

Modi Govt's governance reforms included scrapping of 2,000 obsolete rules: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: On the eve of Good Governance Day and the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighted key governance reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an exclusive conversation at the "Bharat 24" TV Conclave in Jammu.

Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that one of the significant achievements of the Modi government was the scrapping of nearly 2,000 obsolete and outdated rules that had become irrelevant over time and were hindering governance and timely decision-making. These reforms, aimed at simplifying governance and enhancing citizen-



centric services, reflect the government's commitment to transparency, innovation, and efficiency.

In his address, the Minister recalled the government's early steps in reforming bureaucratic practices. He noted how the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) scrapped the British-era rule in 2014 that required documents to be

attested by a gazetted officer. This move, Dr. Singh said, was a significant step toward instilling trust in the youth of India. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi's call to abolish interviews for lower post recruitments in 2016 was another step toward ensuring transparency and fairness in government hiring processes. Dr. Singh further elaborated on reforms in Pension rules, particularly those benefiting elder citizens and divorced daughters. He also spoke about the integration of cleanliness into governance, which started as a sanitation initiative and has since become a nationwide movement. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan not only improved sanitation but also transformed government offices, resulting in the recla-

mation of over 643 lakh square feet of office space, generating ₹2,364 crore for the exchequer.

The Minister also discussed the transformative governance impact in regions like the North East and Jammu & Kashmir, where Prime Minister Modi has prioritized infrastructure development and social integration, shifting these areas from feelings of alienation to becoming models of development. In Jammu & Kashmir, he pointed out how the region, once skeptical of the central government, now proudly embraces national unity with BJP flags symbolizing integration.

Dr. Singh also addressed opposition narratives, particularly those from the Congress Party, which had

sought to create divisions. He emphasized that the BJP's inclusive governance, particularly through welfare measures for Dalits, backward classes, and women, had dispelled myths of exclusion created by the opposition.

As the country moves toward "One Nation, One Election", Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that India's future will be shaped by strong, inclusive, and decisive leadership under Prime Minister Modi, aiming for a unified and empowered India.



Dr Ambedkar was great son of mother India: CM Yogi

■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that the nature of Congress has always been anti-Ambedkar and anti Constitution.

"Dr Ambedkar was the great son of India", the CM said, adding that the history of Congress has been to keep Dalits deprived. The then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did not want Baba Saheb to be a part of the Constitution Committee. In the UPA government, Baba Saheb's picture was shown being whipped by Nehru, he added.

At a press conference at his official residence, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Congress had defeated Baba Saheb in the elections.

Congress did not want Baba Saheb to go to the Lok Sabha. Congress never allowed a memorial to be built after Baba Saheb's death, the CM said.

He said while resigning, Baba Saheb had accused the Congress that Congress and Nehru are concerned about Muslims, not the deprived-Dalits. Baba Saheb, who led the movement for the deprived and Dalits, was not made a member of any committee of the Lok Sabha, he observed.

Yogi Adityanath said that Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had a great contribution in the country's freedom movement, Constitution making



and independent India. He was a great son of Mother India. He acquired higher education in adverse circumstances while facing all kinds of social constraints. He earned the world's best degree in the field of economy and law. He used all his strength to enlighten India with his knowledge, he added.

The CM said that the Prime Minister of the UPA government had also said that Muslims have the first right on the country's resources.

The CM asked whether the deprived and Dalits do not have the right? Samajwadi Party has a history like Congress. Baba Saheb Ambedkar's name was removed from the college named after him in Kannauj. His name was removed from Saharanpur Medical College, he said.

What the super CM had said about Baba Saheb during the SP government is not hidden from anyone. Rahul Gandhi should tell whether an

attack on a BJP MP in Parliament will be considered constitutional?

He said that we all know that Baba Saheb had a big contribution in the country's freedom movement and constitution making. He said that Indians respect Baba Saheb as the architect of the Indian Constitution. BJP has worked honestly to build the India of Baba Saheb's dreams.

Yogi Adityanath said that whether it was the government of revered Atal ji or the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, everyone respected Baba Saheb and showed respect and reverence towards him. The places associated with Baba Saheb were made Panch Teerth. His memory has been made alive forever. he said that in the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dalits and the deprived have become a part of the government's plan.

Yudhvir initiates laying of water pipes at Pahari Mohalla under JJM

Says Modi Govt committed to provide 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Yudhvir Sethi, on Tuesday took a significant step towards ensuring improved water supply for residents of Pahari Mohalla in East Constituency by initiating the laying of water pipes under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme.

The two development projects, with an estimated cost of Rs 17 lakhs, aims to provide clean and reliable drinking water to every household in the area, aligning with the Government of India's ambitious 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative. Among those who were present included JE Gandotra and other officials of PHE Department, Ex Corporator Anil Masoom, Swarn Singh, Subedar Singh, Brij Kumar, Satish, Vishwapart Singh, Rajiv, Vishal Sharma, Vikas



MLA Jammu West, Yudhvir Sethi starting development work.

