

Visiting officers to act as Panchayat Mentor for one year Chief Secretary inaugurates PSGA dashboard with auto appeal features

***JK first UT to adopt system**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today inaugurated the integration of Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA) portal, having Auto-Appeal System feature with the eUNNAT here at Civil Secretariat.

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary said that this is another step by the J&K Government to provide a major impetus to transparent, citizen friendly and efficient governance.

In the process, J&K has become the first UT in the country to implement such a system. "This step of the Government is expected to be a game changer in that it empowers the citizens and would go a long way in curbing delays in providing services to citizens, weed out red tapism, inefficiency, lethargy and culture of apathy and impunity", said CS.

With this step, the J&K Government has now integrated the online dashboard (https://aas.jk.gov.in) for all citizen centric services available on eUNNAT Portal, as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011 (PSGA). It made the same available online and thereby clearly showing the service delivery timelines, details of defaults and penal provisions thereof, besides generation of statistics and drill down facility, together with auto escalation / auto-appeal feature.

The Government had recently amended the PSGA (J&K

Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011) to bring it in tune with the changing times. It is the endeavour of the Government to facilitate dissemination of e-Services to the public on one hand and to monitor, analyse and - if necessary - penalise the defaulters in service delivery, as per the service delivery timelines defined in



Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta.

This Act. The aim of the Government in incorporating the auto-appeal and auto-escalation feature in the portal is that the provisions of the PSGA get integrated into the online application processing and service delivery mechanism to be strictly adhered to.

It was given out that the dashboard shows, at a glance, the online service applications received, services delivered, applications pending, applications rejected besides other details. In coming days and weeks, all the remaining G2C services would be digitally enabled and brought on-board this single platform, as was informed during this ceremony.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary held virtual meetings and took

first hand review of the public response to the outreach Programme, Back to Village Phase-4 currently in progress all across the UT.

He spoke with the local PRI members and visiting officers of respective panchayats through video conference on the occasion and aims at visiting at least 300 panchayats during B2V-4 in this manner.

Dr Mehta remarked that Visiting Officers would act as Mentor for one year for their respective panchayats acting as a bridge between them and the Government.

He maintained that they would mandatorily have to ensure that all the specified deliverables have to be achieved in the panchayat without any failure. He stressed that each officer would have to repeatedly visit the village till all of them gets fully implemented on ground.

The Visiting Officers have also been instructed to inspect at least two public works, assess their quality and submit observations in the report at the end of their visit. The CS has encouraged Visiting Officers to take feedback on digital services and other recent developments in providing door step governance. They have also been asked to openly talk about how corruption has been curtailed through various initiatives of the Government, in Gram Sabhas.

Former Judge appointed as Sr AAG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Government today appointed Abdul Rashid Malik, former District and Sessions Judge as Senior Additional Advocate General in the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

As per the order issued by Achal Sethi, Secretary to the Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the appointment is for a period of one year which shall be extended subject to satisfactory performance.

Boundaries drawn between J&K, Ladakh can't divide people: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 31: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, vice president and former J&K Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that boundaries drawn between J&K and Ladakh 'New Delhi' on August 5, 2019



NC vice president, Omar Abdullah addressing party workers at Drass in Kargil on Monday.

are void of people's mandate and will not stop them from speaking up for the region. He said the boundaries that have been forced on people have failed to divide them. Omar also said that the party's MPs have been raising the issues



Union MoS for Road Transport, General V K Singh inspecting stalls during prog at Doda.

Gen V K Singh reviews work on ongoing projects in Doda

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Oct 31: Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General VK Singh today visited Doda as a part of ongoing Public Outreach Programme.

During his program, the Minister reviewed progress and performance of NHIDCL, R&B and GREP and also took a detailed review of package wise progress on alternate NH 244.

During his visit to various ongoing development projects, *** Watch video on www.excelsonews.com**

Gen. Singh instructed the executing agencies to stick to the timeline and ensure the completion of NH244 and other projects within the given time frame.

The Minister also directed the district administration to send details of bottlenecks if any in all the projects be that the forest clearance or non acquisition of land so that the same can be taken up with concerned authorities for early redressal.

