

Dr Jitendra addresses JKAS officers, introduces ‘integrated’ Governance concept



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh along with 1999 to 2002 batches of J&K Administrative Service (JKAS) officers during Capacity Building Programme organised by DARPG, Union Ministry of Personnel, posing for a photograph at New Delhi on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday introduced "integrated" governance concept and said that it is no longer an option, but a necessity.

Delivering the valedictory address at the 2nd Capacity Building Programme in Field Administration for senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) here, Dr Jitendra said after the new constitutional arrangement came into existence and following the creation of Union Territory, several governance reforms have been introduced in Jammu & Kashmir, which was not so earlier.

The Minister said, with the kind of patronage and support being offered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu & Kashmir, this is an opportunity for administrators and civil servants there to establish a new work cul-

ture, aimed at obtaining the ultimate objective of Ease of Living for every citizen through the mantra of "Maximum Governance Minimum Government".

He said, the officers who have now undergone training must empower themselves with new ethos and practices and the Center will provide an officer friendly environment that will propel the administrative system to work for the people and ensure that grievances are handled in a prompt and efficient manner.

Dr Jitendra asked the officers to take a lead in promoting Start-Up culture in the areas like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Science and Technology based on locally available resources and talent pool. Giving the example of a successful Aroma Mission for boosting cultivation of plants like lavender, the Minister offered

all support through the Department of Bio-technology.

He said, there is a huge possibility of job generation in various sectors through non-IT Start-ups especially in the light of new Industrial Policy 2021-30, which is going to change the face of the new UT.

The Minister regretted that for several years, the Cadre Review of the Civil Services officers was deferred or delayed by the then State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for reasons best known to them. However, he said, now that Jammu & Kashmir is a Union Territory and directly reporting to the Centre, Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has initiated the exercise to expeditiously conduct Cadre Review. This will also help in timely promotion as well as timely induction of UT officers into All

India Services like the IAS.

DAR&PG, Government of India and Government of Jammu & Kashmir, NCGG has signed an MoU with J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (J&XIMPARD) to train 2000 Senior officers including Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service Officers on Public Policy & Good Governance. The objective of the MoU is to establish, maintain and enhance academic and intellectual interaction through specific initiatives with a view to promote excellence in Capacity Building Programmes and Practices relating to Good Governance for the officers of Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Jitendra thanked the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) under the Union Ministry of Personnel NCGG for suc-

cessful conduct of this Two-Week Capacity Building Programme for the senior officers of Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service.

During the interaction, the officers conveyed that they were delighted and very enthusiastic in a way the program is conducted. They stated that this was for the first time in 25years of their career that they are being exposed to training outside Jammu and Kashmir. They thanked the Prime Minister for steering such bold initiatives and also expediting their long pending issues of promotion and cadre review.

Sanjay Singh, Secretary, DARPG, V. Srinivas, Special Secretary, DARPG and senior officials of the Ministry joined the event. 29 officers of JKAS from 1999 and 2001 who underwent training received special mementos from DARPG.



Full Court Reference held to condole demise of Justice Doabia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: A Full Court Reference was held on Friday to condole the demise of Justice Tejinder Singh Doabia, a former Judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

Advocate General and President, J&K High Court Bar Association, also conveyed condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of Bar executives and other Bar members.

Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in his condolence message, remembered the qualities of late Justice T.S. Doabia, as a Judge and as a human being. He said that during his tenure as Judge of the High Court, Justice Doabia worked tirelessly and disposed of large number of cases and was co-author of a celebrated judgment of the High Court relat-

ing to the rights of female residents of Jammu and Kashmir marrying outside, which later paved way for females to gain confidence to fight for achieving their rights. Chief Justice on behalf of other Judges of the High Court prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, Judges from Srinagar Bench joined the Full Court Reference proceedings virtually.

The Full Court Reference ended with observance of one minute silence as a mark of respect for the departed soul and the Court work was suspended for rest of the day.

departed soul and strength to the bereaved family. President, J&K High Court Bar Association, also conveyed condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of Bar executives and other Bar members.

Ongoing sit-in protest of JTC, SKF enters day 448



Kashmiri Pandits raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The ongoing sit-in protest of Jagti Tnemement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) J&K, in support of their long pending demands entered 448th day on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Shadi Lal Pandita, President Jagti JTC said that J&K UT and Center Government should fulfill all demands of Kashmiri Pandits as soon as possible, as the community members are protesting for the last more than 400 days. Major demands of the protestors included enhancing monthly cash relief of relief holders from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per family per month, providing 20,000 jobs to migrant unemployed youth, holding exclusive recruitment drives for Kashmiri migrant unemployed youth

in Police, providing compensation and interest-free bank loans to over-aged migrant youth, removing illegal occupation from lands, properties of KPs and religious places in Valley, reserving five Assembly seats and three Parliament seats for KPs, providing compensation to KP migrants for loss of 32 years, ensuring rehabilitation of KPs in Valley at three satellites townships etc.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Vijay Bakshi, Charanjeet Singh, Rakesh Ambardar; Shubam Raina, Ramesh Tickoo, Raj Kumar Bhat, Kamal Pandita, Gurmeet Singh, Ram Krishan, O N Raina, S L Kar, Satish Pandita, Kashi Nath Bhat, Omprakash Mahajan, G M Khan and A R Dar.

