

‘Swachhata’ campaign generates awareness about ‘waste to wealth’ concept: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: "Swachhata" campaign, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has generated awareness about the 'waste to wealth' concept. generation has been the biggest gain of the three Swachhata campaigns so far. There is now also better mass understanding about the application of innovation and technology for Recycling and Reuse of Waste materials for productive means.

This was stated by the Union, Dr. Jitendra Singh, at a press conference here on Wednesday after reviewing the progress of Week-3 of the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 being implemented in all Government offices of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh advocated the trinity of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drones in order to segregate waste intelligently and for swift disposal of resultant materials.

"Now, if we can have an Artificial Intelligence driven module which can segregate the solid and liquid waste, then we have the robot which would carry this and load it on to the drone and



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, flanked by Union Secretaries of MoRTH, Administrative Reforms and School Education respectively and DG ITBP, addressing a press conference at National Media Centre, New Delhi.

then the drone would automatically fly and carry it to the respective destination," he said. Underlining that every bit of garbage worth its return, Dr Jitendra said the Department of Science and Technology, Technology Development Board and CSIR recently launched the 'Recycling on Wheels' bus, which can generate Waste to Wealth at different spots due to its mobility.

Dr Jitendra said the Dehradun based

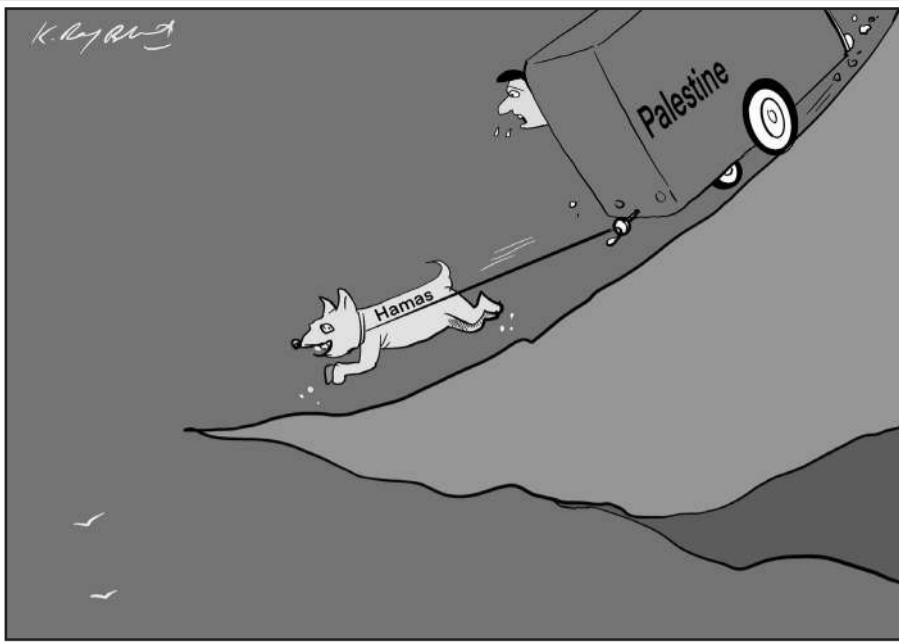
Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) has jointly developed a Repurposed Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) van that collects used cooking oil and convert it into biofuel. Dr Singh said the Government has earned a total revenue of Rs.776 crore just by disposing of scrap in the three Special Campaigns undertaken by all Government offices across the country in the last three years. A large chunk of this revenue, Rs.176 crore has been

earned in the last 20 days of the Special Campaign 3.0 now underway.

"So our pace of generating revenue is also increasing. It means now we have learnt the skill of making wealth out of this... That means we are improving on our scale, now we are looking forward to the saturation point," he said.

Dr. Jitendra said, massive participation is being witnessed across Ministries/Departments and their field/area. He urged Ministries/Departments to adopt a saturation approach in the implementation of the Campaign to cover all outstation offices/defence establishments and PSUs in all parts of the country.

The Progress of Special Campaign 3.0 is monitored on a dedicated portal (<https://sedpm.nic.in/>) on a daily basis. Regular review meetings are held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARPG with nodal officers to review the progress of the campaign. Special Campaign 3.0 concludes on October 31st, 2023 with the beginning of the Evaluation phase in the 1st week of November.



Income Tax Department holds Outreach programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An outreach-cum-sensitization programme was organized by Dr. Mohnish Digra, Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax, Jammu with DDOs of Higher Secondary Schools pertaining to Jammu district.

