# TAD felicitates 25 for selection in JKAS

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Department (TAD) on Saturday felicitated 25 students from tribal communities of Jammu and Kashmir for their selection in Jammu Kashmir Administrative Services. Jammu and Kashmir Police. and Account Services. Youth beneficiaries under various schemes and candidates selected in Central Government services were also awarded.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, and Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth, Dr Shahid Igbal Choudhary was chief guest on the occasion, who also addressed the selected candidates, aspirants and students. The  $\,$  program was attended by Director TAD, Mushir Ahmed Mirza, Secretary, Advisory Board, Mukhtar Ahmed Choudhary, FA/CAO Ashok Kumar Thukaan, Jt Director Planning



Secretary TAD, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary posing with newly selected JKAS students.

ior officers of the department. Deputy Director TRI Dr Abdul Khabir conducted the program.

The department felicitated 25 young tribal students for qualifying the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Civil Services Examination for selection JKAS, JKPS and JK Account Service. The selectees shared their education journey with students invited from various hostels and inspired them for various career options. Tribal vouth and hostel students selected

CRPF, ITBP and other central forces were also felicitated. On the occasion, students selected the recently launched scheme Law-20 were also felicitate with certificate and award letter for undergoing coaching for the Judicial Services Examination.

Certificates were also awarded to the students and tribal youth who have completed various skill development courses organised by the department and TRI.

A group of 200 students from various hostels of Jammu province were also briefed and flagged-off for Bharat Darshan exposure visit organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Research Institute aimed at providing exposure to rich cultural diversity, nature reserves, archaeological and historical sites, and institutions of eminence in various states. Earlier a similar

Jammu Admin takes steps to encourage

adoption of Smart Power Meters

Invites public to take benefit of Amnesty Scheme before end of Sep 2023

various parts of the country for educational visit and exposure tour. All hostels are being covered under this new initiative in a phased manner.

The department also organised detailed interaction with newly appointed Wardens and Assistant Wardens in various hostels. They were sensitised about the importance of improving educational and extracurricular standards in hostels, model infrastructure and new facilities for students.

Dr Shahid Choudhary, in his addressed, congratulated the tribal youth selected in various government services and held detailed session with students drawn from various hostels of the department. Dr Abdul Khabir presented welcome address and Mukhtar Ahmed presented



After terrorism, drug smuggling biggest challenge

# J&K set to become 'terror free region' soon: DGP

### MASROOR AHMAD

SOPORE: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Satuday said the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards becoming a "terror free region" and the police will now take on drug challenge tooth and

He described drug smuggling as next big challenge after terrorism and said: "We are committed to make J&K a drug free place."

The DGP said that terrorism is all time low and the number of terrorists is very less. Concerted measures are underway to neutralize the remnants of terrorists and eradicating menace remains a big challenge as at present 1.4 lakh people are drug addicted, he told reporters on the side-lines of a function at District Lines (DPL),

"Sopore was once known

DGP J&K Dilbag Singh speaking in a function at Sopore. as a hot bed of terrorism nizance of both incidents and today business is flourand registered FIRs to investigate the matter

ishing everywhere there. Peace is prevailing and there is smile on the faces of people," the DGP said. He was accompanied by DIG north Kashmir range,

Vivek Gupta. Replying to a question on the two members of Sikh community being found

dead in Baramulla and

Tral, the DGP said the

police have taken cog-

ited in executing this vision, the

adding that the case of death of a Sikh community member from Baramulla has been handed over to the Crime Branch. On Panchayat poll preparations, the DGP said that

expeditiously, he said,

all arrangements are in place and police will ensure smooth polls as and when

## Shama un Ahmed and sen-SSP Traffic City Jammu reviews



SSP Traffic Police City Jammu, Faisal Qureshi chairing the monthly review meeting on Saturday.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU Senior Superintendent of Traffic Jammu, Police City Qureshi Faisal Saturday chaired the monthly review meeting in the conference Hall of District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu to assess the functioning of traffic police city Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Raj Paul Singh Manhas, Addl SP traffic Jammu; Farah Nishat Dy. SP (T) City North; Bikram Kumar, Dy. SP (T) City South; Satish Kumar, Dy. SP Traffic Rural Jammu; Charanjeet Singh, Dy. SP Traffic City Jammu, All DTI's/SO's, SI Santosh Kumar PA, ASI Sarswati Raina OASI of TPO, HC Ravi Kumar & Sadhu Ram of Statistical Section of Traffic Police

During the meeting, discussion was held on general traffic functioning, backlog

verifications and their disposal, day to day challans work /regulation duties.

The SSP Traffic issued directions to all the concerned to lay special focus on Triple Riding, Stunt Driving and wrong lane driving among all other visible traffic violations.

