

Dr Jitendra meets public deputations at BJP Central office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As a part of Bharatiya Janata Party's "Sahyog" programme, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday met a series of public deputations and attended to their issues at party Central office headquarters at 6 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, here.

Dr Singh spent over two hours, individually disposing of representations by party workers, leaders and also others from different States and responding to queries on a wide range of issues brought up by civil society members from within and outside the organisation. He



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh meeting public deputations, as a part of BJP's "Sahyog" programme, at Party's Central Office New Delhi.

also gave reference letters for different Ministries and Departments depending upon the nature of grievance. Later speaking to media persons, Dr Jitendra said, it is not only a pleasant home-coming for him whenever he sits at the BJP office, but it is, at the same time, also a reiteration of the commitment to the "Sangathan" /

Organization and the "Karyakarta". It is always a healthy experience to sit at the BJP office, whenever given a chance, because it also helps to relate the party's agenda and priorities with the common people, he said.

BJP is a cadre-based Party, said Dr Jitendra Singh, and draws its inspiration from

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's concept of "Antyodaya" which means reaching out to the last man in the last queue. An exercise like this of holding public interaction at the party office also enables a common citizen to gain direct access to the government and political functionaries whom he may otherwise find difficult to reach in a secretariat

or a ministerial office, he said.

Dr Jitendra said, this not only helps in taking cognizance of a number of such public issues which might have otherwise got overlooked but it also provides easy accessibility for the workers to reach out to their leaders.

On a personal note, Dr Singh said, he always enjoys sitting for such public redressal meetings in the party office, because it gives him an immense inner satisfaction as well as a feeling of homeliness.



MP Khatana visits IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, interacts with students

Vows to take issue of reviving Engineering courses in Parliament

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JAMMU: Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, on Friday visited the IGNOU Regional Centre, Rajinder Vihar, Bantalab, Jammu after successfully conducting the tour of 32 countries as a part of All Party delegation post Operation Sindoor.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Assistant Regional Directors, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh, Dr. Zeba and Deputy Registrar S. Tejinder Pal Singh welcomed the MP with a bouquet, traditional shawl and memento.

A number of students of Political Science, Psychology and Political Science, Army and CISF personnel, Coordinators of LSCs, Academicians, and management and staff of the Regional Centre were present on the occasion.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta presented the report of activities that Regional Centre Jammu has carried out in 2024-25 particularly after shifting its operations to the new campus in June 2024. Regional Director presented a roadmap for 2025-26 list-



Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director IGNOU welcoming Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana.

ing a good many initiatives for strengthening the student support network in the region.

MP interacted with the students and listened to their experiences that they have endured while carrying through their education endeavours with IGNOU. A number of students raised various queries regarding the implementation of NEP-2020, recent decision of UGC mandating creation of DEB ID, and delivery of Study material, which were addressed by the Hon'ble MP as well as the Regional Centre management.

MP congratulated the Regional Director and his team for reaching out to the

last child in queue in the remotest corner of the region by offering him higher avenues of education either free of cost or on nominal fee charges, which otherwise would not have been possible for him owing to the limitations in conventional mode of education.

MP assured all support to the Regional Centre in expanding the learner support network in the region and promoting language related programmes of IGNOU among the masses. "IGNOU offers a number of Certificate programmes in Japanese, French, Urdu, Arabic, German, Sanskrit, Russian, Korean, Persian, and more", informed

Regional Director Dr. Sandeep Gupta.

MP also proposed to take up the matter of reviving the programmes earlier offered by the School of Engineering & Technology in Parliament, which now stand discontinued following directives from regulatory bodies like the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and AICTE.

MP on this occasion distributed packets of Self Instructional Material among the students and later on also planted Rudraksh saplings in the Regional Centre campus as a mark of reverence for our soldiers.

District Admin Jammu organises awareness programme at Central Sanskrit University



ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal posing with students and other dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', the District Administration Jammu on Friday organised an awareness programme at the Central Sanskrit University, Kot Bhalwal Campus. The event witnessed active participation from students, faculty members and officials from stakeholder departments.

The programme aimed to spread awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse and

to promote a drug-free society. Resource persons from different departments interacted with the students and the audience, highlighting the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of timely intervention and rehabilitation.

Director of Central Sanskrit University Shridhar Mishra and Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anusya Jamwal attended the event as the chief guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said, "Drug abuse

not only affects the individual but also tears apart families and weakens the very fabric of our society. Awareness, education, and community involvement are a key to building a drug-free future."

Director Shridhar Mishra lauded the initiative and emphasised, "Educational institutions have a significant role to play in shaping a healthy and responsible society. Programmes like these help our students understand the real dangers of substance

abuse."

Among others present were Tehsildar Bhalwal Monika Sharma; BDO Bhalwal Dr. Sunil Sharma; SHO Gharota Sunil Sharma, officials from various departments, local residents, students and staff members of the university.

Adding a creative dimension to the campaign, a Nukkad Natak (street play) was presented by the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu. The play, based on the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Say No to Drugs), portrayed the harsh realities of drug addiction and the importance of community awareness.

The event was part of a series of outreach activities being held under the national 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' to sensitise the public, especially the youth and to create a strong societal movement against drug abuse.

ICAI J&K Branch delegation meets CM, proposes strategic reforms to strengthen financial governance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A high-level delegation from the Jammu & Kashmir Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) met with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to present a comprehensive set of proposals aimed at strengthening financial governance, institutional capacity, and professional development across the Union Territory.

