

# CM reviews functioning of Govt departments, sets benchmarks for 100 days, 1 year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday held a comprehensive review of the functioning of all government departments in a high-level meeting held here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers Javid Ahmad Rana, Sakeena Itoo, and Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary



CM Omar Abdullah reviewing functioning of all government departments in a meeting.

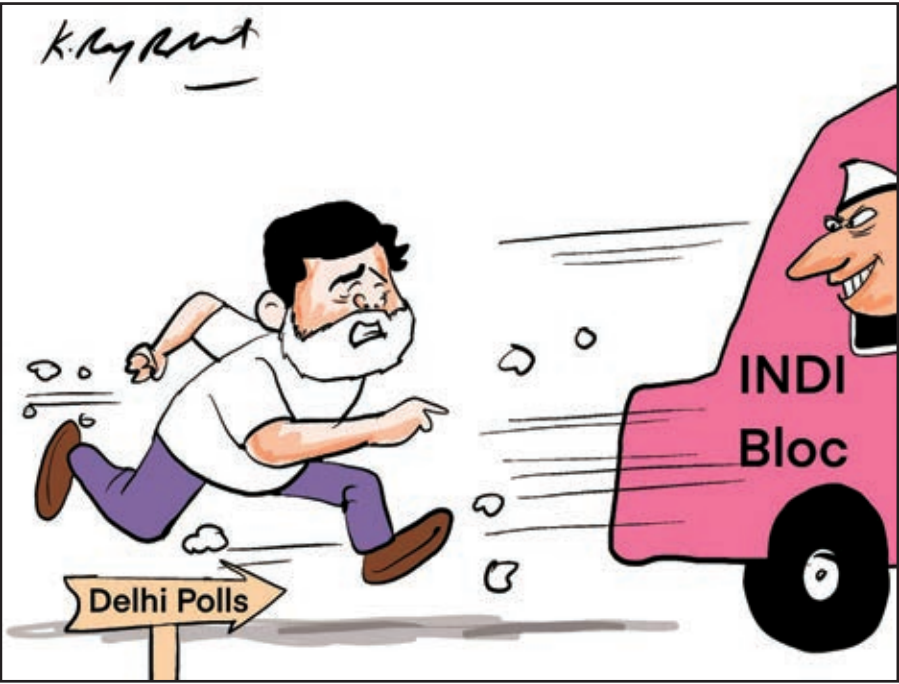
to CM Dheeraj Gupta, all administrative secretaries and senior officers who were present in person and through virtual mode. During the meeting, each

Administrative Secretary presented a detailed vision document outlining achievable benchmarks within two specific timeframes-100 days and one year. The deliverables set include major policy decisions, project to be completed and launching of new development projects. The Chief Minister

emphasized the importance of adhering to strict timelines for the execution of all projects, stressing that timely delivery is key to meeting public expectations and driving development.

Discussions and deliberations were held on strategies to ensure these benchmarks are met efficiently.

He also called for a collective effort from all departments to prioritize transparency, accountability, and swift implementation of plans to achieve these goals within the stipulated timeframes.



## DC, MD JJM, review progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Mission Director, JJM J&K, Khursheed Ahmad Shah chairing a meeting on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Khursheed Ahmad Shah on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing JJM projects in district Jammu.

During the meeting, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Jammu, Bodhranj Bhagat briefed the officers about the progress in implementing JJM. A detailed presentation on the ongoing schemes and targets set for completion by March 2025 was also delivered.

Addressing the house, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Executive Engineers and Junior Engineers to resolve site-specific issues promptly and expedite works to adhere to stipulated deadlines.

The Mission Director stressed the urgency

of completing all pending schemes and achieving 100% "Har Ghar Jal" certification for covered villages. He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely execution to meet the mission's goals.

Key directives were issued to fast-track the drilling of tubewells, procurement and installation of machinery, construction of overhead tanks, pump rooms and pipe-laying activities. He urged all stakeholders to work diligently to achieve the set targets and ensure smooth implementation of JJM in district Jammu.

The review meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer Mechanical Urban Circle Jammu, Sunil Gandotra; AEE Mohinder Manhas; consultants (Civil and Mechanical); Executive Engineers; Assistant Executive Engineers; Junior Engineers (Civil and Mechanical); DPMU Jammu officials and TPI representatives.

## Dr Jitendra addresses 'Genome India' conclave, focuses on gene based medical management

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NEW DELHI: Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday released the Genome India data related to 10,000 genome samples archived at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) and now made available to researchers not just in India but across the globe.

The Minister also launched 'Framework for Exchange of Data Protocols (FeED) and Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) Portals for Data Access at 'Genome India Data' Conclave today at Vigyan Bhawan here.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Sh Narendra Modi's Video Message motivated the scientific fraternity and also laid a roadmap for the future.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented the flagship project, 'GenomeIndia', for whole genome sequencing (WGS) of 10,000 individuals representing various Indian populations. This project



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "Genome India Data Conclave" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

aims to create a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations, making it a valuable scientific resource for the country. Access to the GenomeIndia Data by researchers will propel genomics research and enable the design of genome chips for large-scale genetic studies at an affordable cost, with higher precision for imputing genetic variants.

