

'LG's Mulaqaat'

LG directs officials to expedite pending resolution of grievances on fast-track basis



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha interacting with citizens during 'LG's Mulaqaat' at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday interacted with citizens and attended to their issues, during "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.

During the interaction, the Lt Governor took appraisal of the action taken by the Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and concerned officials on the grievances received from the citizens.

The Lt Governor directed the Officials to expedite the pending resolution of grievances on fast-track basis and to ensure that the system is accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Reiterating the commitment of J&K Administration to improve the grievance redressal mechanism, the Lt Governor said the initiatives like J&K SAMADHAN Portal and App which were launched recently are aimed at providing an easy way to lodge the grievance and its efficient and speedy redressal. "We have also imparted greater transparency to the public service delivery process. Our aim is to empower citizens with special attention to the needs of the marginalised section of the society," he said.

In today's "LG's Mulaqaat", several grievances of the complainants were redressed on the spot by the Lt Governor.

Abdul Rashid Sheikh, on behalf of residents of

Bamloora village of Ganderbal, expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for providing resolution to the grievance regarding irrigation water facility to their village.

Ulfat Bi from Poonch District who had applied for construction of house under PMAY scheme also thanked the Lt Governor led UT Administration for addressing her long pending grievance.

On the grievance of Ubaid Fayaz Najar of Bandipora District pertaining to the issuance of OBC certificate, the Lt Governor instructed the concerned Department to take appropriate measures and facilitate the eligible beneficiaries in hassle-free manner.

Responding to the com-

- ▶ Interacts with citizens; several cases disposed on the spot
- ▶ Says measures taken to improve grievance redressal mechanism in J&K
- ▶ Recently, J&K SAMADHAN Portal and App launched to provide easy way to lodge grievance and its efficient, speedy redressal

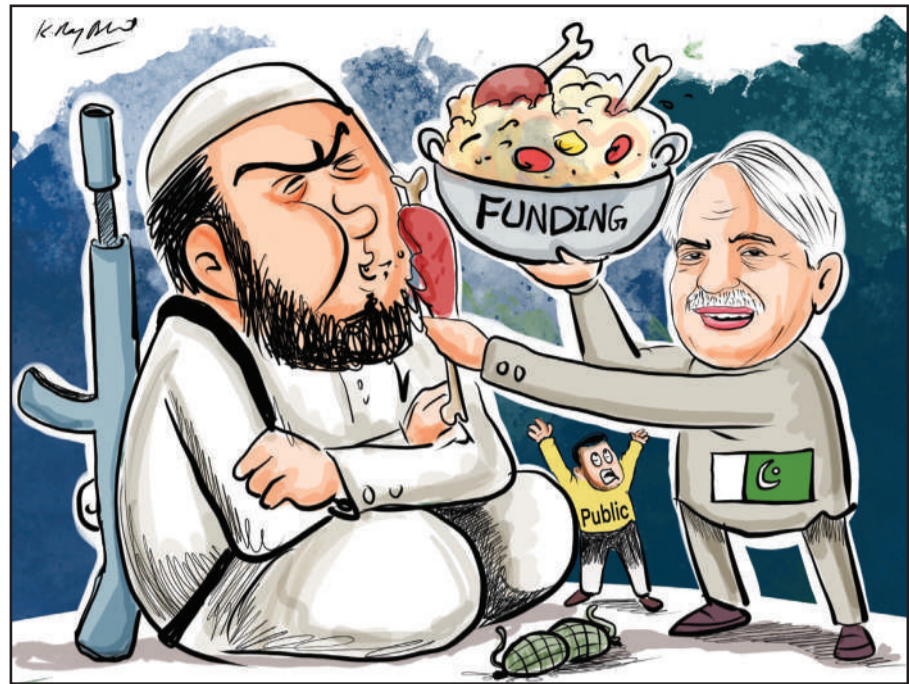
plaint of Rakesh Kumar from Samba, the Lt Governor directed the Health functionaries to review the functioning of oxygen plant installed at District hospital Samba as well as other Government health Institutions to ensure they are operating smoothly.

On the sidelines of the LG's Mulaqaat, the Lt Governor also reviewed the implementation of the directions passed with regard to the preparations for Independence Day Celebration.

Mohammad Aijaz, Secretary, Public Grievances Department conducted the proceedings of the LG Mulaqaat.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, HoDs

and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.



Ex Dy CM Tara Chand exhorts people to bring change for better future

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand lashed out at the anti youth, anti poor, anti Farmer policies of the government.

He asked the people to bring back good days as people are fed up with the policies and programme of ruling government and economic policies. He said that Congress will bring about change for the betterment of youth, farmers, women and daily wagers of the state.