The Minister also inspected ongoing work on upcoming Khellani tunnel, for which he was informed that 36% of the work on both the tubes is complete and tentative date of completion of the tunnel project is 24/04/2023. Gen. Singh directed the engineers to get the best expertise and use contemporary technology to give public a state of the art infrastructure without harming the ecology of the area.

The Minister also inaugurated link road to Nai Dangri, constructed by PWD, at an estimated cost of Rs 191 lakhs. He also laid

foundation stone of water supply scheme Pranu under JJM built at an estimated cost of Rs 422.69 lakhs benefiting Shahpura and Malnai villages.

The Minister also inspected various stalls highlighting the individual and community welfare schemes run by different departments, at Doda. He distributed tractors among the beneficiaries of Agriculture Department. He also distributed Power Tillers, sanction letters of Water Harvesting Tanks and Vermicomposts among the beneficiaries of Horticulture Department.

Regarding sanctioned Chatergalla tunnel which shall connect Doda via Bhaderwah with Kathua District, the Minister was informed that this tunnel will give all weather road connectivity and will reduce the present distance by 28 Kms. The Minister was also informed that all the road projects under NHIDCL, GREP, PWD and PMGSY are being monitored regularly so that they can be dedicated to the public in shortest possible time.

Gen VK Singh also held an interactive session with elected public representatives and delegations of District Development Council and Block Development Council members, other Panchayati Raj Institutions, and Urban Local Bodies members and councillors. He assured the public representatives and delegations that their genuine issues and demands will be redressed in a time bound manner.

A presentation about the district was made by Vishesh Paul Mahajan, District Development Commissioner and Colonel Sandeep Sudhere, ED NHIDCL and Brigadier Tej Pal, Chief Engineer Sampark gave detailed presentations about ongoing projects in the district.

HC quashes dismissal of cop after 13 yrs

***Takes serious note of double punishment**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: High Court has quashed the dismissal of a cop after 13 years for the reason that order was passed in contravention of the provisions of Clause (2) of Article 20 of the Constitution of India as petitioner has been punished for the same offence twice which falls within the realm of double jeopardy.

The impugned order dated June 15, 2009 was challenged by petitioner Mohammad Amin Wani, a constable of CRPF, on the ground that the same is in gross violation of the petitioner's constitutional and statutory rights and is therefore, illegal, unwarranted, irrational and has led to grave miscarriage of justice.

"The respondent was obliged to obey and uphold the mandate of Rule 29(d) of CRPF Rules, 1999 in letter and spirit. There was no proof against the petitioner, also, no witness deposed against him. Therefore, the punishment should not have been enhanced from confinement to Quarter Guard for 28 days without pay and allowances to dismissal from service", the counsel for the petitioner submitted before the High Court.

After hearing both the sides, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed, "It is a rarest of rare case where on the basis of the enquiry report and based on circumstantial evidence, the petitioner was found guilty of indirect involvement in the incident and as a consequence of which the disciplinary authority has imposed punishment of 28 days confinement in Quarter Guard which the petitioner had undergone before the High Court. After having undergone the punishment for the alleged offence which was attributable to the petitioner, the concerned DIG without conducting any further enquiry or basis or following the principle of natural justice enhanced the punishment from 28 days to dismissal from service by resorting to the

J&K gets IIPA award 2047 can't be visualised through prism of 2022: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today cautioned that 2047 can't be visualised through the prism of 2022 and therefore the Vision document 2047 for civil services and governance must be based on scientific evaluated indices for the future.

He said, the document will be prepared jointly by Department of Administrative Reforms in Ministry of Personnel, Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and other related agencies.

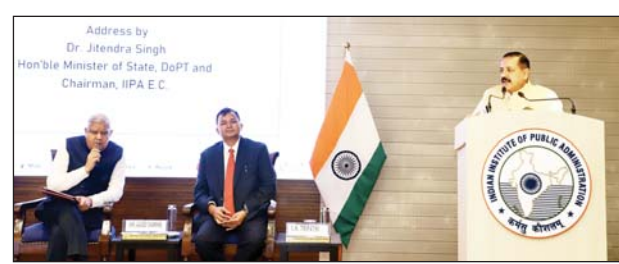
Addressing the Annual General Body (AGM) of IIPA as its National Chairman, on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is a tribute to the Iron Man of India who is also known as the Father of Civil Services in India.