To ensure the responsible release of such high-quality, nation-specific data, the Department has formulated the 'Framework for Exchange of Data (FeED) Protocols' under the Biotech-PRIDE

Guidelines. This framework sets the stage for sharing biological data in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner.

Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines were also launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh in 2021.

Addressing the conclave Dr. JitendraSingh said "The new Bioeconomy policy rolled out by the Modi Govt is set to place India as a global leader in the years to come". He added that "India's bio economy has experienced remarkable growth, skyrocketing from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with projections to reach \$300 bil-

lion by 2030. This surge reflects India's robust economic growth. The BIOe3 policy will reignite growth spirits and position India as a potential leader in the 4th industrial revolution, he said.

"Whole genome samples 10000 samples archived at IBDC now made available to researchers not just in India but across globe,"he said now we have Indian genome data which would go at length to serve our india's interests in healthcare.Dr. Jitendra Singh categorically mentioned that these will play a vital role in large-scale manufacturing of products like mRNA-based vaccines and proteins.

Going further; Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that "India now ranks 12th in the world in biomanufacturing and 3rd in Asia-Pacific. We are the largest vaccine manufacturer and the 3rd largest StartUp ecosystem," adding, the Biotech ecosystem in the country is emerging at a rapid pace with the setting up of 95 bio incubators and increasing numbers of Biotech Startups.

The Biotech Startups have experienced remarkable growth, increasing from just about 50 in 2014 to nearly 9,000 today. The rise of Biotech Startups is pivotal for our future economy. Genome India Data would come in handy. He also suggested to rope in TATA memorial hospital for provision of cancer related data to enrich this.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India; Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR & Secretary, DHR; and Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, along with senior officials, directors, scientists, doctors, and professionals from the concerned scientific ministries, departments, and institutions.

Dr. Suchita Ninawe, a senior official at DBT, who has played a key role in establishing the Indian Biological Data Centre and steering the 'GenomeIndia' project, emphasized that the data generated through the GenomeIndia project represents a treasure for genomics research in India.

## Want to work with Delhi to resolve JK problems: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said his party does not intend to "fight" New Delhi to collaborate with the central government to address the pressing issues of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing concerns about the unity within the INDIA bloc, Abdullah said the alliance is not just about contesting elections, but it is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. "The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment."

He was replying to media questions on a range of issues including about Chief Minister Omar Abdullah being dubbed a "New Delhi man", fissures in the INDIA bloc with the AAP and Congress fighting the Delhi polls separately, the dual power structure in J&K,

Maha Kumbh and the Tirupati stampede.

"We don't want to fight New Delhi. We want to work together with Delhi to resolve the state's problems. We don't want to engage in battles. Those who want to fight can do so," the former chief minister told reporters here.

He expressed concern over unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a significant issue in the region. "How will people's problem be solved when unemployment is so severe here? Our hospitals and schools are in dire condition. We need teachers, doctors, and paramedics, but instead, unnecessary battles are being fought," he said.

Abdullah said National Conference has got nothing to do with the BJP, but it is the responsibility of the cen-

tral government to support state governments in addressing local issues. "We are not with the BJP, nor do we have any connection with them," he said.

Abdullah stressed both the central and state governments should prioritise the needs of the people rather than engaging in conflicts that hinder progress.

Reacting to claims about his son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah being influenced by New Delhi, the NC chief said, "Omar Abdullah is elected chief minister by people. He does not act on anyone's instructions. He acts on his own decisions. Those who are under this misunderstanding should come out of it."

Replying to a question

about Wednesday's Tirupati temple stampede that killed six pilgrims, he urged the government to ensure that incidents causing loss of life are prevented, particularly at religious sites and during festivals.

He highlighted the importance of proactive planning at places of worship, which attract lakhs of devotees, to ensure safety and security, especially for women.

"With the Maha Kumbh approaching, the authorities must take adequate measures to avoid any mismanagement. This is a once-in-twelve-years' event where millions visit the Ganga. The government must ensure proper arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents," he said, underlining the cultural and religious significance of such events in India.

On a question about rumblings within the INDIA

bloc, Abdullah said, "The alliance is not just about contesting elections. It is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. Those who believe this alliance exists only for parliamentary elections are mistaken. The alliance is permanent -- it is for every day and every moment."

Responding to questions about the dual governance structure, Abdullah reiterated the demand for statehood, stating that the dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir would stabilise once full statehood is restored.

On a controversy over a person facing a probe joining the National Conference, Abdullah said, "I was unaware of his involvement in any case. We announced yesterday that until he is cleared of all charges, he will not be admitted into the party."

## Driving skill tests to be conducted at IDIR Khaink from Jan 14: RTO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra on Thursday announced that the driving skill tests, which are currently being conducted at Khanpur Nagrota, will be shifted to Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) at Khaink, Kot Bhalwal from January 14, 2025.

