

11 years of Modi Govt redefined contours of governance: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the 11 years of the Narendra Modi Government have redefined the contours of Indian governance through a relentless focus on technology, transparency, and the empowerment of every citizen.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday as part of the nationwide outreach programme marking the 11th anniversary of the government, Dr. Jitendra said the achievements of this period stand on four pillars: pro-people schemes, reform-driven decisions, technology-based delivery, and inclusive implementation. Dr. Singh noted that since 2014, the Modi Government has maintained a consistent trajectory of reform, performance, and delivery. Highlighting the early decisions taken in the first few weeks of government formation, he referred to the abolition of the colonial-era practice of attestation of documents by gazetted officers. "This single decision reflected trust in our youth and marked a shift in the government's approach from suspicion to facilitation," he said. The Minister also cited the elimination of interviews for non-gazetted government posts as another landmark reform that removed subjective bias and curbed corruption in recruitment.

These reforms, Dr. Jitendra pointed out, may appear administrative, but have deep



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference organised by the BJP at Jammu on Thursday.

socio-economic impact by leveling the playing field for millions of aspirants across the country. Touching upon women-centric reforms, the Minister said the government introduced rule changes to allow women officers to avail maternity and other benefits without bureaucratic hurdles. He also highlighted increased participation of women in areas like defence, where they are now eligible for entry into Sainik Schools and active combat roles. Dr. Singh devoted a substantial portion of his address to the use of technology as a governance tool. He said that digital initiatives have not only made processes simpler but have also restored dignity to citizens. As an example, he mentioned the introduction of face recognition for pensioners' life certificate submissions, eliminating the need for senior citizens to physically prove they are alive every year. "Earlier, elderly people were made to stand in queues to prove they were alive. Today, an app-based facial scan completes the

process in seconds," he noted. On the health front, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that schemes like Ayushman Bharat have enabled lakhs of poor families to access healthcare services without financial hardship. Complementing this, the rise of Jan Dhan accounts, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and UPI-based transactions has transformed how welfare is delivered and received. "Today, our digital public infrastructure is being recognised globally as a model," Dr. Jitendra said, noting that the use of RuPay debit cards under Jan Dhan Yojana has been cited in international best practices. The Minister further pointed to the increasing recognition of Indian innovation globally. India's leap in the Global Innovation Index and its emergence as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem were presented as indicators of how the government's policies have nurtured entrepreneurship. Notably, he said that nearly 56% of patents filed in India now come from resident

Indian innovators—a significant shift from previous trends when innovation was largely foreign-driven. Dr. Singh also highlighted the implementation of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) model in education, where access to research journals and academic content is being streamlined. He referred to the New Education Policy as a structural reform that aligns with India's aspirations and the need to democratise knowledge. Focusing on housing and water supply, the Minister said that under the PM Awas Yojana, crores of homes have been built for the underprivileged, and under the Jal Jeevan Mission, household tap connections have increased from around 50% to 80%. These are not just statistics, he said, but transformations that have altered daily life in rural and semi-urban India.

Responding to a query on local relevance, Dr. Jitendra said Jammu and Kashmir, too, has witnessed these changes firsthand. From the develop-

ment of traditional crafts like Kishwar's wool products to the inclusion of local artisans under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, the government has ensured that remote and previously neglected areas are now active participants in national progress. He said examples from across India—from Lucknow's chikankari to Kishwar's handloom products—are now part of a globally recognised narrative of Indian craftsmanship.

Dr. Singh also spoke about structural governance changes, such as the removal of over 1,600 obsolete laws and practices. In this context, he mentioned how previously, citizens were forced to obtain "character certificates" or proof of being "alive" for routine procedures—practices that have now been scrapped through the adoption of more rational, technology-backed systems.

In conclusion, Dr. Jitendra said the Modi Government's 11-year journey has not just been about schemes or slogans, but about changing the lived experience of being a citizen in India. "From trust-based governance to technology-driven delivery, and from fighting corruption to empowering the last person in the queue, this period has marked a foundational shift," he said.

Also present in the press conference were former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, former Minister Priya Sethi and UT BJP Gen Secretary Vibodh Gupta who opened the press conference by introducing the subject.

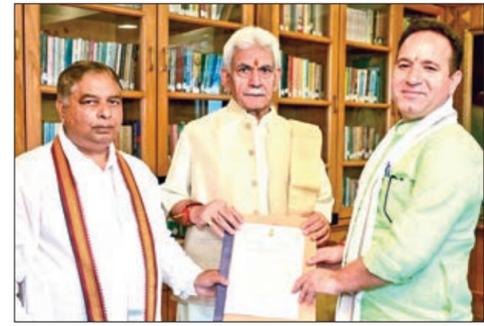


11 years of Modi gov.

Sunil Sharma calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Thursday. He was accompanied by Sat Sharma, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir Union Territory.