The first three best IIPA State branch annual awards went to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and J & K respectively.

Welcoming the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankher, who is also President of IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh apprised him that IIPA is not only imparting training to the 'Selected Civil Servants' but also to 'Elected People's Representatives'. The Minister informed that it has started a series of programs for the elected representatives of Urban Local bodies and has held 04 programs for those from Jammu and Kashmir which is now a priority area for the present Govt.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, IIPA is contributing to the field of Capacity Building very proactively, but during the pandemic, it was able to conduct more than 100 offline and online training programs and quickly transformed itself into a powerhouse of Digital Training, preparing digital infrastructure as well as digital contents.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, with the guidance and direction of the Prime Minister of India, the Government has launched Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building) with the objec-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as National Chairman Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), addressing its AGM at New Delhi on Monday. Also seen are Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankher and DG IIPA, S.N. Tripathi.

tion to bring complete transformation in the capacity building of the civil services. IIPA has become an important partner in this mission extending whole-hearted support in the form of online courses on iGOT, workshops and conferences.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the active guidance of our energetic Vice President, the challenge before IIPA is to build capacities of public Representatives to transform them into future ready Karmayogis.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, his dream is to make IIPA a Rainforest of thoughts where wild ideas from citizens, even from space technology are allowed to bloom under the academic guidance of our learned faculty. He said, IIPA @ 2047 should be a proud Global Institution promoting Indian ideas of management, economic thought and cultural thought. IIPA should prepare the young generation into

a model bureaucracy of tomorrow catering to the needs of the Citizens as Citizen-centricity is the core of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance, the Minister added.

The Minister said, the IIPA branches have also been doing very well in terms of academic activities and spreading the knowledge and awareness in the area of Public Administration and Governance throughout the nook and corner of India. He said, for IIPA to become a pan-Indian Institution, every Regional Branch should recommend at least 75 new members so that the membership base of IIPA is strengthened further. Regional Branches should indulge themselves more into the academic activities and carry out documentation in the field of Public Administration best practices like District Level Governance and all.



Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar during visit to Channi Manahasa Panchayat in Vijaypur during B2V4 prog.

Div Com visits Panchayat Channi Manahasa, reviews activities under B2V

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Oct 31: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today visited village Panchayat Channi Manahasa in Vijaypur block and reviewed activities undertaken during ongoing Back to Village Programme Phase 4.

During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by visiting officer Ayushi Sudan, MD NHM; Deputy Commissioner, Anuradha Gupta; Sarpanch Baldev Raj, besides other district officers elected PRI members and locals were also present.

The Div Com, while inspecting the departmental stalls setup at Panchayat Ghar, laid emphasis upon ensuring 100% saturation of all Government sponsored schemes with added focus on Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards, promotion of self employment schemes, financial inclusion through digital literacy camps, Jal Jeevan Mission, Patwar Khana etc. The Div Com also listened to the public grievances and development aspirations

of the locals. He exhorted the officers to ensure availability of frontline workers at Panchayat level so that visiting officers as well as local population are well versed with initiatives taken up by the government. He also stressed on creating mass awareness among the public on 225 online services of government departments to enable the public to avail the benefits under e-governance initiative. "Governance at people's doorstep, 100% transparency in administrative working are the main mottoes of the Back to Village initiative," he added.

Later, the Div Com inaugurated "Bobo di Sandukhdi", an initiative of district administration Samba to provide an online marketing platform to the local artisans, weavers and small entrepreneurs of the district. The Deputy Commissioner Samba said the move has been taken to promote local artisans under vocal for local and Atma Nirbhar campaigns by facilitating maximum outreach of local products through online portals.

File response or DGP to appear in person: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: In a contempt petition filed by Pardeep Singh and others against the respondents for violating / disregarding the clear directions of High Court passed in SWP No. 1563 of 2009, High Court has granted last and final opportunity of two weeks for filing statement of facts failing which Director General of Police shall appear in person on next date of hearing.

