

Dr Jitendra releases book on ‘8 Years of Administrative, Pension reforms’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday released a book and it's e-Version on 8 Years of Administrative and Pension reforms (2014-2022).

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, eight years of administrative and pension reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi are aimed at social transformation.

Delivering the inaugural address at a webinar on Administrative Reforms and Pension Reforms (2014-2022) in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, large scale use of technology and integration approach are the twin pillars of both the revolutionary Governance and Pension Reforms carried out in the last eight years.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh releasing a book at Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

Dwelling on Pension Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh said, ever since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had introduced a number of revolutionary reforms including relaxation in the provision of Family Pension for divorced daughters and Divyans, introduction of Race Recognition Technology

through mobile app for ease in submitting Life Certificate by elderly pensioners, Electronic Pension Pay Order; assistance from Postal Department to facilitate pension process etc.

He said, moreover steps like extension of Family Pension to differently abled child of a deceased Government employee/Pensioner or giving a major hike in the Family Pension

emoluments for Divyang children of a deceased government servant/pensioner are not only pension reforms but these are social reforms having wide implications. Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that at the behest of the Prime Minister, the Department also started a portal entitled "Anubhav" to show-case the experiences in Government of retiring officials

which has now become a huge resource base for us.

On Administrative Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh listed out several out of box ideas like abolishing the century old colonial practice of attestation of documents by a gazetted officer and replacing it by self-attestation, doing away with interview for Group-B (Non- Gazetted) and Group - C posts in the Central Government since 2016, three month Central stint for fresh IAS officers as Assistant Secretary, change in the nature of PM Excellence Award and abolition of around 1450 rules, which have become obsolete. The Minister also released an e-Book on 8 Years' Achievements of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and that of DARPG on the occasion.



GoC 15 Corps calls on LG



GOC 15 Corps, Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 15 Corps, Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan.

The GOC briefed the Lt Governor about the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Discussions were also held on various important issues related to internal security management in J&K.

The Lt Governor emphasized on the need for constant alertness, and synergy among Security Agencies and Civil Administration to meet the security challenges in J&K, ensuring safe and secure environment for the people.

White Knight Corps commemorates 50th Raising Day



Officiating GOC Maj Gen J S Bindra paying tributes to bravehearts at Ashwamedh Shaurya Sthal.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Army's 16 Corps, also known as the White Knight Corps, commemorated the 50th anniversary of its raising on Wednesday with its officiating General Officer Commanding (GOC) Maj Gen J S Bindra remembering the gallant soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, a defence spokesman said.

The General Officer paid floral tributes to the bravehearts in a traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the "Ashwamedh Shaurya Sthal" in Nagrota Military Station and complimented all ranks for the high standards achieved while discharging operational as well as administrative duties, the spokesman said.

The White Knight Corps is one of the finest operational corps of the Army looking after the extent of Pir Panjal

Ranges to the Shivalik Ranges and also the plains of Jammu and Akhnoor.

Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh have three corps 14th (Ladakh), 15th (Kashmir) and 16th (Ladakh) looking after the operational areas along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and parts of the hinterland along with five counter-insurgency divisions.

The White Knight Corps was raised on this day in 1972 as part of Udhampur-based Northern Command and Lt Gen J P R Jacob was its first Corps Commander.

Maj Gen Bindra recounted the rich history and motivated all ranks to rise to the occasion to ensure the corps flag keeps flying high.

"Besides the gallant actions in war, the corps has also reduced the terrorist activities in the region by relentless efforts. The corps has

also been taking painstaking efforts in nation building through a wide range of projects under Operation Sadbhavana (goodwill)," he said.

The General Officer exhorted all ranks to continue discharging the assigned tasks with utmost professionalism and dedication while maintaining the high standards set by the predecessors and also congratulated all ranks as the White Knight Corps stepped on to a historical landmark of the glorious 50 years of its raising.

The spokesman said the corps has a rich history and a saga of valour and bravery in all wars including Counter Insurgency Operations.

The corps has the honour of participating in all operations since its raising, he said, adding operation Blue star in 1984, Operation Trident in 1987, Operation Rakshak since 1985 and Operation Vijay in 1999 are a few major operations in which the gallant soldiers of the corps have etched their name in the history in golden letters by their bravery and dedication to duty.

"Today on the 50th Raising Day, the White Knight Corps continues its pursuit towards professional excellence with renewed vigour and perseverance," the spokesman said.