Addressing a press conference here today, the RTO emphasized that the IDTR is a state-of-the-art facility established by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). It features six specialized testing tracks designed as per the mandates outlined in the Central Motor Vehicle (CMV) Rules.

The RTO further informed that the slot booking process for driving tests is entirely



RTO Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra talking to reporters.

online and facilitated through the Sarathi portal. "Applicants are encouraged to book their test slots online at their convenience, based on availability" he added.

He also highlighted that the driving tests at IDTR will be conducted under the surveillance of video cameras, ensuring transparency and fairness. The video recordings will be stored for

90 days for any review or dispute resolution purposes.

The Regional Transport Officer Jammu appealed to the general public to avail 58 services offered by the Transport Department from the comfort of their home. He encouraged applicants to access these services independently through the official portals without seeking assistance from intermediaries.

# After Art 74 was amended President can cannot take any decision/issue any advice at his/her own Will!

**Congress Government in 1976 & Morarji lead Janta Govt in 1978 constitutionally weakened Institution of President of INDIA**

**Framers of COI were very particular for protecting-preserving-defending soul spirits of Constitution**

**Some may profess that Article 368 of COI gives unchecked amending power to Parliament, but it is not so !**

**Should not those who call for protection of COI unitedly work for undoing amendments made in 1976 & 1978 to Art -74 ?**

■ DAYA SAGAR  
The institution of President was not incorporated as formal head of the State as many people may be professing / inferring these day but has been as a very dedicated in superior status & authority institution which very explicitly reflects from the Articles like Art-52 ( There shall be a President ), Art-53{ (1) The executive power of the Union ... Art 53 (2) ( the supreme command of the Defence Forces of the Union shall be vested in the President, Art- 54( The President shall be elected by the members, of an electoral college consisting of members of Lok Sabha, members of Rajay Sabha and the members of Legislative Assemblies of States/ UTs), Art-60 (oath as protector, preserver and defender of constitution), Art-61 ( impeachment of President ), Art-75 ( appointment of Prime Minister) Art-77 ( Conduct of

Bussiness of Government ) and Art-79 ( There shall be a Parliament t for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People.). Some may still argue that since president is elected by the MPs and MLAs he will be obliged to the Council of Ministers ( the ruling party in majority in Parliament so will go to their choice and does not matter whether amended Art-74 comes in the way of President executing oath taken as per Art-60. But these people forget that there can be no any achievement in Public Life / Statute than the President of county like India hence it can be still expected that individual after reaching that stature may not fall in levels to some personal obligations at the cost of the future of his nation/ people and exercise his/ her authority if needed in terms of Art 74 to free will. It

is not out of place to assert here that constitution also firmly lays the provision for installation of elected government with in a limited time.

As per my information the amendments to Art-74 have not so far come for review before the Supreme Court of India for having diluted the authority of President of India for protecting , preserving and defending the constitution of India keeping view that Kesavananda Bharti case 13 Judge Bench Constitution Judgement ( 1973 ) professed and held that although all parts of constitution including Fundamental Rights were not outside Parliament's amending power, the "basic structure" of the Constitution cannot be distorted even by a constitutional



### A Look through the Mist Part-VII

amendment. Apex court can strike down any amendment made by Parliament that is against / in conflict with the " basic structure" of Constitution which has also been the spirit ( Basic Structure Doctrine ) of the judgement in Minerva mills case (1980) where Section-4 added in Art-368 by a section of 42nd Constitution Amendment Act of 1976 was held in valid / quashed by Supreme Court of India { ( <Section- 4">No amendment of this Constitution (including the provisions of Part III) made or purporting to have been made under this article [whether before or after the commencement of section 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976] shall be called in question in any court on any ground") was held not valid which pre-

vented judicial review of the actions of the Parliament and was so held as against basic structure of constitution [Ins. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 55 (w.e.f. 3-1-1977). This section has been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in Minerva Mills Ltd. and Others Vs. Union of India and Others AIR 1980 ). There has been discussion / debate in the Winter Session of Parliament where both the opposition & in power members have expressed their 'sincere' intentions / commitments of safe guard the Constitution that was adopted on 26 Nov 1949. Why not they either undo the amendments made to Art-74 through parliamentary process or any one approaches the Apex court for quashing amendments pleading the amendments being against the 'basic structure of COI' so as to restore the 'independent' authority to protect, preserve and the

defend the Constitution in the Institution of President which has already been provided by the framers of Constitution of India ( COI) in the constitution itself and the President is on Oath in terms of Art-60 but amended Art-74 puts checks on the President to go by the oath independently . Otherwise also there is case for the Apex court even taking suo moto notice of the unconstitutional amendments made to Art-74 of the COI { 1.by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s.13, for cl. (1) (w.e.f. 3-1-1977). 2. Ins. by the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978, s. 11 (w.e.f. 20-6-1979)} which have throttled the authority of the Institution of President of India to protect , preserve and defend the Constitution of India.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs)