

‘Face Recognition Technology’ used to generate Pensioner’s Life Certificate: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW) is possibly one of the first departments in the Govt sector to have started using the latest "Face Recognition Technology" for establishing Aadhar based identification of elderly pensioners to generate "Digital Life Certificate".

Disclosing this today while addressing a press conference at National Media Centre here, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known to make optimum use of technology towards bringing about ease of living and dignity for the elderly.

The Minister also briefed the media about the progress of the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 2.0 of the DoP&PW.

Dr Jitendra said that the Banks are providing doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificates (DLC) annually to retired employees. Due to such tech-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at National Media Centre, New Delhi on Monday.

nologies, the senior citizens do not have to go through the tedious process of submitting the life certificate. Most of the functioning has been converted online and in order to bring in transparency, accountability and citizen participation, the human interface has been reduced to the bare minimum, he said.

Under the DLC Campaign 2.0, DoP&PW collaborated with Pension Disbursing Banks, Ministries/ Departments, Pensioners' Welfare Associations, UIDAI, MeitY from November 1-30, 2023. The DLC Campaign was conducted at 597 locations in 100 cities across India.

297 Nodal Officers from Pension Disbursing Banks, 44 Pensioner Welfare Associations worked assiduously to successfully implement the DLC Campaign 2.0. Dr Jitendra said that as a result of the Campaign, a total of more than 1.17 crore DLCs across pensioners of all categories have been generated in the month of November, 2023, out of which, the number of DLCs generated using Face Authentication Technique is more than 19.52 lakh.

"Of this, a total of 38.99 lakh Central Government Pensioners generated DLCs, out of which, the number of face authenticated DLCs is

9.76 lakh," he said.

Dr Singh said, more than 24,000 pensioners above the age of 90 years used digital mode to submit Life Certificate for drawal of pension.

As per the dedicated DLC Portal created by the Department, the leading States for DLC generation are Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, having generated 5.07 lakh, 4.55 lakh and 2.65 lakh DLCs respec-

tively. The leading Banks for DLC generation are State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank which are also the leading Pension Disbursing Banks, with 7.68 lakh and 2.38 lakh DLCs respectively. Dr Jitendra said, the Modi Government has also done away with about 2,000 obsolete or redundant rules towards bringing about Ease of Living for all citizens. "Family pension has been enabled without a service duration bar of 10 years and divorced or separated daughters are also now enabled to receive family pension," he said. Dr Singh said, several steps have been taken for realising Prime Minister Modi's vision for Improving Pensioners Welfare with far-reaching Pension Reforms by notification of Pension Rules and Digital Empowerment of Pensioners.

PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti commends SC’s decision on Article 370 abrogation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti welcomed the recent decision of the Supreme Court of India to uphold the abrogation of Article 370.

Dr. Deepak Kapoor, President of the Samiti, and Er. Arun Chowdhary, General Secretary, expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards this historic judgment.

In a statement, Chowdhary commended the Supreme Court for recognizing the constitutional validity of the abrogation of Article 370, a move that has significant implications for the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India.

The Samiti general Secretary Chowdhary also extended their appreciation to the Government of India

for acknowledging the challenges faced by the PoJK Visthapit community.

The Samiti particularly praised the government's initiative to pass a bill for the nomination of one seat in the Assembly dedicated to the PoJK Visthapit people.

At the same time, Samiti appealed to the government to reconsider the number of nominations, citing that the population of the community exceeds 15 lakh across the country.

Additionally, the Samiti urged the Government of India to address the long-standing issue of the 24 assembly seats in PoJK that have been frozen since 1947.

The Samiti argued that the defreezing of these seats is essential to ensure proper representation for the peo-

ple of the region.

In a fervent appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chowdhary requested necessary steps to be taken for the reclamation of PoJK, PoTL (Pakistan-occupied Territory of Ladakh), and CoTL (China-occupied Territory of Ladakh). They emphasized the importance of completing the accession of the entire Jammu and Kashmir region with India on the ground, in line with the Instrument of Accession signed between Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and the then Prime Minister of India on 26th October 1947.

The PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti remains committed to advocating for the rights and welfare of the displaced people from the PoJK region and looks forward to constructive engagement with the government to address their concerns.

Div Com inaugurates Yoga Zumba Studio at Jammu Club



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar with Jammu Club members during inauguration of Yoga Zumba Studio.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Monday marked a significant moment for Jammu Club by inaugurating a new Yoga cum Zumba studio.

This event symbolizes the Club's commitment to promoting wellness and fitness among its members.

In the welcome address, Gaurav Gupta, the Club Secretary, expressed his gratitude to Kumar for making time in his busy schedule to grace the occasion.

He emphasized the importance of this initiative in enhancing the members' welfare, underscoring the Club's focus on fitness and well-being.

The Club Secretary highlighted the Club's various initiatives, including the establishment of the Yoga cum Zumba Studio.

He acknowledged the previously felt need for a dedicated space for Yoga and Zumba activities within the club, which prompted this new addition.

Gaurav Gupta informed the members about several ongoing development projects at the Club, such as a Card Zone, Guest House, Dining Hall, Health Club, an upgraded reception, a kids' room, a library, and more.