LoP in JKLA, Sunil Sharma and BJP J&K President Sat Sharma calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Sunil Sharma sought the Lieutenant Governor's intervention into the issue of Naib Tehsildar aspirants and requested him to make the Working Knowledge of Urdu language non-mandatory for Naib Tehsildar examination.

He highlighted that making working knowledge of one language mandatory,

gives the UT of J&K's five official languages, violates the constitutional principles of equal opportunity and administrative impartiality, and it creates an unfair barrier, particularly disadvantaging aspirants

from the Jammu Division. The senior BJP leaders also requested the Lieutenant Governor for translation of government documents and procedures into all the official languages of J&K UT.

CCI Jammu President vows 24x7 availability, raises key issues affecting Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arun Gupta, newly re-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), addressed a press conference at Chamber House on Thursday and assured members of his unwavering commitment and round-the-clock availability for the redressal of grievances.



Newly re-elected President CCI, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference.

In his third consecutive term as President, Arun Gupta emphasized that the Chamber's role extends beyond trade and industry interests, highlighting its consistent engagement with pressing social and developmental issues in the region. "During our previous term, we brought several key matters to light. However, many challenges remain that require urgent attention," he said.

Among the priority issues he outlined were the demand for an Industrial Package for existing industries, turnover incentives, and the development of new commercial markets to decongest Jammu's old

city areas. He further urged the government to resolve lease-related property issues swiftly and expedite major infrastructural projects such as the River Tawi Front and Artificial Lake, calling for their completion within a defined timeline.

Positioning the Chamber as a vigilant and responsible institution, he reiterated its commitment to safeguard Jammu's interests and push for its emergence as a prominent tourist destination.

He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to members for reposing trust in his leadership and sought their continued cooperation

to make the Chamber "strong, effective and a model for others."

Arun Gupta also criticized the recent government notification regarding recruitment of Naib Tehsildars, which made Urdu a mandatory qualification.

Termining the move discriminatory against the educated youth of Jammu, he questioned the rationale behind it when revenue records are already available in English, Urdu, and Hindi. He appealed to the government to amend the notification at the earliest.

Concluding the press conference, Arun Gupta extended sincere thanks to

the Election President Shiv Partap Gupta, Chief Election Observer Prithvi Raj Gupta, and Election Committee Members Manmohan Singh, Vijay Gupta, and Kulbhushan Gupta (Manu) for conducting peaceful, transparent, and fair elections.

The press conference was attended by other office bearers of the Chamber, including Anil Gupta (Senior Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Junior Vice President), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer), who reaffirmed their support to the President's vision for a stronger, progressive Jammu.

SANJY 2025: ADGP Armed reviews functioning, operational readiness of Battalions

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Armed, J&K Anand Jain, along with Junaid Mehmood, Dy. Inspector General IRP Kashmir and Shahid Mehrj, Dy. Inspector General Armed Kashmir on Thursday visited Armed Police Complex (APC) Batamalo, Srinagar to review the functioning and operational readiness of the battalions stationed at the complex ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 (SANJY).



Anand Jain, was accorded a welcome by the Officers present on the occasion. A ceremonial guard of honour was presented to the ADGP by the contingents of both the units.

The ADGP carried out a comprehensive inspection of the complex, including the administrative Block, Jawans barracks, MT Fleet, Canteens, Mess facilities, besides reviewing the functioning of Police Departmental Canteen PCR Complex Srinagar.

During the visit, the ADGP held detailed interactions with the Commandants and senior officers of both the units sta-

tioned at the complex. The review meeting covered a wide range of subjects including Deployment and operational duties, administrative efficiency, training programs and capacity building, Welfare measures for personnel, Infrastructure status and logistic requirements, discipline and internal management.

A Joint Darbar of both the units was also conducted on the occasion during which the ADGP Armed attentively listened to the grievances put forth by the personnel concerning their service and welfare concerns.

He advised all ranks to maintain high levels of preparedness for the upcoming Yatra duties, emphasizing alertness, discipline, and coordination during the deployment.

The Commandants briefed the ADGP on the key responsibilities/duties being discharged by their respective battalions, ongoing initiatives, as well as challenges faced in day-to-day functioning.

During the visit, the ADGP Armed Inaugurated various facilities in the complex including Main Park for JKAP 5th Battalion, and dedicated Parking Area slot at the complex.

The ADGP emphasized the need for maintaining high standards of professionalism,

physical fitness, and discipline. He appreciated the commitment of the officers and jawans and directed for sustained efforts towards better coordination, Personnel welfare, and grievance redressal.

ADGP Armed, J&K also stressed upon regular training, upgradation of skills, and adherence to standard operating procedures during deployment.

The ADGP cautioned the personnel to stay vigilant against cyber frauds and urged them to remain informed and cautious in their online operations, both on and off duty.

The visit concluded with the ADGP expressing satisfaction over the preparedness of the units and urging all officers to continue their efforts with sincerity and dedication in the service of the people and the force.

Among other who were present on the occasion includes, Showkat Ahmad, SSP, PCR Kashmir, Shabir Nawab, SSP, Commandant JKAP 5th Bn, Ab Hakim Munshi, SSP, Commandant IRP-6th Bn, Mumir Ahmad, SSP, APCR Kashmir and other officers.

