

MBBS seats increased by 79 pc, MD by 93 pc in 9 years: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy & Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said , the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought several measures to make medical education affordable and accessible, so that no deserving candidate finds himself at disadvantage. The number of MBBS seats increased by 79% from 51,348 to 91,927 while MD seats by 93% from 31,185 to 60,202 in just over 9 years, he said.

In a quantum jump, Dr Jitendra Singh said,from 145 government govt medical colleges in 2014, India now has 260 such GMCs, while the number of AIIMS in the country went up to 23 in over 9 years, he informed.

The Minister was speaking after flagging off a 32-seater



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh flagging off 32-seater bus donated to AIIMS, Jammu by the SBI.

bus donated to AIIMS, Jammu by the SBI. The function was held at Bakshi Nagar Camp Office of AIIMS, Jammu. The official handover ceremony took place at the AIIMS Jammu present campus (Maheshpura chownk, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu) where the Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, Vinod Jaiswal and Deputy General Manager, SBI Ravinder

Kumar Gupta handed over the keys to the Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta in the presence of the esteemed Chief Guest, Dr Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Earth Sciences; in the Prime Minister's Office; Ministry of

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy; and Department of Space).

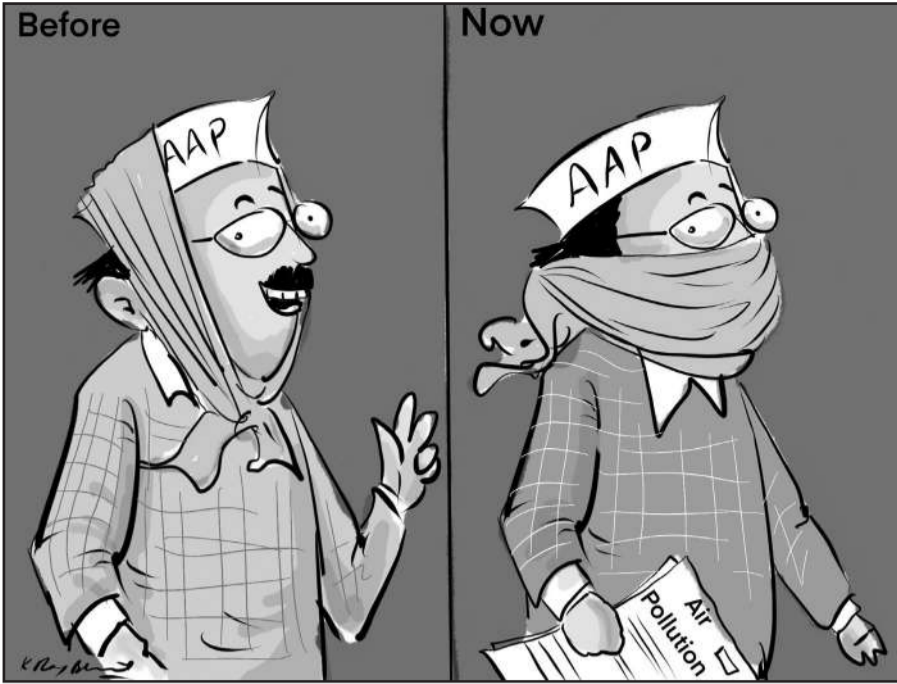
Dr. Jitendra Singh also released a book titled, "Handbook of Policies, Guidelines and Procedures" of significance within the Research by Research Section, AIIMS Jammu. This handbook strives to establish AIIMS Jammu as a leading centre for medical research on both national and global scales. This book highlights the importance of collaboration between institutions and an increasing emphasis on conducting trials across multiple centres. Serving as an invaluable reference guide, this handbook facilitates navigation through the intricate research landscape, streamlining processes, and providing researchers with the necessary tools to make substantial strides in both medical science and patient care.

Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar

Gupta expressed his gratitude towards Honourable Union Minister of State, Dr Jitendra Singh for sparing his valuable time and to grace the occasion. He appreciated SBI's support in enhancing community services and the welfare of faculty and students.

The event was attended by dignitaries, including the Deans, DDA (AIIMS Jammu), Financial advisor, faculty members, Account and Administrative officer of AIIMS Jammu and also by Kumar Jee Raina (Regional Manager, SBI).

The Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta shared the Institute's vision, emphasizing a commitment to provide comprehensive, patient-centred care that not only meets immediate healthcare needs but also considers the long-term well-being of patients, communities, and the environment.



Diwali festivities begin at State Taxes Dept; Rashmi Singh pledges for eco-friendly celebration



Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr Rashmi Singh and others during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Taxes Department, Jammu and Kashmir on Friday commenced Diwali festivities with high enthusiasm and gaiety here at Excise and Taxation Complex Jammu.

Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr Rashmi Singh, who presided over the occasion, interacted with the department officers. She appreciated them for making beautiful Rangolis and its decoration with earthen lamps (Deepak).

Commissioner also appreciated the rare and unique creativities skills of specially abled Inspector of the department, Chetna Devi, who created a beautiful water fountain for the department.

Dr Rashmi Singh accompanied by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Jammu, Namirta Dogra and other senior officers also joined Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali digital campaign. They took pledge for

eco-friendly Diwali, a nationwide Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 initiative under Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Through the campaign, the Commissioner pledged to use eco-friendly local products, abstain from single use plastic and celebrate a clean and green Diwali

She exhorted upon the officers to come forward and be part of this campaign in making the office premises cleaner and greener.

Commissioner extended Diwali wishes to all State Taxes family including stakeholders. Highlighting the important of eco-friendly approach towards saving the environment, she urged upon the officers and officials to discourage use of single use plastic. She also

stressed on segregation of different types of waste for its proper disposal and highlighted the importance of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Earlier, Dr Rashmi Singh inaugurated department's library 'Sadhana' at ground floor of the office complex.

The noble initiative of the department aims to engage and inspire officers and stakeholders for developing reading habits to enhance their knowledge. With depository of many rare books on Tax laws, specific to Jammu and Kashmir and all updated volumes of GST laws and its council meetings, the library will become an interesting interactive space for learning and information discovery for the officials.

Congratulating the team of officers for establishing library, the Commissioner said that a library is epicenter of knowledge and not just a location for preserving books.

J&K Bank launches mega project 'NAJAAT' to make tobacco & drug-free Society

Bank is capable of reaching out to all parts of UT to help curb the drug menace: Baldev Prakash MD/CEO

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank in collaboration with Directorate of Health and Directorate of School Education has launched a mega project "Najaat" to combat the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir. J&K Bank MD/CEO Baldev Prakash launched the project in the presence of Director Health Jammu and Director School Education Jammu and Joint Director Kashmir. Bank officials and other dignitaries including some renowned Media houses were also present on the event.

Speaking On the occasion, the MD/CEO said ,from past two to three years the bank has been doing well at its level , net-profit is increasing every passing quarter and based on that we are able to launch this mega project "NAJAAT" which will help to curb the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir .To achieve this goal ,we are three key stake holders and as a strong financial organisation we are there for betterment of the society and the bank will take every step to reach out to the people especially in remote



areas and make them aware of the ill effects of tobacco and drugs as it is becoming a major concern of Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the Directorate of School Education Jammu and Kashmir ,that it is the responsibility of teachers to provide the proper education to the children to deal with the menace of drug abuse .The MD/CEO appealed to the media houses to publish more and more reports of drug menace on priority bases as there is a wide range of print and electronic media which can create awareness among the common people who are victim of drug abuse so that we can achieve our goal in a short time.

Earlier Director Health Kashmir Dr Mushtaq Ahmed

Rather said that there is a lot of confusions regarding the increase in drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir .DHSK conducted a survey in all the districts in collaboration with Social Welfare department and Psychiatry department of GMC Srinagar .we have seen out of 70,000 drug addicts 50,000 addicts were IV drug users. This is the present scenario of our Kashmir Valley.

Dr Rather said , that we have to understand main root cause of the drug menace, unless we take one direction, it is impossible to curb this menace. Broken families and nuclear families are also a major reason . Parents are not taking care of their children ,the concept of grandparents is no more there in our society .We have seen

that parents do not pay much attention to children and this isolation creates havoc in the younger generation .

He added, that several events are being organised by Mohalla committees ,Religious leaders and other civil society activists ,but it is very disappointing that they are not talking about drug use in mosques and other religious gatherings .They are trying to divert the problems even as they see the situation in their areas ,where we can see young children openly taking drugs and smoking .He said that smoking is becoming first step towards drug addiction.

