

Digitalisation of governance enabled uninterrupted office working during pandemic: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative impact of digital governance while addressing the Economic Times "Digttech Conclave 2025."

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership for launching the Digital India initiative in 2015, which positioned India ahead of global counterparts in digital transformation and ensured seamless governance even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for



Science & Technology, elaborated that nearly 70-80% of India's public digital infrastructure was in place before the pandemic, allowing uninterrupted government services despite global lockdowns.

He underscored that UPI, Aadhaar, and the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) trinity enabled direct financial assistance and compensation to various sectors during the crisis, ensuring food security for 80 crore citizens.

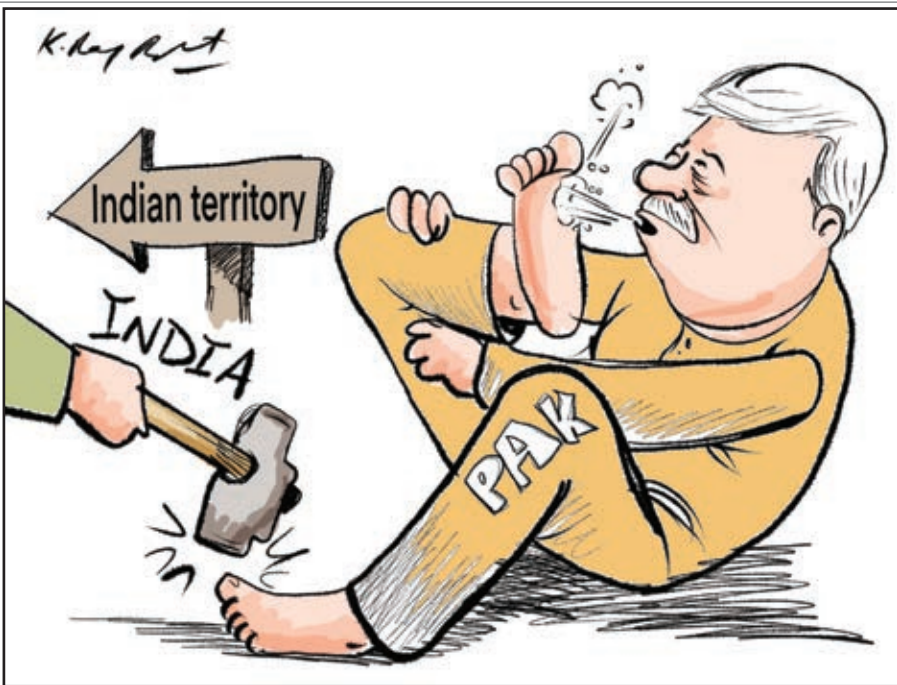
He lauded government schemes like Ayushman Bharat, which offers cashless treatment, including pre-existing conditions, making it a unique global model in healthcare. Another notable initiative, the Swamitva Mission, has empowered citizens by mapping 60-70% of India's land, eliminating dependency on revenue officials for property ownership verification.

Dr. Singh emphasized that India's digital governance model has drawn international recognition, with delegations from neighboring countries visiting India for capacity-building programs. He highlighted RTI on Mobile App and CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) as global benchmarks for transparency and accountability.

Discussing public-private collaboration, Dr. Singh pointed to the unlocking of the space sector, which has

attracted significant investment and is projected to reach \$45 billion. He also praised the government's decision to open the nuclear energy sector, marking a step toward energy self-sufficiency.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh praised PM Modi's "Whole of Government, Whole of Science, and Whole of Nation" approach, which has revolutionized India's socio-economic landscape. He asserted that the synergy between governance, the private sector, and scientific advancements is driving India toward a brighter, more sustainable future.



ACS Shantmanu launches Jaadui Pitara at SCERT Divisional Office Jammu



ACS Shantmanu and others during launch of Jaadui Pitara at SCERT Divisional Office Jammu on Tuesday.

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JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Shantmanu on Tuesday launched Jaadui Pitara at the SCERT Divisional Office Jammu in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT Jammu, and H R Pakhroo, Joint Director Central SCERT J&K.

Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Jaadui Pitara is an innovative learning toolkit designed to make foundational education more engaging, interactive, and joyful. It includes play-based and activity-based resources such as storybooks, flashcards, puzzles, and puppets, aimed at enhancing holistic development in early childhood education. By integrating experiential and multi-sensory learning, it fosters foundational literacy, numeracy, and cognitive growth among young learners.

On the occasion, ACS Shantmanu also launched the Suno Kahani initiative, a storytelling program aimed at enriching children's language skills and imagination.

He congratulated SCERT Jammu for conceptualizing and implementing this creative educational initiative and highlighted the role of storytelling in fostering creativity, critical

thinking, and emotional intelligence among young learners. Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor welcomed ACS and apprised him about the various units and departments of SCERT. She also gave a detailed presentation on the numerous educational initiatives undertaken by SCERT Jammu to enhance the quality of learning across the region.

During his visit, ACS interacted with all staff members, encouraging them to continue their hard work and dedication.

He also discussed various issues and concerns faced by SCERT Jammu and assured support in addressing them.

