

25 lakh Digital Life Certificates for Pensioners in 20 days: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: 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 announced here today that 25 lakh Digital Life Certificates for Central Government Pensioners had been generated in just 20 days and lauded the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare for having undertaken this nation-wide campaign.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at Media Centre, New Delhi on Monday.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the specific cities covered so far are Delhi, Noida, Chandigarh, Mohali, Jammu, Srinagar, Nagpur, Pune, Allahabad, Jalandhar, Gwalior, Thrisur, Madurai, Nagercoil, Varodara, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Ambarnath (Mumbai), Bhubhneswar, Balaasore, Cuttack, Thiruvanthapuram, & Jaipur. He said, in the following two weeks this department will conduct 14 more DLC awareness camps in different parts of the country. The campaign was widely appreciated by the pensioners residing in different parts of country, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Department of Pension organized special awareness camps from 1st to 19th November, 2022 in different cities all over India from Srinagar in the North to Nagercoil (Kanyakumari District) in the South and from Guwahati in the East to Ahmedabad in the West. He said, out of 25 lakh DLCs, 2.20 lakhs have been created through Face authentication by latest Face Recognition Technology, thus providing a huge relief, specially to the aged and infirm elderly population.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the objective of this nation-wide campaign is to promote the use of Face Authentication technology and DLC thereby ensuring transparency and "Ease of Usage". He said, all the registered Pensioners' Associations, Pension Disbursing Banks, Ministries of Government of India and CGHS Centres had been directed to promote the

important activity to be carried out by pensioners every year in the month of November (with special provision for pensioners aged 80 years and above to submit their Life Certificates in the month of October) to ensure continuity of their pension.

As per this facility, the identity of a person is established through face recognition technique and DLC gets generated. He added that this breakthrough technology, launched in November 2021, reduced the dependence of pensioners on external biometric devices and made the process more accessible and affordable to masses by leveraging smartphone-based technology. The Minister said, this was a milestone achievement in ensuring 'Ease of Living' for the elderly.

The nation-wide campaign was conducted by the officials of DoPPW with the help of State Bank of India (SBI) & Punjab National Bank (PNB), who sponsored the campaign sites. The campaign saw the active participation of registered Central Government Pensioner Associations, the representatives of Indian Post & Payment Bank (IPPB), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), National Informatics Centre (NIC) as well as Contoller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) in every city.

Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and DARPG, V. Srinivas said on the occasion that to enhance 'Ease of Living' for Central Government pensioners, DoPPW has been promoting Digital Life Certificate i.e. Jeevan Pramaan extensively. He said, initially biometrics was commenced and thereafter the Department roped in the 50 registered Pensioners' Associations in different cities to promote DLCs.

He appealed the students and scientists for taking the technology generated in the laboratory to the farmer's fields for enhanced productivity. He motivated the farmers to adopt technologies generated by the university to increase their income.

Chief Secretary informed that the target of rejuvenating 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district has been successfully achieved in a record time. He felicitated

the panchayats which have rejuvenated the community ponds of their area besides honouring the best maintained lawns, parks and roof gardens of Jammu.

He also felicitated Barbi panchayat of Jammu district, Smailpur panchayat of Samba district, Gara panchayat of Kathua district and Mari panchayat of Reasi/ Udhampur district as best in the category of community ponds. He also awarded Ghanti, Kiank Jagir of Jammu, Badhori and Patti of Samba, Merath and Rasoh of Kathua, Lehnu and Panthal of Reasi/Udhampur.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, congratulated the Vice Chancellor, Professor J P Sharma for suc-

cessful completion of mela as it was an amalgamation of diverse institutes, universities, development departments, banks, NABARD, schools and colleges who exhibited their technologies and products.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu expressed satisfaction over successful completion of 5 day long Krishak Mela. He informed the house that during the five day long mela, products and technologies were displayed on 265 stalls and 14,000 visitors attended the event.

Dr. M J Khan, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture, informed that, as per ADB report, India shall be the biggest global economy by 2050.