The Single Judge vide judgment dated 28-4-2011 had directed the state to treat the petitioners at par with the private respondents and consider their case for appointment and absorption in

the Police Department as constable drivers with all consequential benefits including seniority, within a period of three months from the date private respondents were appointed. After hearing Advocate Interjeet with Advocate Yatin Mahajan for petitioners, Justice Sindhu Sharma observed, "despite numerous opportunities granted, statement of facts has not filed till date as such last and final opportunity of two weeks is granted to the respondents' counsel to file statement of facts, failing which, Director General of Police shall appear in person on the next date of hearing".

Take necessary steps for closure of cafeteria in Distt Court Complex: CJ

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey has directed the Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar to take necessary steps for closure of cafeteria in District Court Complex Moominabad.

In the petition filed under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, the Chief Justice observed, "the applicant is running the food court in District Court Complex, Moominabad without any extension of the allotment made in his favour for the period specified, therefore, there shall be no difficulty for the Principal District & Sessions

Judge, Srinagar, to initiate the process of allotment of the space for running the cafeteria in tune with the policy".

The Chief Justice further directed Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, to ensure inviting of bids for the same and its allotment after completion of the process. "In so far as the present arrangement is concerned, the same being without any authority, is to be closed. Accordingly, necessary steps in this regard shall be taken by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, to ensure closure of the cafeteria. However, the applicant shall be at liberty to participate in the bidding process", the Chief Justice said.



Former J&K CM, Ghulam Nabi Azad during visit of Salman Nizami's residence at Banihal on Monday.

Azad visits Nizami's residence, offers condolence to family

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, Oct 31: Former J&K Chief Minister and Chairman Democratic Azad Party, Ghulam Nabi Azad today visited DAP senior leader Salman Nizami's residence in Banihal to offer condolence on his father's demise.

Azad visited Nizami's residence in Kharpora, Banihal today at around 12 noon to offer his condolences on the demise of Mohammad Imtiyaz Nizami, father of Salman Nizami. Azad

expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the deceased.

Nizami's father passed away on October 27 at Jammu and was laid to rest at his native village graveyard at Kharpora in Banihal.

Former minister Abdul Majeed Wani, Ex- MLC Mohd Amin Bhatt, Ex- MLC Naresh Gupta, Aslam Goni, Abdul Gani Khan, Arun Singh Raju, Amir Rasool, Inayat Rather, Sharukh Bhatti, Amin Bhat, Muneer Mir and other leaders of DAP also accompanied Azad.

Secretary GAD visits Mathwar, inspects healthcare centre, schools

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 31: Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Dr Piyush Singla, today visited Mathwar panchayat of Jammu district as part of ongoing 'Back to Village' phase IV programme.

Dr Singla held a panchayat level meeting with PRI members and the officers and field functionaries of various line departments.

During the meeting, the local people put forth their demands

also inspected the stalls being installed by different departments and enquired about the progress achieved under various schemes by the line departments with respect to set saturation targets.

On the second day of his visit to the panchayat, Dr Singla inspected the facilities at Health Sub Centre Mathwar, Government High School Mathwar, Anganwari Centres and Middle School Kalyar.

He also inspected the works taken up by the Rural Development Department in the panchayat including community hall construction and works under Back to Village phase III besides assessing works being done under Jal Shakti Department. Dr Singla also inaugurated 63 KVA transformer in the panchayat.



GAD Secy Dr Piyush Singla during visit to Mathwar.

and issues urging for an early redressal of the same.

Secretary issued on spot instructions to the concerned departments for speedy redressal of the projected issues on priority. He emphasized the need of strong coordination among the government departments and local PRI members for enhanced grievance redressal and implementation of development works on ground. On the occasion, Secretary

Niyawat Mathwar and inspected the facilities being provided by the Revenue Department.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of ongoing development works in the area and take up sanctioned new works at the earliest for overall development of the panchayat. He assured the PRI members and the locals that regular monitoring of development works will be ensured at all levels in the panchayat.