

Dr Jitendra addresses IAS trainees 2022 batch, underlines Vision 2047

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh interacted with Assistant Secretaries (Officer Trainees of IAS 2022 batch) at the culmination of their attachment at different union Ministries here today.

Speaking on the occasion Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh traced the beginning of this initiative in 2015 after Modi Government took the reins, to attach the new Officer trainees as Assistant Secretaries in various union Ministries post their district training to give an overall experience of functioning of ministries.

Dr. Jitendra said "This initiative also allows them to interact and learn from people at the apex levels of policy making by identifying mentors who will guide them for the coming 30 years of service."

Highlighting the benefits of this module, Dr. Jitendra shared that during Covid Pandemic how the officers who had been Asst. Secretaries and were now DM in a district could com-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the Assistant Secretaries (Officer Trainees of IAS 2022 batch) at New Delhi on Thursday.

municate and offer day to day feedback to the Centre with confidence.

During the interactive session the union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions heard the young bright officers and motivated them to suggest the changes they want to see in their training modules. He also gave a positive response on trying to inculcate as much as possible.

Dr. Jitendra said, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision to make you officers future ready when India will attain its century year of Independence, you all will holding important public offices and its our responsibility to uphold integrity, accountability, empathy and compassion towards the people of India and have Citizen Centricity and good governance at the

core of administration.

Expressing his confidence and happiness over the young talent pool, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that a positive change is being witnessed with around 28 percent of female officers joining the Civil services, which was less than 10% in the earlier times. Even people from almost all states of India are part of the civil services increasing diversity which is a healthy sign, he added. Motivating and guiding the young officers

Dr. Singh gave them a brief regarding mission Karmayogi and the intent of the government behind this mission. He said we want you to upgrade your skills, be future ready, be in sync with the changing technologies and karmayogi mission through I-Got Platform will provide the best avenue to do so.

Dr. Jitendra said as the nature of duties is changing and getting more complex, we need experts and specialists to implement the flagship schemes of the government in terms of health, education, social sector, as well as in science and energy domains also. Thus having a pool of such a diversified talent which is technology driven will be a boon for the country. He shared that we have tried to make certain values of accountability, transparency, communication skills and public dealing skills a part of your training through inhouse as well as specialized modules.

Towards the conclusion of his speech Dr. Jitendra emphasized that for civil servants integrity is the foremost quality and there can be no compromise with it. Going further he said that we need to develop

indices for the future and keep working to attain them. He said "Prepare yourself for the vision 2047 and promote nation building."

The IAS officer trainees of 2022 batch expressed gratitude and felt motivated after the gracious interaction with the union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Sriram Taranikanti, Director LBSNAA, Nila Mohanan, Joint Secretary (Training), DoPT and S. D Sharma Joint Secretary (ADMIN), DoPT were also present during the interaction.



Vartalap on three new criminal laws organised by PIB Jammu

New legislations will be watershed moment in history of India's criminal justice delivery: SP North

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A media workshop, Mini Vartalap on the three new criminal laws was organized by PIB, Jammu on Thursday on the path-breaking legislations, namely, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

The objective of the event, which was held at Press Club of Jammu, was to create awareness and highlight the salient features of these laws.

Superintendent of Police, North, Jammu, Shivam Siddharth graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Shivam Siddharth stated that the new criminal laws will be a watershed moment in the history of India's criminal justice delivery.

"It will be a new dawn when these laws, based on Indian thinking, and which are enshrined in the principles of justice, impartiality, equality, will be implemented on the 1st July", said Siddharth.

He also said the new laws demonstrate the government's commitment to deliver justice, and not just punishment.

The SP underlined that the first and foremost approach adopted in these laws is that they are citizen-centric, and it



SP North Jammu, Shivam Siddharth speaking in a media workshop.

has been ensured that there is, now, less inconvenience caused to the citizens and complainants while availing justice.

"For example, the system of zero FIRs and e-FIRs has been institutionalized in the Acts itself", he explained.

Speaking on the occasion, Guest of Honour, Advocate Ranjit Singh Janwal said that the new laws have been introduced to deal sternly with crimes against women, and increasing number of cyber-crimes.

"Offences, such as mob lynching and gang-rape", have now been covered more thoroughly in the new legislations", informed Janwal.

He added that the new laws have been brought, keeping in view the citizens' aspirations. Earlier in his welcome

address, Director, PIB/CBC, Jammu, Ghulam Abbas briefed the gathering about the rationale behind the introduction of the three legislations.