Ladakh remembers P Namgyal on his second death anniversary



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Ladakh Territorial Congress Committee headed by its president Nawang Rigzin Jora paid tributes to former Union Minister P. Namgyal on his 2nd death anniversary in Leh on Wednesday.

Recounting P. Namgyal's tremendous contributions towards Ladakh's development, Rigzin Jora said that P. Namgyal's legacy needs to be told to the younger generations. He announced that a memoir of P. Namgyal will be written, a memorial will be constructed, and an essay competition among students on P. Namgyal's contributions will be conducted in the coming days.

Senior Congress leader and former MLA Tsering Samphel highlighted the contributions of late P. Namgyal. One of P. Namgyal's daughter, Stanzin Dolker, who is the Mahila president of Ladakh Territorial Congress Committee was among relatives and family members present on the occasion. Congress leaders includ-

ing DCC Leh President Rigzin Namgyal, leader of opposition in LAHDC Leh Tsering Namgail Councilor, MCL President Dr Ishey Namgail, DCC women President Adv. Ishey Lhamo, Youth President Tundup Norboo, Congress Councilors, former MLC Norbu Gyaltsan, former MLA Deldan Namgyal and several senior leaders were present to remember and pay tribute to P. Namgyal.

Hindu teacher assassination: Protests rock Jammu for 2nd day amid demand to sack officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA : Protests against the martyrdom of a Hindu school teacher in Kulgam continued to rock several parts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts on the second consecutive day on Wednesday.

Rajni Bala (36) was martyred by terrorists following which Kashmiri Pandits, employed under the PM package, had threatened to undertake mass migration from the Valley if they were not relocated to safe places within the next 24 hours.

The protesters on Wednesday blocked the Jammu-Pathankot Highway in Samba and demanded dismissal of officers responsible for failing to transfer Bala to a safe place that resulted in her assassination.

Meanwhile, Samba, the district the victim belonged to, observed a complete shutdown to protest against the assassination.

Calling the Valley's Hindu population a "soft target", Jammu and Kashmir BJP

chief Ravinder Raina, who visited the bereaved family in Samba and faced protest, said there is an urgent need to formulate a security plan for the safety of the community as Pakistani terrorists were targeting them constantly.

Hundreds of protesters took out a rally toward the Jammu-Pathankot Highway and raised anti-government and anti-Pakistan slogans.

They staged a sit-in on the highway, blocking the vehicular traffic and demanded dismissal of officers, especially that of Kulgam CEO, for turning down repeated requests of the couple and delaying Bala's transfer to Kulgam for months.

The protestors also raised slogans against Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over the complete failure on the security front to protect the Hindus serving in government offices in the Valley and burnt an effigy of the administration.

The administration led by Deputy Commissioner Anuradha reached out to protesters to lift the blockade on the highway, but the agitated protesters continued their demonstration.

Meanwhile, the protesters told Raina that their government led by L-G Sinha has totally failed to protect Hindus in Kashmir.

The protesters also tried to heckle him, but several BJP activists and cops intervened. "Hindus are being killed in Muslim majority Kashmir under the BJP rule. Twenty-two Hindus, including Kashmiri Pandits, Dogra Hindus and outsiders, have been killed in the past and several injured by (bullet) shots," former Samba MLA Yashpal Kundal said.

In Jammu city, BJP student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Dogra Front, Kashmiri Pandits Front and Bajrang Dal, also staged protests against the assassination.

BJP Mahila Morcha nominates state members, district teams

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra in consultation with J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and All Morcha Incharge Munish Sharma nominated Neeru Anand as Morcha Vice President.

Arti Jasrotia and Dr. Suman Abrol are nominated as Secretaries whereas Ritika Trehan and Chanchal Padha are nominated as spokespersons.

Manju Parmar, Veena Parmar, Radha Jasrotia, Ratna Manhas, Rajni Gupta, Anita Bhau, Bharti Gupta, Pushpa Gandotra, Neelam Devi and Rohini Ghandharav Charak are nominated as Executive members of BJP Mahila Morcha.

Traders take out candle march for paying tributes to Rajni Bala

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A large number of traders under the banner of Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market on Wednesday took out a candle march at Bikram Chowk here to pay rich tributes to the Teacher Rajni Bala who was killed by terrorists on Tuesday in Kulgam district of Kashmir.

The candle march started from Ware House out gate near the police post and after passing through the main road, culminated at Bikram Chowk, where tributes were paid to the Teacher Rajni Bala.

Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Gupta, President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market strongly condemned the selective killing of minority community members by terrorist in broad daylight and termed it total failure on the part of administration.