Addressing public gathering in Gigril Village of the Chaamb Constituency on Wednesday, Tara Chand said that people are anxiously waiting for the coming Assembly elections to teach party in power a lesson for its anti people policies.

He said that government had burdened the common man by way of huge taxations and record breaking unemployment and unprecedented price rise.

They have cheated people and gave so many guarantees before elections but all proved false and election Jumlus. All sections felt cheated by the slogans, as the ruling Party's strategy



Senior Congress leader and former Dy CM, Tara Chand addressing a gathering at Jammu.

is to raise emotional and religious issues for exploiting voters, he said.

Tara Chand said that under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Congress has started a movement to bring Dalits, backward, marginalized communities into the centre stage of mainstream politics, when the entire politics of all political parties and the country now revolves around the oppressed classes and weaker sections and it will change the destiny of our people and ensure real Justice to them.

It is the time for the poor and weaker sections to pick up thread and rally around Rahul Gandhi's leadership for the betterment of their future generations, he said. Exhorting the party cadre

to accelerate preparations for the coming assembly elections, Tara Chand asserted that Congress is ready for polls at any time.

"We are fully prepared for the assembly elections, the Congress will expose ruling Party and its proxies in the coming days," he said.

Seeking a decisive mandate to establish a new system of Justice and equality in J&K, Tara Chand said that the Congress party is committed to provide humane, efficient, transparent, accountable and corruption free governance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Attaining power is not the only aim of Congress. We, with the support of the people, want to restore dignity and honour of the people of

J&K", he said and asserted that Congress would establish a system where every section of the society would get equal opportunities for development and upliftment.

Prominent persons present on the occasion include Senior VP PCC, Thakur Balwan Singh, Senior Adv JP Gandhi, Sahil Sharma Secretary PCC, Vijay Chib, Madan Lal Sharma Senior VP District Rural Jammu, Capt Ramesh, Suraj Singh, Jagatatar Singh, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Daljeet Singh, Capt Kalidass, Tarsem Singh, Gafoor Ahmad, Somraj Sharma, Managesh Kumar, Hansraj Bhagat, Shamlal, Vipin Lachotra and others.

Getting Care at AIIMS Jammu: A Step-by-Step Guide

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Executive Director & CEO, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, explained the whole journey in the simplest manner, like storytelling: "When you arrive at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu, as a walk-in patient, "without" a referral/appointment, your journey towards better health begins at the AYUSH Block. Imagine stepping into a place where every step is designed to guide you seamlessly through the process. At the AYUSH Block, you'll find six registration counters, each dedi-

cated to different needs: one for men, one for women, one for the specially-abled, one for senior citizens, a billing counter, and a transfer counter. With just a nominal fee of Rs 10, you receive your registration card, a key to unlocking the care you need. With your card in hand, you proceed to the doctor's chamber, where a variety of paths may unfold. The doctor might provide immediate treatment and send you home, or perhaps your condition requires consultation with another speciality. In this case, you would head to the transfer

counter, get a token, and continue your journey within the AYUSH Block. From there, your final destination might be treatment and home, a visit to the Sample Collection Room, the Radio Imaging Department in the Main OPD Block, or further consultation in Tower 6 of the Main OPD."

"For those referred from other healthcare institutions, through e-Sanjeevani, or with an appointment via the Jammu OPD app (AIIMS Jammu Swasthya), your journey starts at the Main OPD (Tower 6). Here, eight

registration counters await, ensuring everyone's needs are met-whether you're a male or female patient, specially-abled, a senior citizen, a super senior citizen, or even a student or staff member. After registration, you'll see a doctor who will either treat you on the spot or direct you to the 24x7 Lab or Radio Imaging for further investigation," he added.

"At AIIMS Jammu, every step is thoughtfully crafted to ensure your experience is smooth, efficient, and tailored to your unique healthcare needs," he said.

Not only growth of Guava orchards has been poor, even most of Rainy Season crop is worm infested

Will SKAUST Scientist take heavily on Fruit Flies to save Rainy season fruit from worms

DAYA SAGAR

Directorate of Horticulture Jammu (Divn) mentions Guava (Amrood), Orange / Kinoo (citrus), Mango among the 'fruit crops' grown/ that can be grown in Districts of Jammu (sub tropical), Kathua (sub tropical, intermediate temperate), Samba (sub tropical, *no mention of mango), Udhampur (sub tropical, intermediate temperate), Reasi (sub tropical, intermediate temperate), Ramban (sub tropical, intermediate temperate, *no mention of mango), Poonch (sub tropical, intermediate temperate), *no mention of mango) and Rajouri (sub tropical, intermediate temperate). But in reference to these fruits it will not be wrong to mention here that bulk of these fruits consumed in Jammu Division (particularly improved commercial varieties) are imported from other states (even Punjab and also from Himachal Pradesh).