This is a part of series of outreach programmes being conducted by the Income Tax Department in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir under the overall supervision of M.P Singh, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar and under the guidance of Rajeev Gubgotra, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Range-1 Jammu.

During the event, Dr. Mohnish Digra highlighted the importance of financial literacy as well as importance of taxes in nation building and infrastructural development as well as its role in India becoming a developed nation by 2047.

He also pointed out the consistent rise in net Direct Tax collections as well as in the number of ITR filers over the years.

Dr. Mohnish also addressed the gathering regarding a recent trend of claim of wrong deductions to secure fraudulent refunds thereby resulting



Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax Jammu, Dr. Mohnish Digra speaking during outreach programme at Jammu.

in loss to Government exchequer.

DDOs were sensitized about their role to check the veracity of such deductions by employees. The audience was apprised of the fact that the Department is closely monitoring such cases and in certain identified cases, action is being simultaneously taken not only by Income Tax Department but also by the State agencies.

It was emphasized that consequences of claiming fraudulent refunds includes selection of cases in scrutiny and recovery of tax, levy of penalty under section 270A which is 200 per cent of tax evaded and prosecution u/s 276C of

Income Tax Act, which can lead to rigorous imprisonment upto seven years.

The remedy available for rectifying such mistakes are filing of updated return u/s 139(8A) of IT Act for AY: 2021-22 & 2022-23 (by paying 50 per cent and 25 per cent penalty respectively in addition to tax) and revision of ITR for AY: 2023-24 without paying any penalty. During the programme, lively interaction was held with the DDOs on various issues regarding filing of correct ITRs, use of Income tax chatbot, various deductions available under Income Tax, Act 1961 and benefits of tax calculation under both old and new tax regime.

CCI holds interactive meeting with Police Department

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) organized an interactive meeting with Police Department at Chamber House on Wednesday wherein Vinod Kumar, SSP Jammu, Chandan Kohli, Dy. Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi and Faisal Qureshi, SSP Traffic were present.

Arun Gupta said that during past sometime the relations between the general public and the Police Department have remained cordial and cooperative with each other and we hope that this type of relations shall continue in future also.

Arun Gupta also recalled the services rendered by Chandan Kohli, as SSP Jammu and said that during his tenure the crime



CCI President Arun Gupta speaking during an interactive meeting with Police Department at Chamber House on Wednesday.

graph of Jammu considerably come down and people of Jammu will remember him for his politeness and determined approach in solving the problems and we wish him all the success and good luck on taking over the new assignment.

Arun also welcomed Vinod Kumar, on assuming the charge of SSP Jammu and said we are hopeful that the relations

between the public and the Police Department shall be strengthened more during his tenure as SSP Jammu.

Gupta also praised the traffic police department for their cooperation with Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the business community and requested not to penalize the innocent Jammuites instead only major violators should be

booked/penalized.

Chandan Kohli thanked the people of Jammu especially CCI for their support and cooperation during his tenure as SSP Jammu.

He also said that there can be differences in our actions but ultimately we have work jointly for the betterment of the society and I have tried my best to provide better and hassle free services to the people of Jammu.

Faisal Qureshi, SSP Traffic assured the Chamber members that he will definitely look into the suggestions made by the Chamber members in today's meeting.

Dr Darakhshan inaugurates new works in Babarishi Shrine complex



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurating new works at shrine of Baba Payam-ud-din Reshi (RA) at Babarishi Tangmarg.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of State, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday visited the shrine of Baba Payam-ud-din Reshi (RA) at Babarishi Tangmarg and paid obeisance there.

She chaired a programme organised by JKWB in the campus of the shrine. Students of Waqf High School Hajibal Tangmarg presented a cultural

programme on the occasion.

Prominent persons Saajid Yousuf Shah, Engineer Sahil Bashir & Advocate Sheikh Salman were the guests of honour during the event.

Dr Andrabi inaugurated the Modern Community Kitchen Complex, New Stone-tiled Stairs and the Utility-cum-Sanitary Complex, the work on which was initiated by her a few months ago.

Later speaking on the occasion, Dr Andrabi said that we

are continuously addressing to the demands at the shrines and upgrading the facilities by constructing new complexes and structures.

"Earlier other departments of the government used to take up construction of utility structures or renovation works at the shrines but now after guaranteeing transparency of accounts, we have been able to take up all renovations and construction of new works by Waqf resources at all places throughout J&K," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

Waqf Chairperson said that a modern Dining Hall is under construction and will soon be dedicated to the pilgrims. Andrabi said that all the donation collected from shrines is now being used for development works at the shrines. She also issued instructions to the Board officers for initiating new works in the shrine Complex.