On the occasion, Memorandums of Understanding between Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture and SKUAST Jammu as well as between Manu Krishi and SKUAST-Jammu were signed.

During the concluding day, awards in different categories were also distributed among the winners. Publications by the scientists were also released by the dignitaries.

Punjab Singh a progressive dairy farmer a native of Chatha Farm Jammu who has been selected for the best Dairy Farmer Award for 2022 of JK UT by the State Animal Husbandry Department and Sher-i Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST-J).

The award comprises of a certificate prize of citation and trophy. The Award was given to him by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Atul Duloo at a function at Jammu on Monday.

SKUAST-J will soon be one of the premier agricultural institutions of country: CS

* 5-day Krishak Mela concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: The five day long Krishak Mela 2022, organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu, concluded here today with Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, chairing the valedictory ceremony.



CS Dr Arun K Mehta during Krishak Mela organized by SKUAST Jammu.

The Chief Secretary interacted with the farmers, entrepreneurs, startups and the visitors of the event. He appreciated the efforts of the University for organizing such a mega event which was a blend of ideas, knowledge, innovation and entertainment.

Chief Secretary, while addressing the gathering, was optimistic that SKUAST Jammu will be one of the leading and premier agricultural institutions of the country in the coming years. He termed the event as youthful live mela with active involvement of students not only from SKUAST Jammu but from the nearby colleges and schools.

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Chairman Indian Chamber of Food & Agri call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: Dr MJ Khan, Chairman Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Dr Khan discussed with the Lt Governor about the promotion of agro-ventures in collaboration with Banking and Industrial sector, export of local agriculture

products, creating opportunities for value addition & market linkages, improving supply chain & quality of products, encouraging Agri-preneurs and establishment of Agri- Export Corporation.

The Lt Governor, while interacting with the Chairman of Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture, shared the vision of the UT Government for the holistic development and growth of agriculture & allied sectors.

J&K victim of wrong policies of Central Govt: PCC chief

Excelsior Correspondent

HANDWARA, Nov 21: J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani today said that BJP Govt at the Centre has failed to come up to the expectations of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Mishandling of situation and enacting different stories with regard to restoration of democratic process, development and employment besides promises on resolution of other issues have fallen flat whilst the policies adopted by both Centre and State Govt toward J&K have disappointed and caused enormous inconvenience to people," Wani said while addressing workers' convention at Handwara.

Vikar Wani blamed Central Govt for failing to address genuine needs of the people and said they (people)are feeling betrayed and cheated, given the wrong policies and failures of BJP Govt on all fronts. So called good governance and developmental claims nowhere to be seen. The series of back to village programmes both in Jammu as well as in Kashmir at the cost of Govt exchequer have so far yielded no results, with the result, people have started realizing that Central Govt only wants divert the attention of the people from real issues under the garb of B2Vs.

JKPCC chief said elections are being delayed on one pretext or the other, but that will not hide the anti-people policies of the BJP Govt at Centre, rather it will further expose it (BJP).

Since the BJP Govt assumed power at Centre the developmental process, employment generation, development of rural and poor people and many other significant measures benefitting people directly initiated by the UPA-I and UPA-II have received serious setbacks, the irony is Modi Govt is making false claims with regard to development and unemployment which has risen considerably, unprecedented price hike on essentials and other required items have depressed people economically to a largest extent, PCC chief rued.

Wani also slammed the State Govt for failing to address the grievances of people and said digging roads and filling these cannot be called development, the reality is that developmental process has taken a back seat under the BJP Govt while as people are only observing inauguration of series of projects being done on daily basis.

Senior Party leader Mohd Anwar Bhat, Irshad Ahmad Ganie, Javed Ahmad Mir, Nazir Ahmad Lone, Bashir Khan and others also addressed the convention.

Court denies bail to Tehsildar Bahu in trap case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina today rejected the bail application of Rohit Sharma, Tehsildar Bahu Jammu, who was caught red-handed by the Anticorruption Bureau while accepting bribe Rs 50,000.

