

Dr Jitendra emphasises integrated Capacity Building for officers



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the first-ever Joint Round-table of 23 Central Training Institutions organized for Capacity Building, at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) New Delhi, on Tuesday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: 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 on Tuesday emphasised integrated Capacity Building through integrated training for officers. The era of working in silos is over, he said.

He was addressing the first-ever Joint Roundtable of 23 Central Training Institutions organized for Capacity Building, at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for bringing efficiency in delivery of services and "Ease of

Living" for common man. The Minister said that training of officers and personnel requires to be constantly reviewed and upgraded in view of the fast pace of evolution in all spheres of life. He said, best global practices should be incorporated in training modules along with some incentives for excellence. He said, there is a need to align individual and departmental priorities to our national aspirations and priorities.

Dr Jitendra expressed happiness that within a year all the Central Training Institutions will be brought under the ambit of Accreditation Framework. He said, the era of generalization is over and there is a need for a Role specific module and Panel to impart citi-

zen-centric delivery mechanism, which is the core of all Governance Model. He also called for increased use of technology in learning and training modules. Dr Singh said, he is extremely pleased to see that for the first time since Independence, all CTIs present under one roof and brainstorming and sharing the best practices with each other. He informed that the vision of Mission Karmayogi did not take birth overnight and recalled that it was in 2017, when Shri Narendra Modi visited LBSNAA, the first such visit by a Prime Minister in 42 years, where he felt that we still function in silos and there is no sharing of experiences amongst different services. Laying emphasis on devel-



Union MoS I&C inaugurates Exhibition cum Sale at Jammu Haat

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A 30 days Exhibition cum Sale under the public outreach programme was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Industries and Commerce, Anupriya Singh Patel at Jammu Haat to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav here on Tuesday.



Union MoS for I&C, Anupriya Singh Patel visiting a stall at Jammu Haat.

Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Director, Industries & Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra were also present on the occasion. The main attraction of the exhibition was the live show of local music by the Information Department, live food stall, Handloom & Handicraft, Horticulture and Archives stalls. The DIPR also organized a Photo Exhibition under the slogan of My Heritage My Pride which was highly appreciated by the Union MoS.

The stalls also exhibited by the different participants having reputation in their respective fields i.e. by VD Advertisers, SOI Studio, Virtues Boutiques, Sana Painting, DSD Garments, AR Dreams, Ashimina Boutique, Shilpokari Bazar, Shiva Diary, Naturis Cosmetics, Kanwal Food & Spices, VKC Nuts, Le Pabbo, KC Biscuits, Saptrang Boutique, Jani Sweets, JK Industries, Iqra Woodsen Furniture, Shape Furniture, Little Arts, Aparna Boutique, Buddha Art Studio, Modern Art, Pooja Footwear, Shapes & Shadows, Manisha Fashion, Libas Collections, SMR Designs and many more.

While taking the round of the stalls, the Minister apprised the success stories of beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Women Entrepreneurs financed through the Industries & Commerce Department. Such entrepreneurs are inspiring the

CCI Jammu delegation meets CS, discusses traders' issues

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A team of office bearers of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu led by its President Arun Gupta met the Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and discussed various demands and concerns raised by traders body regarding different issues related to trade and industries in Jammu region. While reiterating their demands before the Chief Secretary, the Chamber representatives stressed for immediate resolution of traders' issues. They said that all Banquet Halls be permitted with 50 per cent capacity for persons who have been administered both doses of COVID Vaccine. They also requested for granting permission for sale and purchase of agricultural land by Mahajans, Khatri's, Sikh, Jain etc in J&K by amending New Land Act which otherwise bars the aforesaid communities to sell or purchase the same. The CCI delegation also urged for relaxing policy and rules regarding renewal and obtaining of NoC by Bar Vendors in accordance with other States of India and of course in consonance to the directions of High Court. "Examine and find some modality to review Excise Policy without violating the court orders to accommodate the old licensees who lost their source of income and rendered jobless," CCI members said. "Permitting of Reliance Outlets in Jammu must be reviewed in order to protect interests of small traders. Rider must be imposed in obtaining of license under Shop &