He appealed to the media to complement the efforts of the government in raising awareness about the new laws among general public and also popularize the eSakshya (e-evidence) app which is a mobile based application to help police record, scene of crime, search and seizure in a criminal case. On the occasion, Media and Communication Officer, PIB, Jammu, Zakir Nazeer made a detailed Power Point Presentation to give an overview of the new legislations.

He also urged the media to inform citizens about the new laws.

The event also featured an engaging Question and Answer (Q/A) session, where attendees had the opportunity to interact with the speakers, clarifying their doubts and gaining further insights into the new legislations. Around 40 media-persons and nearly 10 interns from Jammu University attended the Vartalap.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC, Kathua Camp Jammu, Rajesh Sharma delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.

The programme was moderated by Alina Shapoo, an intern with PIB, Jammu.

LIC issues notice to policyholders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) made alert its customers over recent news articles and other publications that some entities were offering to acquire policies from existing LIC policyholders as an alternative to having them surrendered to LIC. LIC has issued a press statement in the interest of all its policyholders to clarify that it is not associated with any such entity, or the products and services being offered by such entities and any statements made by former employees of LIC are personal to such individuals. "We disclaim any responsibility or liability in connection therewith," the LIC statement said. "Any sale/transfer or assignment of LIC policies need to be undertaken in accordance with Insurance Act, 1938, including Section 38 thereof. Under applicable laws, LIC may decline to act upon any sale/transfer or assignment of policies, where LIC has sufficient reason to believe that such sale/transfer or assignment is not bona fide or is not in the interest of the policyholder or in public interest or is for the purpose of trading of insurance policy," the LIC statement added. The LIC has urged all policyholders to exercise complete caution before making any decision on their policy which may jeopardise their financial security and the risk cover for their family. The public sector insurance giant has also urged its policyholders to consult any LIC official in its branches before responding to any offers. "We urge all policyholders to exercise complete caution before making any decision on their policy which may jeopardise their financial security and the risk cover for their family." LIC statement stated and added, "Before responding to any offers, kindly consult with any of our LIC officials in our branches. We, at LIC, are committed to transparency and protecting the best interests of our policyholders."

Mandeep Kaur chairs 89th meeting of BoDs JDA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

S R I N A G A R : Commissioner/ Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur on Thursday chaired 89th meeting of Board of Directors (BoDs) of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) in Civil Secretariat, here.

In the meeting, besides, regular agenda of approval of budget and accounts of JDA, many important decisions were taken which includes monetisation of



Commissioner/Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur chairing 89th meeting of BoDs of JDA.

many land parcels in Jammu on PPP basis, leasing out of newly construct-

ed General Bus Stand.

An important decision of regularisation of excess

built up strips/excess land adjoining commercial sites was approved at the rate of four times the stamp duty rates.

The meeting was attended by the board members including Mohd. Aijaz, Secretary Planning and Development Department, Pardeep Kumar, Secretary in the Forest Department, Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC, Bhawani Rakwal, Vice Chairman JDA, and also FA Lone Director General Codes as nominee of the Finance Secretary.

Secretary Amit Sharma tours Zanskar to assess developmental activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Secretary, Rural Development Department, Transport, IT, S&T and DMRR UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma toured Zanskar Sub-Division, one of the remotest areas of Ladakh and took assessment of various developmental activities there.

During the first day of his visit to Zanskar, the Secretary Amit Sharma, who is also Arbitrator for NHIDCL Acquisition Cases for UT Ladakh, assessed various cases of road compensation related to the expansion of Kargil-Zanskar National Highway, during a meeting held at Conference Hall, Padum.

Pertaining to a particular arbitration case, the Secretary Amit Sharma said, "As an arbitrator, I shall go through the



Secretary RDD, Transport, IT, S&T and DMRR UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma speaking in a meeting.

reasoning of the case and will ultimately decide it."

Amit Sharma also directed the NHIDCL to set-up the Arbitrator Office at UT Headquarters Leh at the earliest. He further directed the concerned officers to clear genuine cases of arbitration in Kargil and Leh at the earliest.

Highlighting the importance of five Buddhist heritage sites,

Secretary Amit Sharma directed SDM to do the needful and submit requisite report on the matter so that these rare culturally rich sites can be take over for preservation by Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI) under the category of 'protected sites'.

Amit Sharma also stressed upon the usage of more public transport buses across Zanskar

and in this direction, he assured that four electric buses with four electric charge points in different spots will be installed soon at Zanskar for easy transportation of public amongst villages here.

