

Dr Jitendra launches 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' to mark Good Governance Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: On Good Governance Day, 25th December 2024, Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative to mark the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

This initiative, part of the broader 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign, is designed to enhance the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by providing elected representatives and officials with the necessary tools for effective governance and participatory planning. Dr. Singh emphasized that governance reforms must begin at the grassroots level to create meaningful, long-lasting change and address capacity gaps in local governance.

Along with this, Dr. Singh unveiled a series of transformative initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, trans-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after launching 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative at CSOI, New Delhi on Wednesday.

parency, and citizen-centric governance. One of the key highlights was the launch of a new dashboard on the iGOTKarmayogi platform. This dashboard, alongside the milestone introduction of the 1600th e-learning course, will empower ministries and state administrators with advanced tools to monitor user registrations and training progress, helping optimize capacity-building efforts across the country.

Another significant initiative was the CPGRAMS Annual Report 2024, which reviewed the progress of the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System. As the world's largest citizen interface platform, CPGRAMS has transformed grievance redressal with advanced technologies and multilingual support, increasing public trust.

Dr. Singh also launched the Single Simplified Pension Application Form, which combines nine separate forms into one digital format, ensuring a faster, end-to-end pension processing system. This initiative, integrated with e-IHRMS and Bhavishya, aims to reduce processing time and costs while enhancing the user experience. Additionally, a Compendium of Pension Related Instructions, 2024 was introduced, consolidating updated rules and procedures to streamline the pension process.

Reflecting on governance reforms since 2014, Dr. Singh highlighted key milestones, including the liberalization of childcare leave and the introduction of face recognition technology for

digital life certificates for pensioners. He noted that technology has played a crucial role in modernizing governance, emphasizing the government's commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and innovation.

Dr. Singh concluded by paying tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose vision for good governance inspired these initiatives. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to creating a future-ready India where citizens actively participate in shaping governance.



BJP celebrates Atal's birthday as Sushasan Diwas, pays floral tributes

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir B-JP celebrated the birthday of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Sushasan Diwas (Good Governance Day) by paying floral tributes to Atal ji at various places across Jammu and Kashmir. The celebrations were held at both ward and booth levels, with BJP leaders and workers across the region honoring the memory of the visionary leader. J&K B-JP President Sat Sharma, along with MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, MLA Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Vikram Randhawa, former Minister Priya Sethi, senior leader Rajeev Charak, spokesperson Purnima Sharma, and other senior party leaders, gathered at Atal Chowk, Panjirthi, Jammu, to pay floral tributes to the statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. At the J&K B-JP headquarters, Sat Sharma, accompanied by General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, and other senior leaders, inaugurated an exhibition to celebrate Atal ji's life and contributions. Speaking during the occasion, Sat Sharma recalled Atal ji's immense dedication to the country, quoting his words:



"Tan Samarjit, Man Samarjit, Aur Yeh Jeevan Samarjit, Chahna Hum Desh Ki Dharti, 'Tajhe Kuch Aur Bhi Doon.'" Sat Sharma praised Atal ji for his unwavering commitment to strengthening the nation, particularly his role in the Pokhran nuclear tests, and emphasized how his leadership had never compromised on India's national interests. He also highlighted Atal ji's role in the Kargil War, where under his leadership, India achieved a decisive victory. Jugal Kishore Sharma also paid tribute, stating that Bharat Mata would always remember Atal ji's contributions for centuries to come. He emphasized Atal ji's friendship with all, even working towards creating better relations with neighboring Pakistan. Dr. Nirmal Singh shared personal anecdotes, highlighting Atal ji's exemplary virtues, social values, and political leadership. Kavinder Gupta noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is following the same principles of ensuring progress for the most disadvantaged in society, just as Atal ji did. Sunil Sharma urged all to imbibe Atal ji's spirit of strong nationalism, recalling his dedication as a politician, poet, and social activist. In the evening, Sat Sharma, along with local leaders Ayodhya Gupta and Sanjay Baru, paid floral tributes to Atal ji at Talab Tillo, further spreading the message of Atal ji's legacy of Good Governance and nationalism.