JKPSA holds protest; highlights various issues, demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools Association (JKPSA) held a protest against Government's apathetic attitude besides highlighting their demands and long pending issues at Press Club, Jammu on Friday, which was attended by a number of members.

While briefing the media, members highlighted that Private Schools Association is a group of un-aided educational institutes which are tirelessly working for streamlining teaching system but till date Government has not done anything to mitigate their problems. "Unsympathetic attitude of Government has discouraged owners of small-schools, who have set-up the institutes to generate employment not only for themselves but also for other unemployed people. These schools are imparting quality education, infrastructure and facilities to children far better than the Government schools as average fee of these



Private Schools' owners raising slogans during a protest.

small schools is 10 to 20 times less than the expenditure which Government incurs in its schools," they added.

Others demands highlighted on the occasion included framing of a clear-cut policy for fixing fee of private schools, fixing of upper limit of fee taking into consideration topography, building structure & paying capacity of people; granting internal autonomy for routine

functioning, restoring offline classes amid strict COVID SoPs, providing financial assistance out of SDRF to private school teachers, relaxing private schools from obtaining NoC from traffic Police, quashing all NoCs made mandatorily for recognition, promoting single window clearance system etc. The JKPSA members who were present during the protest included Kamal Gupta (President), Rameshwar Mengi (Vice-President), Ajay Gupta (General Secretary) Sanjeev Luthra, Ajay Singh, Sat Pal Mansotra, Kulwinder Singh, R P Sharma, Lal Chand Gandotra, Deepak Handa, Ashwani Khajuria, Dharam Chand, Prithviraj Khokhar, Sudesh Kumar Sharma, O P Chandail, Gurbax Singh, Usha Jamwal, Kiran Raina, Mala Sharma, Neeru Puri, Naresh Sharma, Raj Dulari, Vineet Gupta, Siddheshwar Sadotra, Chain Singh, Laddi Kumar, Jatinder Heera, Naresh Kumar, Gourav Charak, Siddharth Shanker, Parshant Salaria, Rakesh Gupta, Thomas Ooman, Rachechal Singh, Tariq Qadri, Patel Singh, Satya Paul, Bodh Raj, Deep Dayal, Vijay Sharma, Anil Sharma, Vishal Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Manoj Sharma, Subash Chib, Gansara Singh, Shakti Sharma, Zaheer Ahmed Nazim, Vishal Magotra, Anil Parihar, Ashok Kumar, Nishat Ahmed and Sanjeev Sharma.

Power cuts in Jammu from Dec 24 to 29; many areas to remain affected

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ramgarh, Rangoor, Jagti, Nagrota, PHE, Katal, Batal, Sainik School, Migrant Colony, Bamyal Jagti, Ganika, Bhagwa, Kastigarh, Sazan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 24 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Laxmi Puram, Chinore, Exchange, Bantabal, Radio Station, Keran Rajinder Nagar, Ayush Hospital and adjoining areas shall

remain affected on December 24 from 10 am to 11 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that power supply to Jakh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 26 from 10 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to BB Industry, Meen, Dashed and Darni shall remain affected on December 24 and 26 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle, Jammu JPDCL has informed that

power supply to Bank Colony, Govind Nagar Nandani and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 24 and 27 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Lower Shiv Nagar, Gurha Bakshi Nagar, Jamwal House, Krishana Mandir, Police Chowki, Parshuram Temple, Gujjar Basti, Domana Police Station, Purkhoo Camp, Bazzigar Basti, Domana Raipur, Purkhoo Camp, Valley Colony, Near Sub Station, Halkuan, Garhi, Floura, Nagbani Domana Machine, Raipur Domana and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on

December 24, 26 and 28 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply near Soap Factory, New Tara Vihar, Thather, Gajansoo Market, Glwade, Pratap Morh, Lahori Chak, Chibey Chak, Gujral Mohalla, Vijay Nagar, Ajit Colony, Subash Nagar, Toph, Shiv Mandir, Patoli, Udhaywala, Patyali Chowk, Sahjadpur, Patoli Brahmana, Gurha Brahmana, Ganesh Nagar and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 24 and 26 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Swarn Vihar, Rajinder Nagar, Pattian,

Laxmipuram, Keeran and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 27 and 29 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Udhaywala, Patta Vihar, Gujjar Basti, Bohri Chowk, Anand Nagar and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 27 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Paloura, Radha Vihar, Gujjar Basti, Trikuta Nagar, Dream City, Lower Dharmal, Lower Barnai, Sharda Colony and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 24 from 9 am to 3 pm.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: City Judge Jammu Manjeet Rai rejected bail application of accused, identified as UP-based Saleem Qureshi who duped an amount of Rs 64 lakh from a fruit dealer.