During the meeting, the Secretary Amit Sharma also took assessment and grievances of Rural Development Department in Zanskar. He was informed about the need of cleanliness workers and expansion of labour strength for the collection of legacy waste.

The Secretary directed all concerned to ensure cleanliness and collection of waste in all the three blocks of Zanskar with dedication.

Amit Sharma also appreciated the suggestion for construction of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in various vil-

lages of Zanskar for availing maximum services through online mode without travelling far distances to district headquarters for same. Further, he was also apprised of the shortage of Junior Engineers in Rural Development Department, Zanskar towards which he assured that the needful will be done. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Suhail Ahmed; SDM Zanskar, Rumail Singh; Naib Tehsildar/Rohullah; General Manager, NHIDCL; PA to Commissioner Secretary, Ghulam Haider and Arbitrator team, besides concerned officers of Rural Development Department and other departments were present during the meeting.

Later, the Secretary Amit

Sharma also visited Sheela waterfall, 10 km away from Padum and also visited a natural lake site alongwith team and suggested SDM Zanskar to harness the virgin tourism potential of this beautiful Sub-Division of Ladakh which has now direct connectivity with Leh and Manali district of Himachal Pradesh. Pertinent to mention here that on the route to Zanskar yesterday, the Secretary Rural Development also interacted with the officers of RDD from Sankoo and Taisuru Blocks and directed them to ensure power and broadband connectivity at all the SWAN Centres set-up here in Ladakh upto the Gram Panchayat level for facilitating general public to connect with all offices via video conferencing mode.

Will Rahul Gandhi work for undoing amendments made to Art 74 of COI by 42nd & 44rth Amendment Acts

With present form of Art 74 President cannot freely work as Preserver, Protector & Defender of COI
With the riders put in Art 74 by 42nd & 44rth Amendment Acts of 1976 & 1979 President is not free to go by oath taken under Art 60
If it was Indira Gandhi during Emergency responsible for Amending Art 74 in 1976 it was Janta Govt in 1979

■ DAYA SAGAR

A very typical and unique feature of the constitution of India that was drafted & adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 26 November 1949 has been that though The President of India for general legislative purposes / governance appeared like a nominal head of 'State' but he/she is in a way given the very special responsibility under oath to Protect & Defend the Constitution of India { Art-60 of COI }. Not only that although like US President the Vice President of India can hold the office of the President during his/ her absence but for India the vacancy if there, has to be filled by a fresh election within in prescribed time (6 months).

Not only that, the President of India has also been well protected against any otherwise intentions of "those" elected by the citizens of India for a particular term (five Yrs) who may not venture to assume to their self ultimate authority once elected

and even overstep their delegations / confidence imposed in them by voter citizen which could be well read from the provisions as made as regards impeachment of President (Art-61: Procedure for impeachment of the President).

Notwithstanding review jurisdictions, those who drafted The Constitution of India (COI) in 1949 through the Constituent Assembly surely wanted the Constitution to be an adaptable citizen friendly democratic socialist document but they were at the same time very much conscious of their limitations, circumstances in hand, having no any previous experience of having lived in such like system of governance and had no experience of the type so they did not want to give their generations a rigid/ closed framework for governance so they had also kept a provision in Art 368 for amendments by Parliament using power like constituent power but not beyond the basic principles enshrined in the document at the time of adopting it in

1949..

So far the Indian Constitution has been amended 105 times by Parliament of India using constituent power resting in Art - 368 . Some of the amendments have been made in the existing provisions 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



A Look through the Mist Part-III

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 (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 laid in Art 368 of COI since the concerned section of the 42nd amendment Act of 1976 have been very much within the doctrine of basic structure of COI as professed in The 13 Judge - Bench 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. 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 features of the Constitution under the pretext of amending it. 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 Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973 as something like commonly understood as Doctrine of Basic Structure . But supreme court has in a way reserved the jurisdiction to 'self' to name the elements of basic structure of COI as and when case for review comes before the apex court.

Article 368 of the Constitution 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 It has been only in that context, with the intention of preserving the original ideals of the visionary constitution-makers enshrined there in, that the Supreme Court of India laid down in 1973 (Judgment of 13 judge

Constitution Bench in Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalavaru etc. v. State of Kerala and another etc. 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 features of the Constitution under the pretext of amending it. 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 Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973 as something like commonly understood as Doctrine of Basic Structure . But supreme court has in a way reserved the jurisdiction to 'self' to name the elements of basic structure of COI as and when case for review comes before the apex court.

To be continued
(The writer is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs).