

## Chief Secy reviews progress of beneficiary-oriented schemes in J&K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting today to assess the progress of various beneficiary-oriented schemes across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, coordinated by the Planning Department, included the participation of Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners, and other concerned officers. During the session, Dulloo reviewed the progress made in implementing multiple schemes in each district and expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation in certain areas. He urged the Deputy Commissioners to intensify their efforts and ensure the timely execution of these programs. The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of regular monitoring and coordination between district sectoral of-



ficers and the Planning Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD). In addition, Dulloo directed the PD&MD to maintain close tracking of central portals to ensure real-time updates on scheme progress. He called for a strengthened monitoring mechanism to meet

targets and advised implementing departments to make necessary interventions to improve performance. The review covered a wide range of schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), and PMKSY,

implemented by the Agriculture Production Department. The Health Department's schemes, such as ABHA creation and Janani Suraksha Yojana, were also assessed, along with the School Education Department's infrastructure indicators, such as school buildings, electricity, and

sanitation facilities. Social Welfare Department schemes, including ISSS, NSAP, and the State Marriage Assistance Scheme, were reviewed, along with the progress on the Poshan Tracker. The status of Aadhar update for NFSA beneficiaries and ration distribution under the FCS&CA was also evaluated. The meeting further covered the Revenue Department's pending applications for SC/ST/OBC certificates, the distribution of land passbooks to farmers, and the provision of water and power connections to households. Other schemes, involving various line departments, were also scrutinized to ensure targets are met promptly. The Chief Secretary concluded by stressing the need for focused efforts to achieve the desired results within the specified timelines.

## J&K HED discusses budget priorities for 2025-26



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**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary Higher Education, Dr. Rashmi Singh, today held an extensive internal budget meeting to finalise financial plans for the next financial year. The meeting brought together Registrars from universities across the Union Territory and representatives from grant-in-aid colleges. During the discussions, Revised Estimates for 2024-25 and Budget Estimates for 2025-26 were outlined, focussing on the specific requirements of each institution. Special emphasis was placed on addressing placement arrears for major universities, including Jammu University, Kashmir University, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri and Islamic University of Science and Technology Awantipora. Additional support for three

grant-in-aid colleges—Islamia College of Science and Technology, Gandhi College and Vishwa Bharti College Srinagar—was also prioritized. One of the critical issues discussed was the provision of furniture for colleges with completed buildings, where such items were absent from the Detailed Project Reports. The meeting was attended by Director Finance, Director Colleges and other key stakeholders from the department. Registrars, principals and finance officers from the universities and colleges also participated. The department aims to finalise the proposed budget and submit it to the Finance Department within two days. Dr. Rashmi Singh reiterated the commitment to equitable financial allocation, ensuring that all institutions receive the resources necessary to meet their objectives.

## Satish Sharma pays surprise visit to RTO Kashmir; calls for improvements in services

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**JAMMU:** Satish Sharma, the Minister for Transport, FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, today paid a surprise visit to the office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir in Bemina. During the visit, the Minister assessed the office's operations and evaluated the delivery of online services and related activities. Sharma inspected various sections of the RTO and engaged with the public to gather feedback on the functioning of the office and the facilities provided. He en-

couraged visitors to share their views on how the system could be improved and made more efficient. In response to concerns, the Minister issued immediate instructions to the RTO to expedite the issuance process for vehicle registrations and driving licenses. He emphasized the importance of leveraging digital technology to ensure transparency and faster service delivery, with a focus on reducing delays. "The goal is to improve the service experience for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and make government processes more efficient," Sharma said, urging the employees to work with dedi-

cation to meet the expectations of the public. The Minister also visited the revered Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar, where he paid his respects and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and development of the region. During the visit, he met with members of the Dargah Committee to discuss development-related issues. Sharma later visited Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi, where he interacted with the Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee. The committee shared concerns regarding certain local issues, and the Minister assured them of government support in addressing these matters. The visit was part of the



Minister's ongoing efforts to engage with various community organizations to ensure the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir's residents.

