

Bhardwaj attends passing-out parade of PM Special Package appointees of State Taxes Deptt

245 SIs including 81 girls complete 3-month training programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary Finance Department, Vivek Bhardwaj on Monday attended the Passing Out Parade of SIs appointed at the State Taxes Department under Prime Minister's Special Package Excise and Taxation Training Institute Nagrota here.

245 such Sub-Inspectors, comprising 81 girls and 164 boys, successfully completed a three-month course and got the roll of completion along with 2 stars on their uniform as per their rank.

Vice Chairperson KVIB, Hina Shafi Bhat and Principal CDA Northern Command Jammu, Arti Bhatnagar joined as distinguished guests on the occasion.

Joint Commissioner Central GST, Amit Sharma; Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Neetu Gupta and other senior officers of civil administration were also present on the occasion.

The passing out Parade began with a general salute to the ACS Bhardwaj, who was the chief guest on the occasion, followed by inspection of parade and oath Ceremony.



ACS Finance Department, Vivek Bhardwaj along with SIs and other dignitaries at Passing out parade in Jammu.

The cadets presented an impressive march past after which a piping ceremony was held.

The parade was commanded by Sub Inspector MI Bhat. It was followed by an award ceremony where SI Monika Jamwal was adjudged as All Round Best Female, SI Abhimanyu Zutshi as All Round Best Male, SI Ayush Bhat as Indoor Best and SI M. I. Bhat as Outdoor Best cadet.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhardwaj congratulated the passing out candidates and encouraged them to conduct their duties with sincerity and honesty.

The ACS called upon the candidates to educate the pub-

lic about the role of taxes and revenue extraction in building the nation and its defence.

The very revenue that you collect is used to run the nation, build schools, roads and hospitals and to maintain our security systems, he said.

He also encouraged the candidates to educate the masses about the Goods and Services Taxes (GST). He asked them to highlight that the tax has replaced 17 odd taxes into one simplified form and is in no way affecting the taxpayers extraordinarily.

Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr. Rashmi Singh in her welcome address highlighted the importance of the State Taxation Department in rev-

enue generation which forms the bedrock of effective and efficient administrative machinery.

She highlighted the background of commencing this training and innovative measures introduced to hone the skills of the functionaries who would now play a significant role in the department.

The three months training included classroom orientation, field visits, group activities, yoga/ meditation sessions and field attachments.

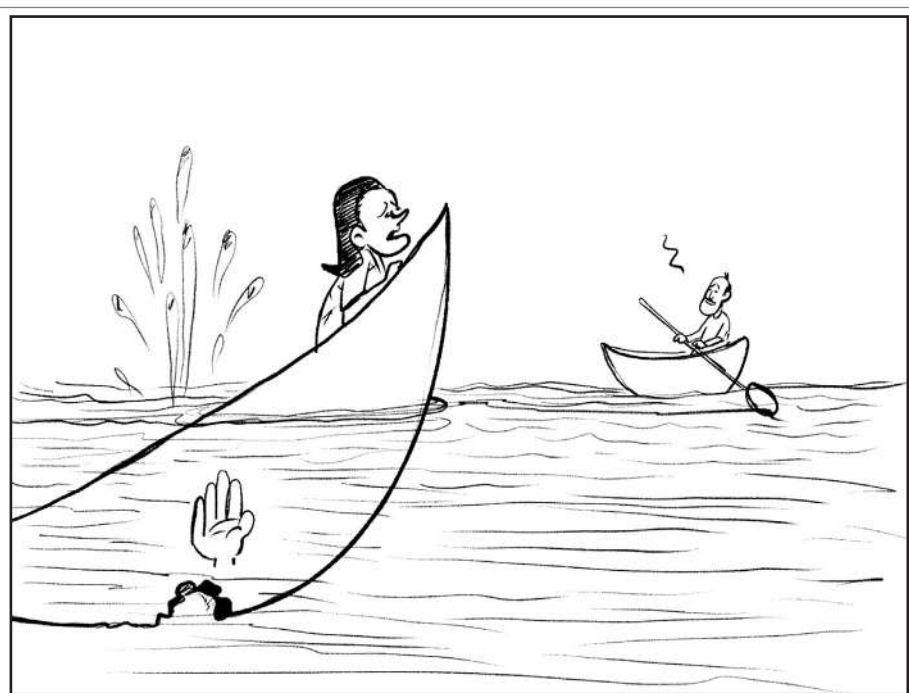
Classroom orientation focused on the provisions of GST Act, J&K Excise Act, J&K Motor Spirit Act 2005 etc. During on job practical training emphasis was laid on

