

LG interacts with citizens, addresses complaints filed on JK-IGRAMS

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday interacted with citizens, through video conferencing during "LG's Mulaqaat"-Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with citizens, through video conferencing during "LG's Mulaqaat"-Live Public Grievance Hearing programme at the Civil Secretariat.

Administration to remove the illegal encroachment and take legal action against the encroacher.

Siraj Salam from Baramulla drew the attention of the Lt Governor on the issue of unauthorized charging of hefty admission fees for the admission of his daughter by private school. The Lt Governor sought details on the issue and instructed the Director School Education to ensure admission of the child and take necessary action against the school in this matter.

On the grievances of complainants namely Ishfaq Ahmad of Dar Mohalla Budgam and Prem Singh from Jammu regarding water supply in their localities, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and ADC Jammu briefed the chair that the upcoming schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission will address

the need for the water supply in the respective areas.

Responding to the complaint of Sant Ram, a resident of Banjar Korara of Doda related to sanctioning of Old-age pension, the Lt Governor directed the officials to ensure the benefits of government schemes reach the beneficiaries timely.

He also sought the status of pendency of pension and scholarship applications from the Secretary Social Welfare Department. He issued a direction for making the process of granting pensions and scholarships more robust for the welfare of the eligible beneficiaries.

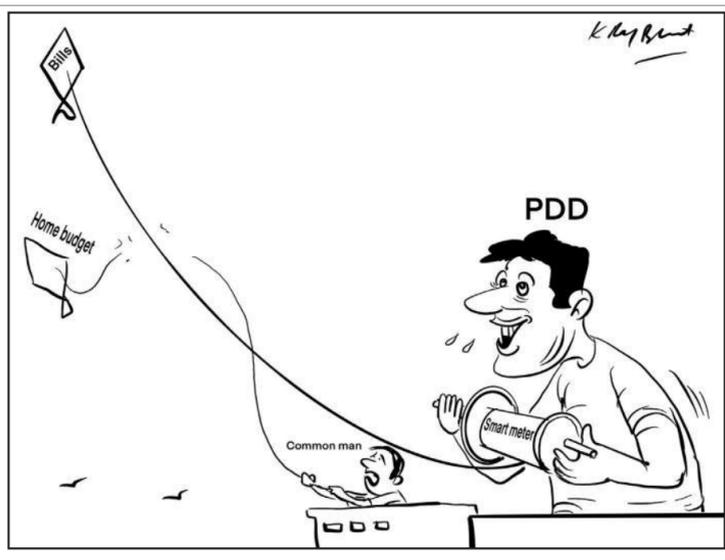
"Deputy Commissioners must ensure timely renewal and expeditious sanction of new cases through special camps at Block Divas for complete saturation of pension and scholarship schemes. All stakeholders must work with

complete dedication to speed up major road and other infrastructure development projects," the Lt Governor said.

Rehana Batul, Secretary,

Public Grievances conducted the proceedings of the LG's Mulaqaat.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.



DGP inaugurates Inventory Management System

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbag Singh inaugurated the Inventory Management System (IMS) in a function held at Conference Hall Police Headquarters here on Friday.



DGP J&K Dilbag Singh inaugurating the Inventory Management System on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Spl DSG R. R Swain, A.K Choudhary, ADGP (Headquarters/Coordination) M.K Sinha, Director SKPA Udhampur Garib Dass, ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, IGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar, IGP (Headquarters/CIV) PHQ Bhim Sen Tuti, DisG Sujit Kumar, Javid Ahmad Koul, Shahid Mehraj, Shridhar Patil, Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, Abdul Qayoom, SSP Srinagar, SSP Budgam all AIsG of PHQ, Srinagar

based commandants of IR/AP battalions attended the function in person.

ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh, All DisG, District SSSP, and Commandants of Armed/IRP Jammu/Kashmir Zone attended the function online.

The DGP appreciated ADGP (Headquarters/coordination), M.K Sinha, DIG Traffic Jammu Sridhar Patil,

and the team for getting the task completed within the stipulated time. He said that it is a useful application and would speed up the procurement process in an efficient and effective manner.

He directed for putting the available data on the portal within a month and said that the legacy data needs to be digitized. He directed to follow the timelines and make

the inventory management system live within a month. The DGP impressed upon the officers to make optimum use of the system.

ADGP headquarters M.K.Sinha while giving details of the system said that JK Police have around 160 stores functional at different levels and to upkeep these stores, the IMS is being implemented. He said that the system is aimed at facilitating end users both horizontally and vertically hooked to the system to have updated and real-time information pertaining to indents containing stocks, requirements, procurements, purchases, surveys of received items with acceptance or rejection user interface holdings of stock items and subsequent distribution and allotment.

"It is aimed at giving real-

time information on records pertaining to items issued to employees and subordinate formation units of Jammu and Kashmir Police. It will ensure the maintenance of electronic ledgers containing transactions pertaining to inventory management and process paperwork in a timely manner," he added.

