

'150 years of IMD'

Weather installations double, forecast accuracy increase 50% in 10 years: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "In the last 10 years, the weather related installations in the country increased to more than double while there has been a 50 percent increase in the accuracy of weather forecast and early warning systems since 2014 when the Modi Govt took over," said Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at the 150th Foundation Day celebration of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Bharat Mandapam, here today.

The event was, among others, graced by Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Sharing the current status, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "Before 2014, the number of radar stations across the country was just 15; today, we have successfully installed more than double to make it 39 radars. The number of Automated Weather Stations has grown from 700 to 1,500, more than double the number since 2014. Additionally, the number of Balloon Radiosondes was just 33 in 2014, now it has increased to 56." The Minister also highlighted some recent initiatives, such as "Nowcast", which provides weather forecasts up to three hours ahead.



Initially limited to 120 cities before 2014, it has now been extended to 1,200 cities.

Tracing IMD's journey over the last 150 years since its inception in 1875, and particularly in the past decade, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the department's achievements. He noted that IMD works in a synergized ecosystem with space, sea, and land installations.

The Earth Sciences Minister also mentioned the Extended Forecast, introduced in 2017, which is issued every Thursday and provides weather predictions for the next two weeks. He noted the larger impact of IMD's services, mentioning that average rainfall forecasting, once done for the entire country, is now region-specific.

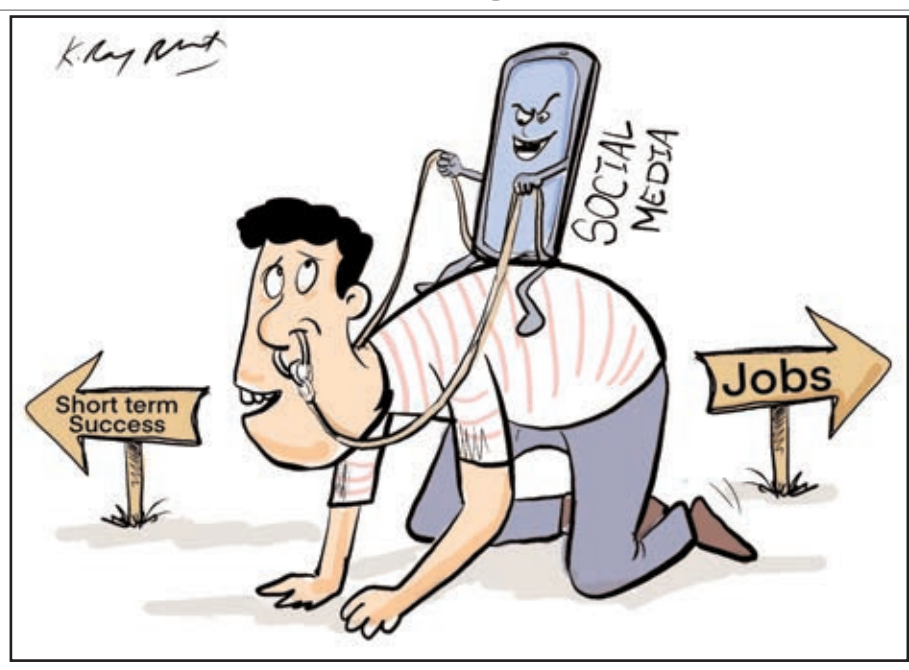
Dr Jitendra further shared that Doppler weather radars are now installed in all major cities across India. Reiterating the government's unwavering support and commitment to ease the lives of citizens through technology and innovation, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that the government has allocated ₹50,000 crore for innovation through the Anusandhan National Research Fund (NRF). He also pointed out the establishment of the Space Startup Viability Fund with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore. These efforts, he said, are not limited to weather forecasting but extend to crucial sectors such as agriculture, water resources management, disaster risk reduction, and defense, offering multifold benefits to society.

Dr. Singh, who hails from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, also shared that the Regional IMD Centre in Srinagar, which has garnered global recognition, is celebrating its centenary year. He reaffirmed that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is no longer focused on simply predicting the weather for tomorrow but is concentrating on understanding the impact of weather events for the coming days. He expressed con-

fidence that India is poised to emerge as a global leader in weather forecasting capabilities.