Mahajan, Rahul and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the BJP government's commitment to bringing development to the doorstep of every citizen. He stated, "Access to clean drinking water is a basic necessity, and the Jal Jeevan Mission is a revolutionary step by the Modi Government to ensure that no household is deprived of this essential

amenity. The laying of these water pipes is a testament to our dedication to enhancing infrastructure and uplifting the quality of life for all."

He said that the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to provide functional tap water connections to every rural household in the country. This initiative has been a game-changer for

water-stressed areas, ensuring equitable distribution of water and empowering women and children by reducing their dependency on distant water sources, he added.

The residents of Pahari Mohalla expressed their gratitude for the initiative, lauding the efforts of the BJP-led government in addressing their long-standing concerns. The project is expected to benefit numerous households, significantly improving the area's water supply infrastructure.

Yudhvir Sethi further reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of Jammu and assured the public that more such initiatives focusing on essential services like water, electricity, and sanitation would follow.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 to be held in Rajouri on Dec 27

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Jammu will be hosting Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0, an outreach and awareness program aimed at sensitizing employers and employees about the benefits and provisions of social security schemes.

The program will take place on 27th December 2024 at the Conference Hall, DC Office, Rajouri, Jammu, starting from 10:45 AM onwards.

The event will be personally attended by the P.F. Commissioner, Jammu, who will address grievances and concerns raised by workers, employers, and establishments.

A key feature of the program is the provision of

handholding support to those facing difficulties related to EPFO services. The program aims to create awareness about social security schemes including Provident Fund (PF), Pension, and Insurance, and to inform participants on how to file grievances through platforms like EPFIGMS, CPGRAMS, and others.

Various topics will be covered, including Digital Services, fraud prevention, employee rights, and the importance of e-Nominations and online claim filing. A special Pension Help Desk will be set up to address pension-related grievances and provide on-the-spot resolutions. Additionally, the program will emphasize the need for UAN activa-

tion, bank & Aadhaar seeding, and filing of ECR.

The P.F. Commissioner has urged subscribers, pensioners, employers, industry representatives, and employees' organizations to actively participate and contribute their feedback and suggestions. The program will also highlight significant EPFO initiatives such as the Principal Employer Dashboard and KYC updates in UAN.

This initiative is part of EPFO's continued effort to ensure the widespread implementation of Social Security benefits for workers in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, a service that has been in effect since November 2019.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: To ensure a seamless and convenient pilgrimage experience for the large influx of devotees expected during the New Year-2025, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) held a review meeting today to finalize all necessary arrangements.

The meeting convened under the directions of the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) was presided by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and attended by senior officers of the Shrine Board, representatives from Security Agencies and other key stakeholders.

The Chief Executive Officer instructed the concerned authorities to make necessary arrangements for Yatra management including security measures through RFID card regulation and crowd



CEO SMVDSB, Anshul Garg chairing a meeting at Katra on Tuesday.

management strategies to ease congestion along the track particularly at the Bhawan area. To ensure a smooth experience, separate entry and exit routes will be implemented at the Bhawan and over 700 CCTV cameras will provide all-time surveillance guaranteeing a safe environment for devotees, he added.

The CEO further stressed that security agencies should only allow pilgrims with valid RFID cards to proceed for

the yatra and suggested deploying additional hand-held scanners and sufficient staff to prevent any lapses in this regard. Furthermore, he instructed for regular public announcements to be made aiming to decongest the crowd on the track and maintain a smooth flow of pilgrims.

While emphasizing the need for synergy among all stakeholders to achieve this objective, he emphasized the importance of disaster pre-

paredness measures directing the concerned quarters to monitor vulnerable areas and conduct joint patrolling. Additionally, the CEO issued directives for the smooth regulation of vehicle movement, improved sanitation, drinking water supplies and enhanced lighting on the track and in the Katra area. Special attention was called to resolving traffic issues caused by unauthorized parking with plans for a special drive to tow away such vehicles.

Security agencies presented a detailed action plan including the deployment of drones and use of CCTV cameras for real-time monitoring besides deployment of additional security forces and quick response teams (QRTs). It was informed to the chair that a multi-tier security grid comprising the Police and para military forces will be in place to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the yatra. The meeting concluded with the clear instructions to ensure hassle-free pilgrimage experience for all devotees.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Reasi; Jt. Chief Executive Officer & Dy. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan; SP, Katra; Asstt. CEOs, SMVDSB; SDPO Katra, Tehsildar & ACF, SMVDSB and officers from IB, CID, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

IGGDC Jammu lifts Veeranna Aivalli Memorial Debate Competition Trophy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indra Gandhi Govt Dental College, Jammu on Tuesday lifted the 23rd Veeranna Aivalli Running Team Trophy. Its team comprising Bhedika Billowria and Aastha Sharma were adjudged as the winners in the competition. It was organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch, in collaboration with the J&K Police and the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu at Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium in the Jammu University.

