

New CVC briefs Dr Jitendra about declining case pendency

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Newly appointed Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India, Suresh N. Patel called on Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, and briefed him about constantly declining case pendency in recent years.

The CVC was later also joined by the two Vigilance Commissioners, Arvind Kumar and Praveen Kumar Srivastava, who submitted detailed data substantiating timely disposal of disciplinary actions against employees



Newly appointed CVC of India, Suresh N. Patel calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

of the Central Government. Citing figures, CVC Patel informed Dr Jitendra that the pendency of 2,099 disciplinary matters for the

period prior to December 2018 had been reduced to 227 by June 30, 2022 due to a special campaign initiated by the Commission in

2020. Similarly, overall outstanding disciplinary matters which on an average as on December 2019 used to be around 5,000 at a given point of time has come down drastically in the range of 1,700 now due to cooperation of the authorities at different levels.

Dr Jitendra said, by appointing CVC and two Vigilance Commissioners as mandated under law in the first week of this month itself, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent out a message of policy of zero tolerance for corruption.

Dr Jitendra lauded the special efforts of the Commission and said that this has brought positivity amongst the Government employees which shall encourage them to take decisions in the interest of the organisation while following procedures without any fear of unwarranted disciplinary action.

Also, the timely disciplinary action would work as a deterrent for those whose intentions / actions may not be in the interest of the Organisation and deserve to be punished, the Minister pointed out.



Dr Darakhshan celebrates AKAM with special-children; felicitates Padma Shri Awardee Javed Ahmad Tak with Tricolour

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
B I J B E H A R A : Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & National Executive Member of B-JP, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday visited Bijbehara in South Kashmir and participated in a programme at Zeba Aapa Educational Institute in connection with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).



Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi celebrating AKAM at Zeba Aapa Educational Institute.

Dr Andrabi felicitated the Padma Shri Awardee social activist and the Chairman of this Institute Javed Ahmad Tak and presented him the Tricolour as part of Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan.

Dr Andrabi dined with the special children and gave them presents too. These children with special abilities presented the National Anthem & the patriotic songs and acted on their tunes.

The children unfurled the National Flag along with Dr Andrabi and performed different items related to the glory of India and the

glory of our education system.

Dr Andrabi said after seven decades, we have a government at the centre which searches for the deserving for every felicitation.

"It was Modi himself who talked about the noble cause of Zeba Aapa Institute & also the contribution of Javed Ahmad Tak for education & sustenance of the children with special abilities in his Mann Ki Baat programme. Later the Government of India awarded him with the

prestigious civilian award Padmashree in recognition of his services. Such people are undoubtedly inspiring and we need to respect them so that their noble mission spreads around," said Dr Andrabi.

While interacting with the children Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that these children with special abilities are our treasury of talent and we all need to encourage them to fight the challenges of life and excel like Javed Ahmad Tak. SDM of Bijbehara Jahangir Ahmad was also present.

NABARD signs MOU with J&K Grameen Bank to finance 700 JLGs in J&K, Ladakh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A Memorandum of Understanding on promotion and financing of 700 JLGs was on Thursday signed and exchanged between NABARD, J&K Regional Office and Jammu & Kashmir Grameen Bank in the conference hall of NABARD, J&K Regional Office.

Sandeep Sharma, General Manager, NABARD and Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank respectively. The MoU signing ceremo-

ny was presided over by Dr Ajay Kumar Sood, Chief General Manager. Dr. Sood highlighted that main objective of the signing of MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers/oral lessees/sharecroppers, SF/MF etc., who may not have proper title to their land holding and to meet the credit requirements of the lower strata of the society by formation and credit linkage of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). He applauded J&K Grameen bank for successfully financing 500 JLGs under the MoU signed between

NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank during the last financial year.

Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank praised the initiatives of NABARD for promoting financial inclusion in the UT and thanked NABARD for its continuous support to the bank.

Under this MoU, J&K Grameen Bank will form and finance 700 JLGs in J&K (UT) and Ladakh (UT) and NABARD will provide a promotional grant support of Rs. 4000 per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank.

BJP Disciplinary Committee serves show-cause notice to President MC Kathua

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Taking a serious note of an audio clip of Naresh Sharma, President Municipal Committee Kathua, which went viral on social media and wherein unparliamentary and abusive language has been used against Bhartiya Janata Party and its leaders, J&K BJP Disciplinary Committee, has served a show-cause notice to President Municipal Committee Kathua, directing him to explain his position within 24 hours.

The notice issued by J&K BJP Disciplinary Committee, with Sunil Sethi as Chairman

and Virenderjeet Singh and N D Rajwal as members, reads, "An audio has gone viral in which you have been using unparliamentary and abusive language against Party and national leaders. Clip enclosed. This is gross indiscipline of highest order and shows you have no regard for principles and ethos of party. This may lead to your expulsion from party you are given opportunity to explain your behaviour. Your reply should reach Disciplinary Committee within 24 hours positively failing which appropriate action will be recommended against you to Party President."