Establishment Act," they said adding that summer and winter capitals of J&K must be defined in order to remove apprehensions regarding abandoning of Darbar move and introducing of e-filing arrangement. "Representatives of CCI Jammu be invited and taken into confidence before imposing any decision or rule which directly or indirectly affect trade and Industry of Jammu," they said adding that Passenger Tax which is being levied on Commercial Vehicles at Lakhampur be abolished forthwith in accordance with the One Nation One Tax. Cinema Halls be allowed with 50 per cent capacity for persons having taken both doses of COVID vaccine, they added. The members also sought that Power/VAT amnesty Schemes announce last year in view of COVID situation be extended in order to benefit all those consumers who otherwise have not availed the benefit of same for different reasons. Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, while giving a passionate hearing to the delegation, assured that all these demands shall be taken on with the concerned departments. He further assured for pursuing the same with the Lieutenant Governor of J&K for initiating necessary action as per rules. Chief Secretary further said that CCI is always welcome to give its inputs to the administration for good governance and for welfare of citizens. The members of visiting group of Chamber of Commerce and Industry included Anil Gupta (Sr Vice President), Gaurav Gupta (Secretary General) and Rajesh Gupta (Secretary).

NC leaders, workers sacrificed lives to earn peace in J&K: Sadhotra



National Conference Senior Leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra addressing ex-servicemen at Sangrampur in Marh.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Thousands of National Conference (NC) leaders and workers sacrificed their lives to earn peace in Jammu & Kashmir. It was stated by Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, former Minister and Senior Leader, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference while addressing a meeting of ex-servicemen wing of National Conference Marh at Sangrampur. Condemning attack on Army Officer/soldiers in Poonch & selective killings in Srinagar, Sadhotra said that it is high time to engage all stakeholders in dialogue process for getting political solution and lasting peace. "Thousands of Military/Para Military, Police personnel

along with political activists sacrificed their lives for restoration of peace but when we see selective killings of civilians & killings of Army personnel by terrorists, it seems as if due to wrong policies of BJP Govt, 1990-like situation is coming back which is really sad, unfortunate and not in the nation's interest," he asserted. Senior Leader National Conference urged the Union Government to initiate dialogue with all stakeholders to find out political solution for lasting peace in Jammu & Kashmir. He further asked for taking all effective steps to ensure security of lives & property of citizens. "Nation cannot afford another 1990," he asserted, asking

Government not to waste hard earned peace & take all effective steps to restore peace and instill confidence among common people as they are presently living in a sense of insecurity. Sadhotra further said National Conference believes that Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits. Others who spoke on the occasion included Sub Major (Retd) Mangal Dass Sharma, Sub Major (Retd) Ghasita Ram, Capt (Retd) Joginder Bhagat, Rakesh Sharma, Choudhary Govind, Havaldar (Retd) Ranjit Singh, Sub. (Retd) Narayan Dass, Sub Major (Retd) Madan Lal and Havildar (Retd) Choudhary Nagar Singh.

BJP members stage protest for proper accommodation for all Panchs, Sarpanchs

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Dozens of BJP workers on Tuesday took out a protest march here demanding safe and proper accommodation for all panch and sarpanch in the Kashmir valley. They staged a protest at the Press Enclave here to press for their demands. Lashing out at the divisional administration in Kashmir, the protesting BJP members said the chaotic accommodation being provided to all the panch and sarpanch has resulted in privacy issues and security-related prob-

lems. These panch and sarpanch are elected representatives of the people, and not prisoners. In 14 hotels booked in Srinagar, more than six leaders are being kept together, which is a clear breach of security, a BJP spokesperson said. It is unfortunate that these leaders were thrown out of their personal accommodations and kept as herd of sheep in hotel rooms, he alleged. He urged the divisional administration and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address the issue.

increase). No doubt for this the PHE officers atleast of the level of Assistant Engineer and above will have to be provided regular security in the form of PSOs. First Chairman (18.10.2012 to 17.10.2015) of the WRRRA was Sh. S.S. Kapoor (IAS, Retd CS of J&K State) . How far the Authority has stood to purpose for which it has been appointed could well be read from the message of the Chairman Pramod Jain that appeared in the First Newsletter of the Authority 'truthfully' summarising the performance during the tenure of the 1st Chairman, quote "I have pleasure in presenting the first edition of JKSWRRA newsletter (April-Oct 2018). J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority was established formally in October, 2012. Post-October, 2015 the Authority remained defunct since that no Chairperson and Members were in position. The Authority has now been resurrected following fresh constitution in October 2017, with the present Chairperson and Members having taken oath of office and secrecy on 15-11-2017. Now that the new Authority is settled, we have taken several initiatives including the publication of this

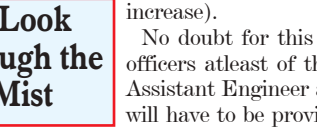
J&K WRRRA can surely revise drinking water tariff but is also duty bound to make public the basis

► There is fair case for withholding implementation of Order No. 75/WRRRA of 2021 of 23-08-2021

