

AI, Block technologies no more option, but only choice: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and block technologies are no more an option but the only choice, and the challenge is how best to use these for the benefit of the mankind", said Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday while addressing the National Conference on "Cybersecurity, Artificial intelligence and Block Chain" organised by the PHD Chamber Of Commerce and Industry here. Recalling his association with the PHD Chamber for the past several years, the Minister highlighted the importance of such symposiums which provide a platform to brainstorm on challenges which the government and the society face in contemporary times. Dr. Jitendra said, cybersecurity and challenges posed by next gen technology is a world wide concern and India is no exception. With the fast pace development witnessed in the past decade



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing National Conference on Cybersecurity, Artificial intelligence and Block Chain organised by PHDCCI at New Delhi on Wednesday.

under PM Narendra Modi who ushered the nation on the path of innovation and technology. However, the technology is a double edged sword when people with wrong intentions get hold of it. The Minister of State, Personnel, Pensions and Public Grievances Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to the leading initiatives taken by his ministry to ease the life of citizens. He said "Department of pensions was among the first to use Face recognition technology to issue Digital Life Certificates".

According to him this enables the age-old pensioner to obtain the certificate sitting at home without his physical presence at a bank or other government office. In the Science & Technology Minister's view, challenges from Technology have to be tackled by technology itself. He added that AI should be a means of assisting the human, rather than commanding the same. Sharing an example from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that sometimes with a lot of Artificial Intelligence intervention, we may need the human emotional quotient as well. As the department has a 95% grievance disposal rate but the citizens remained somewhat unsatisfied, to address this a Human desk was set up. Dr. Jitendra Singh shared, the AI has been used to better analyze and resolve the grievances on CPGRAMS portal which acts as a role model for other nations. He also underscored that

the current regime is liberal in the sense of collaborating with the non-governmental players to address the future challenges of technology. He highlighted the recently approved India's Bio e3 policy. Enabling India to shift with the global economic headwinds and contribute significantly. He also referred to Amusandhan NRF and reaffirmed the scientific community and industry that we have tried to reduce our dependence on government resources as in NRF almost 60-70% of resources will be non-government. Highlighting the boost given to StartUps in the past 10 years he said "we started with 350 now we have nearly 1.75 lakh". He also emphasized that we have to work in synergy and come out of silos in order to make India Viksit Bharat by 2047. And forums like the PHD chamber of Commerce can act as partners in achieving this vision.



Spa Centers Association Jammu welcomes police raids, seeks action against illegal Spas



President Spa Centers Association Jammu, Amit Kapoor talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Spa Centers Association Jammu welcomed the crackdown on multiple spa centers and appreciated the efforts to uphold law and order in the region. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday in light of the recent police raids conducted on multiple spa centers in the Chhanni Himmat area, Amit Kapoor, President of the association, clarified the situation and expressed support for the police's actions. He welcomed the crackdown and appreciated the efforts to

uphold law and order in the region. "We have been operating our spas in accordance with the established guidelines, ensuring compliance with all legal formalities and maintaining proper documentation," Kapoor said. Drawing attention to a growing concern, Kapoor highlighted that several spas in Jammu have been operating illegally and engaging in immoral activities, tarnishing the reputation of the trade. "Strict action must be taken against those who are defaming this industry by indulging in unethical prac-

tices," he emphasized. He described spas as aesthetic beauty centers where individuals receive therapies for body relaxation, adding that a few bad elements, largely outsiders, have maligned the industry. Kapoor called upon the police and administration to intensify their crackdown on such establishments, ensuring legitimate businesses can operate without hindrance. The Spa Centers Association reiterated its commitment to maintaining ethical practices and fostering trust in the spa and wellness sector.

