

Dr Jitendra holds online feedback session with his constituency PRI representatives

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: In a novel initiative, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today held an online feedback session with his constituency Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives. The feedback included inputs regarding the progress of development work in the particular region, implementation of Party programmes and the public mood in general.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh holding an online feedback session with PRI representatives of his constituency, on Sunday.

The session, lasting three hours, was held in three separate groups consisting of PRI representatives from relatively peripheral areas of the two districts of Kathua and Udhampur respectively. Each group was comprised of an assorted combination of mostly Sarpanchs and Panchs with a few DDC members and BJYM office bearers.

Underlining the significance of this initiative, Dr Singh noted that recently under the Lok Sabha Pravas Yojana, a practice had been started wherein if he was physically visiting one dis-

trict of Uttar Pradesh, there would be an online feedback meeting with the other district which was not being physically visited at that time. He said, learning from this experience, he had decided that while his regular weekly visits to one of the six districts of the constituency, by turn, will continue as has been the routine followed by him in last nine years, he would simultaneously be holding online sessions with the rep-

representatives and workers of the particular district not visited physically during that week. Singh appreciated his Parliamentary office teams at Jammu and New Delhi for having put the system in place for this purpose. During the meeting, Panchs and Sarpanchs unanimously held the view that in the last nine years, not a single week had passed when as an MP, Dr Jitendra Singh had not visited one or other district of his constituency and even during the COVID pandemic, he maintained regular contact, through telephone or video con-

ference, to know about the well-being of Party workers. This new initiative, they said, will not only widen the network of real-time contact but also enable the introduction of new technology modes of contact between the elected representatives and the electorate. Since today's meeting was primarily confined to the elected representatives and Party workers of the two districts of Kathua and Udhampur, DC Kathua Rahul Pandey and DC Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna respectively were also brought on line simultaneously for instant response to some of the issues raised by those attending the meeting.

During the meeting, suggestions were put across by Panchs and Sarpanchs about the new roads to be constructed in their respective territories under Central PMGSY and CRF schemes. Dr Jitendra Singh said, he had issued instructions right from the beginning that in the choice of PMGSY roads to be built, first priority is to be given to the proposed roads suggested by Panchs, Sarpanchs and other PRI representatives, because they are the immediate representatives of the area.

Dr Singh also suggested that the BJYM and Kisan Morcha members should come forward to extend the Aroma Mission and Lavender cultivation in the Banni-Billawar belt on the same lines as has been done in districts Doda and Reasi.

launched Rozgar Mela and on spot placement drive. Congratulating the winners of the athletics meet and new recruits, he Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Government towards the aspirations of the younger population. "We are empowering our youth for tomorrow. Ongoing training & skill development and Apprentice Mela are aimed to boost their career prospects and build an entrepreneurship ecosystem. We have ensured financial resources & start-up support services to encourage new business creation," said the Lt Governor.

He said, the UT administration is moving ahead in a planned manner & in consultation with stakeholders to provide all the support to our youth to realize their dream. "We are always ready to listen to the Common man, farmer, laborer, businessman, employee, and make necessary intervention to safeguarding their interest," he observed.

The Lt Governor shared the

Rozgar Mela, on spot placement drive launched 30,000 jobs given in 3 years, 20,000 more vacancies to be filled: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Youth Festival today at BSF Camp, Paloura, Jammu and felicitated the beneficiaries of Mission Youth's schemes, athletes and new recruits of Agniveer & Jammu Kashmir Police.

On the occasion, Sinha also

new milestones achieved by the J&K in Youth Empowerment under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Our Youth are converting the opportunities into infinite possibilities to fulfill the vision of strong & Atmanirbhar J&K," said the Lt Governor.

J&K UT had established the highest number of PMEGP units

running about 17 self-employment schemes and employment fairs are also being organized in every district, in which the private companies from across the country are providing on spot offers to youth.

Jammu Kashmir, which used to be at the bottom of the medal tally, is now bringing laurels to the nation at the international events. 'My Youth, My Pride', University Athletic Championship and LG Rolling Trophy are providing a proper platform to lakhs of budding sportspersons. More than 50 lakh children and youth get the sporting opportunity under My Youth, My Pride and 42,000 youth from the Union Territory participated in the LG Rolling Cricket Trophy, he noted.

He also informed about the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela to be organized on March 20 in 6 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the trainers and officials associated with Center for District Youth Training and Empowerment Trainees (C-DYTE) and advised them for upskilling and developing new skills among the youth as per the modern day requirements.