The conspectus of the case as built by the prosecution against the accused applicant is that a written complaint was received by ACB, Rajouri (Camp Jammu) on 01-11-2022 from the complainant, namely, Sominder Singh alias Sourav, son of Darshan Singh of village Nari, tehsil RS Pura regarding demand of a bribe amount from him by the accused-applicant for issuance of Revenue extract-Fard required for executing a sale deed out of the land of two kanals situated at Thanger near Medicity Hospital, Jammu.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi for the applicant whereas APP Irshad Sheikh for the ACB, the court observed, "as per the status report dated 17-11-2022 the case is at its initial stage and the act of the applicant-accused is highly deplorable, because of which trust of the society at large has been shaken".

"Moreover, in view of the conduct of the applicant, right from the day of registration of FIR, non-cooperation with the investigating agency, custodial questioning of him is required to ascertain some material facts associated with the investigation of the case as well as to ascertain nexus of other persons involved in the case. In case applicant is admitted to bail at this stage, there is every apprehension that he will win over the material witnesses and may threaten the complainant, which will ultimately hamper the investigation", the

court said.

During the course of hearing APP Irshad Sheikh appearing for the ACB submitted that the IO of the case while referring to some startling facts in the CD file, stated that this case is now heading towards the case of disproportionate assets against the accused for which his custody is inevitable.

As per the IO, a bill of Vardhman Jewellers amounting to Rs 1075916 was recovered from the accused pocket and he has purchased gold worth cost lakhs of rupees from the Vardhman Jewellers and some more jewellery he has kept in the custody of jeweller. Moreover, he has made some coded conversations on Whatsapp with around 10 jewellers for which the accused is not decoding the Whatsapp chat.

Further, he has made some coded conversation with his wife about some transactions for which he is not spelling out anything and he has multiple accounts in the banks, has many more transactions which he is not disclosing and is displaying a stubborn attitude. "Granting him bail just after one week of his arrest will derail the ongoing investigation by the ACB and will also demoralize the morale of the ACB which is all committed to expose corruption and corupts in the officialdom", the APP said.

"This court is quite conscious of these principles to be given a salutary status while deciding a bail application. However, in my humble appreciation, they are not to be applied blindly to the case to grant bail to the accused in a platter by the court on mere filing of the bail application, just in recognition of his right to life and liberty", Special Judge Anti-corruption said while rejecting the bail application.

DC Poonch reviews measures to curb drug abuse

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Nov 21: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Inder Jeet today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss the measures to curb the drug abuse in the district.

and also aske CEO Poonch to conduct IEC activities in schools and also provide the list of such users.

He exhorted the stakeholders of department to put in collective efforts to eliminate the drug menace which has deeply penetrated into the society.

He also stressed upon all members to launch a massive awareness campaign across the length and breadth of the district to educate the masses about the ill effects of drugs on health.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rohit Baskotra; Additional District Development Commissioner, Abdul Sattar; ACR, Dr Tanveer Ahmed Khan; Divisional Forest Officer (T), Bashrat Husain and other officers attended the meeting.

Recruitment under academic arrangement unfair, ruining careers: Nurses

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 21: Nursing aspirants including those who are temporarily working in various hospitals today said that the recruitments made on academic arrangement were ruining their careers.

The issue came to the fore after the SKIMS, Soura ordered the disengagement of the nurses who were engaged under the academic arrangement but were shown the door without following the necessary protocol.

When the issue was highlighted, the hospital authorities asked the nurses who were shown the door to apply again for the nurses' posts that were advertised again under the academic arrangement, prompting the aspirants even those who are currently working to criticise the form of recruitment across J&K.

"It is a farce; an illusion as per which you get a job but you do not have a future because the recruitments made are temporary in nature; it is a need-based cadre, but one would ask that if there are vacancies, why can't they hire them permanently," Nabila Bashir, a nursing aspirant who has already worked in several hospitals temporarily said.

The aggrieved nurses said that there is a huge workload in the hospitals, but the manpower is not up to the mark across J&K.

"There sure is a need but one fails to understand, why the authorities are hell-bent to push the eligible people into a dun-

geon where they get paid, but the future remains at stake forever," Muhammad Amir, another nursing aspirant said.