J&K Bank expands delivery network for Gold Loan Scheme

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Managing Director & CEO Baldev Prakash on Thursday rolled out the sealing up of Gold Loan Scheme under the slogan "Cash in Need, Gold Indeed" to 150 designated branches in an event held at the Bank's corporate headquarters. The launch event was attended by Bank's General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other senior officials. The scale-up will see 152 designated J&K branches extending easy , economical and speedy loan facility to customers simply after pledging their Gold Ornaments and Jewellery. The bank offers concession of 50 bps (1/2 percentage point) to women borrowers under the revised scheme which has been aligned with the requirements of borrowers at competitive pricing.

MD & CEO said, "We have always strived for devising loan/deposit schemes that cater to the business/personal/domestic needs of our customer base spread across the country. And the product that enables customers to retain ownership of their gold without worrying for its safekeeping, while meeting

their immediate and important needs, holds great potential in geographies where people in every strata of society possess some kind of gold Jewellery." The idea behind augmentation of designated branches to 152 which was earlier limited to 9, he said, is to provide more centres to our customers across the country for availing the facility.

"Moreover, 50bps interest-rate concession is being provided to female borrowers in line with our vision of providing more opportunities to women," he added.

Earlier, General Manager Consumer & Commercial Banking Ashutosh Sareen said, "It is a short-term loan with a 6-12 month tenure for borrowers in the age-group between 18-70 years. The quantum of finance under this scheme shall range from Rs. Ten Thousand to Rs. 15 lakh", adding that instead of selling the gold to meet their different needs, J&K Bank's gold loan scheme provides its customers a buffer to receive cash through a hassle-free and swift process with ease-of-payment through well-structured EMIs or bullet payment as per convenience.

Jammu Admn gears up for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign; distributes 3 Lakh flags among households

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: More than Three Lakh National Flags have been distributed in district Jammu as the district machinery gears up for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence.

Tricolours will be flown at every private and commercial establishment as part of the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence from 13th to 15th August 2022.

Fifty thousand tricolours have been prepared locally by 3500 Self-Help Groups of the district under the Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (Umeed).

For hassle-free distribution, the district administration has made the Tiranga available at the Block Development Offices, Rations Depots and with the sanitation supervisors, which the people can get at Rs 20. Besides, Tiranga has also been made available at all the government and private schools in the district.

The campaign, being conducted under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa, has witnessed a

series of awareness activities across the district.

Chief Education Officer Jammu has organized awareness activities involving all the schools of the district through essay competitions, National Anthem singing competitions and Rangoli competitions based on the themes of freedom struggle, Ideas and actions @75 that have shaped India and achievements@75 showcasing evolution and progress across different sectors.

Awareness Rallies taken out by the school children holding the National Flag were also witnessed across the district. A mega rally was also organized by school children from Ragunath Mandir to Mubarak Mandi.

The Rural Development Department conducted special Gram Sabhas to generate mass awareness in rural areas about the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The department also distributed the National Flags in rural areas through Block Development offices and public representatives. Activities to promote Amrit Sarovars have been launched in each block of the district.

Jammu Municipal

Corporation, in coordination with the higher education department, has coordinated mass awareness events including rallies and awareness events in different educational institutions in the district.

A sizable Cycle rally will be organized from the Bus stand to Kala Kendra Jammu on 12th August and events will be organized at Bahu Fort Jammu on the 13th of August.

The Social Welfare department, in coordination with the higher education department, organized awareness programmes in Old Age Homes, homes for destitute Nari Niketan and Bal Ashrams.

The district administration has also launched a photo with the Tiranga competition where citizens from Jammu can click a picture with Tiranga and share it with the official Twitter handle of DC Jammu. The winner of the event will be awarded a surprise gift.

Besides, video messages from prominent personalities including sportspersons have also been highlighted by the administration requesting citizens to hoist the national Flag on the rooftop of their homes.

Jammu city records 189.6 mm rain in 24 hours, highest in 26 years: MeT Deptt

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Jammu city recorded 189.6 mm rain in 24 hours, the highest downpour in a day in almost 26 years, causing landslides and flash floods, meteorological department officials said on Thursday.

There were flash floods in most of the rivers, including Tawi and Chenab, which inundated low-lying areas and damaged infrastructure.

Two landslides were reported -- in Panjirthi and Circular Road -- causing damage to road, a building and some vehicles, the officials said.

The flash floods damaged small bridges in Kalika Colony, washed out a wall of Satsang Garh, a spiritual centre, and a vehicle in Buntalab, they said.

Hundreds of houses in several colonies in low-lying areas were inundated and traffic came to a halt due to water-logging, prompting the district administration to sound a flood alert, they said. According to the MeT department, this is the highest 24-hour rainfall in August for Jammu city since 1996. The city had recorded 218.4 mm of rainfall on August 23, 1996. The all-time highest rainfall, 228.6 mm, in Jammu city was recorded on August 5, 1926, it said. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was closed for traffic due to landslides and mudslides, triggered by heavy rains in Ramban.

2 women washed away in flash floods at Ramban
JAMMU: Two women were washed away in flash floods in Ramban district on Thursday, officials said. There incident took place in Mehar; and the victims were identified as Shamima Begum and Rozia Begam, they said. Both of them are feared dead, the officials added. Police and the Army have launched search operations to trace the duo, they said, adding some cars and motorcycles were washed away as well.