Cong is synonymous with corruption, nepotism: MP Khatana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POKHRAN: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP(Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today launched a scathing attack on the Indian National Congress, accusing them of corruption, nepotism, and perpetuating dynastic rule. He emphasized that the BJP, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is steadfast in its commitment to fight against corruption and terrorism while enhancing India's prestige on the world stage.

Khatana, addressed large gatherings of enthusiastic supporters in Pokhran Assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Mahant Pratappuri Maharaj.



MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana addressing gathering in Pokhran Assembly constituency.

Outlining the party's core values and vision for India's future, he said that PM Modi envisions a three trillion economy, make in India initiative, massive infrastructure building and making Bharat Vishwa Guru.

"Congress, during its years in power, indulged in corruption,

promoted nepotism, and perpetuated dynastic rule. The consequences of these actions have had a detrimental impact on our great nation," said Khatana. He further emphasized, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has launched a crusade against corruption,

terrorism, and has worked tirelessly to enhance India's prestige on the world stage."

Khatana cited several examples of corruption and nepotism during Congress's tenure including 2G, 3G, Coal, Common Wealth Games scams and highlighted the BJP's commitment to transparency, good governance, and inclusive development.

He encouraged the residents of Pokhran to vote for the BJP in the upcoming elections, stating that it is the only party capable of ushering in a brighter and more prosperous future for India.

MP Khatana further said that India's vast geographical expanse is marked by stark regional disparities in develop-

ment, infrastructure, and access to basic amenities. Rural-urban disparities, as well as inter-state variations in income and social indicators, persist as key challenges. While certain regions have prospered and witnessed rapid economic growth, others lag behind, exacerbating disparities and inequalities.

He said that addressing the regional divide required a multi-faceted approach that involves equitable resource allocation, infrastructure development, and inclusive policies that cater to the unique needs of each region and initiatives like "Make in India" and "Digital India" by BJP Govt aim to bridge these gaps.

After 2007 J&K State Lands (VoO to the Occupants) ACT No XII of 2001 could not be called ‘Roshni’ Act

■ DAYA SAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants) Act, 2001 amended upto date - 2007 of J&K Legislature and rules made for that had come under discussions / allegations more after a CAG report was tabled in Legislative Assembly in March 2014 where in it was mentioned that upto March 2013 only 3, 48,160 kanals (3.48 Lakh Kanals) out of original estimates of 20 Lakh Kanals of government lands (anticipated for transfer to occupants of government lands) had been approved for transfer by revenue department for "very less" realisation of cost towards land transfer which was more so because the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) ACT, 2001 Act No XII of 2001 which had received the assent of Governor on 9th Nov 2001 was then described as Act to provide for vesting of ownership rights to occupants of State Land for purposes of generating funds to finance Power to the tune of Rs.25000 crore since the unauthorisedly occupied government lands were then estimated to be around 20 Lakh Kanals (20,00,000 Kanal @ average 1.24 Lakh per kanal.). Since the Act was in 2001 aimed at generating funds for power generation it was referred as "Roshni Act" in public meetings (although this name nowhere appeared in the text of the 2001 Act.The CAG report had observed that only Rs 76.24 crore (24 per cent) was reportedly realized against a demand of Rs 317.54

crore raised by revenue department on the approved transferee by the end of March 2013 for the actual transfer of 3,48,160 kanals out of 20 Lakh Kanals (20,00,000 kanal estimates) in whole state .

The then Accountant General Audit (PAG) Subhash Chander Pandey was quoted as having told the media on 8 March 2014 that the "Roshni Act" was launched in 2001, it was amended in 2004 and a clause, which had maintained that the land was allotted to those who had encroached from 1990, was deleted. "The benefits of this amendment were taken by the law knowing people and 'insiders' and it lead to more encroachment on the land taking total illegally occupied land to 20 lakh kanals till 2014.The estimated market value of the encroached 20 lakh kanals land in November 2006 was Rs 25,500 crores. The issue was surely to create immediate inflated public wrath since some facts and elements of the Act as regards other amendments to the Act 2001 as made upto 2007 and the revised policies of the governments that followed thereafter were not presented in the rightful prospective particularly in the public domain like (i) the government had in 2007 amended the policy so as to transfer the ownership rights to occupants of government lands for agriculture purpose at Zero price with only Rs.100 / kanal as documentation charges. J&K Assembly passed the amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) ACT, 2001 Act No XII of