15 C-DYTE centres in Jammu district alone are providing development training to the youth of 300 villages of the district.

The Youth Festival was organized by district administration Jammu in collaboration with Mission Youth. Entrepreneurs, who have benefited from the schemes of different departments, were also felicitated with appreciation certificates. Best instructors awards were given to instructors of C-DYTE on the occasion.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; senior officers of J&K Police, BSF & civil administration, prominent citizens and youth in large numbers were present.



Lt Manoj Sinha felicitating youth at 'Youth Festival' at BSF Campus, Paloura on Sunday.

launched Rozgar Mela and on spot placement drive.

Congratulating the winners of the athletics meet and new recruits, he Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Government towards the aspirations of the younger population.

"We are empowering our youth for tomorrow. Ongoing training & skill development and Apprentice Mela are aimed to boost their career prospects and build an entrepreneurship ecosystem. We have ensured financial resources & start-up support services to encourage new business creation," said the Lt Governor.

He said, the UT administration is moving ahead in a planned manner & in consultation with stakeholders to provide all the support to our youth to realize their dream.

"We are always ready to listen to the Common man, farmer, laborer, businessman, employee, and make necessary intervention to safeguarding their interest," he observed.

The Lt Governor shared the

running about 17 self-employment schemes and employment fairs are also being organized in every district, in which the private companies from across the country are providing on spot offers to youth.

Jammu Kashmir, which used to be at the bottom of the medal tally, is now bringing laurels to the nation at the international events. 'My Youth, My Pride', University Athletic Championship and LG Rolling Trophy are providing a proper platform to lakhs of budding sportspersons. More than 50 lakh children and youth get the sporting opportunity under My Youth, My Pride and 42,000 youth from the Union Territory participated in the LG Rolling Cricket Trophy, he noted.

He also informed about the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela to be organized on March 20 in 6 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the trainers and officials associated with Center for District Youth Training and Empowerment Trainees (C-DYTE) and advised them for upskilling and developing new skills among the youth as per the modern day requirements.

15 C-DYTE centres in Jammu district alone are providing development training to the youth of 300 villages of the district.

The Youth Festival was organized by district administration Jammu in collaboration with Mission Youth. Entrepreneurs, who have benefited from the schemes of different departments, were also felicitated with appreciation certificates. Best instructors awards were given to instructors of C-DYTE on the occasion.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; senior officers of J&K Police, BSF & civil administration, prominent citizens and youth in large numbers were present.

Strengthening party at booth level: Koul BJP identifies 10 Assembly segments in Valley to have better poll prospects

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has identified 10 Assembly constituencies in the Kashmir Valley in which the party can better its poll prospects in coming Assembly elections.

This was informed in a meeting of senior party leaders here, today which was chaired by party general secretary (org) Ashok Koul. He, while addressing the meeting asked the party men to concentrate on these constituencies from today.

The ten constituencies identified in Kashmir included Habakadal, Eidgah, and Central Shalting in Srinagar district of Kashmir Valley, Tral in Pulwama district, Shopian Assembly segment in Shopian district, Gurez in Bandipora district, Karnah in Kupwara district and Baramulla and Uri Assembly segments in Baramulla district.

Party general secretary and in charge Kashmir Affairs, Sunil Sharma besides other leaders were present in the meeting regarding upcoming party programmes and booth Sashaktikaran.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting asked the party leaders to lay emphasis on strengthening the party at booth-level with Assembly election in

menting about the well-being of Party workers. This new initiative, they said, will not only widen the network of real-time contact but also enable the introduction of new technology modes of contact between the elected representatives and the electorate.

Since today's meeting was primarily confined to the elected representatives and Party workers of the two districts of Kathua and Udhampur, DC Kathua Rahul Pandey and DC Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna respectively were also brought on line simultaneously for instant response to some of the issues raised by those attending the meeting.

During the meeting, suggestions were put across by Panchs and Sarpanchs about the new roads to be constructed in their respective territories under Central PMGSY and CRF schemes. Dr Jitendra Singh said, he had issued instructions right from the beginning that in the choice of PMGSY roads to be built, first priority is to be given to the proposed roads suggested by Panchs, Sarpanchs and other PRI representatives, because they are the immediate representatives of the area.

Dr Singh also suggested that the BJYM and Kisan Morcha members should come forward to extend the Aroma Mission and Lavender cultivation in the Banni-Billawar belt on the same lines as has been done in districts Doda and Reasi.

launched Rozgar Mela and on spot placement drive. Congratulating the winners of the athletics meet and new recruits, he Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Government towards the aspirations of the younger population. "We are empowering our youth for tomorrow. Ongoing training & skill development and Apprentice Mela are aimed to boost their career prospects and build an entrepreneurship ecosystem. We have ensured financial resources & start-up support services to encourage new business creation," said the Lt Governor.

