

Dr Jitendra visits Mussoorie IAS Academy, underlines seamless capacity building as way forward

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUSSOORIE: On a visit to India's premier IAS Academy here, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, while addressing young trainee officers at the 99th Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), underlined seamless capacity building as way forward.

The DoPT Minister emphasized the need for continuous learning and capacity building to navigate the evolving landscape of governance in India. Highlighting the dynamic role civil servants play in shaping the country's future, he urged the officers to stay adaptable, embrace new technologies, and foster citizen-centric governance as India moves towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The Minister highlighted the role of the civil services in fostering a robust, citizen-centered administration and underscored the need for continuous learning and unlearning to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving society.

During his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh drew attention to the government's focus on "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government", a principle that has



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing IAS / Civil Services trainees at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie on Friday.

guided reforms aimed at reducing bureaucratic delays and enhancing transparency. He stressed the importance of technology in governance and emphasized the necessity of easing processes for both the citizens and government officials. "Ease of governance means increased citizen participation, greater transparency, and effective use of technology," said the Minister.

Reflecting on the strides India has made, he lauded the country's leap to becoming the fifth-largest economy, as well as its remarkable growth in innovation and startups. The

Minister highlighted the government's efforts to remove obsolete rules and improve accountability across the civil services, citing examples such as the elimination of interviews for junior positions and outdated pension policies. He described these moves as essential to aligning governance with contemporary needs and values.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasized the "Mission Karmayogi" initiative, a forward-looking training module that will enable civil servants to adapt quickly to new roles, ensuring that they can perform effectively

across various departments. He encouraged the young officers to view themselves as the architects of India's future, particularly as the nation moves towards its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047.

"Each of you will play a critical role in shaping the India of tomorrow. The decisions you make will directly impact India of 2047," the Minister stated. He called for a forward-thinking approach and urged the officers to be the harbingers of change in their respective roles.

Dr. Jitendra also touched upon the successful implementation of initiatives like the Swachhata campaign in government offices, which not only promoted cleanliness but also generated significant revenue from the disposal of electronic scrap.

In conclusion, Dr. Singh reiterated that today's young civil servants are living through one of India's most promising eras and have the opportunity to contribute significantly to the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. "You are not only part of the present, but also the custodians of India's future," he remarked, urging the officers to adopt a mindset of continuous improvement and reform.



Navratra Prabhat Pheri concludes with grand celebration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The two-day-long Navratra Festival Prabhat Pheri in the holy town of Katra-Vaishnodevi culminated in a grand and spiritual conclusion today, amidst the chanting of bhajans and the rhythmic beats of drums at bus stand Katra.

This vibrant procession was jointly organized by the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir Government, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, in association with the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri, along with support from various local organizations.

The finale day was marked by a colourful procession, which was flagged off by the Chief Guest, Baldev Raj Sharma, newly elected MLA of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency, along with Guests of Honour Alka Misra, Assistant Director of Tourism Deptt. and Sarlari Lal Dubey, social activist in presence of special guests including Shiv Kumar Sharma former Joint Secretary of the J&K Sports Council and R.S. Manhas retired headmaster were also present to grace the occasion.

The event commenced with the traditional cutting of the red ribbon and the ceremonial breaking of a green coconut, symbolizing auspicious beginnings. Participants from all walks of life, including artists from art and culture academy J&K UT joined the proces-



Dignitaries leading Prabhat Pheri at Katra.

sion, accompanied by pilgrims from Delhi and other states. The lively crowd chanted "Jaikaras" of Maa Vaishnodevi and danced to the beats of drums as the Prabhat Pheri made its way through the streets of Katra. A notable highlight of the day was the "Jhanki of Maa Sidhidhatri" beautifully portrayed by Nikita and children of Amba Kids Panthal, adding to the spiritual fervour. In his address, Chief Guest praised the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri for their dedication and efforts in organizing such a vibrant and spiritually uplifting event. Alka Misra emphasized that the prabhat pheri during Navratras is a profound expression of devotion towards Maa Vaishnodevi, and participating in it at Katra is believed to bring her divine blessings.

The Sr. Citizen Forum, led by Rattan Chand, participated in large numbers, adding to the festive spirit. Enthusiastic association members, adorned in

colorful Pagaris (traditional headgear), danced with full energy throughout the procession route, symbolizing the joy and devotion of the final day of the Navratra celebrations.