Speaking at the foundation day celebration, Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of WMO, praised IMD's journey as a testament to India's commitment to weather forecasting. She highlighted how IMD has maintained its legacy with dedication, embracing technological innovation and resilience in adapting to fast-paced changes in climate and weather. She emphasized the socio-economic impact of these services and their multifaceted benefits.

Saulo also stressed the importance of investment in hydrological and meteorological services for the future. She paid tribute to Smt. Amma Mani, an Indian meteorologist who joined IMD in 1948 and worked her way up to become the Deputy Director-General of the Indian Meteorological Department. Following the celebration, a National Stakeholder Workshop covering various sectors will be organized on January 15, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Another highlight of the celebration will be the Tableau for Republic Day 2025, themed Swarim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas.



PARAKH supported capacity building workshop concludes



Chairman JKBOSE Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas posing with dignitaries and participants of workshop.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A five-day workshop and capacity-building programme on Holistic Progress Card and Standardization of Question Paper Template under the PARAKH initiative organized by NCERT concluded successfully at the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Rehari, here on Tuesday.

As many as 90 educators participated in this capacity building programme.

Chairman JKBOSE Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas was the Chief Guest, while Secretary Sudershan Kumar was the Guest of Honour at the Valedictory Function.

In his valedictory address, Prof. Parikshat Singh highlighted the multifaceted role of educators, stating, "Teaching is the noblest of all noble professions. However, teaching is not the sole responsibility of educators; they are also tasked with evaluating students. Balanced question paper setting is a crucial element of the evaluation process." He also emphasized that upskilling is imperative for the growth of teachers.

Secretary JKBOSE Sudershan Kumar emphasized the significance of such initiatives, remarking, "Workshops

like these play a vital role in fostering a vibrant assessment ecosystem, which is integral to holistic education."

Director Academics Dr. Sudhir Singh lauded the Academic Division for its commendable efforts in organizing the workshop. He announced that similar workshops would be conducted in a cascade manner to further enhance the capacity of question paper setters across the board.

Earlier, Deputy Director, Yasir H. Sirwal presented a detailed report on the five-day workshop, expressing gratitude to the expert resource persons for their invaluable deliberations.

He explained that the workshop was conducted to equip educators with the skills needed to design and develop a Holistic Progress Card for the secondary stage.

Two highly experienced and well-trained resource persons from PARAKH, NCERT, guided the participants throughout the program. The training focused on creating progress cards that not only assess academic performance but also consider the awareness, sensitivity, and creativity of students, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of their

development. Additionally, the educators were trained in the art and science of designing balanced question papers. This involved understanding how to cater to the diverse learning needs and abilities of all types of students, ensuring fairness and inclusivity. The workshop emphasized innovative assessment practices and equipped educators with tools to enhance the learning process while maintaining a student-centric approach.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Incharge Principal and Promila Koul Lecturer while giving their feedback on behalf of participating educators lauded the efforts of JKBOSE in organizing such programmes and requested for follow up to such initiatives to further strengthen the skills of trained educators.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ashutosh Parashar, Academic Officer. The programme was skillfully anchored by Sugandhi, Academic Officer.

Other attendees included Syed Kashif Hashmi, Chander Kumar (Academic Officers), and officials from the CDR Wing JD JKBOSE, who collectively contributed to the success of the event.

NC govt should focus on governance now after once again assurance by PM: Arun Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: After the assurance by Prime Minister, now the NC government should shift its focus on the governance in Jammu & Kashmir utilizing the development advancements made hereby the Union government, instead of raking up emotional issues like statehood for political mileage, stated Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by YV Sharma, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP was addressing a Press Conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again assured that all the promises made to J&K will be fulfilled, said Arun Gupta and added that some of the promises are already done and the rest



Spokesperson J&K BJP, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

will be done at the right time.

NC leadership should start focusing on effective and result-oriented governance by the J&K government and stop talking only about promises made including statehood by the Union government, said Arun Gupta.