He said, the UT administration is moving ahead in a planned manner & in consultation with stakeholders to provide all the support to our youth to realize their dream.

"We are always ready to listen to the Common man, farmer, laborer, businessman, employee, and make necessary intervention to safeguarding their interest," he observed.

The Lt Governor shared the

menting about the well-being of Party workers. This new initiative, they said, will not only widen the network of real-time contact but also enable the introduction of new technology modes of contact between the elected representatives and the electorate.

Since today's meeting was primarily confined to the elected representatives and Party workers of the two districts of Kathua and Udhampur, DC Kathua Rahul Pandey and DC Udhampur Kritika Jyotsna respectively were also brought on line simultaneously for instant response to some of the issues raised by those attending the meeting.

During the meeting, suggestions were put across by Panchs and Sarpanchs about the new roads to be constructed in their respective territories under Central PMGSY and CRF schemes. Dr Jitendra Singh said, he had issued instructions right from the beginning that in the choice of PMGSY roads to be built, first priority is to be given to the proposed roads suggested by Panchs, Sarpanchs and other PRI representatives, because they are the immediate representatives of the area.

Dr Singh also suggested that the BJYM and Kisan Morcha members should come forward to extend the Aroma Mission and Lavender cultivation in the Banni-Billawar belt on the same lines as has been done in districts Doda and Reasi.

launched Rozgar Mela and on spot placement drive. Congratulating the winners of the athletics meet and new recruits, he Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Government towards the aspirations of the younger population. "We are empowering our youth for tomorrow. Ongoing training & skill development and Apprentice Mela are aimed to boost their career prospects and build an entrepreneurship ecosystem. We have ensured financial resources & start-up support services to encourage new business creation," said the Lt Governor.

He said, the UT administration is moving ahead in a planned manner & in consultation with stakeholders to provide all the support to our youth to realize their dream.

"We are always ready to listen to the Common man, farmer, laborer, businessman, employee, and make necessary intervention to safeguarding their interest," he observed.

The Lt Governor shared the

Issues sorted out in meeting taken by AG

Finally, cattle pound to come up on 400 kanals of land at Nagrota

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Forest Department has agreed to allow use of 400 kanals of land in Seri Khurd area of Nagrota tehsil for grazing of the animals and to meet fodder requirement of upcoming cattle pound of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The decision has been taken in a meeting chaired by Advocate General D C Raina and attended by Commissioner Secretary Forest, Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Chief Conservator of Forests, Commissioner JMC and other officers.

In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) titled SAVE Versus State of J&K and Others, the High Court vide order dated December 21, 2022 had requested the Advocate

General to convene meeting with all the concerned authorities to sort out the issues highlighted in the PIL.

In the meeting, the JMC Commissioner submitted that as per the policy of Corporation in vogue, there is no need to shift 59 unregistered dairies in the jurisdiction of JMC to Cattle Pound at Nagrota and licenses may be given to unregistered dairies subject to the fulfillment of certain requisite criteria including scientific disposal of Municipal Solid Waste etc.

It was decided that Forest Department will allow the use of another 400 kanals of adjoining land for grazing and roaming purposes only for the animals which will cater to fodder requirement of JMC for housing a greater number of animals in the cattle pound at Seri Khurd subject to the condition that no construction of structure be done by the JMC.

Moreover, it was decided that the Forest Department will nominate Divisional Forest Officer Jammu as Nodal Officer for settlement of issues related to the cattle pound in coordination with JMC.

The land for the cattle pound has been identified on the directions of the Division Bench of the

High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The then First Puisse Judge Justice Rajesh Bindal passed several orders for having one of the best Gaushalas in Jammu and had also deputed the then Municipal Veterinary Officer to several Northern States including Punjab, Haryana and UP to study the most successful Gaushalas so that similar pattern can be adopted in Jammu.

In the meantime, the Forest Department raised a dispute with the JMC that out of 97 kanals of land identified for the cattle pound, 55 kanals of land belongs to the Forest Department, which resulted in the change of DPR by the JMC. However, the animal NGO SAVE consistently raised its concern before the Division Bench that the land is not adequate for cattle pound and Forest Department has unnecessarily raised the dispute when in a joint demarcation the land had been declared as State land.