The delegation was led by Branch Chairman CA. Sourav Pargal, accompanied by Immediate Past Chairman and Co-opted Member of the ICAI Public Relations Committee CA Vineet Kohli, and Branch Secretary CA Jatin Malhotra.

During the meeting, the representatives submitted a formal memorandum outlining key recommendations to support the UT's economic administration and fiscal transparency initiatives.

The proposed reforms emphasize enhanced institu-



CA Vineet Kohli, Member PRC -ICAI along with CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman meeting with CM Omar Abdullah.

tional collaboration between the ICAI and Government departments; Involvement of Chartered Accountants in policy advisory roles; and Development of professional infrastructure to meet future governance demands.

The delegation reiterated ICAI's commitment to partnering with the UT Government to promote robust financial practices and uphold the principles of accountability and transparency. They also extended ICAI's support in conducting structured training pro-

grams for government officials, aiming to build capacity and improve financial literacy within the administrative framework.

Highlighting ICAI's pivotal role in nation-building, the representatives assured the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the profession's continued dedication to fiscal discipline, knowledge dissemination, and governance reforms. They expressed readiness to collaborate on initiatives aligned with the UT's vision of economic development and good governance.

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JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Public Works Department, focusing on the progress on development projects in Jammu Division under NABARD PMGSY, CRIF, Bridges and C&T (Macadamization) schemes.

The meeting was apprised of various projects which are at different stages of execution. The concerned officials provided updates on status of projects while highlighting the challenges being faced during implementation of these vital works.

Following a detailed review, the Dy CM directed the officers to expedite the progress on all works ensuring their timely completion, maintaining all prescribed quality standards.

The Dy CM asked the engineers to follow the



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

work completion deadlines so that the vital projects are dedicated to the public in time.

"Instructions have been already given to the executing agencies for strict adherence to the approved plans, ensuring there should be no compromise with the quality of works. Strict action would be initiated in case of any deviation and low quality works", maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

While inspecting the ongoing works, the

Deputy Chief Minister directed for strict quality monitoring and fast paced execution of the projects. He further directed the concerned engineers to review progress on these projects regularly and blacklist those contractors who are not showing satisfactory performance.

While asking for undertaking developmental works in consonance with the local needs and aspirations, the Deputy Chief Minister said that developmental plans should be

formulated in consonance with the demands and convenience of people of the area.

Taking serious notice about substandard work on some of the projects, the Dy CM emphasised that there is no room for compromise with the quality of works.

Regarding delay in work execution caused due to forest clearance issues, the Dy CM directed the concerned officers to coordinate effectively and ensure timely approvals on

this account. He directed all the divisions to work in close coordination to resolve the issues hindering the pace of progress on these ambitious projects.

Secretary PWD (R&B) Bhupinder Kumar along with Chief Engineers, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and senior officials from concerned agencies were present during the meeting.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Samba to inspect the damaged road on National Highway near Chichi Mata.

The Dy CM enquired about the shortcomings in the previous designs and asked the officers to fix accountability of the executing agency responsible for the damage. He maintained that providing enhanced road connectivity, reliable bridges and other infrastructure for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth is the priority of the Omar Abdullah government.

IIM Jammu's MDP on 'Generative AI Fundamentals for Leaders' concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the Valedictory Ceremony of its Management Development Program (MDP) on "Generative AI Fundamentals for Leaders" at the Vedanta MDP Centre, IIM Jammu on Friday, reaffirming its commitment to equipping professionals with future-ready leadership capabilities.

The intensive program was designed to provide senior leaders and executives with a foundational understanding of generative AI technologies, their applications in decision-making, and their implications for strategic transformation across industries.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu (Online); Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Associate Professor, IIM Jammu; Kranti Kumar, Assistant Director (General Management and Capacity Building), Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, EE & C, IIM Jammu (Online).

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, presented the program report and stated that the program marks a signifi-



Participants of Management Development Program on "Generative AI Fundamentals for Leaders" at IIM Jammu.

cant step in integrating AI with public policy, enabling DPE and CPSE leaders to leverage cutting-edge tools for effective decision-making.

He welcomed participants to the IIM Jammu family and added that, being located

near Mata Vaishno Devi, the Institute offers a unique blend of learning and serenity. He emphasized that this is just the beginning, with more advanced tech-driven programs in the pipeline.

Kranti Kumar, Assistant

Director (General Management and Capacity Building), Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Government of India, was also present during the ceremony.

He appreciated IIM

Jammu's efforts in integrating contemporary themes like AI into capacity building and encouraged participants to apply their learnings for public sector transformation.

Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive

Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, noted that generative AI is reshaping the way professionals work and lead. He emphasized that the MDP was designed to simplify complex technologies for decision-makers, enabling them to make informed and confident choices in their respective domains.

Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu remarked that the success of the program is a testament to IIM Jammu's focus on relevance and impact. He added that as the world transitions into an AI-driven future, the Institute remains committed to equipping leaders with the right mindset, tools, and insights to navigate this transformation effectively.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Associate Professor, IIM Jammu, emphasized the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning on managerial decision-making, noting how advanced tools like large language models are redefining modern leadership and strategic thinking.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu.

The MDP on "Generative AI Fundamentals for Leaders" is part of IIM Jammu's broader mission to promote innovation, digital transformation, and leadership development in alignment with the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.