TC inaugurates Free Health Check-Up Camp for drivers, conductors

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Transport Commissioner (TC) of Jammu and Kashmir, Vishesh Mahajan on Wednesday inaugurated a free health check-up camp for drivers and conductors here at Bakshi Nagar Matador Stand. The camp was organized by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Jammu, in collaboration with the Health Department and the Minibus Union Jammu. During the Camp more than 270 drivers and conductors participated and availed themselves of the facility like eye check-up for colour-blindness, defect in eye sight, test to check Blood Pressure Sugar, Hb etc. Speaking on the occasion, J&K Transport Commissioner J&K



Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Mahajan speaking at free health check-up camp.

informed the participants that the aim of organizing such medical camps is to spread awareness among drivers about the significance of personal health and hygiene for safe driving. "Such camps will be organized for drivers on a regular basis so that they keep their health in check and well

monitored as they hold the responsibility of ensuring the safety of passengers", he added. The Transport commissioner also emphasized the importance of adopting safe and responsible driving habits especially among passenger vehicle drivers and conductors and

urged the drivers to avoid drunken and rash driving and use of mobile phones while driving. He reiterated that strict adherence to speed limits is crucial, as drivers carry the responsibility of many co-passengers. He said that in many instances it was observed that a minor negligence on the road can lead to tragic loss of lives. The Transport Commissioner also informed that the department would take up the matter with oil companies to ensure that violators-such as riders without helmets, drivers without seat belts, or those breaching traffic laws are denied fuel at petrol pumps. He further added that although the transport department is implementing all possible measures to reduce accidents, it has constituted a Committee to study

the root cause of mishaps in few identified black spots of Jammu district so that necessary steps can be implemented to prevent fatalities. He also sought active participation of drivers and transport unions to achieve the goal. Responding to the demands of the transport community, he assured that the department would take every initiative to provide moral and administrative support to drivers, enabling them to deliver their services without hindrance. Earlier, Regional Transport Officer Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra also spoke at length about road safety awareness and reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders to ensuring a safer and healthier environment for the transport sector in the district.

Jammu Bar, Congress delegations call on LG



Congress delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today unveiled the J&K Bank's much-awaited Wall-Calendar for the year 2025 at a prestigious event held in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. The event was attended by the Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Manager Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat, DGM Manju Gupta and other senior officials. During the unveiling ceremony, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo expressed his admiration for the Bank's initiative of releasing a new Calendar for 2025. He said, "I am pleased to see that through this Calendar, J&K Bank has successfully captured the essence of transformation underway in Jammu, Kashmir and

Ladakh. The depiction of these infrastructural projects is in line with the Government vision of comprehensive and inclusive economic development of the regions." "As the major shareholder in the Bank, the Government of J&K has high expectations from this institution, and we believe that the Bank will achieve new heights while playing a pivotal role in supporting the inclusive economic growth of the people of this region", he added. While expressing his gratitude for the unwavering support of the J&K Government, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee thanked the Chief Secretary for his valuable guidance and the time. He further stated, "I feel immensely happy at the launch of the Bank's Calendar - 2025, which

has always been more than a mere date-keeper; it is a symbol of our deep emotional connect with our people and our roots. This year we have tried to capture some of the milestones of developmental vision expressing itself in the form of infrastructural projects representing people's aspirations for their progressive and prosperous future." "Holding an iconic place in the hearts of the people of the region, its presence in homes and offices across our areas of operations serves as both a token of gratitude to our valued stakeholders and an effective medium of enhanced brand promotion/recall to augment the Bank's connect with the people across its operational geographies", he added. Executive Director Sudhir Gupta emphasized further the

Satish Sharma discusses with Joshi augmentation of Renewal Energy, Solarisation, PDS in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Training, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday called on Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution, New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, in New Delhi and had a detailed discussion on matters pertaining to consumer affairs, public distribution and renewable energy. The Minister discussed various matters of public interest including extension of Jammu Solarisation Scheme for two more years under which almost 50 thousand households have already been covered, necessary assistance for solarisation of all hospitals falling in border areas in the national interest besides solarisation of emergency/trauma centres in accident prone areas. He also requested to increase 20 villages (one in each district) under Model Village Scheme and award one crore rupees for each such village for maximum