On the last date of hearing, the Division Bench headed by Justice Tashi Rabstan, after considering the submissions of Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed appearing for SAVE, requested the Advocate General D C Raina to convene the meeting of concerned authorities to sort out the issues.



Members of JKTJAC meeting at Udhampur on Sunday.

JKTJAC seeks resolutions of teaching fraternity issues

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Mar 5: Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held monthly meeting, here today under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar.

The meeting was attended by the JKTJAC representatives from all the zones of the district who highlighted burning issues of the teaching fraternity and appealed LG administration for resolution of the same.

Demanding provision of comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme, Vinod Sharma said that these teachers have been working in the same schools for last more than 20 years even after the clear directions from High Court and CAT.

Raising the issue of release of Time barred arrears of the Teachers and Masters, he appealed Principal Secretary School Education and Director School Education Jammu to provide necessary permission in this regard so that their liability is not carried forward for the next finan-

cial year. Other issues raised by Vinod Sharma included; regularisation of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period, conversion of RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III as such conversion was delayed in Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar due to Non posting of Joint Director, Conversion of EVs to ReTs, conversion of Headteacher posts into non plan posts of Masters to resolve the salary issue of the masters, raising Grade of Teachers at par with their counterparts in other UTs.

Lekh Raj Parihar, while speaking on the occasion, demanded the release of MDM dues for 2022-23 and previous liability which the Teachers have managed from their own pockets.

Others, who also spoke on the occasion, included Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Suresh Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Balvinder Singh, Vipin Raina, Anil Sharma, Satpal Sharma, Maan Chand Khajuria, Parshant Sharma, Rakesh Rajput, Mohd Mustafa, Som Raj, Sudesh Kumar, Vandana, Beer Bajaj, Pajal, Rekha, Sanjay Sharma, Joginder Kumar, Yash Paul and Raj Kumar.

J&K Waqf Board enhances remuneration of religious leaders by 30 pc

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: In a significant development, Chairperson, Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, has announced to hike by 30% the remuneration of Imams,

ers. Among them are the provisions of relief assistance of up to Rs 1 lakh in case of natural calamity leading to house damage, disease/accidents requiring hospitalisation, library facilities for Imams and Khateeb, bearing of electricity and water bills of the religious leaders by J&K



Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi along with Imaams and Khateeb posing for a group photograph in Srinagar on Sunday.

Khateeb and Muazzins, who are performing their duties on shrines and mosques directly administered by J&K Waqf Board.

The decision in this regard was taken during a high-level meeting chaired by Andrabi with the prominent Imaams and Khateeb, in the conference hall of Waqf Board at Sonawar, Srinagar.

The chairperson Waqf Board also announced to provide adequate accommodation facilities to the Imams and Khateeb, who are posted at far off places.

Further, the Imaams and Khateeb were requested to organise Nazool-e-Quran conferences and other conferences on special occasions.

Assets of J&K put on sale, locals being pushed out of every sector: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 5: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today alleged that assets of J&K were put on sale by the Government while locals have been pushed out of every sector.

Reacting to the latest order on Srinagar Golf course, she said that the sale of Royal Golf Spring is another example of how the Government is "developing" this region post Aug 5 decision. "Everything has been put on 'sale'. This is yet another step to sell our assets to non local businesses," she alleged.

"Kashmir is the oldest golfing destination not just in South Asia but perhaps East of Suez. Gulmarg, Kashmir Golf clubs are the second oldest after Calcutta. Our golf clubs are not mere real estate as Gol is treating the state but an essential part of our identity and heritage," Mehbooba said.

focus on improving the organisation running golf courses and hire experts from anywhere. "Whether Jammu or in Kashmir selling golf courses is unacceptable as we've witnessed that this outsourcing generally ends up in ownerships and irreversibly. Tourism being our key sector, the order says, many properties of JKTDC and Tourism Department are being given out. This is happening when in Gulmarg they are not renewing the leases to the local hoteliers. This looks like taking every important avenue from our hands," she said, adding that on the one hand poor people are being hounded out of what has been theirs for generations and on the other premier assets are up for sale.

Mehbooba alleged that the August 5 decision has led to rampant exploitation of land resources, jobs, and rivers in the region, with outsiders being given preference over locals. "This has resulted in a rise in unemployment, drug abuse, mafia activities, environmental degradation and above all disempowerment and disempowerment of locals," she added.



Chief Secy Dr A K Mehta launching CoE for imparting training in Cyber Security at Jammu.

CS launches CoE for imparting training in Cyber Security

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta launched the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Cyber Security established by the IT Department in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), J&K.