The ADGP Headquarters further highlighted that the system would lead to optimal utilization of material resources and hasten the process of procurement of different items by JKP. It would also lead to better maintenance of the live inventory of Police.

WEEDING OUT SEPARATIST ELEMENTS

SIA arrests Sarjan Barkati for fund raising, radicalizing Kashmiri youth

EMAAD MAKHDOOMI
SRINAGAR: State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Tuesday arrested Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati, for his involvement in orchestrating an extensive fund-raising campaign through crowd funding, resulting in the generation of funds amounting to crores.

These funds were subsequently misused, involving money laundering and acquisition of undisclosed assets for propagation of radicalism within the Kashmir valley, sources said.

Sarjan had been booked under FIR No 02/2023 at Police Station SIA. Barkati, also known as "Azadi Chacha," gained prominence in 2016 following the neutralization of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani by security forces. Barkati was a central figure in orchestrating large-scale protests, rallies, and clashes with security forces in 2016, for which more than 30 FIRs were registered against him in various police stations of the valley.

SIA Kashmir has revealed that Barkati managed to raise approximately Rs 1.74 crores through crowd funding campaigns. These funds were ostensibly raised for personal gains and a significant portion of the collected funds was allegedly misused for undisclosed purposes, including financing of secessionist and terrorist activities.

family members, raising questions about the legitimacy of the sources and utilization of the funds.

While talking to STATE TIMES exclusively, a senior official of SIA Kashmir on condition of anonymity said, "In 2016, following Burhan Wani's elimination, Sarjan Barkati played an important

Through his hyperbolic anti-India slogans, Sarjan Barkati - a notorious secessionist and disciple of Qazi Nissar's "Idaara Tehkikaati" in South Kashmir, used to promote his brainwashed agenda of separatism and radicalism through the years.

During investigation SIA Kashmir has found that Barkati had not only exploited public sentiment and trust for personal financial gains but also potentially laundered funds from unidentified sources, having links with terrorist organizations.

Furthermore, a substantial portion of the acquired funds had been deposited in various Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) under the names of Barkati's close

role and encouraged young boys to attack the camps of Indian security forces during protests and strikes." He said "Sarjan Barkati offered young boys of Kashmir a pipe dream and filled their minds with hate in the garb of vindication. He made an all out effort to portray terrorists as role models for young Kashmiri boys while he kept accumulating wealth, properties and assets for his own children through illegal means."

J&K Power Engineers to hold protest on Sept 9 over delayed promotions, vacancies

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) of the Power Development Department has announced plans for a protest on September 9, 2023, citing concerns over prolonged delays in promotions and the large number of vacant positions within the department.



JKEEGA President Sachin Tickoo addressing a press conference at Jammu.

Led by JKEEGA's President Sachin Tickoo, the association held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu to address the issues faced by the engineers. The primary concerns raised include the adverse impact on the morale of officers and the compromised delivery of public services and grievance redressal due to the ongoing vacancies and delayed promotions.

The government's failure to fulfill commitments made under a previous agreement, dated December 21, 2021, signed between government representatives and power employees' representatives, has been a central point of contention. The situation has led to a cascade of vacant positions across the engineering hierarchy,

affecting engineers at various levels. Notably, there are more than 750 vacancies, including positions like Managing Director, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, and Junior Engineers.

During the press conference, Tickoo highlighted that despite the substantial number of vacancies, promotions and regularization have been consistently delayed,

causing engineers to shoulder multiple charges and responsibilities. This delay has impacted the department's efficiency and the timely delivery of services to consumers.

The planned protest on September 9 aims to draw attention to these issues and to demand action from the government. Engineers from the J&K Power Development Department are set to submit one-day protest leaves

and assemble at the PDD complex in Gladni, Jammu, and Bemina, Srinagar. The protest is intended to be peaceful, with engineers abstaining from work for 24 hours.

JKEEGA's appeal to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K seeks intervention to expedite the approval of promotion and regularization proposals before the protest date, in order to prevent any potential escalation of the situation.

Support for the protest has poured in from various quarters, with associations such as the Diploma Engineers Association, Provincial Power Employees Union, Lineman and Workers Union, Technical Employees Federation, PDL/TDL, and other workers unions expressing their solidarity and vowing to abstain from work on the day of the protest.

As engineers prepare to make their voices heard, the attention now turns to the government's response and efforts to address the concerns raised by the JKEEGA in their bid to secure timely promotions, fair working conditions, and an efficient power department for the region.

Jt Director Tourism Jammu leads three-day expedition to Poonch

Promotes Homestays, Rural, Adventure, Border Tourism, pilgrimage circuits of Pir Panjal

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the supervisory vision of Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah and Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai an extraordinary three-day odyssey to District Poonch was led by Sunaina Sharma Mehta Joint Director Tourism, Jammu Division. This journey not only celebrated the pristine beauty of Poonch but also championed the cause of promotion of homestays, pilgrimage, rural and adventure tourism in this border district which is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty and heavenly adventures.