Minister for FCS&CA, J&K, Satish Sharma calling on Union Minister, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi.

solarization, sanction of 4000 more agricultural pumps under PM KUSUM Yojana for the benefit of farmers. Regarding development of Solar Power Infrastructure, the Minister urged for establishment of large scale Solar Power Plants in regions of J&K where solar irradiance is high, financial and technical assistance for augmentation/implementation of rooftop solar installations across government buildings, educational institutions and residential areas under the Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Program, establishment of Solar Parks under Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) particularly in arid and barren lands of J&K, augmentation of ongo-

ing solarisation in Srinagar which will be a unique initiative of its kind. Satish Sharma asserted that the government is focused on sustainability and green energy transition and insisted for collaboration to achieve the renewable energy targets set under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Minister also raised several issues pertaining to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. He apprised the Union Minister that free additional ration was distributed for 30 months under PMGKY which caused deficit of 73 crore rupees and requested for release of same amount. He asked him to allow the government to utilise savings under PMGKY/Tide over to run the state sponsored schemes. He also asked for special package so that government could increase the volume of ration to be distributed among the people. The Union Minister patiently heard the demands/issue and assured to consider all the points for prompt action.

power supply, energy access for remote areas with Off-Grid Solar Power Solutions besides development of solar micro-grids and standalone solar systems in off-grid and border villages, expansion of distribution of solar lanterns and home systems under the Remote Village Electrification (RVE) program. The Minister stressed on establishment of a Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy in J&K to focus on research, innovation and capacity building in solar and hydro energy technologies besides training programs and workshops to enhance local capacity in renewable energy development and maintenance, introduction of a special financial package for renewable energy development in J&K under the Prime Minister's Development Package and support for innovative financing models to encourage private sector participation in renewable energy projects. Satish Sharma also proposed to conduct a national summit (AREIAS) regard-

CS Atal Dulloo unveils J&K Bank Calendar-2025

It is a symbol of our deep emotional connect with our people, our roots: Amitava Chatterjee

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significance of the Calendar and said, "This calendar is a medium to showcase the beauty, aspirations and spirit of the people of our core geography. Besides reaffirming our commitment to contribute to the economic progress, we believe, featuring these major infrastructural projects will inspire confidence and instil pride among the people." The theme of the 2025 calendar celebrates the landmark infrastructure projects that are transforming J&K and Ladakh, showcasing their developmental journey. The calendar highlights significant projects such as the upcoming train to Kashmir - a symbol of enhanced connectivity and integration. It also features the majestic Reasi Bridge in Jammu - world's highest railway bridge; the

revamped iconic Clock Tower at Lal Chowk - a historical and cultural hub of Srinagar; All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jammu - representing a leap in health-care infrastructure, Kargil Sports Stadium - the state-of-the-art field for promoting sports and youth engagement; and Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle in Ladakh that captures the region's scientific potential and breath-taking beauty. The calendar also includes QR codes linked to product details on the Bank's website for easy customer access. Moreover, in line with the digital shift, J&K Bank will continue to offer an eco-friendly e-Calendar, which will soon be available for download on both Android and iOS devices.

DM reviews clinics under PCPNDT ACT, mandates regular monitoring



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a meeting of the District Advisory Committee under the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya Wednesday reviewed the application of 4 ultrasound clinics/ imaging centres. While approving all the applications upon scrutiny, the DM emphasised strict

monitoring of ultrasound clinics and imaging centres across the district and called for regular inspections. He mandated that all registered clinics display clear rate list and statutory warning against conducting sex determination tests. Pertinent to mention that the DM has explicitly instructed Sub-Divisional Magistrates to maintain rigorous surveillance against any potential sex

determination activities within their jurisdictions. They have been directed to conduct regular inspections of medical facilities, ensuring complete compliance with the PCPNDT Act. The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harbaksh Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, an NGO representative and other committee members.