Reasi received 152.5 mm in 24 hours, followed by Udhampur (121.6 mm) and Samba (105 mm), the officials said. Katra town, which serves as the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi temple in Reasi district, recorded a 77.8 mm rainfall in 24 hours, they said. Barmal in Kathua received 77.5 mm rainfall. At 11 am, river Tawi -- its gauge being monitored near Bikram Chowk -- was flowing at 9.5 feet, 4.5 feet below the 'alert level'. At the same time at Salmay Bridge in Udhampur; it was flowing at 8.2 feet, 6.56 ft below the alert level, they said. Water in river Chenab at Akhnoor was at 26.4 feet. The alert level for the site is 32 feet, they said.

JAMMU: Marred by over half a day monsoon rain, Jammu skies witnessed a whopping number of colorful kites, donning and dancing in tune with the breeze, marking the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan-Kache Dagoon Ka Tyohar. However, the kites were tied with very strong but ferocious and Chinese glass coated strings, betraying the tall claims of the police about the large scale seizure of the banned material. The kite flying will continue till Janamashtami, at least, thus posing a perpetual threat to commuters, especially the two-wheeler users. The nation is witnessing each year numerous lives falling prey to the Chinese strings. Very recently, as latest as this week, a horrendous incident took the life of a 35 year old young man. Nobody can vouch that this was the last such incident. Fatal incidents will continue unless the law-enforcing agencies put their act together and carry out the anti-Chinese string drive with sincerity of purpose.

DETAILS OF CASES REGISTERED WITH REGARD TO GATTU SEIZED					
S. No.	Name of PS	FIR No. with date	Section of law	Name of accused	No. of Gattu seized
1	Pacca Danga	91/22 Dt. 01.08.2022	188/IPC	Paramdeep Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/o H.No.280 Old Rehari Jammu	245 Nos.
2	-do-	94/2022 Dt. 06.08.2022	188/IPC	Ajay Singh S/o Subash Singh R/o Janipur Colony Jammu	30 Nos.
3	-do-	95/2022 Dt. 09.08.2022	188/IPC	Tanveer Khan S/o Manzoor Ahmed R/o Mohalla Ustad Jammu	37 Nos.
4	-do-	96/2022 Dt. 10.08.2022	188/IPC	Ashish Nair S/o Bittu Nair R/o R.S Pura A/P Resham Ghar Colony Jammu	10 Nos.
5	Nowabad	89/2022 Dt. 31.07.2022	188/IPC	Gourav Gupta S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o 646 Main Chowk Talab Tillo, Jammu	36 Nos.
6		94/2022 Dt. 05.08.2022	188/IPC	Rakesh Kumar S/o Banarsi Dass R/o 710 Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu	32 Nos.
7	-do-	95/2022 Dt. 10.08.2022	188/IPC	Pawan Kumar S/o Om Parkash R/o 189 Dogra Mohalla, Jammu	33 Nos.
8	Bakshi Nagar	144/22 Dt. 11.08.2022	188/IPC	Dheeraj Kumar S/o Jinder Lal R/o Village Pargwal, Akhnoor, Jammu	13 Nos.
TOTAL FIRs = 8		TOTAL ACCUSED PERSONS = 8		TOTAL GATTU SEIZED = 436	

Credit would certainly go to the police for its claims of seizing heaps of the banned strings. Had there been any credibility in such reports, the skies would not have witnessed Dragon making its presence felt on every roof-top.

Anyway, the question is not how successfully the

raids and special drives fill the coffers of the Malkhana with the banned strings; the point is where the seized material goes. While the publicity managers of the police are prompt enough in 'revealing' about the seizures, it has never ever disclosed what happened to heaps of stocks

under the safe supervision of the Khakis. One wonders whether there is any record of the banned material. The police alone can unfold this mystery.

The theory of 'Malkhana' is unconvincing because the standard operating procedure envisages prosecution of the erring traders deal-

ing in the sale of banned material. This entails challan of the accused in the court of law. The seized material is also produced as evidence against the accused, which is kept in the Malkhanas available in the court premises. After due judicial process, the seized material is required

to be disposed of according to laid out procedure but does it happen? At this stage, the script of seizures gets changed. What happens to the seized material next never comes out in the public domain.

One wonders what would be the response of the police if any overenthusiastic RTI activist dares to ask for the status of the seized material. Grapevine stories go on claiming that the seized Chinese Manja finally goes back to the vicious market, reminding of the couplet, 'Pahunchi Waheen Pe Khaak Jahaan Ka Khameer Tha.' Most of it goes to the families of the senior officers to oblige kids to enjoy kite flying.

According to sources privy to police circles, there is seldom regular monitoring of these seizures and very few people keep track of all this. Therefore, the chances of the seized Maanja getting entry into the market places via well connected nexus again remains crucial.

However, police needs to keep more vigil. There must be some deterrent. All this process should be supervised by senior police officers. The seizures should be duly recorded in the inventories and disposed of as per the procedure.