In the individual category, Shivani from GDC Bishnah bagged the first prize of Rs 7000 and the second Prize of Rs 5000 went to Irtiqia Tariq Jammu College of Physiotherapy, and 3rd prize of Rs 3000 to Harpreet Kaur of Deptt of EVS, Jammu University. Besides, three consolation prizes were awarded to Brainiya Singh of Bharti College of Education, Vatsalya of Deptt of law, JU and Alvin Singh of the Cluster University of Jammu.

The IIPA, J&K RB annual-

ly hosts the Debating Competition in the memory of late Veeranna Aivalli, IPS and founder Honorary Secretary of IIPA for his unprecedented contribution to IIPA and public Administration.

Anand Jain, ADGP, Jammu Zone was the Chief Guest while Prof Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Jammu University, and Chairman of IIPA J&K Regional branch & State Election Commissioner, B R Sharma were the Guest of Honour. Former DGP and Patron IIPA Dr Ashok Bhan presided over the function. Girish Aivalli, son of the late Veeranna Aivalli also attended the function.

The topic of the debate was "The present Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem is in sync with creating jobs and opportunities for a developed and Atamnirbar Bharat."

Twenty seven teams from various affiliated colleges, University teaching departments, and institutions across the region participated in the competition, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of the youth.

The Debaters who spoke in



IGGDC Jammu team posing for a photograph with dignitaries after receiving 23rd Veeranna Aivalli Running Team Trophy.

favour of the topic, inter alia highlighted how companies like BYJU'S, Ola, and Zomato have played a pivotal role in creating substantial employment opportunities while fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

They praised government programs such as "Make in India," "Startup India," and "Skill India" for building a supportive ecosystem that promotes economic growth and encourages self-reliance. The opponents contended that the entrepreneurial ecosystem has failed to adequately penetrate rural India, where a majority of the population resides, limiting the

reach of its benefits. The lack of quality education and essential resources was identified as a major barrier to ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Despite initiatives like "Skill India," a significant gap in skill development persists, particularly among marginalized communities. Concerns were raised about government schemes disproportionately favouring unicorn startups, only, often sidelining small and local businesses.

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering of serving and retired police officers, office bearers and executive committee mem-

bers of IIPA, faculty members from the University of Jammu, students, and members of the civil society.

This event highlighted the bonding between academia, public administration, and civil society, and the continued relevance of Veeranna Aivalli's vision in inspiring meaningful discussions on critical national issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Anand Jain, applauded the efforts of Jammu University's students in exploring entrepreneurial ventures and highlighted the transformative impact of sustainability and innovation within the startup ecosystem.

He stressed the importance of inclusivity and market accessibility while addressing the challenges posed by market conditions.

B.R. Sharma, spoke about late Aivalli's humanitarian vision and its alignment with economic growth through entrepreneurship. He further emphasized the need for policy reforms to sustain innovation and foster growth in India's startup ecosystem, now the third largest globally. He also complimented the Jammu University for scripting history by reaching a milestone of achieving the coveted A++ grade in the NAAC accreditation and becoming one the top most eight universities of the country.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, talked about Aivalli's intellectual brilliance, bravery, and commitment to selfless public service. He made a strong plea for remembering the sacrifices made by the security forces in fighting terrorism in J&K and said that out of over 7000 security forces who laid down their lives in this fight, more than 1700 men were of J&K police. He said that the present genera-

tions need to be sensitized about these sacrifices and pay homage to these Bravehearts. He urged them to contribute actively to nation-building and stand against challenges like terrorism, drawing inspiration from Aivalli's legacy.

Prof. Anju Bhasin complimented the IIPA Jammu in providing a platform for such academic engagement to the students to express their views on issues that are topical and relevant for their growth. She noted the growing culture of entrepreneurship within Indian universities, which now act as hubs for startups in her speech. She also stressed the importance of channeling funds to genuine, income-generating ideas to address the challenges in securing adequate funds. She emphasized that a shift in mindset, as facilitated by the National Education Policy (NEP), has empowered students to venture into entrepreneurship.

Girish Aivalli, son of late Aivalli, also spoke on the occasion, adding a personal touch to the memorial debate, which honours the legacy of his late father.

Er M.M. Gupta, Director Seminars, IIPA JKRB delivered the welcome address and Prof Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary IIPA J&K Regional Branch presented the formal vote of thanks. Prof Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary, IIPA conducted the proceedings in the prize distribution function.

Earlier in the day, Prof. Prakash Chand Antahal, Dean, Students' Welfare, University of Jammu, declared the Competition open. K.B. Jandial, Vice Chairman of IIPA recalled the contributions of late Aivalli and Vikrant Kuthiala, Honorary Treasurer delivered the welcome address, Dr Monika Bhardwaj Teacher in Charge Debate introduced the rules and regulations for the debate competition.

The adjudicators for the event were Prof. Indu Kilam, Dr. Ashok Gupta, and Prof. Komal Nagar and the rapporteurs were Gagandeep Singh Sasan and Ramneet Kour.

The event was coordinated by Jatin, Sumit Sharma, Kulbhushan, and Arif, who ensured its smooth execution.