

# Jammu to wear a new look by June 2023: CS

**\* Assesses pace of various beautification, developmental works**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today had a whirlwind tour of Jammu City. He visited different works taken up under Smart City projects and meant to add to the beauty and aesthetics of the heritage city.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; MD, Cable Car Corporation;



CS Dr Arun Kumar during visit to Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu.

Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society; Jt Commissioner, JMC and many other officers of Police and Civil administration.

Dr Mehta observed that the face of Jammu is going to change for better by June next year. He said that the city is fast changing its outlook and enhancing its value in terms of tourist appeal. He added that the ongoing projects along with those under progress would give a massive facelift to the city and would emerge as a major tourist attraction.

The Chief Secretary visited different project sites taken in hand under Smart City Mission. He took stock of the progress of work and simultaneously passed on several directions for early completion of each of them.

At Mubarak Mandi, the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to throw the completed portions of the heritage buildings open for public by mid December. He asked them to start the cultural and other folk

activities in the complex depicting the rich history and traditions of Jammu.

He also asked them to clear the complex from different construction material dumped there. He directed them to improve the landscape of the entire area and clear it of any hurdles or obstructions created during construction work.

On visiting the Tawi Barrage and River Front, the Chief Secretary gave strict directions to complete the Barrage by June next year and complete the work

ongoing developmental works in and around the city. He recalled that dozens of projects were completed in the past couple of years which along with the progressing ones are going to make Jammu one of the best places in the country.

The CS also asked for opening of Jambu Zoo to public in the month of January itself. He further mentioned that the Semi-Ring Road project would be taken to its final completion in the month of April. He observed that these would be a major step towards making Jammu city more vibrant, citizen-friendly and congestion-free.

He recounted that projects like newly developed General Bus Stand, Multi-level Car Parking cum Commercial Complex, Vertical Garden from Dogra Chowk to KC Chowk, Jammu-Akhnour Expressway having the longest flyover in J&K, beautification of bridges, PRASAD Lighting of different religious complexes, introduction of electric buses, and other projects of city landscaping and beautification are going to make Jammu the most vibrant cities of the country.

The Chief Secretary was informed that the Tawi River front phase-I is going to be completed soon followed by Phase-II. It includes construction of embankments/ retaining wall with channelized section 250m wide and for a length of 3.5km on both sides. It was given out that raising of barrage height to achieve adequate water height (ponding) at Gujjar Nagar bridge is also part of it.

It was further revealed that the Library cum Cafeteria at Mubarak Mandi is being completed at a cost of Rs 3.29 Cr by JSCL and is going to be completed by May, 2023. It includes developing the space on the heritage characteristics, developing building interiors, providing heritage furniture, proper illumination for exterior and interiors, upgradation of the front court as a sitting area, provision of firefighting, Air conditioning besides other facilities.

on first phase of Tawi River development by then. He remarked that on completion these developmental works would be major tourist attractions in the city.

Dr Mehta also visited the Peer Kho Temple and Bahu Cable Car project. He examined the facilities being provided to the visitors there. He also inspected the site of the Peer Kho Lift and the allied works to be taken in hand there. He called for completing the project within a period of 6 months only.

At Bhag-i-Bahu, the Chief Secretary told the Divisional Commissioner to look into the possibility of combining the garden with the adjacent Aquarium. He stated that both the facilities are augmenting each other and should be offered to public as a package. He also went around the fort and temple area and called for taking measures to make it more appealing and developed.

The Chief Secretary visited other projects like Multi-level parking at Panjirthi and other

## I/c School Education Officers hold convention, discuss demands

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: One-day convention of In-charge School Education Officers was held here today under the chairmanship of Abdul Qayoom Wani, chairman J&K Civil Society forum and chief patron of School Education Officers Association J&K.

Hundreds of In-charge (I/c) Education Officers including retired



In-charge School Education Officers posing together after a convention in Jammu.

and working Principals/ZEOs/Headmasters/ZEOs from all the districts of J&K and Ladakh were present on the occasion. Various demands put forth including long pending regularization/confirmation of Education officers including Principals/ZEOs/ Headmasters/ZEOs.