GST portal, data analysis, assessments, field visits and other enforcement activities so as to give first-hand knowledge of implementation of GST Act and functioning of State Taxes Department. In order to prioritise their mental health and life skills, yoga and meditation was made an essential and integral part of their curriculum. In addition to this, trainees were also provided an opportunity to play various indoor and outdoor games for strengthening their physical strength and instilling sportsman spirit.

Resource persons from Central University, experts on GST, narcotics and advocates dealing with tax laws were roped in for delivering lectures. Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Excise Commissioner J&K and other senior officers of the State Taxes Department also interacted with the trainees from time to time.

A documentary showcasing the highlights of the training programme was also released and screened on the occasion.

Excise Commissioner J&K, Pankaj Sharma, rendered the vote of thanks.



CCI calls on Comm & Addl CS I&C; highlights industrialists', traders' issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) on Monday highlighted the issues and demands of Industrialist and traders before Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vivek Bhardwaj.

The CCI delegation headed by its President Arun Gupta met Bhardwaj and apprised him about the burning issues of the business fraternity and also submitted a memorandum for early consideration. Several issues of industry and trade in Jammu region came for discussion under a congenial atmosphere wherein the Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce assured full support.

The issues which came up for discussion included demand of inclusion of separate clause of land value / stamp duty rates with respect to land which is to be registered for Industrial Units on the lines of other states as the commercial notified rates are too high, extension in validity period beyond June 30, 2022 as some industrial units could not start production well within the stipulated time period due to certain unavoidable hindrances like



CCI President Arun Gupta highlighting the issues and demands of traders before ACS, I&C, Vivek Bhardwaj.

delay in loan sanction, non issuance of NOC from PCB, etc, therefore the units which have taken effective steps should be granted extension in validity of provisional registration for at least one year, extension of Central Package-2021 to existing industries under substantial expansion, grant of benefits of industry to hotels and lodges because tourism was declared an industry in the year 1995 but unfortunately the benefits of industries were not given to the hapless hotel industry till date, removal of negative list as this will enable the local industry to compete with outsiders, provide ownership rights to sons of the soil by formulating a scheme allowing ownership rights of lease hold industrial land to local entrepreneurs after a period of 25 years of the

first/original allotment of land that too with nominal conversion fee from lease hold to free hold, restore power amnesty scheme as the one offered during the lockdown period could not be availed by the industries due to complete or partial shutdown and trader fraternity facing financial crunch, revisit the decision of hike in power tariff as JPDCL's proposal for 70 percent hike will affect the industry badly.

The other Office bearers of CCI present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary.

Giving a patient hearing to the CCI delegation, Bhardwaj assured early redressal of the above said issues.

Waqf initiated work on formulation of new policy for education sector: Dr Darakhshan



Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday participated in National Teacher's Day celebrations held at Mantaqui Waqf Higher Secondary School at Avantipora where a day long grand function was organized by the Education Department of the Board.

Chief Executive Officer of the Board Dr Syed Majid Jahangir & Magistrate Ishtiyaz Mohiuddin were the Guests of Honour. Dr Darakhshan

Andrabi felicitated the participants. In her speech, Dr Darakhshan said that every successful person remains indebted to the role of their teachers in their lives.

"Our society has to change the collective attitude towards our teachers' community for a better environment where our young students inculcate the basic values of respecting the guides & teachers in their lives so that they can become better citizens later," said Dr Andrabi.

She said that teachers not

only teach us how to attain mastery over the subjects but also teach us the intricacies of life, teach us the mantra of co-existence which is a must for a developed progressive society.

"Books educate us but teachers equip us with knowledge, books teach us the formal education but teachers educate us about its utility to evolve as good human beings," said Waqf Board Chairperson.

She emphasized on teachers to rededicate themselves for man making & character building spirit of education and impart the true broadminded approaches to students so that they become the goodwill ambassadors for the future world.

