

# Now even non-domicile can file J&K related RTI: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Minister Incharge DoPT to which the Central Information Commission is affiliated, disclosed on Friday that consequent to the passing of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, the J&K Right to Information Act 2009 and the Rules there under have since been repealed and the Central Right to Information Act 2005 and the Rules there under were enforced from 31.10.2019.

As a consequence to this, the difference now is that, unlike in the past, even a non-Domicile or a non-State subject of Jammu & Kashmir is entitled to file RTI related to UT issues or agencies.

Addressing the 14th Special General Body Meeting of National Federation of Information Commissions of India (NFICI) at CIC Bhawan here, Dr Jitendra Singh lauded the Central Information Commission for achieving consistent decline in pendency with corresponding rise in disposal of the Right To Information (RTI) appeals. He said, he was pleased to note that the pendency reduced from about 40,000 cases last year to around 27,000 cases at present, while the disposal of cases increased from 17017 in 2020-21 to 28901 in 2021-22.

The Union Minister said, ever since the Modi Government came to power



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing 14th Special General Body Meeting of National Federation of Information Commissions of India (NFICI), at CIC Bhawan, Munirka, New Delhi on Friday.

in 2014, Transparency, Accountability and Citizen-Centricity became the hallmark of the Governance Model. He said that in the last eight years, every conscious decision was taken to strengthen the Independence and Resources of the Information Commissions.

The Minister noted that empowered citizens are an important pillar of democracy and the Central Information Commission will continue to work for empowering the people through information.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, transparency and accountability are very essential for democratic and participative governance and all steps will be taken to fulfil the aspirations and expectations of the people of India.

## CCI urges people to maintain brotherhood, communal harmony & tranquility



President CCI Jammu, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference.

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JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI), Jammu, raised serious concern over the prevailing situation in the Bhadarwah town.

Addressing media persons here on Friday, Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu, said that the situation in Bhadarwah is grave.

"A well-planned conspiracy was hatched by some unscrupulous elements to divide the people and make them fight (against) each other to destroy century old communal harmony and brotherhood of people of the town," he said.

Arun Gupta mentioned that the recent selective innocent

killings and incident of vandalizing Shri Vasuki Nag Ji Temple at Kailash Kund in Bhadarwah is not the only one as there are certain elements who want to vitiate the peaceful environment by repeatedly doing such acts which are totally unacceptable.

Arun Gupta appealed to the LG's administration to act stringently against the culprits as such repeated incidents have the potential to escalate communal tension.

Among others who were present in the press conference include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

He asked them to remain vigilant from the anti-national

elements who are trying to create wedge between the communities for their vested interests. He asked people of Bhadarwah town to come forward and expose such elements who are enemy of peace, prosperity and tranquility.

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He said pluralistic Jammu's ethos of inclusiveness and harmony is the strong citadel against forces who want to disturb the secular fabric of the region.

Rana said the people, irrespective of region and religion, are sagacious enough to see through the attempts of dividing the society and resolute enough to thwart the designs of peace-breakers by maintaining unity and brotherhood.

## Jammu's pluralistic ethos will defeat hatemongers: Rana

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JAMMU: Cautioning against machinations of straining the time tested inclusive and pluralistic ethos of Jammu, senior BJP leader and former MLA Devender Singh Rana on Friday called for identifying, exposing and isolating the elements inimical to peace and tranquility.

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