&K.



Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar alongside Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for smooth and secure conduct of Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

The meeting was attended by DIG Traffic, Deputy Commissioner Kishitwar, SSP Kishitwar, MD JPDCL, Secretary Culture, officials from Tourism, Transport, Health and other line departments.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements made for the annual yatra by the civil and police administration as an elaborate PowerPoint presentation was given by the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Kishitwar.

Reviewing the preparations, the Div Com inquired about the civic amenities put in place for the pilgrims en-route to the holy Pilgrimage. Point wise discussion was held on accommodation capacity at places designated for night halts including Darmshaals, homestays and guesthouses.



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

He took feedback on arrangements for power, water supply, medical facilities, illumination, mobile connectivity and sanitation arrangements en-route from Kishitwar to Gulabgarh to the holy shrine.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for installing sufficient numbers of mobile toilets along the route. He further asked the administration to ensure the pilgrims don't digress from the designated route to the holy shrine.

Strict directions were issued for adhering to the cut off timings for crossing the specific location of the pilgrimage route. The District Administration was asked to give wide publicity to the cut off timings and the Dos and Don'ts for pil-

grims. The IGP Jammu, while reviewing the security arrangements, directed for movement of the pilgrims under proper regulation and with full security. He suggested for mini-convoys of vehicles of the pilgrims and restricting any kind of movement after the cut-off timings.

Directions were also issued for a robust queue management system, CCTV camera coverage at the Shrine and at vulnerable spots along the route. Further stress was laid on ensuring Fire and Emergency services and wide publicity of the annual holy yatra through print, electronic media and hoardings by the Tourism Department.

Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji enlightens with timeless teachings

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A spiritually uplifting programme was organised by Global Inspiration Enlightenment Organisation (GIEO) for Bhagwad Gita, Gita Gyan Sansthanam, Jammu & Kashmir at Green Land Palace, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu, which witnessed the presence of Mahamandaleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, a globally respected spiritual leader and exponent of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.

The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the triumph of knowledge over ignorance.

MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, delivered the formal welcome address, expressing heartfelt gratitude to Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj for blessing the people of Jammu with his divine presence.

He highlighted the eternal relevance of the Gita in today's world and appreciated GIEO Gita Gyan Sansthanam's commitment to preserving and promoting Bharat's rich spiritual her-



Mahamandaleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj lighting ceremonial lamp.

itage. Sham Sharma emphasized the vital importance of introducing the timeless teachings of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita to the youth of Bharat. He remarked that in an era of distraction, stress, and cultural dilution, the Gita serves as a powerful moral and philosophical compass for young minds.

"If our youth embrace the values of self-discipline, duty, and inner strength as taught by Lord Krishna, they will not only build better lives for themselves but also contribute to a stronger and more conscious nation,"

he stated. The programme was further dignified by the presence of MLA Akhnour Mohan Lal Bhagat, President of Hindu Sanatan Dharam Sabha Parshotam Dadichi, RSS Prant Seh Karyawah Ajay, RSS Prant Gagan, Bharat Vikas Parishad Amita, former Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation Rajinder Sharma, Vice President VHP Shakti Dutt, President Gau Raksha Samiti Raj Kumar and along with several other prominent personalities from social, political, and religious circles.

In his keynote spiritual address, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj delivered an enlightening discourse on the timeless relevance of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.

He stated that the Gita is not merely a religious scripture, but a universal guide for humanity that offers profound insights into righteous living, emotional strength, and self-realization. He emphasized that the teachings of Lord Krishna help individuals navigate modern life with clarity, courage, and compassion.

Swami Ji elaborated on the Gita's foundational paths-Karma Yoga (selfless action), Bhakti Yoga (devotion), and Gyan Yoga (knowledge)-urging people, especially the youth, to apply these principles in everyday life. He explained that even reading and reflecting on one verse daily can bring peace, purpose, and a connection with one's higher self. Swami Ji also spoke about detachment, surrender, and the power of equanimity as essential tools for inner transformation.

Concluding his address, Swami Ji called upon everyone to live a life rooted in Dharma (righteousness), discipline, and service to society. He stressed that individual transformation leads to societal transformation, and that spiritual awakening is key to building a peaceful and strong nation.