Dy CM pays surprise visit to Labour Com Office

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Thursday paid a surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar, assessing the functioning of the organisation.



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary paying surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar.

The Dy CM reviewed progress on various initiatives and schemes being implemented by the Labour Department to promote social security and welfare of employees/workers. He also took stock of issues being faced by the employees in performing their duties efficiently.

During the visit, the Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding the steps aimed at to streamline the functioning of the department. He was briefed about the ongoing activities, achievements and challenges facing the department.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring effective implementation of labour laws and regulations to protect the rights of workers. He stressed on maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and

enforcing punctuality in government offices.

He also interacted with the public who were waiting to resolve their grievances at the Regional office EPFO, GoI, housed in the Labour Commissionerate Headquarters.

The Dy CM listened to their concerns and assured them of prompt resolution. He also asked the officers to ensure official files are processed without any delay. He stressed the need for efficient and citizen-centric service delivery, directing the officials to expedite the grievance redressal process and maintain transparency in their functioning. Choudhary asserted " it

is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

He maintained that the benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the achievements of the Omar Abdullah led government, underscoring the commitment to public welfare. He assured the public that the government is working tirelessly to meet their expectations and fulfill all promises.

Mobilize community to minimize forest fires: CS

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Amid rising temperatures and the looming threat of scorching heat wave across J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday convened a high level meeting of the Forest Department, Divisional Commissioners and district administrations regarding proactive planning to protect the region's 'green gold' from the menace of forest fires.

The meeting besides PCCF and Commissioner Secretary, Forests, was attended by Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, HoDs of the Forest Department and representative from the department of DMRR&R.

In order to make the information channel more robust and efficient, the Chief Secretary stressed on registering more and more volunteers from the local community residing near forests. He advised for focusing on the SHG members and Anganwadi Workers whose presence is found far and wide in the UT.

Regarding the incidence of forest fires, he expressed concern that out of around 5000 sq kms of dense forests around 1000 sq kms are vulnerable. He enjoined upon the Deputy Commissioners to frequently review the plans being implemented for saving our green assets from turning into ash.

He enquired from each DC about the incidence of forest fires in their districts, functioning of control rooms, active fires (if any) and the measures taken by them to douse the fires once the alerts are received from the field.

Regarding encouragement of the volunteers (fire watchers), Dulloo proposed



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Thursday.

incorporation of a provision for their relief if any injury or loss of life is reported during the performance of this social work.

He also called for a vigorous IEC campaign and popularization of contact numbers of the Joint control rooms established by the Department. He also underscored the need of having a common social media platform to receive and disseminate the information about the control and prevention of forest fires in the UT.

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda, earlier in her overview, made out that the department had undertaken a series of strategic measures to address the growing threat of forest fires across the Union Territory.

After giving details of year wise forest fires reported from the last few years, she revealed that a detailed Forest Fire Vulnerability Mapping, using historical fire data from the Forest Survey of

India, was done in 2021 for each forest division. She stated that the same is serving as the basis for preparation of targeted fire management and mitigation strategies across these forest divisions.

With respect to vulnerability of forests, PCCF (HoF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave out that a categorization of forests had been done in J&K. He added that the UT had a forest cover of 270.11 sq kms categorised as 'Very Highly Fire Prone', 890.62 sq kms as 'Highly Fire Prone', 1244.13 sq kms as 'Moderately Fire Prone' and majority of 19203.80 sq kms as 'Less Fire Prone' forests.

Enumerating the major causes of forest fires, the PCCF classified them into three broad categories of Anthropogenic (human-induced) caused by burning of crop residues, carelessly discarded smoking materials and fires lit along roadsides and use of fire for promoting

growth of grass.

Among the causes are lightning strikes and rolling stones during dry spells occasionally ignite fires in forested areas. In addition, the environmental & climatic factors like extended dry spells, build-up of dry leaf litter and rising temperatures coupled with erratic rainfall patterns exacerbate the fire risks. As far as the preventive measures are concerned, it was defined that a multi-pronged strategy had been adopted to reduce the fire incidence and improve readiness across the divisions.

It was revealed that creation and maintenance of fire lines to halt the spread of fires, controlled burning to manage combustible material and early warning systems through satellite-based FSI alerts (Van Agni) are acting as pre-emptive measures for event fires.

In addition, establishment of 85 Joint Forest Fire Control Rooms are operational across the UT for receiving instant alerts and initiation of prompt action to douse the flames. The distribution of firefighting equipment like beaters, rake hoes and sprayers are helping in doing the same with enhanced efficiency, the meeting was informed.

Besides, it was given out that mock drills and training programmes, community engagement through Village Forest Committees (VFCs, BMCs) and volunteers are acting effectively to safeguard the forests. Awareness campaigns in schools and through posters, hoardings and social media are also being employed to create necessary awareness among the public.