The participants and leaders of Association in one voice passed a resolution that their long pending demands may be fulfilled within scheduled time as assured by the Principal Secretary School Education Department Alok Kumar and Special Secretary Kanika Devi and Nasir Ahmed Wani up to

## Ancient sculpture recovered in Kulgam

*Excelsior Correspondent*

SRINAGAR, Nov 20: An ancient sculpture carved in a black stone was recovered in Devsar village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district today.

An official said that today a digging for construction of a bridge was started by JCB at Lankarpombay area of Devsar during which a black stone was spotted by some workers, who accordingly informed the police.

He said that soon after getting information, Police rushed to the spot and took the carved stone into their possession.

Meanwhile, a police official said the sculpture is carved in a black stone. "It is being handed over to the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K Government," he said.

must have to be ready for fight regarding the long pending demands of confirmation in a peaceful way and nobody can debar us for highlighting our demand which is unsettled since long.

He urged the retired and in-service officers of Education Department to wake up for their own deprived rights. Wani said J&K In-charge Education Officers' Association is minutely observing the issue and will go for the press conference in the first week of December for future course of action if things would have been seen otherwise.

Other prominent persons who spoke on the occasion were Bhopinder Shastri and Dabir Singh from Jammu, Gulam Qadir Dar and M Y Zagoo from Srinagar, Abdul Rashid and Gulam Hassan from Doda, Parshotam Kumar and Rajesh Sharma from Udhampur, Mohd Maroof from Rajouri, Ashraf Mohd from Rajouri, Mir Ali from Kishtwar, Nazir Ahmed from Poonch and Charan Dass from Kathua.

## Youth hangs self to death

*Excelsior Correspondent*

UDHAMPUR, Nov 20: The dead body of a young man was found hanging in his house at village Pathi in Udhampur under mysterious circumstances.

According to sources the body of one Madan Lal (27), son of Shonku Rama, resident of Pathi village, Tehsil Udhampur was found hanging from the wooden 'Shehter' with the help of a shawl at his residential kucha house.

The police said the death of deceased occurred under suspicious circumstances and the matter pertains to human life and to ascertain the actual cause of death, an inquest proceeding u/s 174 CRPC has been initiated.

The dead body of the deceased person was sent to DH Udhampur, for postmortem.

# Justice Nargal inspects courts at Doda, Bhandarwah

**\*Lays stress on use of technology by Judicial Officers**

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for district Doda today inspected the courts of district and distributed equipments like wheel-chairs, crutches and hearing aids to specially abled persons belonging to vulnerable and



Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal chairing a meeting at Doda on Sunday.

marginalized sections of society in collaboration with Social Welfare Department.

Justice Nargal also distributed cheques to eight claimants in connection with the motor accident claims amounting to more than Rs 25 lakh.

Interacting with Judicial Officers of the district, Justice Nargal emphasized, "since district judiciary is the first point of interface with public/ litigants, conduct and the efficiency of district judiciary therefore is the reflection of efficacy of the institution as a whole in the estimation of general public", adding "not only issuance of timely orders to the litigants is needed to be ensured, but they also need to be heard, not mechanically, but comprehensively".

Justice Nargal further said that judges should be respectful, patient, dignified and courteous with all those whom they come across with in the course of official work. He underlined the importance of indomitable courage to be shown by following due process of law so that faith of people in the supremacy of law is neither dented nor

eroded. He also laid stress on use of technology by Judicial Officers in the course of performance of judicial function as far as possible. Echoing the words of Chief Justice of India, Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud on use of technology, Justice Nargal said, "we need to adapt to technology because technology is here to stay and it must be

etc were discussed threadbare in the meeting and necessary instructions were issued to the concerned for doing the needful at their respective end in time bound manner. He pointed out, "district administration and police are amongst such stake holders in justice delivery system who need to work cohesively and collectively alongside judiciary in order to achieve the goal of effective and impactful administration of justice to all, irrespective of people's caste, creed, race, religion, language and gender".

Later, Justice Nargal inspected courts at Bhandarwah and interacted with the bar members. While taking feedback on the reconstruction of record lost/gutted in the fire incident, Justice Nargal advised that necessary safety measures must be taken in consultation with Fire & Emergency Services Department so that such incidents can be avoided in future.

He directed Principal District and Sessions Judge Bhandarwah and Additional District & Sessions Judge Doda to immediately have a joint meeting with officials of Fire & Emergency Department and Power Development Department so that fire safety audits can be undertaken in order to put in place adequate measures to ensure that incidents of fire do not take place in court buildings in future.