The audience of over 500 devotees listened with deep reverence, many describing the session as life-changing and spiritually uplifting. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the Ravish Mengi Vice President of GIEO Gita Gyan Sansthanam, Jammu & Kashmir, who expressed deep gratitude to Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, the esteemed guests, and the spiritually awakened audience. He also acknowledged the tireless efforts of the organising committee led by Chetan Wanchoo (President), along with Ankush Sharma and Shri Atul Sharma (General Secretaries), Tejas Thusu and Aditya Pandita (Media Secretaries), for their seamless coordination and dedication.

The stage proceedings were gracefully conducted by Dr. Himja Mengi, whose eloquent anchoring added poise and warmth to the entire event. GIEO Gita Gyan Sansthanam reaffirmed its resolve to continue organising such spiritually transformative events for societal upliftment and the propagation of Sanatan values across the region.

Special Secretary Cabinet Secretariat, CE Project Himank call on LG Kavinder Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: KK Pathak, Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, at Raj Niwas Leh to discuss the progress and implementation of the national exercise on deregulation and reduction of compliance burdens. Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh, was present in the meeting.

During the meeting, KK Pathak presented a comprehensive briefing on the Government of India's initiative aimed at streamlining regulatory frameworks



KK Pathak, Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, calling on LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

to enhance ease of doing business across sectors. He highlighted the critical role of this exercise in boosting economic activity and accelerating India's overall growth trajectory.

Pathak expressed optimism regarding the poten-

tial success of the initiative in Ladakh, citing the administration's proactive approach and readiness to adopt reforms.

He conveyed hope that the unique governance environment in the Union Territory would facilitate

smooth and effective execution.

The Lt Governor welcomed the initiative and assured full cooperation from the UT Administration to ensure its seamless rollout in Ladakh. He emphasised the importance of removing bureaucratic hurdles to enable local enterprises, attract investment, and foster sustainable economic development.

Gupta noted the immense growth potential of Ladakh in tourism and other key sectors, and reiterated the administration's commitment to uplifting the regional economy.

This collaborative exer-

cise signifies a key step in strengthening the region's integration into national development priorities while empowering local stakeholders.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Vishal Srivastava, Chief Engineer of Project Himank, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta and presented a comprehensive briefing on the strategic initiatives undertaken by Project Himank in eastern Ladakh.

Brigadier Srivastava also provided an update on the ongoing development of the Nyoma Airfield, which is slated for completion by September 2025.

The LG was apprised of the current status of border road infrastructure, a critical element in bolstering mobility and logistics in the frontier regions. The LG expressed his appreciation for the commendable work carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and Project Himank, particularly under the demanding conditions and rugged terrain of Ladakh.

He lauded the engineering ingenuity and dedication of the teams involved, emphasising the importance of such infrastructure in enhancing strategic preparedness and facilitating socio-economic development in the region.

Chairman NHAJ calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India (NHAJ) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday and discussed important matters pertaining to NHAJ's road and highway projects in J&K UT.

He was accompanied by RS Yadav, Regional Officer, NHAJ J&K.



Practice of filling up regular vacancies with adhoc/consolidated/academic arrangement/DRWs year after year is not in national interest

DAYA SAGAR

What to talk of private sector even the Governments are found not lagging behind in exploiting the needy unemployed youth and have been laying / have even laid down/ adopted recruitment rules / policies where in the youth could be appointed giving them 'underemployed' status (unfairly reduced wages even against regular vacancies) where even half the wages otherwise due for job vacancy/post could be paid. It has also become a common custom for the political leaders and political activists who are when out of power to cry and express concern for the Unemployed youth/ growing unemployment as and when they see some elections to parliament / State legislature / UT legislatures approaching. With elections approaching many of political leaders who otherwise normally remain out of reach of the unemployed and 'under-employed' segments of the society could be seen talking high of their concern for the unemployed/ underemployed (academic arrangement, contractual, adhoc, Daily rated workers, etc etc /but position on ground mostly remains unchanged. To quote the numbers of the daily rated / DRWs workers with government looking for regularisation are being quoted as 50000-60000 in J&K since 2008 by political leaders when they have seen rallies

during elections promising their regularisation if voted to power.

Not only that practice of employing Teachers in schools, Lecturers in colleges, professors in universities/ professional colleges against same regular substantive post year after year or session after session on academic arrangement basis / contractual basis / consolidated wage basis much lower than the wages/ salary due for a particular job has nearly become regular custom in J&K where cases could be quoted of repeated appointment and not filling the posts even in some cases for 5-8 or more years by regular recruitment process. A test check on such cases in Jammu University / Government College of Engineering Jammu / Government Medical Colleges would surely substantiate the situation with cases where same person would have been appointed on academic arrangement basis for session after session even for 3 to 4 sessions without advertising post through PSC or timely recruitment through PSC and that too on reduced wage basis.