"The Board has initiated work on a new Educational Policy and after its formulation, Waqf educational sector will be reframed so that we are able to upgrade the educational sector associated with the organization," said Dr Andrabi.

Jammu Bar decides to continue agitation till logical conclusion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu conducted its General House meeting on Monday and took a review of the developments in the ongoing agitation and discussed the future line of action.

The house was of the opinion that the Government/LG Administration, despite knowing the fact that the demand for construction of multi storeyed building in the Janipur Court Complex, Jammu is very genuine and is supported by the entire people of Jammu province, is showing irresponsible and stubborn attitude towards the solution of the issues projected by the Bar.

The lawyers present in the meeting expressed their anguish over the unreasonable attitude of the LG administration.

The members unanimously were of the view that ongoing agitation of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu needs to be taken to logical conclusion with respectable solution.

The General House of the Bar Association unanimously decided to continue the agitation till the Government provides the funds for the construction of multi storeyed building as demanded by the Bar.

The General House of the Bar asked the LG administration not to make a stand off on such a genuine but small issue having very little financial implications. The administration should earliest concede the genuine demand of the Bar Association to end the suffering of the litigant public and the lawyers. The work in all the courts including High Court of J&K, District Courts, Tribunals, Commissions and all the Revenue courts remained suspended today also in support of the demand projected by the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu.

CS reviews progress on revival of heritage sites

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired the meeting to take stock of sites to be taken up under the scheme "Revival, Restoration, Preservation & Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu & Kashmir". The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Culture; Secretary, Tourism; Director Tourism, Jammu and several other government officers from the concerned Departments. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers to include as many sites as possible that have rich cultural importance and social appeal. He underscored the need of striking the balance in selection of sites belonging to



Chief Secretary, Dr A.K Mehta chairing a meeting.

different socio-religious communities. Dr Mehta advised the officers to take best care of the original ingredients and architecture while carrying out the restoration works on these heritage sites. He stressed on maintaining the aesthetic, cultural and historic aura of each site while taking up any new works at these sites. The sites include dozens of sites from both the divisions of UT. Some of the prominent sites to be

taken up for revival and restoration includes Basohli Fort Kathua, Machail Mata Temple, Sarthail Mata Temple, Shriomani Deri Nangali Sahib Gurudwara Poonch, Sharika Devi Tempke Srinagar, Baba Shukoor-ud-Din Baramulla, Shamas Faqeer Budgam, Sheikh ulAlam Shrine Qaimoh Kulgam and dozens of others across all the districts of J&K. On the occasion the Chief Secretary also asked the offi-

cers to have close coordination between the School Education, Higher Education, Rural Development, Urban Development and Youth Services & Sports Departments in order to give fillip to the cultural and sports activities at the Panchayat level. Dr Mehta observed that each person irrespective of age, gender or economic background has some inherent talent in him and only needs some encouragement to showcase it. He maintained that our younger generation is exceptionally talented and deserves handholding to bring best out of them. He underlined the need of providing them opportunities at each level for making big in their lives.

The Chief Secretary further

emphasised on making the twin cities vibrant cultural hubs where some sort of activities are going on daily basis. He made out that the relevant places like Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi, Char Chinar, Nehru Park besides the infrastructure present in these cities should be fully utilized to promote the local culture and artists here. The Chief Secretary also took stock of the process of selecting sites for the revival and restoration of heritage in different districts of J&K. The meeting also provided the accord of Administrative Approval for carrying out the restoration, preservation and maintenance of Salal Fort, a heritage site in the Reasi district of the UT.

YRS delegation meets Div Com, discusses commemoration of Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary



YRS representatives calling on Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Representatives of Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) on Monday met with Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar at his office. The meeting was held to discuss the issue regarding long pending demand of declaration of holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh on September 23.

The Divisional Commissioner gave patient hearing to the demand of delegation and assured that the Government is actively considering their demand. He also informed that the Government has already taken cognizance of the matter.

The delegation members also enquired about the High Level Committee, the Div Com assured that the matter is in active consideration.

He also assured that the process of filing of the

report would be completed in the minimum possible time as the matter is in active consideration of the Government.