He also directed Principal District & Sessions Judge Bhandarwah to ensure simultaneous e-filing of cases and also to organize orientation courses for staff members and members of bar association. Sunil Gupta, Principal District & Sessions Judge Bhandarwah delivered the welcome address while Amarjeet Singh Langleh, Additional District & Sessions Judge Doda delivered the vote of thanks.

The issues regarding infrastructure, security in court premises of the district, difficulties faced by under-trial prisoners



Office bearers of various teaching and non-teaching associations of erstwhile State Universities during a meeting in Jammu.

## JAC against JK Public University Bill framed

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: In a joint meet, office bearers of teaching and non-teaching associations of erstwhile State Universities namely University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir constituted a Joint Action Committee (JAC) against the JK Public University Bill - 2022.

Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology - Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ), Non-Teaching Associations of Jammu University and SKUAST-Jammu and Scientists/Teachers Association (SSITA) of SKUAST-Kashmir (in online mode) attended this joint meeting in which the members of various associations/unions of State Varsitys expressed a deep sense of disappointment/dismay on the manner in which this bill has been proposed and recently passed by SAC without bringing it in the public domain and without taking the stake holders into confidence.

The associations expressed that it is a blow to the very concept of the University Autonomy, both in administrative and academic terms as many of the provisions of the bill are retrogressive in nature and are against the academic freedom of the University. The members of associations of erstwhile State Universities took a strong note of this anti-university bill and stressed that Universities are autonomous bodies, their teachers are not Government servants and hence it will be a terrible loss to nation's public/intellectual life, if the University teachers are brought within the definition of "Public Servants" under the section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 as proposed in the bill.

Further, Joint Action Committee (JAC PUB) have also rejected the Inter University transfer for the University Teachers who devote much of their time for research apart from class room teaching and showed their concern that if such policies are adopted, the research culture of the universities will be collapsed totally.

The meeting was addressed by Professor Pankaj Srivastava (president JUTA), Dr Vikas Sharma (president SKUAST-TAJ), Dr Manoj Bhatt (vice president JUTA), Dr Ravinder Singh (secretary JUTA), Dr Amitesh Sharma (executive, SKUAST-TAJ), Dr Rakesh Chib (president, JU Non-Teaching Employees Union) and Zamir-ul-Haq (general secretary, NTEA SKUAST-J).

## Prominent industrialist Vijay Aggarwal passes away

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: Vijay Aggarwal, a prominent industrialist, social activist and president of Association of Industries Samba, passed away yesterday due to sudden cardiac arrest.

Aggarwal is survived by his wife, two sons and grand children. Starting at a very young age, he rose to become a successful businessman as well as a great philanthropist. During his lifetime, he donned many hats and performed many charitable duties selflessly.

To mention few of his achievements, he remained presi-

# Cong duty bound to represent people's aspirations: PCC chief

*Excelsior Correspondent*

KUPWARA, Nov 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Party Committee president, Vikar Rasool Wani today said Congress is duty bound to serve and represent people's urges and aspirations at every appropriate forum.

The party will continue its fight against policies detrimental to the interests of people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have witnessed only unemployment, economic downfall, restlessness, lack of development and many other difficulties since the BJP Govt assumed power at Centre.

While addressing Party workers convention at Cheepora in Lolab area of Kupwara district today Wani expressed confidence that Congress Party is strong in J&K even in far-flung areas like Kupwara and elsewhere. It is the Congress party alone which has always represented and served people equally, without any discrimination.

Wani slammed the BJP Govt at the Centre for disappointing people of Jammu & Kashmir on every front, terming the Centre's attitude towards J&K as step-motherly and unfortunate. He said BJP Govt is not doing justice to J&K by abandoning the

democratic rights in order to serve its political ends and enacting different stories to continue ruling J&K through remote control Wani added and sought explanation from the Centre with regard to holding of Assembly elections.

JKPCC president laid emphasizes over holding of elections after restoring Statehood to J&K as assured by the Centre on the floor of the 'House' and asked the BJP Govt to shun confrontation path and adopt pro J&K Policies to ensure that people come out of the morass and confusion created by it.