2001 on February 9, 2007. The then Government claimed that the bill will provide free of cost ownership of 16.6 lakh kanals (worth Rs. 20,000 crores; and with 19 lakh cultivators as beneficiaries) to farmers and termed the decision "historic" and next only to the passing of the Land to the Tiller Act by the State's first Prime Minister; Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who took land from the feudal lords and handed it over to tillers without any compensation.. Chief Minister had moved the Bill with amendments in the House saying that the land occupying farmers would have to pay a nominal fee of Rs 100 per kanal for getting mutation in their favour in the revenue record. He said the Bill, which would go down as revolutionary in the history of the State after the Land to the Tiller Act, was farmer-friendly and good for the growth of the agriculture sector, on which the State's economy depends. With such like policy the estimated recoveries would not have been Rs 25,000 crores and would have reduced to not more than Rs 2000 to 3000 crore for the bulk there by stripping the Act 2001 of its nick name "Roshni". Even as per CAG report tabled March 2014 out of total 348160 kanals decided till March 2013 a huge chunk (97.68%) of 3,40,091 kanals had been categorized as 'agricultural' land worth free of cost transfer.(ii)The CAG report had observed that revenue department had



A Look through the Mist

approved till end of March 2013 only 17.4 percent (3,48,160 kanals out of 20,00,000 kanal estimates) of land for transfer in whole of state which in a way otherwise reflects that the revenue department have been exercising meaningful vigil while approving the claims since in 7 years proposals for only 17.4 percent of estimated lands under unauthorized occupation were technically cleared (iii) The CAG report had further observed that out of total land cases worth 3,48,160 kanal land decided till March 2013 97.68% (3,40,090 kanal) land was given as Agriculture land at zero cost (free) , then how could the Act could be designated as Rs 25000 Cr 'money bank' ? (iv).The same Audit itself had said in the report that the actual transfer included a major portion (3,40,091 kanals) categorised as 'agricultural' land transferred free of cost and for that demand raised was to be Rs. 00.00 Cr (Rs.3.40 Cr realised as documentation charges) . Further it has to be noted that the demand notes raised for Rs.317.54 Cr (before discounts to long lease holders & others) if included Rs.3.4 Cr as documentation of Agri land charges then the amount of Rs. 314.14 Cr was billed for only 6949 kanals residential use , 990 kanals commercial use and 130 kanals lands in urban areas/ town out of 348160 Kanals. In earlier days (1950s/ 1960s) there were no organisations like J&K

Housing Board / JDA/SDA and lands were allotted for residential purposes under government authority /under J&K Land grants Act1960 to the permanent residents of J&K for residential purposes on lease basis like lands are given in present times in colonies of JDA/SDA/ J&K Housing Board (may be 20 Yrs, 40 Yrs, 60Yrs) . These people were not /are not unauthorized occupants but their cases for renewal had also been sanctioned / invited for renewal under the 'said' Act of 2001 (amended). These allottees were given ownership rights on some concessional assessed market price which was surely much more than the average anticipated price in 2001 but much more than the price charged by riotory JDA / J&K HB for conversion of lease to proprietary rights. Even some of the allottees objected to cost in the demand notes raised and had even gone to the courts. That was also one of the reasons for lesser receipts against demand notes raised and should not have been outrightly seen by some one as favoured low price .

It may not be unfair to observe that the way the issues related to said Act have been handled all these years has not been fair to the revenue officers community, the J&K Legislature, the legitimate lease holders and even the small farmers since all have been named "bad".

In 2007 the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership To The Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No XII of 2001 had been stripped of its financial value

worth the " nick name Roshni" since over 85 percent lands were to be given free and this could not become feeding channel to Power Projects.

No doubt there could be some cases of even wrong / favoured assessment of rights/ possession/ cost but those could be individually fished out instead of blaming the whole infrastructure. One gratitude surely goes to Revenue Department for having exercised close vigil since even in 7 years only less than 3.5 Lakh kanal out of 20 Lakh kanal expected cases were cleared, had they bad intentions they could give much more lands "free". Since out of the 17 percent of total land in view that had been approved for transfer 97.68% has been given as agriculture land may be a very very large number of cultivators who might have been holding unauthorized occupation of small pieces of lands even since before 1990 have been made to forego the due benefits of the goodwill gestures of the govt. Ofcourse the bonafide residential lease right holders since 1960s and earlier times too have made to unfairly suffer mental agony due to the controversies. No doubt it has been learnt that the present UT Government may be considering the undue impacts of some orders made in 2020 and some remedial measures in fairness may be sought / taken to relieve those who might have been made suffer due some needed actions not taken at appropriate time.

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