A felicitation ceremony followed where dignitaries and various organizations were honored for their contributions to the success of the event. The chief guest and guests of honour were presented with pagari, chunari, and mementos as tokens of appreciation by the association members. The dignitaries later performed a Kanya Poojan ceremony, which was followed by the distribution of halwa (a traditional sweet) to the pilgrims and participants.

Raj Kumar Padha, president of the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri thanked the J&K Tourism Department, district administration, health and police departments, fire and emergency services, CRPF 6th Battalion, municipal committee, students, and people of Katra for their support.

AIIMS Jammu performs first Image-Guided Non Vascular Intervention

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant advancement in medical procedures, the Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Jammu, has successfully conducted its first Image-Guided Non Vascular Intervention.

This groundbreaking procedure marks a milestone in the hospital's commitment to enhancing diagnostic accuracy and patient care.

This is just the beginning of quality patient care, and under the noble leadership and support of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS, Jammu, many advancements are at their germination stage, which in the near future will evolve as a revolution of the high level of quality care at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu.



The procedure was carried out on a 44-year-old patient in the Department of Radiodiagnosis & Imaging.

The patient presented with Left buccal and Submandibular swelling who was referred from the department of OMF's. Patient underwent USG guided core needle Biopsy of suspicious Left Level Ib cervical lymph node in the Non-Vascular Intervention Radiology lab extracting tissue samples with minimal

discomfort to the patient.

The ultrasound-guided lymph node biopsy was performed by a skilled team of Radiologists led by Dr. Ankit Prabhakar, Assistant Professor Radiodiagnosis with faculty members including Dr Gita Devi & Dr Khanak Nandolia, Senior Residents including Dr Avinash, Dr Priyanka, Dr Ajay and Nursing Officer Ms Deepika.

This minimally invasive technique allows for real-

time imaging of target sites, enabling precise targeting for biopsy. It is particularly beneficial in diagnosing various conditions, including infections, autoimmune diseases, and cancers.

Glad to inform that Non Vascular Intervention Radiology Services are now available at AIIMS Jammu.

Ultrasound guidance significantly reduces the risk of complications and enhances the accuracy of the biopsy, which is crucial for determining the appropriate treatment plan.

Patients undergoing these minimally invasive procedures can expect a quicker recovery time compared to traditional biopsy methods, which often require more invasive approaches. The real-time imaging provided by ultrasound allows for immediate assessment and reduces the need for repeat

procedures. This pioneering achievement not only positions AIIMS Jammu as a leader in advanced medical practices but also underscores its dedication to providing high-quality healthcare to the region.

Yudhvir holds Janata Darbar at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today held a public grievance camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public. The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leader. Various deputations, including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE,

PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured to

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On this occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that the book "Dogri Lok Gatha: Sarup te Vishleshan" will help in understanding Dogra history. The creation of literature in local languages usually begins as part of an oral tradition. Manhas ji deserves congratulations for the successful publication of this book.

State Awardee Mahant Rohit Shastri, a Jyotishacharya, also spoke on the occasion, stating that Nasib Singh Manhas and his family have made invaluable con-

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resolve their issues by taking up the authorities concerned. Sethi said that the BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people. The senior BJP leader also stated that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

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MLA Jammu North Assembly, Sham Lal Sharma and others releasing a book.

tributions to the promotion and development of the Dogri language in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the younger generation to follow in the footsteps of Nasib Singh Manhas and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the state and the nation.

On this occasion, renowned artist Shekhar Sharma remarked that there

are many types of Indian folk epics. Broadly, they can be classified based on their theme and size. In terms of size, these works are found in both short and long forms. The larger epics sometimes have a structure similar to that of narrative poems.

Rakesh Singh and others were also present at the event.

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MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public grievance in a camp.

POJK DPs and Kashmiri Migrants are now looking for their nominations to Legislative Assembly

■ DAYA SAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 Act No. 34 of 2019 Act No. 34 of 2019 (9th August, 2019.) of Parliament of India (as amended with The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2023, NO. 35 of 2023 of 15 Dec 2023) has Sections -15, 15A & 15B related to the Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K where in there is direct provision for nomination of 3 to 5 members in the Legislative Assembly over and above the normal strength of 90 members through direct elections. There is also a provision for reservations for ST(along with SC members) in proportion to the population to be located & rotated by the Delimitation Commission. In terms of the text of the Act the nominated members can surely be taken for having voting rights in the Legislature.