The practice has not kept only the employed under mental/ social/ emotional stresses adversely affecting their dedication / capacity towards performance of assigned job and ofcourse those employed in teaching institutions/ extension services if remain under economic/ unfair social

stresses surely remain with reduced initiative to impart training/ education and professional motivation to the students in their institution thereby indirectly effecting the future of the students / the targeted beneficiaries. Just for reference Govt College of Engineering in much older than Jammu IIT which otherwise should have been academically & infrastructure wise better than even IIT Jammu but a test review of the status of this college faculty wise & market placement would be worth taking a note. No one may even observe that the system there has benefitted the students less and more those employed there over the years to progress in their status.

To quote in 2011 practice of employing people against regular posts on unduly reduced / humiliating wages was started by NC- Congress Government in J&K(New Recruitment Policy vide Govt. Order No 257-F of 2011 dated 27-10-2011-modalities for reduced wages for recruitments against non gazetted posts i.e for first 2 years only 50 % basic pay and next 3 years only 75 % of the basic pay , no allowances/ increment with fixed medical allowance of Rs.300/p). With submissions made through media (not by political leaders) and the 2014 Assembly elections



A Look through the Mist

approaching the NC-Congress Government withdrew the policy (G.O. 156(F) of 2014 dated 27-06-2014 with retrospective effect from 21-05-2014). The correction did not last long and it was on 30-06-2015 that the PDP-BJP Government also came with J&K Special Recruitment Rules, 2015 vide SRO - 202 but this time also included the option of taking in any Gazetted post where in also employee was to remain on probation for min five years without getting regular annual increment of the grade and allowances like DA/HRA/Child Education Allowance/ Child Hostel Subsidy Allowance/ Transport Allowance / CCA (except medical allowance of Rs.300/pm). So strangely the then government issued employment orders under SRO 202 vide Order No. 4 7 - HME of 2019 Dated: 14 01-2019 even for (921) Medical Officers (Gazetted) Service Level-9 (52700-166700) against regular posts including those lying vacant for many years but no political party (not even NC/ Congress) worked on ground to plead that the wrong undone earlier should not be repeated.

Submissions were again main through media and civil society and the then UT government under President Rule did

grant some relief through S.O 194 of 17-06-2020 (reducing probation period to 2 years even for already employed) and in the shape of S.O 192 of 17-06-2020 (J&K Probationer (Condition of Service, Pay and Allowances) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020) reducing the probation period to two years (ofcourse without allowances/ increments) for both Gazetted and Non gazetted with right with govt. to exclude any post. But even S.O 192 of 17-06-2021 was implemented in a more irrational, 'neglectful', very very unfair, and rather beyond meaningful bureaucratic wisdom by those at the helm of affairs by appointing Medical Officers (Gazetted Service Level-9, 52700-166700) for which only qualified doctors could apply in regular manner under S.O 192 of 17-06-2020 vide G.O No. 938 - JK(HME) of 2020 of 31-12-2020 where a son the other hand employing those for General Gazetted services for which any graduate can apply i.e like Jr JKAS, JKPS, JKAS (Level 8, Rs. 47600- 15110) vide G.O No:1100 - JK(GAD) of 2020, of 09-12-2020 outside the S.O 192 conditions of service i.e. by not applying (using rule-9) to them the condition of no increments and no allowances during probation period of min 2 years. It had been mere exploitation even by government of those need-

ing jobs as well as keeping the basic health services deficient both in quality and quantity .

It was again through the civil society and not the political leadership that unfairness in SRO 192 was brought to the notice of LG Sh Manoj Sinha (who was also being then addressed as Vikas Purush) who really sensed the injustice and finally through a press release of Director Of Information & Public Relations that J&K UT the subjects of J&K were informed that Administrative Council had under the chairmanship of LG had decided on 14-08-2022 to scrap S.O 192 of 17-06-2020 allowing all allowances to appointees even during the 2 year probation period.

Had the leaders who have been found in 2024 talking of Unemployment in their run for finding some space in the media been truthfully concerned they should have worked in a regular way atleast for the 'underemployed youth' in the past and got undone the unfair practices of continued contractual / repeated academic session related & that too at reduced wage employments in government institutions. Will they go for text check as suggested here in for the 'premier' institutions is a question?.

(The writer is Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K affairs)