J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority (WRRRA) has vide order number Order No. 75/WRRRA of 2021 of 23-08-2021 revised the water usage charges for the year 2021-2022 including the charges to domestic users revised on flat rate for ½ inch Domestic connection to Rs.3000 per year to be realised on half yearly basis for Urban users and for ¾ inch Urban Domestic connection to Rs. 5700/year. The authority has earlier also issued such orders like Order No 20 of Dec. 2017, order 46 of Nov 2018 , order 47 of in addition to Government Order WRRRA/02/2011 of 24-04-2011 issued by PHE and Irrigation & Flood Control Department. But the basis for fixing rate per KL or flat rate does reflect from the orders as well as the Website of the J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority. Functions assigned to WRRRA under Section-145 of the J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority appointed under Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) ACT, 2010 also include (i) to determine the entitlement and distribution for various categories of use of water and the terms and conditions of distribution or allocation (ii) to establish a water tariff system and the water

usage charges for use of water on account of drinking purposes, irrigation of land, exploitation and use of ground water, generation of electricity etc. It has been also reported in media in August 2021 quoting official sources that after fully metering the electric connections in J&K, the UT Administration has now decided to go for metering of water connections and start will be made with the Cities of Jammu and Srinagar. But as regards the number of regular potable tap drinking water domestic connections on date there is no information on the website of the Authority , not even for two main cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Such information is not available on the websites of the Chief Engineer PHE Jammu/ Srinagar. There is no information available even as regards the revenue collected from domestic drinking water connections and that from commercial water connections even for the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Some references have been made without naming official sources at occasions mentioning that there is about 40 to 50 % less invoicing than the total water supplied by PHE attributing the less invoicing to transmission leakages as well as unaccounted unauthorised 'connections'. So the tariff orders of WRRRA come

under more questions and hence the Chairman WRRRA must take notice of such lapses / incompleteness and there is fair case for withholding even the implementation of Order No. 75/WRRRA of 2021 of 23-08-2021. The water cost to the domestic consumer can be reduced by reducing the unfair water losses due to physical leakages, losses due to unrecorded 'connections', unnecessary breakdowns. NCT Government Delhi has surely done the same to some extent, why cannot UT of J&K do ?. No doubt water metering is welcome and fairly needed decision. But before incurring such direct cost expenditures why not adopt the "cashless" revenue increase and water saving methods like taking in record all the unauthorised water connections (size/ number wise). Make it mandatory for the field departments to attend the individual consumer complaints within set time limit but surely also recording the "Connection Number of the Consumer" while taking the complaint in and disposing the same in the records (with this the unauthorised connections could be better identified , the undue water losses will reduce and ofcourse the revenue will also



A Look through the Mist

Newsletter. This newsletter will give a snapshot of the work done by the Authority from 15-11-2017 to 31-03-2018". Unquote. Lack of information available on the website of the WRRRA (that was appointed in 2012) even in 2021 and the site not even displaying e mail IDs of the Authorities (even in the so trumpeted era of e- governance / good governance) could raise questions even on the quality of the work culture. Any email ID SWRRRAJK@gmail.com did appear on the newsletter April-Oct 2018. A lot was expected from JKSWRRA towards better management of resources, judicious use of drinking water supplied and fairness of the tariff for drinking water keeping in view that even during the times of the 'King' all efforts were made to supply drinking water nearly free of charges even with very scarce balances in the exchequer. It is still hoped that the Authority presently in place would surely deliver the cause and will not become another 'chamber' for accommodating some in-service / retired officers . JKWRRRA must on the first note generate atleast following data and make that public too along with justifying the tariff revisi-

sions (particularly as regards potable drinking water) i.e (i). Total number of ½ inch and ¾ inch domestic connections (city/town wise), ii. Total value of invoices raised during 2020-21 iii. Total installed water delivery capacity iv. How much water per connection is being supplied in cities like Jammu & Srinagar as against norms of say 135 Lpdpe (v) at what pressure head the water is being supplied at the consumer point in cities of Jammu and Srinagar as against '32 ft. head or so'(vi) what has been the efficiency improvement in Jammu/ Srinagar water supply in terms of the loan money spent through JK Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) on projects like hydraulic modelling, remodelling the distribution network and replacement of old/ worn out pipes / irregular 'existing' pipe networks. No doubt better means need be devised to reduce the water losses due to system leakages /breakdowns, to draw out maximum possible benefit out of the hydraulic modelling so far got done through ERA by employing 'Consultant Teams' and replacement of the old/irregular system lines. (Daya Sagar is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).