## NSF demands High-Level inquiry into Administrative failures at CD&OE, JU

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The National Secular Forum (NSF) has called for a thorough inquiry into the alleged administrative lapses and conspiracies at the Centre for Distance & Online Education (CD&OE) of the University of Jammu (JU). This follows the Centre's failure to secure approval from the Distance Education Bureau (DEB) for four of its 13 proposed courses, raising serious concerns about the institution's governance and its impact on students. At a press conference, Papinder Singh, the Working President of the NSF, accused JU's administration of negligence, stating that "CDOE is suffering due to administrative laxity and conspiracy theories." He explained that the rejection of four courses by the DEB exposes significant deficiencies in the Centre's operations. Singh pointed out that JU's application to the DEB, submitted in May 2024—over three years late—contained several critical flaws. These included the failure to submit approval from the statutory body for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programs, missing documents such as the NAAC certificate and qualifications for the Director, and the lack of plagiarism reports for Self-Learning Materials (SLM). Furthermore, essential details regarding full-time faculty, approv-

al minutes from the Academic Council, and faculty requirements for multiple courses were either incomplete or missing. Despite addressing the deficiencies for nine of the courses, four remain without approval, leading Singh to question why some courses were prioritized over others. "Hundreds of aspiring students have been left in the lurch," he said, highlighting the impact on students whose academic futures hang in the balance. The NSF leader also criticized JU for continuing to offer PG Diploma programs that violate DEB regulations. These one-year programs, which should have been extended to two years in compliance with the UGC-DEB's 2020 directive, have been admitted without the necessary approvals, creating confusion over their duration and jeopardizing students' career prospects. Singh expressed his concern over the apparent lack of transparency regarding DEB approval for these programs. In light of these serious issues, the NSF has called for a comprehensive investigation to determine why JU's application process was delayed and why certain courses were not given the required attention. Singh emphasized the urgent need for accountability to ensure that students' academic aspirations are not further harmed by administrative negligence.

## MLA, Comm JMC inspect developmental works, civic issues in Ward 32

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**JAMMU:** Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, along with Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta, conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 32 today, to evaluate ongoing developmental works, sanitation efforts, and other civic amenities. The tour aimed at addressing several pressing concerns in the locality, with a focus on improving public infrastructure and maintaining cleanliness. Accompanied by key JMC officials, including Joint Commissioners Abdul Star (H&S), Firdous Ahmad Qazi (Works), Deputy Commissioner (North) Sanjay Badyal, Health Officer Dr. Vinod



Sharma, and Executive Engineers, Dr. Yadav engaged with local residents, prominent citizens, and Swachhata Champions to gather feedback on civic issues. A significant directive during the tour was the relocation of the Bhagwati Nagar transfer station's entry gate to minimize odour and improve the area's aesthetics. Following MLA Gupta's suggestion, the Commissioner instructed

officials to draft a detailed proposal for the move. Addressing concerns about plastic waste accumulation on the Bhagwati Nagar entry road, Health Officer Dr. Sharma was tasked with organizing waste collection operations and identifying land for a scientific waste station. The Commissioner also highlighted the need for immediate repairs and patchwork in Himmat Colony, Ajit Colony, and Ambika Vihar, along with the replacement of non-functional streetlights and clearing of clogged drains. He further emphasized accountability by calling for sanitation workers' attendance records from the previous month. Another key issue discussed was the unauthorized construction behind the Revenue Complex at Gul Gajral. The Commissioner ordered an immediate halt to the construction and instructed the installation of warning signage to prevent further illegal activities. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner (North) was directed to confirm the jurisdiction of Ambika Vihar and explore drainage work proposals and repairs at the Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh Ji mini stadium. Dr. Yadav underscored the importance of both short-term and long-term solutions to resolve these ongoing civic challenges, thanking MLA Arvind Gupta and the local community for their active support in improving the ward's civic conditions.

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## JU marks Int'l Day for elimination of violence against Women with Online Session

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, held an online session on November 25 to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This session, which aligned with the United Nations' theme for this year, "Every 10 Minutes, a Woman is Killed. #NoExcuse. Unite to End Violence Against Women," was part of a nationwide campaign involving 16 universities across India. The event marked the beginning of the 16 Days of Activ-

ism against Gender-Based Violence. Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director of the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu, and Prof. Abha Chauhan, Director of the Centre for Kashmir Studies, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, served as the key resource persons for the session. The online discussion focused on addressing the pressing issues surrounding gender-based violence and exploring preventive measures. Prof. Nayyar inaugurated the session by emphasizing the need for gender activism in challenging deep-seated societal biases and violence against women. Her presen-

tation, "Breaking the Cycle: Responses to Violence and Strategies for Prevention," highlighted critical issues such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, dowry deaths, and female foeticide. She also discussed legal frameworks such as the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, stressing the importance of raising awareness to combat these challenges. Prof. Chauhan followed with her talk on "Violence Against Women in J&K: Systematic and Structural Discrimination," focusing on the rising

instances of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. She utilized case studies to highlight the need to document women's experiences to amplify the voices of marginalized groups. She also advocated for dismantling patriarchal structures as essential for achieving societal transformation. The session was welcomed by Dr. Saranjit Kaur, faculty at the Centre for Women's Studies, who thanked CWDS New Delhi and Prof. Manimekalai for their support. The event, organized under the leadership of Prof. Nayyar and her team, attracted a large audience, including active participation from students and faculty across India.