Dy CM participates in 81st Salana Barsi of Sant Baba Sunder Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, attended the 81st Salana Barsi (Annual Remembrance) of Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji at Gurudwara Yaadgar Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji in Naniyal, Nowshera on Wednesday.

The event was marked by spiritual fervor and witnessed the participation of a large number of devotees.

During the program, members of the Gurudwara Committee raised concerns



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary speaking at a programme.

regarding the need for better road connectivity and water supply in the area. Addressing the gathering, the Dy CM assured the committee and the devotees that their demands would be fulfilled at the earliest.

The Deputy Chief

Minister highlighted the contributions of Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji towards promoting harmony and spiritual awakening. He emphasized the government's commitment towards addressing public grievances and ensuring holistic development in all regions.

The event concluded with prayers and langar (community meal), symbolizing the spirit of unity and service. The local community expressed gratitude to the DyCM for his presence and assurance of support.

Some may profess that Article 368 of COI gives unchecked amending power to Parliament, but it is not so ! Framers of COI were very particular for protecting-preserving-defending soul spirits of Constitution

Should not those who call for protection of COI unitedly work for undoing amendments made in 1976 & 1978 to Art -74 ? Congress Government in 1976 & Morarji lead Janta Govt in 1978 constitutionally weakened Institution of President of INDIA Will Block NDA and Block INDIA unitedly work to bring Art-74 back to its original form?

DAYA SAGAR
Article 368 of the Constitution of India (COI) may give to some the impression that Parliament's amending powers are absolute and encompass all parts of the document but the position is not like that. The Supreme Court can go for checks through reviews and has at occasions acted for suitable checks on legislative enthusiasm since independence for serving the original spirits enshrined there in Supreme Court of India has laid down the 'doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution of India' in 1973 (through the Judgment of 13 judge Constitution Bench in 'The Kesavananda Bharati case (Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalavaru etc. v. State of Kerala and another etc. Writ Petitions Nos.135/70, 351-52i~73-74 and L±UO of 1972 , delivered on 24 April 1973) that Article 368 cannot be used by Parliament to amend the constitution so as to distort, damage or alter the basic spirits /features

of the Constitution under the pretext of amending it using Art 368. Although the phrase 'basic structure' itself is not found in the Constitution but The Supreme Court had placed before the citizens this concept in black & white for the first time in the Kesavananda Bharati case in as something like commonly understood as Doctrine of Basic Structure . Supreme Court has been the interpreter of the Constitution and the arbiter for any amendments made by Parliament. Supreme court has in a way reserved the jurisdiction to 'self' to name the elements of basic structure as and when a case for review comes. Some of the amendments have been made to explicitly project the spirits/principles enshrined in the 'hearts' of constitution like the insertions made in the text of the Preamble { using/substituting "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic" by Forty-second Amendment Act, 1976, s.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3-1-1977); and using expression/ substituting "unity and integrity of the Nation " by s.2, ibid, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3-1-1977) by making insertions } and some of the amendments have been made keeping in view implementation of welfare intentions laid down in some articles of the constitution/ directive principles / fundamental rights / like as through The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 June 18 1951 where under Art 15, Art 19, Art 31, Articles 85, 87, 174, 176,341, 342, 372 ,376 were amended and Ninth Schedule was added after 8th Schedule) and 4th Amendment Act (The Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Act, 1955 17 April 1954 where under articles 31, 31A & 305 of, and the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution were amended) . The substitutions made in the text of Preamble of Constitution of India have been very much within the powers of Parliament as

A Look through the Mist Part-V

laid in Art 368 of COI since the concerned section of the 42nd amendment Act of 1976 have very much within the doctrine of basic structure of COI as professed in The 13 Judge - Bench (Chief Justice S. M. Sikri, Justice J.M.Shelat, Justice K.S. Hegde, Justice A.N.Grover; Justices A.N. Ray, Justice P. Jagannohan Reddy, Justice D.G. Palekar; Justice H.R. Khanna, Justice K.K. Mathew, Justice M.H. Beg, Justice S.N. Dwivedi, Justice A.K. Mukherjee and Justice Y.V. Chandrachud) Judgment of Supreme Court of India delivered on 24 April 1973 in Kesavananda Bharati Vs State of Kerala (His Holiness Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalavaru etc. v. State of Kerala and another etc. Writ Petitions Nos.135/70, 351-52i~73-74) which had held that Parliament has powers to amend the Constitution using Art- 368 but the