On the assurance of the Divisional Commissioner the Yuva Rajput Sabha decided to suspend their ongoing strike/ Dharna. The delegation included Rajan Singh Happy, President YRS, Shamsheer Singh senior member, Balbir Singh Senior member, Vishal Singh Vice president, Vikramjeet Singh General Secretary, Partap Singh member and Gourav Manhas member of Yuva Rajput Sabha alongwith other senior members. Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avry Lavasa and Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Chandan Kohli, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Menga Sherpa were also present in the meeting.

J&K witnessing 32.8 pc unemployment rate against 8.1 pc at national level

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The unemployment rate jumped all-time high in Jammu and Kashmir as the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), a private economic think-tank in India, in its latest monthly report for month of August 2022 has estimated unemployment rate for J&K at 32.8 per cent, the highest since 2016 as per CMIE data. In 2016, it was recorded at its worst- 29.9 per cent.

According to CMIE figures, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana are facing most job crises, which is the worst among states/Union Territories in India. The unemployment rates are produced by CMIE using its Consumer Pyramids Household Survey machinery. CMIE has pegged National unemployment rate

at 8.28 per cent while survey also shows that urban and rural unemployment rates have also increased on national level with urban areas facing 9.5 per cent while rural areas with unemployment rate of 7.5 per cent.

According to the CMIE data, the unemployment rate in J&K has jumped from over 15 percent in August compared to July month. As per data, J&K is second in the table after Haryana who is on the top with 37.3 per cent while Rajasthan is on third place with 31.4 per cent of unemployment rate. Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Rajasthan are the only states/UT with over 30 per cent unemployment rate. Other states, which have highest unemployment are Bihar, Jharkhand and Tripura, where unemployment rate is just between 13

to 18 per cent. Besides these figures, there are other data sources which indicate severity of unemployment in J&K. For example, the employment registration carried out by Directorate of Employment in 2020 witnessed three lakh registrations by post-graduates and PhD degree holders. Even J&K Service Selection Board held recruitment examinations, but some of them got cancelled due to allegedly negligence and irregularities. Youth of Valley are quite worried over present scenario and told STATE TIMES correspondent, "Now we have lost all hopes as many of our friends are near the maximum age-limit to get a job. Every job selection process is going on in haphazard manner and even administration has admitted irregularities in processes."

DoPT reforms enabled 'ease of working' for women employees: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said that during the last 8 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a series of governance reforms introduced by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) and other departments under Union Ministry of Personnel like DARPG and Department of Pensions, enabled "ease of working" for women employees and are actually, in a broader sense, huge social reforms aimed at providing women officials an opportunity to perform to the best of their potential with a high level of dignity and self-esteem.

Addressing women officers of Govt of India after releasing a compilation book on major governance reforms related to women employees introduced since 2014, here today, Dr Jitendra said, his Ministry has taken concerted efforts to increase the representation of women in Central Government jobs and to provide them a balance between professional and family life.

The Minister recalled that only



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing women officers of Govt of India after releasing a compilation book on major governance reforms related to women employees introduced since 2014, at New Delhi.

three days back, DoPT had taken a historic decision to grant a 60-day special maternity leave for women Central government employees in case of Still Birth or death of an infant within a few days of birth. This was not only a woman-friendly decision, but a humane decision taken with a lot of sensitive precision.

The Minister said, in May this year, family pension rules were relaxed for missing central government employees and the new rule has done away with seven-year mandatory wait and,

in all cases, where a government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing Government servant.

Referring to the issue of Capacity Building and Empowerment of Women, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) extensively covers topics relating to the women, their empowerment, protection from domestic violence and prevention from sexual offences, in all

its major cadre training programmes. It organizes women issue specific training courses also, ranging from two-day to five-day long durations at ISTM and outside. The Minister added that during the last five years, about 800 officers of different grades and positions have been covered in as many as twenty-five (25) courses, which have been organized at ISTM on the topics of, Gender Sensitization, Gender Budgeting, Protection, Prevention and Redress of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that in the last few years India has graduated from women participation to women led leadership and today they are an equal stakeholder in the nation building. He said, in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, women folk will contribute their might in making India a frontline state in 2047 in an enabling milieu and they will confidently assert their rightful place, when India celebrates 100th year of Independence.