We have to work together to overcome this crises, the police and crime branches re doing their job but as the main stakeholder it is our duty to make the society drug-free .He said that 272 districts have been identified for ATF centers under Prime Minister Nisha Mukht Bharat ,but we are the first to set up ATF centres. He said that it parents are feeling any kind of insomnia ,fatigue and restlessness or discomfort in their children, then you should be careful that something is

wrong ,the Director Health added that people from the age of 8 to 60 years are addicted to drugs. On the occasion Director health Jammu Dr Rajeev Kumar Sharma also said that we are all ready to work together to make Jammu and Kashmir drug-free. Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma, appreciated the initiative of J&K Bank and said that the Department is fully cooperating in this regard and teachers are fully making the students aware about the drug menace .That is why the department is taking steps and monitoring the activities of children very closely .

Joint Director Education Kashmir, Rouf Ur Rehman said the society especially parents that Laptops ,and other items are not enough for children but work should be done to reduce the gap between parents and child and grandparents and grand-children. He said, that we should spend quality time with our children so that children feel a conducive atmosphere.

Another year to 'Mayor for a Year' demanded as he gave 'new directions to work culture' Public lauds Mayor Rajinder Sharma's work especially anti-corruption, anti-polythene campaign

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma on Friday said that facilities in Jammu city have improved and increased during tenure of the present elected Urban Local Body especially in the last one year.

"While budget of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) was Rs. 25 crore for the all 75 wards, it has now been increased to Rs. 168 crores which in itself speaks how much facilities might have been increased," he said while addressing a gathering of Jammu people, Municipal Councillors and media personnel during a programme christened as 'Mayor For A Year' at Convention Centre Jammu.

"Earlier the Capex budget allocation used to be done in the month of August but this time with our hard efforts the budgetary funds were released in the month of May only giving us ample time to carry on developmental activities in the city," Sharma maintained, lauding the Councillors, JMC officers and officials besides the public of Jammu for support in achieving all these endeavours.

He also mentioned about the recently held successful anti-polythene campaign which involved students of schools, colleges and universities besides other people of Jammu

Mayor further talked about the ongoing anti-corruption campaign under the banner of



Jammu Mayor Rajinder Singh addressing a gathering during a programme 'Mayor For A Year' at Convention Centre Jammu on Friday.

'Imandar Jammu, Shandar Jammu' and said that he was very much excited by the public support to the move.

Specially mentioning about Government Women College Gandhi Nagar; he said that students of the College visited him and sought information about the working of the

Urban Local Body. "Whatever I knew I told them and they addressed Students Parliament in New Delhi which fetched them second prize at all India level," Mayor Rajinder Sharma said.

Gold Medalist Sheetal Devi of Kishtwar; armless girl who excelled in Archery at interna-

tional level also found mention in Mayor's speech wherein in Sharma termed her "Arjun who shoots arrow by her feet".

The grand function started and ended with recitation of national anthem and the Mayor also took questions from reporters.

While answering to one such

question he said that as the work on electrical crematorium and crematorium will start soon while improvements on other crematoriums in Jammu have been done to a large extent.

On developments on parking scam which was unearthed by Mayor Sharma himself, he said that contract of the contractor concerned was cancelled and Rs. 25 lakh fine was received from him.

The Mayor also voiced for political reorientation in the country and making efforts for freedom from political corruption.

He reiterated for voting to an educated candidate as public representative who must have proper knowhow about administrative matters.

A documentary highlighting various achievements of the JMC under the leadership of Mayor Rajinder Sharma was also shown on this occasion.

While the documentary was showcasing the incident wherein the helmsman of Urban Local Body during a routine visit at Jogi Gate-old crematorium of J&K, found unclaimed ashes of many deceased persons lying there for years and he promptly acted and immersed them in the holy waters of Devika in Purnamandal. The entire gathering in the spacious hall of the convention centre lauded the human gesture of the Mayor by loud claps.

Among other things, the documentary also showcased

the development wherein the Mayor Rajinder Sharma got 535 contractual employees of JMC regularised fulfilling their long pending demand.

Many from the gathering voiced for extension of tenure of the Mayor for another one year.

"Mayor Rajinder Sharma should be given one more year as our city needs more works which only he can do honestly," Ex-Councillor and NC leader, Rashida Begum said and she appealed to the PM Modi in this regard.