He shared his team's vision of elevating the Club to be among the top clubs in the country by providing these comprehensive facilities.

He also extended his appreciation to Dr. Uttam Singh and Dr. Sandeep Singh for their significant roles in establishing the studio and to Er. Ashok Gandotra, who leads the Construction Committee overseeing the Club's ongoing construction works.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, who also serves as the Club's Vice President, commended the Secretary and his team for their dedication and initiative.

Kumar highlighted the importance of facilities that promote physical and mental health, advocating

for the regular organization of yoga and Zumba classes for members across all ages and fitness levels. He also encouraged the use of the Studio for other wellness activities like meditation and mindfulness workshops.

"This hall is a critical step towards enhancing the health and well-being of our club members," he remarked.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Club Secretary. The new Yoga cum Zumba Hall is anticipated to be a significant addition to the club's facilities, contributing positively to the overall well-being of its members.

On this occasion Members of the Managing Committee Er. Ashok Gandotra, Indu Puri, Er. Tania Mahajan, Er. Ajay Sabharwal, Aditya Gupta, Er. Vikram Sharma, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Uttam Singh, Ashwani Gupta were present.

K. K. Khosa and Er. Vinod Sharma, Former Secretaries of the Club were also present.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a collaborative effort, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, along with the District Administration Samba, Surinsar Mansar Development Authority CEO and Tawi Trekkers, orchestrated a memorable trek from Sagoon to Purmandal to celebrate International Mountain Day 2023.

This 12-kilometer trek was flagged off by Director Tourism Jammu Vivekanand Rai, in the presence of Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta.

The trek unfolded breathtaking vistas of Sagoon village, the sacred Trikuta hills, the Bral Mata temple, Padal village, and the holy Devika river. It aimed to spotlight lesser-known beautiful spots.

The event emphasized the critical need to restore and conserve mountain ecosystems aligning which harbor 15% of the world's population and host nearly half of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

A total of 103 participants served as ambassadors for sustainable and eco-friendly tourism, embodying a commitment to environmental awareness.



Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai flagging-off trek from Sagoon.

Vivekanand Rai expressed gratitude for the participants' enthusiasm and cooperation, envisioning more such events to promote tourism and adventure activities.

He highlighted the significance of this celebration as an opportunity to foster a deeper connection with the mountains, emphasizing their pivotal role in sustaining life and biodiversity.

The celebration aimed to inspire a sense of responsibility towards these majestic landscapes and promote sustainable practices for their conservation.

Sunaina Sharma Mehta emphasized that this initiative champions diverse facets of tourism - adventure, pilgrimage, leisure, recreational and heritage. The trek embodies sustainable tourism, nurturing youth environmental awareness. Stressing International Mountain Day's ongoing significance, she commits to recurring events, inspiring continuous efforts in responsible tourism and conservation, fostering a sustainable bond between humanity and nature. She further added that the majority of the participants are girls, amplifying the

spirit of girl power in this endeavor. Zorawar Singh, Co-Chairman Team Jammu, conveyed his heartfelt satisfaction and gratitude during the occasion, extending thanks to the Directorate of Tourism Jammu for orchestrating these impactful events. International Mountain Day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003, seeks to raise awareness about sustainable mountain development. This year's theme underscores the importance of conserving mountain ecosystems, aligning with the global effort towards environmental stewardship. The trek was accompanied by Ved Parakash, CEO Surinsar-Mansar Development Authority, who, on the occasion, championed the cause of sustainable tourism practices in alignment with International Mountain Day.

Others accompanying the trek included Sumit Khajuria, Vice President of Mountaineering Association J&K, Ram Khajuria, President Tawi Trekkers, Shilpa Charak, International Climber, Sonam Siddharth, Executive Member of Mountaineering Association J&K, along with officials from the department.

ADC reviews preparedness for Christmas celebrations in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sandeep Seointra, today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for Christmas celebrations in Jammu.

Assistant Commissioner General Manisha and officers from various departments, including Jammu Municipal Corporation, Health Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jal Shakti Department, Police, Traffic Police, Fire & Emergency Services and J&K Bank attended the meeting.

The ADC emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness to add to the festive atmosphere during the celebrations. He directed the Health Officer of JMC to



ADC Jammu, Sandeep Seointra chairing a meeting.

ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in the city, particularly in areas with Christian population and religious places. The meeting also decided to take immediate action against encroachments near churches and install

mobile toilet vans for public convenience.

To avoid any inconveniences to the public, the Deputy Director of FCS&CA assured the availability of ration at Fair Price Shops during the festive period.

The Jal Shakti Department was instructed to make arrangements for sufficient drinking water at major churches and Christian Colonies. The department will also consider repair work on water pipes in these areas.

Ensuring smooth movement of the Christmas peace procession was a key focus of the meeting. The ADC directed authorities to undertake necessary road repairs on procession routes. In consultation with traffic authorities, alternate routes will also be shared to facilitate traffic flow.

To ensure a joyous celebration, the JPDC will provide

uninterrupted power supply to Christian Colonies during the festive period.