## Swami Ram Swarup Yogacharya delivers Vedic sermons at residence of MLA Jasrota

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Swami Ram Swarup Yogacharya of Ved Mandir Yol, today delivered sermons and preached the teachings of Vedas, here during a religious function organized by MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia at his residence. Swamiji threw light on eternal Vedic culture and said that the Vedas talk of universal brotherhood. "There is a need to listen and follow the teaching of Vedas which are universally applicable to all human beings, irrespective of caste, colour and creed," he said and added that the Vedic knowledge emanates directly from God, who after creating the universe nurses all human being impartially. Swami Ji further said that due

to the lack of Vedic knowledge among people majority of people deviating from right path. Therefore, the study and saints' writings reveals that until the fundamental law of Vedic culture is studied by all, respect men and women would not be established. It has always been the duty of the government to ensure that Vedas are taught in schools and Universities to strengthen the future of the nation as it was in the previous yugas. Earlier Swami Ramswarup Ji Maharaj, Yogacharya conducted havan and yajna at residence of BJP MLA from Jasrota constituency Rajiv Jasrotia wherein hundreds of devotees got blessings of Swami Ji. Swami Ji organized preaching sessions from Ved-Shastras.

# Harsh Dev challenges Chenani Election results Justice Oswal issues notices to ECI, RO, J&K Govt, Mankotia, others

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Hon'ble Justice Rajneesh Oswal has directed the issuance of notices to several key respondents, including the Election Commission of India (ECI), Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Home Department, following the filing of an Election Petition by Harsh Dev Singh, a candidate from the Jammu Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP). The petition seeks the annulment of the recent Chenani Assembly election and

the setting aside of the result, which declared BJP's Balwant Mankotia as the winning candidate. The petition alleges that the election was marred by widespread corruption, bribery, undue influence, and religious manipulation, all of which contributed to an unfair and tainted electoral process. Singh, who is also a practicing lawyer, accused the election authorities and law enforcement agencies of neglecting multiple complaints regarding these irregularities. A team of lawyers, including Aseem Sawhney, Teh-

sina Bukhari, Raj Pratap Singh, Mohd Kashif, Mohit Mankotia, Yasin Tak, and Pallav Sharma, represented the petitioner. In his arguments, Sawhney outlined several serious allegations, including the improper acceptance of the nomination form of the returned candidate, which was purportedly incomplete and contained substantial defects, such as the failure to disclose assets, liabilities, and government dues. He contended that this violated the guidelines set by the Election Commission and was sufficient grounds for declaring

the election result invalid under Section 100(1)(d)(1) of the Representation of the People Act. Further, the petition accused Mankotia and his supporters of engaging in large-scale bribery, including the distribution of goods such as sarees, suits, umbrellas, t-shirts, and even cash and liquor to voters. The petitioners also claimed that several complaints regarding these activities were ignored by the relevant authorities, who were allegedly biased and complicit in the malpractices. Additionally, the petition-

er highlighted disturbing claims of threats and intimidation against his supporters by the returned candidate and his associates. Allegations were made that BJP workers threatened JKNPP India workers with physical harm and even suggested violence against them. The petitioner also cited numerous incidents where government employees openly campaigned for the BJP candidate, yet no action was taken against them by the administration. The Election Petition also referenced derogatory social media posts and in-

terviews by the returned candidate, who reportedly vilified Harsh Dev Singh, labeling him as anti-national and a terrorist sympathizer. This campaign, it was argued, adversely impacted Singh's electoral prospects, violating provisions under Section 123(4) of the Representation of the People Act concerning undue influence. The petitioner further provided evidence in the form of a pen drive, containing recordings of threats made by BJP agents, including disturbing references to sexual assault against opposition workers'

families. Singh also pointed to media outlets, such as 'JK Media' and 'Digital Reporter', which allegedly propagated a biased narrative against him, portraying him as a supporter of terrorism. After hearing the arguments, Justice Rajneesh Oswal observed that a prima facie case had been made out against the respondents and directed the issuance of notices to 19 individuals and entities involved in the election process. This marks a critical juncture in the ongoing legal challenge to the Chenani election, with the court set to further examine

the validity of the contested election results.

**NOTICE**  
I, Ajay Kesar, S/O Surinder Kumar Sharma and Lalta Devi, R/O Bajalta, District Udhampur have applied for the correction of my mother's name in my Date of Birth Certificate which is wrongly written as Lalta Devi (Incorrect Name) instead of Lalta Devi (Correct Name). Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within 7 days from this publication.