Many others said that the Mayor gave new direction to the work culture and maintained dignity, integrity and administrative control of his position in a brilliant manner.

GOI is on Mission Stability, so No one should be given time & space to pollute Political Environment in J&K

■ DAYA SAGAR

What Prime Minister MODI lead government has done during his 2nd term (after 2014) as regards erstwhile Indian state of J&K could have been done by earlier governments too but was not done. NDA III government surely has come up with some difference in taking challenges. No doubt some may be holding different opinion advocating that they do not find much change as regards the common man issues and as of those who had been politically, administratively and opportunity wise 'distantly' placed . But it has to be taken note of that all these years the J&K state had been made to live in environments infested with uncontested & hence well cultivated myths that projected the State of J&K look like the only state of Indian Union posted with distancing signs w.r.t the Union. Like the state having been linked with the Indian nation through only a bridge like Art -370 where as it was

a totally wrong presentation but had not been pointedly dismissed by those who mattered in times before 2015. Similar was the position with claims of having a separate flag, separate constitution and like that were posted in support of the theories that the State had special status as provided by constitution of India which too remained not dismissed all these years and such narrations were picked by even separatists as distancing symbols when even the human rights / fundamental rights of even woman indian citizens who were permanent residents of J&K were violated and the permanent residents Schedule Tribe of J&K were not provided reservation in the Legislative Assembly of J&K.

Ofcourse it has been only on 11-03-2015 that the Government of India in a written reply to Rajaya Sabha Q- 138 in very plain terms informed the nation (also the people outside) that Art-370/ Constitution of India does not provide con-

stitutionally special status to J&K The myth of special status had so much fascinated the innocent subjects of J&K that even some of those who had been denied due status in administration as well as as the legislature by earlier governments did get attracted by those who projected the Presidential Order issued under C.O 272 of 05-08-2019 and a notification issued under C.O 273 of 06-08-2019 as actions of Union stripping the people of J&K of some 'good' they carried. So government of India / present leadership need be given some time for wiping off the impressions that the uncontested myths had created over nearly 7 decades and turbulences that could be there after 2019.

To quote one mainstream leader from Kashmiri valley in 2014-15 that no one can dare to take away Art-370 from



A Look through the Mist

Kashmiries , and in case one dares to take it off 'said' mainstream' leader may pick up gun ; one very very senior mainstream leader / non muslim (even from outside Kashmir valley) in 2016 said on the floor of Parliament that J&K had not merged with India where as other states merged (where as there was no merger document to be signed by a Prince of a princely state with India Dominion after signing accession document) ; a J&K Chief Minister said in 2017 on the floor of JK Assembly that solution to Kashmir issue lies in PDP's Self Rule Proposals (where as Self Rule Proposals talked of joint control of India and Pakistan on some affairs of 'Greater Jammu Kashmir' and J&K to have right for deciding import / export tariff with main lands of India and Pakistan, and even Autonomy for J&K from India nation state) ; but all statements & lead-

ers went unchecked / uncorrected by even Government of India so has been the misunderstanding they could cultivate/ nourish. Which is how some myths had become believable 'truths' for some (mostly in Kashmir valley) that some hard preventive steps had to be taken by Government after 4th August 2019. All need to work with patience on ground to carry the real truths and intentions of government of India to each and every corner of J&K so that the efforts of Government of India for establishing long lasting peace and stability in the J&K are further strengthened. Those still trumpeting that "Article 370 giving 'special status' to Jammu and Kashmir has been 'abrogated' & erstwhile State of J&K is after 2019 'fully integrated' with India must word their statements carefully since J&K has already been integral part of India. No doubt there has been the need for doing some administrative and political reforms

as regards the wrongs done by earlier governments like the seats in Legislative Assembly and the locations of District Administrative units and much need be still done .Sure some of the reforms may need major surgeries and that may be the reason for such corrections still remaining pending. But the process for betterment has started after 2019 like ST reservation in Legislature of J&K UT already constitutionally created and some part corrections have also been there in terms of the Delimitation or J&K Legislative Assembly (LA) order of 2022. Hope the process will be taken further by the LG Government as regards reorganization of district administrative units and as regards pending corrections through delimitation of seats in LA people will have to wait till Census data after 2031 census is known.

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