He said that it is quite amazing that due to laxity of admin-



Traders taking out candle march in Jammu.

istration, once again the situation is being created to force minorities to migrate from Kashmir. He said Hindus are soft targets in Kashmir and the administration should relocate them in view of the fear psychosis triggered by the selective killings by terrorists.

Terming the killing a "cowardly act", Deepak Gupta said assurances given by the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure the safety of minorities in the Valley

have proved to be false. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to stop the bloodshed and targeted killings of innocents in Kashmir. Munish Mahajan, Senior Vice President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Abhimanyu Gupta, Vice President, Vishal Gupta, Secretary and Amit Gupta, Cashier of the Federation also participated in the candle march.

JU organises Regional Cultural fest Cultural events teach students to respect each other's way of living: JU VC



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai posing with participating students and faculty members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Girls Hostels of the University of Jammu (JU), organised a Regional Cultural Fest.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, JU, the Chief Guest on the occasion, said that after witnessing a mesmerising performance of the students, he announced that function shall be a permanent feature to be held in University Auditorium

and all the expenses shall be borne by the Office of Dean Students Welfare.

This will also help in moulding their viewpoints about the others, will teach them to respect each other's way of living and this will ultimately strengthen the nation, said Prof Rai.

He also complimented Prof Shashi Manhas, Provost, Girls Hostels for her proactive approach in organising the festival.

The students of all the four girls' hostels showed the rich cultural heritage of the UT of J&K by presenting songs and dances of J&K.

An ethnic cuisine of J&K was also served and the rich cultural and ethnic heritage of the region was displayed. Earlier, Prof. Shashi Manhas, Provost Girls Hostels in her welcome address said that the event will help in fostering unity amongst the boarders and strengthen the

bondage between boarders, who come from different parts of J&K, speak different languages, have different lifestyles and will also help in shaping their personalities for the future as they have to perform much bigger roles when they join different professions and have to deal with all these factors.

Dr Chinmyee Maharana, Warden, Sarojini Girls Hostel presented a vote of thanks while Shahnaz Akhtar, Senior Assistant conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Among others, Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar, JU, Prof Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, Dr Neeraj Sharma, Special Secretary to Vice-Chancellor, Wardens, Resident Wardens, faculty, Officers along with 700 boarders of four Girls Hostels of the University were also present on the occasion.

Pharmacist Association urges health employees to observe strike on June 6

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To highlight various long pending demands of health employees, Jammu Kashmir Govt Pharmacist Association, Jammu held a press conference under leadership of Kamal Jit Sawhney General Secretary JKGPA at DHS complex, Jammu, which was attended by a number of other employees.

Major demands highlighted on the occasion included holding Departmental Promotion Committee (DPCs) for all categories, resolving salary problems of Female Multi-Purpose Health Workers, registrations of all leftover pharmacists, restoration of



General Secretary JKGPA, Kamal Jit Sawhney talking to reporters.

old pension scheme etc. The members urged Manoj K Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, to initiate measures for fulfilling all pending demands of health employees. The participants further urged all employees of health department to observe

complete strike on June 6, 2022 in support of their demands.

Others present during the press conference included Shaffkat Hussain, Madan Lal, Sahil Kumar, Bahadur Singh, Subash Chowdhary, Kuldeep Singh Parihar, Ajeet Kumar and Ashwani Kumar.

GCPF flays UT Admn, Govt for failing to resolve issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: General Category Peoples' Front (GCPF), during a meeting held under the chairmanship of Raj Kumar Banathia, discussed various existing problems being faced by people of J&K.

While speaking during the meeting, Prof Yash Paul Sanson, President of the Front said that people of Jammu Kashmir have been facing problems of price-rise, unemployment, heavy tolls and taxes, and absence of basic needs of pure drinking water, good roads, civic amenities, health services, uninterrupted electricity etc He appealed to the administration to stop imposing or increasing taxes as people have already been paying heavy taxes.

V K Sharma Vice President alleged that lack of direction and political will compounded problems of people in country. "History is being used as a tool to justify politics to caste, class and religion, reservations, quotas, special privileges and partial concessions for vote-bank politics. No one is ready to step out of the party affiliations and identities to end the politics of discrimination and to ensure a casteless and classless Indian society," he added.

Others present were Dr Banshi Lal, Bhushan Pargal, Deepak Khajuria, Gopal Dass Verma, Surinder Kumar. All speakers unanimously opposed anti-people policies of UT administration and Govt of India, which has become a corporate House, working with sole aim of imposing taxes on different names on people.