The Police and Traffic Police Departments have been tasked with coordinating efforts to maintain security and smooth traffic flow around churches and Christian Colonies during Christmas. The Chief Medical Officer will arrange medical facilities, including ambulances stationed at the main church and accompanying the procession, to address any medical emergencies. The Fire & Emergency Department will station fire tenders at designated places to ensure immediate response in case of any untoward incidents. To facilitate the exchange of old currency notes with new ones, J&K Bank will deploy mobile vehicles at key locations. The ADC expressed his satisfaction with the progress of preparations and encouraged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure a safe and joyful Christmas celebration for the community.

CS virtually launches SGLR for Pahalgam on pilot basis

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday virtually launched the voluntary adoption of Swachhta Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) in hospitality sector by the hoteliers of famous tourist destination Pahalgam.

The said rating is the collaborative initiative recently taken by Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) and Ministry of Tourism, GoI to assess the tourism infrastructure like hotels, resorts, home stays on the parameters of safe sanitation practices outlined in the guidelines issued under travel for LIFE campaign.

In his remarks Dulloo exhibited his contentment with Pahalgam being first in the country chosen for introduction of this assessment system on pilot basis for rating our hospitality infrastructure for hygiene and sanitation on voluntary basis by these installations there.

He called the rating system quite unique and innovative based on scientific temper. He reiterates that such initiatives are highly recommended for enhancing the sustainability of our



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo launching the voluntary adoption of Swachhta Green Leaf Rating.

tourist spots. He made out since tourism is one of the mainstays of our economy it has added significance for us to preserve the pristine assets of beauty and pleasant environment of our UT.

He further expressed that the responsible citizens lead to responsible practices in each sector. He observed that the three pillars of sustainable development like economy, ecology and equity are equally significant and to be alive to preservation of fragile ecology is the shared responsibility of all the citizens here.

The Chief Secretary maintained that the three components like Solid Waste Management (SWM), Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and Greywater Management

(GWM) are based on practical principles. He said that the three phases of the accreditation involving orientation for stakeholders, Voluntary declaration followed by Verification and ground truthing are all facilitative to change our tourist destinations for better.

He advised all the stakeholders including the concerned authorities to make this model successful here as J&K being the torchbearer has an added responsibility to show the way to others. He also mentioned that it is the sure way of increasing satisfaction level of tourists coming here and making them visit this place again and again. He wished success to those adopting it first voluntarily

here in J&K.

On the occasion it was revealed that the three themes of SGLR including SWM, FSM and GWM have practically been allocated a total of 200 marks with first two having 80 marks each and the last one having 40 marks allocated to it.

All the participating entities are required to score at least 50% marks in each theme to become eligible for participation in certification process. Entities securing 100-130 marks are certified as having '1-Leaf Status', 130-180 marks as 3-Leaf Status and those scoring between 180-200 as the best with '5-Leaf Status', as was informed during this launch ceremony. Later on the Chief Secretary with other participants including Secretary, Tourism (GoI); Director, DDWS, GoI; DDC, Chairperson, Anantnag; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Tourism; and District Development Commissioner released a document explaining the procedure and importance of this rating system and benefits for the sector adopting it for their assessment.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), under the guidance of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, a festival of Indian Languages was organized in the University.

It is noteworthy that the said Indian Language Festival was organized under the chairmanship of Dean Student Welfare Prof. Ritu Bakshi on the instructions of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain said in his message that Indian languages are very excellent. India's development is possible only through the promotion and development of these languages. He said that this Indian festival is being celebrated across the country on

the birth anniversary of the famous Tamil poet and well-known Indian writer Chinna Swamy Subramaniam Bharati and for this the Government of India has taken many steps.

Emphasis on education in Indian languages in the new education policy 2020. Given, that is why organizing this Indian language festival is very important.

In the beginning, Head of Hindi Department, Prof. Bharat Bhushan welcomed the guests and participants and highlighted the importance of the Indian Language Festival. After that, the Department of Hindi, Dr. Bijendra Kumar, Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Assistant Dean Student Welfare, Dr. Vinay Kumar expressed their views.

During the program, apart from reciting poems and stories in different Indian languages, a speech competition was organized on the impor-

tance of Indian languages and the contribution of Indian languages in maintaining unity in diversity. In the competitions, 25 students and researchers of the university presented their ideas in their respective languages. The students enthralled everyone by expressing their views in languages like Dogri, Rajasthani, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Haryanvi etc. The judges of the competition, Dr. Anita Gupta and Dr. Ketan Bhatt, announced the first, second and third prize winners, which included Rishi Yadav, Surajbhan and Krishna Mohan. The program was conducted by Dr. Vandana Sharma, Hindi Department. While Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Yadav played an important role in the successful organization of the program. At last the program concluded with a vote of thanks and national anthem.

Mrinank Gupta wins 13th UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 13th UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic competition was organized in Jammu Club in which Mrinank Gupta of 3rd standard won the prestigious champion of the champion award.

Pertinent to mention that this competition is a prestigious event that showcases the talents and skills of young students who have undergone the UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program. The program is designed to enhance brain development, concentration, memory, speed, accuracy, and creativity of children aged 4 to 13 years.