He further asked to ensure that top priority must be given to medical urgencies/ emergency vehicles and also advised the officers to work with utmost honesty and dedication. The SSP Traffic directed all the field officers to conduct regular Road Safety Awareness Programmes, focus on strict regulation as well as enforcement duties, more concentration during the Peak Hours, no use of Mobile Phones during duty hours, shall behave properly and avoid misbehave with General Public and shall maintain well turnout of their uni-

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu district administration is diligently working to facilitate the seamless adoption of Smart Power Meters, recognising the need to address genuine concerns while spreading accurate information among the

In a concerted effort to raise awareness and foster understanding the district administration organised a series of informative sessions at various locations throughout the district. Using a blend of modern and traditional communication channels, the administration is actively sharing insights about these advanced

A recent session was conducted at Kunjwani, where SDM Jammu South, Atul Dutt Sharma, assured the public that Smart Meters would eradicate unscheduled power cuts, ensuring greater reliability on power supply. He personally addressed attendees' specific queries and promptly directed concerned officers to investigate and resolve issues related to excessive billing. He emphasised that power bills would accurately reflect actual consumption, alleviating any unfound-

He also praised the active participation and open-mindedness of the locals and acknowledged the local Corporator's significant contribution in disseminating positive information.

The Corporator also praised the administration's efforts and raised concerns about erratic water supply, seeking its early resolution

Furthermore, the SDM informed the public about an ongoing amnesty scheme introduced by the power department. This scheme allows consumers to pay off their outstanding bills up to March 2022, without interest charges by the end of this month and avail the muchneeded financial relief.

The Sub Divisional Magistrate, along with other officials, actively resolved numerous complaints related to smart meters. They emphasised uninterrupted power supply and the importance of timely bill payment and preventing power theft.

The Executive Engineer promised smooth power supply and issue resolution. Several officials and citizens attended the meeting. including Tehsildar Harjeet Singh and SHO

### Dr Jitendra describes Aditya launch as 'sunshine moment for India' Jitendra. "While ISRO is cred-September 2023, is a day of

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRIHARIKOTA: As the ISRO's trusted workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle -Extended (PSLV-EL) launched India's first Solar Mission, - Aditya L1 from Sriharikota Range today, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh described it as "sunshine moment for India". "While the whole world

watched this with baited breath, it is indeed a sunshine moment for India," he said, addressing ISRO scientists and engineers at the Mission Control Room soon after the PSLV-C57 ejected Aditya L1



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the scientists after the successful launch of India's maiden Solar Mission 'Aditya-L1' at ISRO, Sriharikota on Saturday.

vorking, toiling day and night. for years and years together. But now comes the moment of vindication, the moment of redeeming the pledge to the

"Indian scientists had been nation," said Dr Jitendra Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology. Dr Jitendra thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi

for making this happen "by opening up new vistas for India's space sector and telling us that sky is not the limit."

"Thanks also PM for giving us the confidence, the courage and the conviction to reach out to the stars and to discover the mysteries of universe beyond. And thanks also for making us realise the enormous potential of our space fraternity," he said.

"Coming close on the heels of successful Chandrayaan-3 landing, the successful launch of Aditya L1 is also a testimony to the 'whole of science and the whole of nation' approach in which we have sought to adopt in our world culture," said Dr

science institutes across the country have come forward to contribute in one form or the other, in small way or big, to this vision. To name a few, - The Indian Institute Astrophysics, Bengaluru, the National Aerospace Laboratories, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Mumbai, the NGRI Nagpur,

IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Mumbai, and the list is too long" he added Calling it as a team effort, Dr Jitendra termed the Aditva L1 launch as "a day of reckoning".

reckoning when we move on into the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal and Mother India pledges, with the collective will and collective effort of our 140 crore children, to reach and occupy the place of pride on the world pedestal," he said. Aditya L1 is the first space-

based Indian mission to study the Sun. Through various orbit raising manoeuvres and the cruise phase over about the next four months, the spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit. around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system. which is about 1.5 million km

# Voter's belief in Multiparty Democratic System is weakening with MPs/MLAs frequently shifting loyalties Changes in Election Laws needed before 2024 to make voter go by 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'

5th January 2023 has been India's 13th National Voters' Day. The ✓ National Voters' Day (NVD) was first celebrated by the Smt. Pratibha Devi Patil, the then President of India on 25th January 2011 (63rd foundation day of Election Commission of India) with the objective of increasing voter enrolment focusing specially on new voters. On the 1st National Voters' Day the newly enrolled electors were given a badge with the slogan "Proud to be a Voter-Ready to Vote" and were administered a pledge that goes: "We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement". So in a way it was particularly to give a sense of citizenship, empowerment, pride, inspired initiative for exercising the franchise when the occasion comes. Theme for the National Voters Dav 2023 NVD, has been 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.

Surely work has been done for increasing voter registration and participation but for upholding the democratic traditions and voting without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement what has been the achievement needs serious introspection particularly w.r.t to theme NVD 2023 ('Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'); while celebrating Theme 2021 NVD

("Making Our Voters Vigilant") and Theme2014 NVD ("Ethical Voting")

There is must need for making both the voter citizen to introspect how far the franchise is being cast in terms of the Pledge taken on 1st NVD and also for making the 'Vote Seekers" too to introspect how far they have been able to provide to the Voter Citizen environment worth voting in election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language, any emotional inducement or material allurements? And ofcourse the law makers and the Election Commission of India too to also seriously deliberate on the procedures, rules and the checks installed for achieving the objectives the elders had kept in view for the people of sovereign democratic republic of India..