Speaking at the event, ACS commended SCERT Jammu for its efforts in strengthening foundational learning and promoting innovative education.

He reaffirmed his support for enhancing the educational landscape in the region.

H R Pakhroo, Joint Director Central SCERT J&K, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to ACS Shantmanu for his valuable time, insights, and support for SCERT's initiatives.

He also appreciated the dedication of the SCERT Jammu team and assured continued commitment to improving learning outcomes.

Former Mayor, JMC Commissioner emphasize for maximum governance, minimum Government-Modi Mantra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under Jan Samvad programme a meeting was held at JMC which was jointly chaired by senior BJP leader and former Mayor Rajinder Sharma along with JMC Commissioner.

About 35 former Councillors of JMC and officers/officials of the Urban Local Body were also present in a new conference hall in Mayor's block.

Speaking in the meeting the former Mayor said that JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav is a vibrant officer who sincerely wants to work for public welfare. He said that administrative powers of JMC in absence of an elected Mayor rest with the Commissioner.

Sharma said that the JMC is an elected decision making body which has the scope of immediate execution with desired results which is not seen otherwise. It is not a department.

Lauding the role of JMC Commissioner the BJP leader said that the Corporation can work to make future plans for coming 40 years to ensure proper water supply in future along with other issues like underground wiring in the city and sanitation.



Former Mayor Rajinder Sharma and with JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

"Similarly, effective ways to replace the use of polythene by degradable bags as poly carry bags make 70 per cent blockages in drains," Sharma continued. He said degradable carry bag was launched by then Union Minister Mr Hardeep Puri and campaign for a month was carried out in universities and schools but it has not been followed latter.

He also said that the Enforcement Officers of JMC should take action against big fishes responsible for smuggling poly bags into Jammu and such persons are needed to be exposed.

"Similarly, building permissions are needed to make public disciplined by creating a cell which may redress the issues," the BJP leader maintained adding: "Beat-

wise sanitation should be carried on in the city to ensure cleanliness and responsibility should be fixed and few locals should be made Swachhta Ambassadors so that they may report attendance of sanitation workers after which their salaries might be released."

For execution of JMC works, Sharma said the local body should make its own wing as agencies lack quality control due to prevailing commission culture there which results in poor works.

The Mayor batted for quality control committees with engineers and technical officers and administration office with have powers to check corruption so that the quality of civil works may improve.

He expressed concern over tenders being below 40 per cent and said that either these are over estimated or desired quality was not available.

"Water tankers through aap will not work as there is none to ensure that who is needy as even the desired people are left while others are benefitted," Sharma continued.

He said that for 26 tube wells started by them there is no progress visible on ground. "Model Lane drains concept presented in General House Meetings of JMC to accommodate wiring, sewage and rain water avoiding PHE and PDD construction costs should be worked upon," the former Mayor said.

On dog menace he said that MVO is not being

allowed to work and Animal Offices have been deputed by the authorities which is not proper.

"Political persons and bureaucratic classes have own roles and jointly they can bring changes," Sharma further said adding: "For street lights, JMC should train the team of 40 men. Launching is one part but most important part is supervision, control and feedback. Accountability should be fixed and one worker should correct 10 lights a day else his salary should be stopped."

He also voiced for JMC's own quality control section with 2 lab assistants and one executive engineer and the Joint Commissioner or any officer as administrative officer to give directions.

"Change is not possible till we do not make mind to change ourselves," he said adding: "We should collectively work for change. Bureaucracy has own limitations which are removed by political class and we are here to support you so that the JMC may move ahead and public may benefit," Sharma further said.

He also voiced for e-office so that many violations should be stopped.

Delegation calls on Lt Governor, seeks development of Sharika Chakreshwari Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the managing committee of Shri Shri Jagat Amba Sharika Chakreshwar Sanastha Trust (Regd), Hari Parbat, Devi Angan, Srinagar, met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to discuss the development of the centuries-old Sharika Chakreshwari Temple.

The 11-member delegation was led by Ranjeet Gurkha, President of the Shri Shri Sharika Chakreshwari Sanastha.

As a mark of reverence, the delegation presented the Lieutenant Governor with a bouquet of flowers and the sacred Dhyan of Syumbu Shreechakra, an inscription from the temple. In addition, books of various Shastras recited



Delegation of managing committee of Shri Shri Jagat Amba Sharika Chakreshwar Sanastha Trust calling on LG Manoj Sinha in Jammu on Tuesday.

daily at the shrine were also gifted.

The ceremonial meeting was marked by the application of a sacred saffron Tilak on the Lieutenant Governor's forehead, while a Mouli was tied around his wrist, accompanied by the chanting of Vedic hymns by J.K. Khar and Sanjay Raina.

The Sharika Chakreshwari Temple, a

historical and spiritual landmark in Srinagar with a replica temple in Jammu, follows the traditional Logakshhi calendar for all rituals.

The management committee invited the Lieutenant Governor to personally visit the Srinagar shrine for a ground-zero assessment of its condition.