Ghulam Nabi Monga also censured both Centre and State Govt for failing to curb unemployment menace and addressing developmental issues and demanded that Centre should come out with a special employment package for J&K Youth to ensure that they live a dignified life and also demanded developmental package for J&K.

Senior Congress leaders Nazir Ahmad Lone, Irshad Ahmad Ganie, Javed Ahmad Mir, Shabrooz Hassan, Ghulam Hassan Dar, Gulsher Khan, Bashir Ahmad Khan, Fayaz Ahmad Khan, Firdous Ahmad Wani and others were also present on the occasion.



RPO Jammu Nishith Kumar Shil receiving award during conference of RPOs at New Delhi.

## Passport Office Jammu wins Best Performance Award

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 20: Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has conferred Best Performance Award to Regional Passport Office Jammu under special category for achieving high standard Passport service delivery to the citizens during the year 2021-22 on the gala event of Regional Passport Officer's conference, which concluded yesterday in New Delhi.

Informing this, thrilled Nishith Kumar Shil, Regional Passport Officer (RPO) Jammu said that winning Passport Award is absolutely overwhelming, morale boosting and icing on the cake. It is recognition of hard work, dedication, meritorious and exceptional pro citizen service rendered by Jammu Passport officials. This is a kind of recognition a Government office in public service always aspire for.

He gave all credit to his staff and officers working in PO Jammu for the award. He also acknowledged support and cooperation given by every stakeholder especially J&K Police/CID & Postal Department in this journey. "My entire team of PO Jammu has achieved what it truly deserves."

We really feel appreciated, honoured and more encouraged. Thanks to my Ministry for choosing us for the big moment," he added.

Expressing his happiness, Shil reiterated that this recognition would go a long way in motivating his staff and office in pursuit of further excellence in pro active and pro citizen manner. "Common citizen is always at our heart. We are fully committed to constantly strive hard and deliver services to them in a convenient, cordial, transparent, efficient and effective manner," he asserted.

The RPO Jammu said that in order to further improve corollary amenities, facilities, delivery mechanisms, procedural needs, enrich the experience of passport making experience and deliver our services to the public in a more comfortable atmosphere, shifting location of our Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) to a more suitable place with a bigger space is must.

Shil urged his staff and TCS partner to go on overdrive to excel what they have already achieved. He said that they possess ability in scaling new height and create history in service to the people and nation under the guidance of MEA.

## Plus 2 officers demand filling up of vacant posts, regularisation

*Excelsior Correspondent*

KATHUA, Nov 20: All J&K Plus 2 Officers Association held an interactive session in district Kathua at two places including HSS Forelan, and at the far flung hilly terrains HSS Bani, in the district.

At HSS Forelan, the lecturers and principals discussed the problems being faced by the teaching community at various institutions in district.

The main demands included regularisation of in charge lecturers, headmasters, ZEOs and every where all the participants voiced the concern of problem of vacancies of teachers including lecturers, masters etc.

As district Kathua is the gateway of JK and Ladakh UTs but facing acute shortage of teaching staff almost at every institution.

There are vacancies of principals, headmasters, ZEOs & principals.

The Chief Education Officer, Kathua exhorted on the teaching community to support it for the welfare of students and the department.

While addressing the gathering the president Dr.P.P.Raina stressed on the teaching community to work hard with honesty and discipline so that the future of the students in Government schools is secured as the stu-

dents are the leaders and administrators of tomorrow.

He appealed to the Principal Secretary to fill all vacancies of principals, lecturers, ZEOs and headmasters at an earliest in the interest of students due to the peak of current academic session and regularise all in charge incumbents in one go at an earliest.

Another function of the Association was held in HSS Bani, where officers listed their demands and issues as already discussed including MACP, implementation of ATD for teachers and masters, regularisation, filling up of all vacant positions in all subjects in entire JKUT, vocational status to all lecturers and principals, strengthening of the complex cluster system, shifting of lecturers of those subjects with zero enrolment of students to other HS Schools with enrolment.

As a first hand ground assessment of the area it has been observed that there is about 1200 students in Government Higher Secondary School Bani Kathua but has only one post of subject English. The Association leaders appealed the Principal Secretary SED to adjust at least two more lecturers in English, so that the students may get a sigh of relief and the over burdened lecturer may also feel comfortable.