How far the political environment of the day is truthfully ready to receive the hopefully hoping 'new voter' has to be kept in focus while setting the Themes instead of drafting the same simply for making more numbers to come to booths (more under pressures of 'personal' needs) the themes must focus on the duty of citizen towards the needs of the country since on the voting day one writes the fate of his/ her country for next five years for which one's belief in the democratic system must be truthfully firm and in this regard the ground status of the day is not encouraging.

Focus has to be on creating awareness for participation by more old and 'young' voter for exercising the franchise but more is the need for strengthening the belief of voter citizen in quality/style of democracy that our elders had conceived which was more based on ethics than the 'political' 'morals'

of the day that appear only focusing more on how to carry a voter to one's symbol Imagine in case we do not choose the

right person to represent us in the

Legislature then what would be quality

& extent of socio-economic development

of the country, and we must assess the status on this 13th NVD.(2023). Political culture of the day where among other things the elected legislators & politicians frequently are seen shifting loyalties and at many occasions very less number is seen present in the

legislative assembly / parliament while general proceedings are going on is surely more responsible for lesser participation/lesser interest shown by common man ( even middle class ) in the elections / debates in the legislature. In the multiparty democratic system that India has this day (as enshrined in constitution of India) it is believed that those who would be hoping to hold and those who hold the reins must be

focussing their energies on the subjects & projects irrespective of particular sect/caste/religion/region / minority/ majority/ economic allurements and in case they divert from the ethics then there would be exiting simultaneously social / community institutions who would remind those in power / those seeking vote for power of the basics of a democratic system of governance. But looking at the environment that we are

A Look through presently living in , such the Mist Part-I

median / middling institutions are nearly missing and where ever some of the 'type' exist they

are weak enough to correct the faulting politicians or cultivate awareness in the voter citizens about the rights and value of the indirect 'legislative' authority one carries. So need is also to strengthen the social / community institutions worth motivating for / forcing for ethics of democratic principles enshrined. The need is more for making the people sensitive about the value of vote and the affect of their vote on the future of the nation.

No doubt surely there are many in political arena who have intentions and desires for holding to the truthful democratic principles but the majority culture makes them too ineffective. The provisions like anti defection law and NOTA (None of the Above) have not vielded any meaningful results so far and we are already in the 74th year of a republic so there is immediate need for even some more intimate administrative and constitutional reforms for which pressures need be build on those who seek vote since only those in legislature and executive (cabinets) can initiate and order such reforms.

In our country elections for all State Legislatures and Lok Sabha are not held at the same time (every year there may be elections to 3 to 4 state legislatures or Lok Sabha) compelling senior political leadership to remain involved more in party politics / political gamesmanship/voter luring than working on

ground in truthful & rational manner. Such practices in present day system have atleast two negative inputs i.e time of government is lost in election campaigning and even government resources are indirectly more used for 'election' modes .Hence those in power instead of leaving the assessment of their work to common man are often Self- Auditing projects/schemes' and spending time. money& energies for advertising work done only in terms of 'financial inputs'/

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too has expressed opinion in favour one Nation one Election but that may not be possible immediately since for that lot need be done at organisational, administrative and constitutional levels keeping in view that in the recent past Election Commission has not been able to hold elections in just three states at the same time. But the present government could at least start with some changes in the rules / system focusing on other areas atleast starting with 2024 Lok Sabha Elections so that the route is set for making 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'real belief of the Voter Citizen. So, for strengthening the belief of a voter citizen in the democratic system (i) there should be ban on sanctioning of any type of new freebees for the poor&BPL / new monetary benefits for the government servants/pensioners by the government at least 9 months before elections to a legislature / Lok Sabha are due (ii) ban on laying of foundation stones of new state projects / midway inauguration of projects not likely to be

completed atleast 6 months before the elections (iii) no new high value projects should be announced for a State by the Union Government 6 months before elections (iv) no community / region related specials should be announced 6 months before elections (v) no IAS/IPS/IRS who resigns from government service should be allowed to contest elections on a political party ticket before one year after retirement (vi) anti defection law need be amended like (a) MP/MLA elected on a party ticket if resigns should stay independent (b) any Legislator/ MP who leaves his party after announcement of elections should be allowed to contest as only independent (c) independent MP/MLA may support a party but should be allowed only to join a party whose candidate had contested against him/her as second highest (d) party whip system should be only to the extent of asking members to remain present during voting and not whipping an opinion (vii) candidate's brief past history on party associations, criminal record should be printed on posters (viii) NOTA ( None of The Above ) should be replaced by NTC ( Not This Candidate) since NOTA wastes a vote where as NTC will introduce a provision of negative voting which would be a better use of voting right where under a voter can still contribute by reducing one vote of a candidate who one may think to be worst of all . NOTA is wastage of vote but NTC would do some service(ix) and like

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