The delegation also sub-

mitted a memorandum, urging the government to develop the shrine as a world-class spiritual and pilgrimage center, recognizing its potential to attract local, national, and international tourists.

They emphasized the need for urgent intervention to enhance the shrine's infrastructure and preserve its heritage. The Lieutenant

Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that he would visit the Srinagar shrine soon to assess the situation firsthand. His commitment has raised hopes for necessary developments that would enhance the shrine's significance and improve facilities for devotees and tourists. The delegation included M.L. Sathu (General Secretary of Sanastha), Vijay Qazi, Surinder Kaul, Bharat Raina, Upinder Kar, Advocate Arun Dhar, Kuldeep Dhar, B.L. Jalali, and others. The meeting has strengthened expectations for the conservation and promotion of the Sharika Chakreshwari Shrine as a major spiritual and cultural destination in Jammu and Kashmir.

CS emphasises energy audit of PMDP funded power infrastructure



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday impressed upon the Power Development Department (PDD) to carry out the energy audit of the infrastructure raised under Prime Minister Development Programme (PMDP) to assess the impact of these projects in reforming the energy distribution across J&K.

Dulloo was speaking in a high level Distribution Reforms Committee (DRC) meeting called to seek assessment of the progress on completion of these mega projects implemented in different areas of the UT.

Those who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, PDD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JPDCL/ KPDCCL; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary, while taking note of the projects completed under the PMDP and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), said that both these schemes are highly significant for the UT in carrying out the much requisite reforms in our power distribution system thereby reducing the AT&C losses, a major burden on our exchequer.

Dulloo further observed that in order to ensure that these projects are meeting the set objectives, it is imperative to study their impact on ground.

Moreover, in order to monitor the energy flow in distribution system on real time basis there should be a robust IT system in place, maintained the Chief Secretary. He illustrated that right from the Feeder to Distribution Transformer and then to each of the consumer the quantum of energy supplied should be reflected with the losses incurred at each stage.

In his remarks, the Principal Secretary, PDD, made out that the Ministry for Power had sanctioned projects worth Rs 2,570.14 crore under PMDP in 2015 for strengthening distribution system in both rural and urban areas and installation of smart meters for 2 lakh consumers. These projects were to be implemented with 90% funding from the Central Government and balance 10% to be funded by Government of

J&K. The scheduled completion time for these projects was two years from the date of sanction and later multiple time extensions were approved by MoP for the execution of works, he added. Additionally, the Central government under its 2nd package sanctioned an amount of Rs1139 crore for strengthening of distribution system in remaining areas with installation of 6 lakh more smart meters. While implementing these projects, the Government of J&K allocated some of these sanctioned projects to RECPDCL and PGCL while retaining the balance projects with JKPDD as project implementing agency to be implemented by JPDCL and KPDCCL in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The scope of these works as given out in the meeting included strengthening of distribution system, replacement of barbed wire, underground cabling in certain tourist places, creation of sub-stations in industrial areas, smart metering, street lighting at certain popular shrines, establishment of meter testing lab besides few other works to improve efficiency in power distribution. On the occasion, the MD, JPDCL/KPDCCL, gave out details of the works carried out in their respective areas. He also threw light on the quantum of work done in each case along with the expenditure incurred upon particular activity.

Furthermore, multiple projects for electrification and grid connectivity of remote areas in Kishtwar, Kupwara and Bandipora districts were also undertaken under RDS. These included electrification of Marwah Warwan blocks (Kishtwar District) at a cost of Rs73.39 crore along with creation of 33/11 KV substations and a 33 KV line for improved grid connectivity.

Similarly, a total of Rs 64.89 crore were allocated for establishment of a new substation in Tulail area of Bandipora district and electrification of additional households there and that of the remote areas in Kupwara district.

These projects aimed to enhance power reliability and provide electricity access to previously unconnected households in these remote regions. The initiatives are funded in a 90:10 ratio, in line with RDSS loss reduction efforts, as was informed in the meeting.

BJP's commitment to ensuring all-round development in East Constituency: Yudhvir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurated the development work of a deep drain at Bawa Lal Gali, Ward No. 3, in the East Constituency in presence of enthusiastic party workers, local residents, and prominent dignitaries.

The project, which aims to enhance the drainage infrastructure in the area, will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 16.5 lakhs.

Yudhvir Sethi reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring all-round development in Jammu East. He stated that addressing civic issues such as sanitation, drainage, and road connectivity remains a top



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating development work at Bawa Lal Gali, Ward No. 3.

priority for the government.

He highlighted that the new deep drain system would significantly reduce waterlogging problems in

the area, particularly during the monsoon season, thereby preventing inconvenience to residents.

The senior BJP leader further added that the

BJP government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been working tirelessly to uplift the living standards of the people.

He emphasized that infrastructural development is an essential pillar in transforming Jammu into a modern, well-planned city. He urged the residents to support the administration in maintaining public infrastructure by keeping their surroundings clean and ensuring proper disposal of waste. Expressing gratitude towards the people for their unwavering trust in the BJP, Sethi assured that every pending developmental project in the constituency would be completed in a time-bound manner.