Parliament cannot go beyond disturbing the basic structure of the Constitution of India and all amendments made to constitution are subject to judicial review. Although the Kesavananda Bharati case 13 Judge Constitution Bench Judgment had not provided direct relief in favour of the petitioner but had unfolded the Doctrine of Basic Structure of Constitution of India. Even Art 368 has been amended , First < Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971 s3 where under "Procedure for amendment of the Constitution" was substituted with the text Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor; (w.e.f. 5-11-1971); Clause- 1 inserted by s3 ; Art. 368 re-numbered as cl. (2) thereof by s. 3, ibid. (w.e.f. 5-11-1971; Clause -3 was added " Nothing in article 13 shall apply to any amendment made under this Article " inserted by the Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971, s. 3 (w.e.f. 5-11-1971). Second vide s 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 55 (w.e.f. 3-1-1977) were . added Section 4 { No amendment of this Constitution (including the provisions of Part III) made or purporting to have been made under this article (whether before or after the commencement of section 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976) shall be called in question in any court on any ground) and Section-5 (For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that there shall be no limitation whatever on the constituent power of Parliament to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal the provisions of this Constitution under this article.) but Section-4 has been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in Minerva Mills Ltd. and Others Vs. Union of India and Others 1980 terms of doctrine of basic structure of Constitution.

To be continued
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Rising number of beggars in Jammu pose security threat; disturbs public, raising concerns for city's well-being

The increasing number of beggars in Jammu has raised alarm among citizens and security officials alike. Several residents have voiced their concerns about the growing presence of beggars in public spaces, with some alleging that their activities not only disturb the peace but also pose a security threat. The situation has sparked debates over the potential risks associated with such an increase, including its connection to criminal activities and the well-being of the city's residents.

Navam Singh highlights the growing number of beggars in Jammu, with particular concern about the involvement of Rohingya refugees. He raises alarms about how this group's presence is adding to the pressure on the city's resources and posing security threats. He suggests that authorities need to address the issue by monitoring and controlling the number of beggars, particularly those from outside Jammu, as their sudden rise could be indicative of a larger, unchecked trend.

Jeet, who recently visited Jammu from Delhi, shares a personal experience to highlight the issue. He narrates an incident where he gave food to a beggar, but within five minutes, the beggar was asking for food again, which led him to believe that many of these beggars are not genuinely in need. His account draws attention to the possibility that some beggars may be exploiting people's compassion and generosity for personal gains. His experience raises the question of how to distinguish between those who genuinely need help and those who are simply exploiting the situation.

Vickey, a local resident, spoke how beggars are now seen at almost every Chowk in the city. He explains that when people refuse to give them money or food, the beggars often react with bad words or abusive language. He also adds that many of these beggars are not locals, suggesting that their presence is a result of migration or external influences. He stresses the need for authorities to identify and track down these individuals to ensure that their motives and backgrounds are verified, as their growing numbers and aggressive behavior are becoming a concern for public order.

Vishal Singh emphasizes a different aspect of the beggary problem: the children often seen with beggars. He questions whether the children beggars are carrying actually belong to them or whether they are being exploited for emotional appeal. Singh's concern extends to the safety and welfare of these children, suggesting that their involvement in begging could be part of a larger problem of child exploitation. He also raises the issue of beggars causing accidents at traffic signals, where children or adults may obstruct vehicles, increasing the risk of road accidents, especially at busy red lights.

Manish Sahni, a Shiv Sena UBT leader, takes a more political stance on the issue, asserting that the increasing number of beggars is directly linked to rising crime rates in Jammu. He calls for beggars to be identified and verified, suggesting that some may be involved in criminal activities, such as pick pocketing or theft. He proposes a more stringent approach where authorities should monitor beggars and take action against those who may be participating in criminal behavior. His perspective aligns with those who view the rise in begging as a social issue with potential consequences for law and order.