During her maiden tour to Poonch, Mehta paid reverential visit to the Holy Shrine of Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji at Mandi, renowned for its profound spiritual and religious significance. Engaging wholeheartedly with the devoted pilgrims embarking on the Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra, which commenced on August 17th, Mehta gleaned their invaluable insights for future promotional campaigns of the said pious annual Yatra. Her maiden visit was hailed by

the civil society of Poonch as a mission for integrating Poonch and its pristine beauty with the National and International Tourism Map which is the voice and demand of the Youth of the area.

Addressing the media, Mehta underscored the Department's unwavering commitment to nurturing pilgrimage tourism, Border Tourism, Adventure and Rural Tourism. She conscientiously laid emphasis on the need to tap the immense potential of Poonch-Rajouri district and the Pir Panjal area especially regarding adventure gems, natural marvels and Sufi Pilgrimage Spirit of the area.



Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta during visit to Budha Amarnath Shrine in Poonch.

Temple Mankote, Sain Miran Shrine, Nangali Sahib Gurudwara, Dashnami Akhara, Nav Greh Temple and many more, along with the historical Heritage Mughal Road, the unparalleled pristine Alpine Lakes, Banjhadi meadow, Nurpur meadow, Noor-i-Chhamb Waterfall, Nandishool waterfall which is also a frozen waterfall during winters, Tatakuti Peak and other natural marvels of immense beauty.

In a groundbreaking initiative, one-day Homestay Promotional Camp was organized in the enchanting Loran Mandi area of Poonch District. The presence of Joint Director Tourism

Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, marked this event as a testament to the Department's unwavering dedication towards promoting Homestay and rural tourism in the area. It heralded the dawn of a new era in tourism prosperity, one that promises to uplift the local homestay industry. The local public, wholeheartedly and with overwhelming response, embraced this pioneering effort of the department, and welcomed such pioneering efforts in such hilly remote landscapes and distant areas. With the Department's assurance of doorstep facilitation, the future of Poonch's homestay industry seems encouraging

and bright. During her engagement with the locals, Ms. Mehta passionately encouraged all stakeholders and the local community, to step forward and actively get their homes registered with the Tourism Department to welcome visitors and tourists to their homes and showcase the local culture and ethos, this opening an era of influx of tourists to this mesmerizing naturally endowed beautiful area. She highlighted that this initiative would not only boost tourism but also foster cultural exchange, enriching the experiences of both travellers and hosts with the local delicacies, ethnic Attires, languages, jewellery,

art, craft, handicraft products and the rural Homes. It shall not only invigorate the local economy but also empower rural women and youth, providing them with additional avenues for economic empowerment and growth. She enthusiastically underscored the latent adventure potential residing within the entire region especially Loran, Nurpur, Chandimarh areas, further assuring that the Department shall promote these areas so that the tourists can enrich themselves with a one's in lifetime experience of experience nature at its best.

Speaking on the occasion, Tanveer Ahmed, CEO of Poonch Development Authority (PDA) passionately extolled the economic benefits of local homestay registrations. His unwavering commitment was palpable as he pledged full Departmental assistance for homestay registration and the promotion of adventure tourism in the area.

The third day of this riveting expedition was marked with the visit to the Historical Mughal Road to assess the potential of

tourism development along this Heritage road. Engaging with local stakeholders at Buffliaz, Behramagala, Sailanand Chandimarh, Sunaina Sharma Mehta urged the locals to champion homestays and adventure tourism in this region. Her visit to the base camp of Seven Lakes expedition at Chandimarh was an immersive experience which offered a glimpse into the hearts of adventure seekers, igniting the spirit of exploration. A detour led the team to the iconic Pir Ki Gali, a mountain pass nestled within the Pir Panjal Range, a vantage point revealing breathtaking panoramic views.

An exhilarating diversion on this odyssey brought the team to the illustrious Historic Noori Chamb waterfall, another testament to Poonch's breathtaking natural beauty. The expedition concluded with a visit to the Dera Ki Galli (DKG), an offbeat tourist destination within the Rajouri district and finally the Bhimber Gali in Poonch, showcasing untapped potential of border tourism in the area.

The Directorate of Tourism Jammu stands resolute in its commitment to promote Pilgrimage and Adventure Tourism, preserve the rich cultural heritage, promote Border Tourism for instilling Nationalism amongst youngsters and, championing for responsible sustainable tourism practices. This 03 Days expedition has undeniably unlocked the true potential of Poonch, a destination that beckons with not only spiritual enlightenment but also the embrace of nature's pristine beauty. Poonch District's allure extends far beyond its religious and cultural landmarks. It is bestowed with lush forests, pristine lakes, and landscapes that leave one breathless. Mehta, with fervour, emphasized the paramount importance of preserving these natural wonders.