According to police, accused cheated and duped the complainant to the tune of more than Rs 64 lakh after taking away consignment of Fruit laden trucks towards Meerut, Panipat, Karnal and Akhola. The accused was arrested on November 19, 2021 that too from Delhi after much hectic efforts. The offence has been committed by accused along with

other absconding accused persons with prior planning with an eye on their personal wrongful gains totally disregarding interest of the community and causing wrongful loss/damage to the complainant but also to the economy ignoring national interest, now cannot take refuge by projecting his victim card to plead innocence in order to gain empathy from this court.

City Judge Jammu Manjeet Rai while rejecting the bail application, after hearing APP Arvind Rathore for Police, observed that while granting bail in a non-bailable

offence, Court should take into account various considerations, such as nature and seriousness and character of evidence, circumstances which are peculiar to accused, a reasonable possibility of presence of the accused not being secured at trial, reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being tampered with, the larger interests of the public and the state. It is further held that if the offence is of a kind in which bail should not be granted considering its seriousness, the court should refuse the bail. With these observations, the court rejected the plea.

Govt should provide alternate land to farmers affected by Gharana Wetland development: Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: JKPC President GA Mir, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla along with former MP Tarlok Singh Bajwa, Distt Rural President Hari Singh Chib, General Secretary Manmohan Singh, youth President Uday Bhamu Chib and others on Friday visited Gharana Wetland to take firsthand appraisal of the situation arising out of Government's adamancy over the issue as the affected farmers are seeking adequate compensation by demanding land chunks in place of their land which has come under the project.



Senior Congres leaders during visit to Gharana Wetland.

law of the land as entire UT machinery including civil administration and police has despicably violated the court order by forcefully trespassing into the land chunks of farmers and starting fencing.

JKPC Chief assured that Congress will take every possi-

ble step to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Mir demanded that the Government should provide alternate land chunks to farmers affected by Gharana Wetland development initiatives besides Government job to one member of each family.

He said that Government has got huge land chunks near Chakroi Farm which are barren. He demanded that the same should be swapped for the land near Gharana wetland.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that no doubt Gharana Wetland has attained global recognition for being home to several types of migratory birds, but developmental plans to boost tourist influx, J&K administration cannot "turn a blind eye" to the issue of local residents losing a "huge portion of their land" for the same.

Bhalla said that LG Manoj Sinha to protect the rights of the farmers affected by this discriminatory action of the civil administration.

App-based taxi service very soon in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley is all set to welcome App-based radio taxi service. According to sources, the service will be launched in the first month of January 2022, as Road Transport Department is presently finalising all necessary documentation with the service providers. After witnessing several roadblocks, the Government's long-pending plan to introduce an app-based radio cab service is final now, as Kashmir is all set to get the service from next month.

Transport Department of Jammu & Kashmir government has recently issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Srinagar-based Ala Cabs and Technologies Pvt Ltd,

asking the company to complete all formalities in three months before starting the service. A representative of Ala Cabs said that the company would start the app-based radio taxi service in next month, enabling passengers to book a cab with help of a mobile application. "We have got the Letter of Intent from the Transport Department. We are presently completing modalities and preparing vehicles by making them GPS-enabled. Ala Cabs will be the first company to launch such a service," said representative of service provider. He said the company has already made a mobile application for drivers while work is underway on mobile app for passengers.

As per the official letter, the Transport Department has asked Ala Cabs to complete various formalities including maintaining an authorised call centre or webportal or app. It has also been asked to maintain a round-the-clock control room with adequate manpower.

It may be mentioned that a radio taxi scheme was first introduced in Srinagar in 2012 under Motor Vehicles Act of 1988 for allowing operations in twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu. In 2016, the Motor Vehicle Department allowed operations of radio taxi services to Srinagar and Jammu airports and railway stations in Jammu and Nowgam in Srinagar. In 2018, the state

transport department invited bids for re-introducing radio taxis in summer capital but very few operators expressed interest citing logistical and technical problems. However, the soon-to-start radio taxi service is likely to ensure better transport facilities with safety of passengers besides creating employment avenues for locals, officials said.

Transport Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar has confirmed that a Letter of Intent (LoI) had been issued to Ala Cabs. "They are the first and the only company to have approached us to seek permission for starting cab aggregator service. We have issued LoI to them and asked to complete all modalities," Kumar informed.