The Centre is slated to be a learning Centre for the officers/officials of the government to know about the latest trends and techniques for ensuring important cyber security of official web portals and websites.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the IT Department to make the training mandatory for the employees of the Department besides creating separate modules for imparting the basic level training to all the employees designated by the departments and a high level skill course for the technically proficient people who would look after the cyber security of government websites and its portals.

Dr Mehta also stressed on making best use of this centre by providing requisite training to the government workforce for the safety of all the cyber assets in view of increased risk and vulnerability. He asked them to keep upgrading the skills of the employees with advancement in technology and techniques.

Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prema Puri during the event also

appreciated that the centre is taking 60 officers/officials each as first batch in Jammu and Srinagar campuses of the NIELIT for their 15-day training/capacity building programme in cyber security. She also maintained that more such batches are going to be given training in the centre in the days ahead to enhance the security of our websites and data available over the internet.

She also revealed that the training course would cover significant topics like cyber crimes, network security, cyber hygiene, cyber forensics, mobile & end user security, Web security & Information security audit etc. She also made out that at the end of the training the trainees would be evaluated about their learning and aptitude gained during this programme.

It was further given out that the successfully trained personnel shall be able to protect the computer systems and networks from cyber security attacks, characterize privacy, legal and ethical issues of information security, identify vulnerabilities critical to the information assets of an organization.

They shall also be able to understand the employability of security controls for confidentiality and integrity of systems and networks, propose solutions including development, modification, and execution of incident response plans, besides applying critical thinking and problem-solving skills to detect cyber attack.

IIM Jammu annual fest concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 5: Annual cultural and management extravaganza, "EMPYREAN'23" of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, concluded here today on a high note.

The fest was a unique blend of entertainment and learning, showcasing the brightest and most artistic minds in the nation.



Director of IIM Jammu and others inaugurating an event during annual fest.

It was formally inaugurated on March 3 by Prof B S Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu in presence of Prof Jabir Ali, Dean Academics and Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu.

The three-day extravaganza featured a plethora of cultural events such as Battle of the Bands, Solo Singing, Fashion Show, Group and Solo Dance performances, and an exciting Gaming Arena. The star attractions featured EDM Night by Pro Bros, comic opera by Divesh Dixit, International EDM by Kevu, and Bollywood night by a popular music duo Meet Bros from the Indian Entertainment sector.

The events provided a platform for the participants to showcase their business acumen and compete with like-minded individuals from different backgrounds. Participants had the hands-on opportunity to show-

case their talents and compete with the best of the best from IIMs, IITs and other institutes across the country. The event was graced by many dignitaries from the Govt and Corporate Sector.

In addition to the cultural events, EMPYREAN'23 also featured an array of management games ranging from Buzz HR, AgriQuiz, Consenza, Healthbuzz, Story Telling, Adflix, IPL Auction, Entrepreneur Quiz, BizzQuiz, and Empreneur.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof B S Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu said: "Empyrean, the annual cultural festival of IIM Jammu, was an event that brought together a diverse group of individuals to celebrate and appreciate the various cultures represented within the institute."

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, said: "Empyrean 2023 is always a fun and memorable experience that brought the community together and showcased some of the best artistic talents from India and abroad."

The entire event was coordinated by the Empyrean-Student committee of IIM Jammu in close coordination with Dr Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs; Dr Apurva Yadav, Co-Chairperson, Student Affairs, and Student Affairs office, IIM Jammu.

The event witnessed performances by renowned national and international artists, where the participants got a chance to interact with industry experts and academicians through various talks and panel discussions.

DC reviews status of land acquisition cases for Govt Projects

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Mar 5: In order to review the status of Land acquisition cases for various govt projects under execution in the District, a meeting of concerned Officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Syed Shabir Ahmad, the meeting was attended by Collector PWD Department/CRP, Collector PDD/Transmission, Collector Land Acquisition Railways, SDM East, SDM West, Collector PHE/Irrigation & Flood Control, Collector LCMA, Collector SDA, Collector, ERA and other concerned.

At the outset a threadbare discussion was held on land acquisition cases and the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the present status of the land acquisition issues and action taken by the concerned authorities.

On the occasion as many as 82 land acquisition cases were taken up in the meeting and the Deputy Commissioner sought case wise details and directed the concerned Officers to expedite the process and resolve the issues, if any, so that developmental works are completed in stipulated time.

The DC stressed on time bound disbursement of land compensation in favour of the affected land owners. He further directed for maintaining inter Department coordination for expeditious resolutions of cases.