"For the last three months, nothing has been accomplished by the present NC government which has more than 35 departments under their jurisdiction", said Arun

future and cannot take people for granted", said Arun Gupta.

Arun Gupta said that the Government of India has provided liberal funding for numerous infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir. Those projects shall not serve their purpose if local governance does not match with all the infrastructure being developed by the Union government at a huge cost.

"What is the point of developing 4 vital corridors in Jammu and Kashmir if they remain underutilized getting developed at the whopping cost of 50,000 crore" said Arun Gupta while sharing that the Jammu-Srinagar is getting developed at the cost of 16000 crore rupees, Jammu-Chenani-Anantnag at the cost of 14,000 crore, Surankote-Shopian-Baramulla at the cost of 10,000 crore, Jammu-

Akhnoor-Surankote-Poonch at the cost of 5,000 crore and Kathua-Basohli-Bhaderwah-Doda at the cost of 3,400 crore rupees.

He added that the Delhi-Katra is already being developed at a cost of 41,000 crore rupees, and a new project Paddar-Zanskar road is being conceived.

YV Sharma said that this is the golden period of development in Jammu & Kashmir. Right from the rail link to Kashmir and this Z-Morh tunnel, the PM is eager to develop J&K and the people were waiting from early morning to listen to the PM in the sub-zero temperature. He also appealed to the NC government to focus on the development and to address all the issues related to the public needs utilizing the resources provided by the Union government with the liberal funding to Jammu & Kashmir.

MVD begins Driving Skill Test at IDTR Khaink Kot Bhalwal



Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Mahajan inspecting driving skill tests at the Institute of Driving Training and Research at Khaink, Kot Bhalwal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD), under the leadership of Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Mahajan, on Tuesday initiated driving skill tests here at the Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Khaink, Kot Bhalwal.

The testing track, currently under construction, is being developed with advanced automation systems by Maruti Suzuki India Limited. The project is expected to be completed on or before March 31, 2025.

The Transport Commissioner was accompanied by Jt. Transport Commissioner Vinay Samotra and RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra.

The decision to commence driving skill tests at the under-construction IDTR aims to enhance the confidence of driving license aspirants by exposing them to a more challenging environment with real-life complexities and vulnerabilities through which MVD seeks to prepare better individuals for road safety and responsible driving, which is the prime concern of the department due to increasing trend of fatalities in road accidents in India.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan emphasized, "The initiative is a step towards creating safer roads by ensuring that license seekers are trained and tested in a

realistic and modern setting. Once fully automated, the IDTR will set a benchmark in driving education and testing."

This move aligns with the Government's vision of promoting efficient and technology-driven infrastructure in the transportation sector. During the interaction with DL Test aspirants, the Transport Commissioner stressed upon all to follow the Road Safety Rules & Regulations so that lives which are being lost due to road accidents are saved. He also warned the violators of strict punitive action if they don't mend wrong ways of driving on the roads. He also directed the DL Test Board

not to conduct Driving Test of DL aspirants without wearing Helmet for 2 Wheeler test and Seat Belt for 4Wheeler test. A Road Safety pledge was also solemnised to all present in the DL Test Ground.

A team of MVD comprising ARTO Hqr. Rehana Tabassam, ARTO (P), Kuldeep Singh, ARTO(G), Mudansir Iqbal, ARTO (FS) Bipen Singh Charak and Vikas Srivats (MVI), Jasbir Singh (MVI), Jagandeep Singh (MVI), Amanish Sharma (SMVI) and Tarunjit Singh (MVTA) were also present in the Driving Test Ground, which managed and conducted today's activities.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A six-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP), successfully concluded today at the District Centre of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Jammu.

The EDP was organized by JKEDI under the guidance of Director JKEDI Rajinder Kumar Sharma and aimed at nurturing aspiring entrepreneurs from Jammu district under the JKREGP scheme. A total of

DC Jammu visits Bishnah to assess administrative functioning

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, on Tuesday toured Bishnah tehsil and town on Tuesday to review administrative functioning and developmental issues.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the law and order situation with local magistrates and police officers. He stressed the importance of

enue related services to the public as per PSGA guidelines.