It needs to be noted here that the Indian Nursing Council (INC) discourages temporary recruitments including academic arrangements, however, in J&K such recruitments have remained a norm where the nurses are hired temporarily.

"Why should we be forced to come out to protest, rather, ideally, we being eligible and technically sound, should be taken into the system which needs us keeping in view the dearth of the nursing staff," Junaid Ahmad, another aspiring nurse said.

The nurses demanded that the policy of academic arrangement under which the professionals are hired temporarily should be scrapped and that permanent recruitment must be done to safeguard careers.

"It is nothing, but sheer exploitation of the nursing professionals which they face due to the academic arrangement. We have also seen that the processes of permanent recruitment usually face roadblocks and do not culminate properly," said another nursing aspirant Safia Hamid.

The nursing professionals said that the exploitation needs to stop and the Government must ensure that their services are utilized in a better way where they not only serve the healthcare set-up but also see job security for themselves.

Srinagar Admin retrieves over 75 kanals of prime land worth crores

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 21: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad, the District Administration Srinagar today launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in various parts of the district and retrieved over 75 Kanals of State land at prime locations worth crores of rupees.

The District Administration also raided the illegal mining site at Chandpora Nallah in Tehsil North of the district during mid night and seized three tippers and one JCB, and an FIR was also lodged against the contractor.

A team of Revenue and Police Officers/ Officials headed by Teshildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahamd Khan conducted an anti-encroachment in Sangam area and retrieved 6 kanals of Government land. In this regard, proceedings under 107 CrPC were also initiated against 30 encroachers.

Similarly, anti-encroachment drives were launched in Danihama and Haripora

Harwan areas of North Tehsil of the district during which about 70 kanals of state land was retrieved from the land grabbers. The teams headed by Tehsildar North, Kaiser Mehmood removed 20 kanals of state land at Danihama, while 50 kanals of state land was also retrieved at Haripora, Harwan.

Besides, in order to control the process of illegal mining in the district, the special teams on the directions of the District Magistrate Srinagar also conducted a surprise raid at illegal mining site at Chandpora Nallah in Tehsil North of the district in the midnight and seized three tippers and one JCB. In addition an FIR was also lodged against the contractor in this regard.

Speaking about the anti-encroachment drive undertaken to preserve Government land, the DC said that anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire state and kachharai lands encroached by the land grabbers. He said involvement in land encroachment will be dealt with sternly as per the law.

Kashmir starting to embrace film industry: Durrani

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Nov 21: Actor Zain Khan Durrani today said that Kashmir has become more accessible to the film industry as a result of the emergence of various production houses that not only give locals employment possibilities but also support a healthy work environment.

Zain was in Srinagar to promote his spy thriller series "Mukhbir: The Story of a Spy". He said that in order to alter the perception that has evolved over time, several stories about Kashmiri culture and history need to be told.



Actor Zain Khan Durrani addressing media conference in Srinagar. — Excelsior/Shakeel

"Kashmir is now opening up to films. Recently, production has grown in popularity. There are numerous new production houses that employ people. In addition to providing employment opportunities, it also influences workplace culture. The visitors that come to work here can teach us. It changes the culture of the workplace," he said.

Zain, who is a Kashmiri, said that they need to establish production studios and support local talent, just like they do in the South if Kashmiris want to

tell or present their own stories. "It would take time for cinema to evolve here," he said.

He claimed that although there are a lot of stories worth telling, those outside Kashmir just have a small perspective and focus on the newsworthy events. "We must bring change inside ourselves if we want the entire nation to view the stories from Kashmir, and that too from a fresh angle, we have to show different stories from here that are yet to be explored," he said, adding that it is his responsibility to show stories related to culture and history.

According to Durrani, who made his feature film debut with Onir's "Kuchh Bheege Alfaaz," "Mukhbir" offers a close-up perspective on the selfless sacrifices made by spies for their country without ever being identified or praised. "This web series' primary goal is to draw attention to that element. A minor aspect of the story is Kashmir. The story is not set in Kashmir as a result," he said.

Even though the series makes references to Kashmir, he said, the actual plot is about a person, his journey to becoming a spy, and the sacrifices he made. "It is also about the effect he has on the people whose lives he touches," he said. The movie "Mukhbir" tells the forgotten tale of an Indian secret agent who helped his nation dodge many hostile invasion attempts by the opposing nation by giving intelligence and by supporting India's victory in the 1965 War.

The series is produced by Victor Tango Entertainment and directed by Shivam Nair and Jayprad Desai. It also features Prakash Raj and Adil Hussain.

DC Samba reviews implementation of PM-KUSUM Scheme

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Nov 21: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress made under Prime Minister Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) in the district.

At the outset, Senior Technical Officer, JAKEDA apprised the meeting that so far 30 Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps have been installed in the district.

He said a number of applications have been received by JAKEDA but due to lack of requisite documents and formalities the same could not be processed

under the scheme. The DC impressed upon JAKEDA to furnish the list of applications having deficiencies of requisite documents so that the same could be taken up with concerned stakeholders.

She called upon the stakeholder departments viz Horticulture, Agriculture and Floriculture to furnish all documents with applications to extend the benefits of the scheme to maximum number of farmers.

Superintendent Engineer JPDCU was asked to identify the feeder having maximum concentration of irrigation pumps to promote solarization of agriculture pumps under the PM-KUSUM scheme.

Deepak Sharma, Sr. Technical officer JAKEDA, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Tehsildar HQ, besides other officers were also present in the meeting.



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting at Jammu.

Div Com reviews arrangements for JKSSB Exam

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today convened a meeting to review the preparations for forthcoming written examination to be conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for various posts.

Chairman JKSSB, Rajesh Sharma; Additional Commissioner, Pankaj Katoch; SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli; Joint Director Information, Sapna Kotwal; Secretary JKSSB, Sachin Jamwal; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta and other concerned officers attended the meeting in person while Deputy Commissioners Samba & Kathua and SSPs of Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The meeting discussed measures to be taken at different levels to ensure fair and smooth conduct of the exams.

While giving details of the forthcoming exams, the Chairman JKSSB informed that the Board has initiated the process for conducting written examination for selection against different posts through Computer Based Test (CBT) from November 29, 2022.

"For the purpose dedicated centres have been identified in 4 districts of Jammu Division i.e Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua & Samba," he informed. It was further informed that the test for Horticulture Technician Grade IV and Junior Stenographer have been scheduled from November 29, 2022, while the exam for Junior Engineer Civil (Jal Shakti Department) Exam would be conducted from December 5 to December 6, 2022 and the examinations for the post of Sub Inspector (Home Department) is scheduled to be held from December 7 to Dec 20.

Giving details of steps taken, the meeting was informed that the Board has resorted to Third Party Audit of Computer Centres and installation of jammers in the exam centres for free and fair conduct of the test(s).

Maintaining that the credibility of centers was the vital factor in ensuring conduct of fair and transparent examinations, the Div Com directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to thoroughly scrutinize the conduct and past history of the identified center well before the start of examinations. He also asked the DCs and SSPs to inform JKSSB about the adverse report against the identified centres, if any. He stressed on putting in all possible measures for foolproof security, maintenance of law and order, provision of logistic support for successful conduct of examinations.

The SSPs were directed to deploy an adequate number of men and women police personnel for frisking and other arrangements at various centres.

UTLHPC constituted for strategic urban planning in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 21: Government of Jammu and Kashmir today constituted a Union Territory Level High Powered Committee (UTLHPC) for strategic urban planning in J&K.

Urban Development Department, the committee shall frame the action plan for implementation of the remedial measures/recommendation of CHLC for strengthening urban planning of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Divisional Commissioner of both Kashmir and Jammu, Chief Town Planner Jammu/Kashmir, representatives of World Resources Institute (WRI) India, Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) Bengaluru, NIUA New Delhi, JANAAAGRAHA Bangalore, IIPA New Delhi and others are members of the committee.