Originally the Act provided only for the nomination (upto two members) from among the woman of UT of J&K where the Section- 15 of the Act said < Section-15 - "Representation of women- Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (3) of section 14 the Lieutenant Governor of the successor Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate upto two members to the Legislative Assembly to

give representation to women, if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly." >. This provision surely has a condition i.e "LG may nominate upto two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women, if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly", so it could be said that there could be an occasion when there is no need for nomination and also such nomination could be initiated only after the results of an ongoing election/ election already held are made public worth knowing the status number of elected woman members in the Legislative assembly.

The J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Act 34 of 2019 was further amended in 2003 through The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2023, NO. 35 OF 2023 of 15 Dec 2023 so as to create provision for nomination of 3 more members in the Legislative Assembly i.e in terms of Section- 15A upto TWO members out of Kashmiri Migrants where in one has to be a woman (one could say in case only one is nominated the one / "she" has to be a woman only) and ONE member out of the 1947/1965/1971 Displaced Persons from Pakistan Occupied areas of J&K (POJK DPs) in terms of Section- 15B .

It had been on 6th October that a news item was on line in media that J&K LG has already decided on names of the 5 nominated persons to Assembly of UT of J&K in terms of Section-15, 15A, 15B of the reorganisation, some statements even said that LG had nominated 5 members (abp news even carried the names of 5 persons said to be proposed for nomination...Ms Sangeeta Dogra, Mr. Sunil Sethi, Mr. Ashok Koul, Ms Rajni Sethi Fareeda Khan.). Where as regular elections to 1st Legislative Assembly (LA) UT of J&K for direct election to 90 single member constituencies had been over with Phase-III polling on 1st Oct 2024 and counting was yet to be done on 8th October. So such news items were sure to concern some in the 'line' as well those atleast from political parties like NC & Congress and also who had been working on ground to pursue the unresolved issues of POJK DPs and Kashmiri migrants. In fairness of the things some questions could surely be raised on LG Administration atleast for the reason that (i) the results for the elections were yet to be declared on 8th Oct 2003 and the question of even adequate representation of the woman was



A Look through the Mist Part-II

yet to be ascertained and (ii) that how could such nominations be made without the elected

Legislature having been installed & the council of ministers not sworn in.

Some even went to the extent of excusing the LG that he was going to help BJP, to gain majority in legislature alleging that BJP 'feared' falling back in numbers, by nomination of 5 members from amongst only the BJP supporters .No doubt raising such questions on LG administration was not fair from any angles since no any official notification had been issued and LG administration had not confirmed any such references in the media. But still there was utmost need to investigate how such news / information was there in media. No doubt as regards Section 15A (concerning Kashmiri Migrants) and Section 15B concerning POJK DPs) which in their text do simply say that " LG may nominate..." out of Kashmiri migrants / POJK DPs. One may contest that for that LG has absolute delegation to nominate & constitution of Legislative Assembly / Council for ministers before such nomination could not be termed as must condition. No doubt such argument

could be put forth but the conditions for Section-15 i.e nomination of woman members (upto two numbers) cannot be satisfied with any argument unless the nomination is done after election results are announced. It has to be also acknowledged that where constitutionally some discretionary authority is granted that too also at the same time lays down a very heavy responsibility of wisdom & fairness on the designated Authority & in a way makes the job very very hard and those who expect the LG to use the delegation simply to favour some party/ group without caring that his action could be questioned even on moral grounds ,even by one person , surely do not stand to a fair test.

Similarly it is worth noting that the Reorganisation of J&K Act also lays down that there will be a Council of Ministers to aid & provide advice the LG | Section - 53. Council of Ministers.-(1) There shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten per cent. of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws except in so far as he is required by or under this Act to act in his discretion

or by or under any law to exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial functions.... And Section- 55. Conduct of business.-(1) The Lieutenant Governor shall make rules on the advice of the Council of Ministers .]. And hence it is expected that the LG would surely exercise the delegations in his name very carefully/ & surely there could be no better a source to advise/ provide information to him other than the council of ministers. So LG going for even the provisions of Sections 15A & 15B without Council of Ministers should not be expected from a very 'senior' person Like Manoj Sinha in chair.

One accusation was surely wrong that LG was using the delegated authority to simply help BJP before even before the election results were declared for the reasons that LG's office is a constitutional Chair & Home Ministry of India can never be imagined to go for such ventures. But one thing surely needs to be answered i.e who floated the names of 5 persons (with their status in BJP as well like president BJP Mehla Mordha, BJP spokes person, BJP GS, BJP spokes person, BJP secretary) in the media ? Surely it was not the J&K Administration.

To be continued (The writer is Sr Journalist , analyst J&K affairs and social activist).