In Bishnah town, the DC assessed the cleanliness and sanitation conditions. He instructed officials to take immediate steps to address sanitation issues and maintain a hygienic environment. Strict instructions were issued to identify and penalise individuals delib-



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya interacting with officials during visit to Bishnah tehsil.

maintaining peace and ensuring prompt responses to public grievances.

The DC also inspected the revenue records of various villages in Bishnah tehsil. He directed officials to ensure timely updation of records and efficient delivery of revenue related services to the public as per PSGA guidelines.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the law and order situation with local magistrates and police officers. He stressed the importance of

atly engaging in irresponsible garbage dumping.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADDC Sher Singh, Tehsildar Bishnah, EO Municipal Committee Bishnah, BDO Bishnahand SHO Bishnah during the visit.

ing the program to establish sustainable business ventures.

Several participants shared their experiences, expressing confidence in embarking on their entrepreneurial journeys. They acknowledged the comprehensive training provided by JKEDI as instrumental in equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to realize their business aspirations.

The program is a testament to fostering entrepreneurship and empowering individuals to contribute to the region's socio-economic development.

Six-day EDP concludes at JKEDI

23 participants successfully completed the training program.

Throughout the six-day program, participants were trained in essential business concepts, including business plan formulation, marketing strategies, accounts management, record keeping, customer relationship management, and other relevant topics. The training also focused on business ventures in manufacturing, services, and agri-allied sectors.

Participants explored small business opportunities such as retail outlets for cosmetics and readymade goods, cattle feed units, elec-

All possible efforts should be done to saturate areas with BSNL services: Khatana

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana on Tuesday chaired review meeting in BSNL Bhawan Rail Head Complex, here.

Member of Parliament, while chairing the meeting, expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for providing indigenous 4G telecom equipment to BSNL to upgrade the existing services to 4G.

He said that BJP led government in Center is interested to improve the BSNL services and villages have been identified to provide service in rural as well as in urban areas.

All possible efforts should be done to saturate areas with BSNL services, he said adding that BSNL services should be brought at par with the services of other TSPs.

"BSNL officials should work harder to get maximum benefit to win back the trust of the consumers and to get BSNL Revenue Figures in positive that can be achieved only when BSNL Officers adopt customer friendly approach," he said.

During the discussion, Member of Parliament discussed the Agenda Points the Meeting.

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the poor call quality being faced at some of the locations of Jammu



MP Raja Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana chairing review meeting in BSNL Bhawan Rail Head Complex.

Province.

From BSNL side, detail report regarding the services being provided by BSNL and actions taken by BSNL to improve the services was presented by Principal General Manager Business Area Jammu, Mumtaz Ahmed who gave a brief note of services/telecom facilities being provided by BSNL in all the ten districts of Jammu province.

PGMT, BA Jammu informed that under 4G Saturation project of Government of India, all the uncovered villages to be covered with 4G connectivity. Moreover, FTTH and Air Fiber services have been launched by the BSNL to provide high speed internet as per the Digital India Mission. In Phase-3, all the Block headquarters and Gram Panchayats shall be covered with high speed internet connectivity on Fiber.

Moreover, Member of

Parliament also raised the issue of poor brand visibility of the services being offered by BSNL Jammu BA.

He was also very much concerned about the less number of BSNL Mobile towers in comparison to other TSPs and was of the opinion that BSNL officials should work for improving the QoS and customer satisfaction by increasing the tower count and service availability.

In the end, Member of Parliament (RajyaSabha) conveyed his satisfaction with the efforts being made by BSNL BA Jammu to improve BSNL data services in both wired and wireless segment. And hoped that the efforts will start to bear fruits by next financial year.

Other BSNL officials present in the meeting were Nand Kishore, Rajesh Khanna, Rakesh Sharma, Rajesh Shama, Pran Nath Raina, Vijay Kumar Sharma and A.K Maurya.