Guava is imported to J&K in very large quantities and during this July month it is being sold



A Look through the Mist

in retail atleast from Rs.70 to 120 per Kg. Not only that whatever indigenous varieties / others varieties of Guava are grown in Jammu Division it is a common acknowledged fact that the fruit that matures (July/August) is infected with worms (commonly named as Fruit Fly) at places even more than 75% fruit of rainy season crop is lost and common advice is that summer flowering of guava should be better shed off.

On the one hand the development of Horticulture in Jammu Division has been very poor (could well be assessed from the quantities imported even of Guava / Mango / Orange) and to add to that whatever plantation is there that too is not well protected from worms/insects of which Guava fruit plantation is the worst victim even nearly after 7 decades of Independence and there being a separate Directorate of Horticulture for Jammu Division as well as a University of Agriculture & Technology (Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu - SKAUST).

Actual data for 2021 - 2022 on production



and export / import of fruits to / from Jammu

Division could not be obtained therefore for idea sake, particularly for Guava, some data on area (hectares) under Guava and production (metric tons) for 2015 -16 (Area: 2463.84 Hect and Production :3275.50 Mt) and 2016-17 (Area :2478.99 Hect and Production : 3495 Mt) as could be obtained from some earlier publications can be taken to get the likely status of Guava as Horticulture crop of Jammu Division of J&K. So that way production per hectare (20 Kanals) orchard could be around 1.3Mt (13 Quintal) to 1.4 Mt (14 Quintal) or in other words just 65 kg to 70 Kg per Kanal (data is subject to correction on availability of actual data on date from departmental sources for which request has been made). At one place Jammu Division Guava area and production for 2019 -20 has been mentioned as 2541 Hect and 8391 Mt i.e around 165 kg per kanal which show some increase over 2016-17 but is still very low. No doubt the data for 2022-23 could be even higher but going by the status of the quantity of rainy season crop available in the Jammu market from local production there may not be a status worth appreciation

better than one assessed here in.

To be brief there is utmost need for raising the priority level of approach towards development of commercial horticulture in Jammu Division for fruits like Guava and in the modern era of technologies the problem of the rainy season guava crop infestation should not have been so acute that almost whole any season crop is lost in most of the cases and some where some crop is sent to the market before it matures. People in J&K have not been that much motivated or encouraged over the years for taking to commercial fruit production like even in neighboring states and above that there has been under rated support / initiatives from the government agencies and less targeted approach from research departments of the Agriculture University like that for even disease/ insect control for cultivation of fruits like Guava otherwise may be even if 75% of rainy season Guava fruit would have been saved from worms some cultivators on their own might have taken for commercial guava farming.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and Social Activist).

SMART CITY: Why still unscheduled power cuts in Jammu?



Jackson, Artist

Even after the installation of smart meters in Jammu, we continue to experience long power cuts, which are causing a lot of trouble. The public wants to ask the Power Development Department why there are so many power cuts despite the installation of smart meters. We were told that there would be no power cuts once the smart meters were installed. Is this a false promise made by the government? If power cuts are necessary, they should be done during the day rather than at night. This issue is causing us significant distress.



Manish, Businessman

Power cuts have caused us a lot of distress. We have no electricity at home; I am sitting in my car with the AC on, and the fuel is running out. This is our Jammu and its so-called smart projects. I believe the government should think about us in this extreme heat so that we can stay comfortably at home. Living without electricity in this heat has become very difficult.



Jasmeet Singh, Trader

Due to power cuts, the entire Jammu is facing problems. Power goes out for 4 hours a day, causing even the inverters to become useless. I believe installing smart meters in Jammu has been of no benefit. If the government has installed these smart meters, it should take full responsibility for their functioning and address the distress of the people of Jammu. If the government cannot manage this, then the smart meters should be removed.



Prem Sharm, Social Activist

"Electricity bills have caused a lot of trouble for every poor person, and in this intense heat, the power cuts are excessive. I appeal to the Lieutenant Governor to ensure that we receive proper electricity. If we are being charged such high electricity bills, why are we not getting consistent power supply? I must say that we are being treated unfairly, which is very wrong. The government should consider the poor people."



Sadiya, Student

I would say that power cuts are affecting students' studies the most, and the extreme heat is causing significant distress. Efforts are being made to make Jammu 'smart,' but the government has failed in this regard because the people of Jammu are not at all happy with the government. Electricity is a basic need; if the government cannot even fulfill this, we cannot have any expectations from them."



Shekher Sharma, Trader

At night, people usually sleep peacefully, but in our Jammu, peace and comfort have disappeared because of frequent power cuts and excessively high electricity bills. We have small children at home, who are unable to sleep due to the intense heat. There is no benefit to the so-called 'smart city' and smart meters. No one is happy with the government's actions.