

Don't whitewash 'Emergency' stigma, lest we forget it: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, in a searing address at a symposium held at Delhi Vidhan Sabha to mark 50 years of the imposition of Emergency, issued a clarion call to the nation "Don't whitewash the 'Emergency' stigma, lest we forget it".

The authoritarian mindset with scant regard for democratic values is still around, he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh delivered a blistering critique of the Congress party, urging the people of India to "Never forget, never forgive." He warned "We must remember every stain - not to glorify it, but to remind future generations who betrayed democracy. If we erase Emergency's memory, we risk reliving its horrors."

The Minister exposed the hypocrisy of the Congress, accusing the party of condemning true revolutionaries like Madan Lal Dhingra as early as in 1901, even as Veer Savarkar stood by him during his final moments.

"Unfortunately, Gandhi had also condemned Dhingra. Congress disowned the martyrs, and history must never forget that betrayal," he declared.

In a powerful takedown of the Congress's post-1930s jail narratives, Dr. Jitendra Singh asked "Where were



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a symposium held at the Delhi Vidhan Sabha to commemorate 50 years of the imposition of Emergency, at New Delhi on Saturday. Also seen are Speaker Vijender Gupta and India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma.

their sacrifices before 1930? Discovery of India was written in a jail library - not in the solitary cell of Kala Pani, that was reserved for hard core patriots like Savarkar."

"Emergency was a cumulative outcome of the Congress's dubious legacy, rooted in its DNA since its birth in 1885," said Dr. Jitendra Singh as he rejected the notion that Emergency was a sudden deviation, instead pointing to the Congress's undemocratic and authoritarian tendencies right from the very beginning.

"This dictatorial mindset was rooted in 1885. It became obvious in 1946, when 12 out of 15 Pradesh Congress Committees chose

Sardar Patel to head the Party- but Nehru was imposed by Gandhiji," he stated.

The Minister invoked Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who had lamented "Gandhiji has once again sacrificed his trusted lieutenant in favor of glamorous Nehru."

Calling for an honest re-evaluation of history, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "It's time we come out of the 'Old Boys Club' of Emergency victims and plan the road ahead."

Dr. Jitendra Singh exposed how Indira Gandhi, installed as PM in 1966 by K. Kamaraj, quickly dismantled inner-party democracy "Within three years, she split the Congress, centralized power, and enabled Sanjay

Gandhi to run a parallel shadow government."

The Minister quoted PN Haksar, PM Indira Gandhi's Principal Secretary, "She was blind as far as that boy (Sanjay) was concerned."

Recalling the 1974 student uprisings in Gujarat and Bihar, Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the youth who ignited a democratic firestorm that led to the Allahabad High Court judgment convicting Indira Gandhi of electoral malpractice.

"Instead of resigning, she imposed Emergency, jailed opponents, silenced the press, and suspended the Constitution," he thundered.

Dr. Jitendra Singh lambasted the 42nd

Constitutional Amendment as the ultimate betrayal of India's founding spirit: "They opportunistically extended Parliament and Legislative Assembly terms, and muffled dissent - all to cling to power."

The also exposed how the Emergency was used to manipulate Jammu & Kashmir's democracy, with the misuse of Article 370 to extend the J&K Assembly's term to six years. That legacy, he noted, was corrected only in 2019 under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh released a special booklet and unveiled a new book titled "Emergency Diaries", chronicling the voices silenced during those 21 months of constitutional breakdown.

Closing on a hopeful note, Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed the entry of Shubhanshu Shukla into space research, calling it a symbolic step toward India's ascent to the Viksit Bharat of 2047.

Among the distinguished guests were Vijender Gupta, Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly; Satyanarayan Jatiya, Former Union Minister; Rajat Sharma, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief of India TV; and Mohan Singh Bisht, Deputy Speaker of the Delhi Assembly.



IIPA JKRB organises training programme on 'New Criminal Laws in J&K'



Dignitaries at Training Programme on "New Criminal Laws in J&K" at IIPA Jammu.

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JAMMU: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch, in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu successfully organized a One-Day Training Programme on "New Criminal Laws in Jammu & Kashmir".

The primary objective of the programme was to familiarize government officials with the recently enacted new criminal law in India-Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

Irshad Hussain Rather, SP Headquarters Jammu resource person for technical session 1 on "New provisions under new Criminal laws" delivered a detailed presentation explaining the structural and procedural changes introduced by the new laws.

He specifically laid emphasis on latest provisions to curb hard-core criminal elements, citizen friendly provision including Zero-FIR, e-FIR, victim-centric approach, introduction of community service as punishment and the integration of latest technology in law enforcement including use of digital/electronic evidences as well as mandatory utilization of scientific / forensic services.

Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), Jammu District resource person for second technical session on

"Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita", laid emphasis on the powers and working of Executive Magistrate with police at the time of attachment of property of absconding accused, also with regard to the dispute of immovable property in case of breach of peace.

He also highlighted the law relating to public nuisance and the remedies available under BNSS, procedure relating to apprehended danger and imposing of curfew by competent authority, powers in inquest proceeding and laws relating to test identification parade.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.) Patron, IIPA J&K Regional Branch in his address said it is important for all the stakeholders to understand the spirit behind introducing the new laws for their effective implementation.

He said that adapting to this change at the grass root level is critical for providing justice to a common man.

B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd.) Chairman, IIPA JK Regional Branch in his address said that in the era of technological advancements, the challenges of governance are also increasing.

He called for proactive engagement with the new legal framework to ensure its smooth and effective roll-out on the ground. He acknowledged the support of Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu for partnering with IIPA in this training program.

Ansuya Jamwal,

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu in her address said that District Administration Jammu is committed to deliver citizen centric services and this training program is in the direction to enhance the capacity of the officers.

She stressed the need for readiness and adaptability in public service to uphold the principles embedded in these reforms.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary, IIPA JKRB in her welcome address said that IIPA is committed to fulfill its vision of building capacity for good governance through such training programs. Er. M.M. Gupta, Director (Seminars), IIPA JKRB proposed the formal vote of thanks.

He particularly thanked Ansuya Jamwal Add Dy Commissioner Jammu for seeding the very idea of this programme. Prof Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary conducted the proceedings of the function.

The programme was attended by a wide range of officers deputed by the District Administration Jammu, including Assistant Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and representatives of NGOs. Key members of IIPA JKRB who also participated included Kuldeep Khoda, Er J B S Johar, Dr. C M Seth and Vikrant Kuthiala.

Awareness Camp on Labour Welfare and Agricultural Schemes held

Sham Lal encourages rural participation in government initiatives

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JAMMU: An awareness camp was organised today by the Labour Department and Agriculture Department at Government Middle School, Kangar, in Block Bhalwal under Jammu North Assembly Constituency. The aim of the camp was to educate the rural population about a variety of welfare schemes and agricultural initiatives being run by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to uplift farmers, labourers, and the unorganised sector. The camp was graced by the presence of MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, who attended as the Chief Guest. Also present on the occasion were Assistant Labour Commissioner Jammu, Mrs. Rupali Jasrotia; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer; Shri Khalid Hussain; BDO Bhalwal, Shri Sunil Sharma; Mandal President, Shri Rohit Verma; Former Mandal President, Shri Rakesh Singh; Former Sarpanch, Shri Rajdev Singh; Shri Narinder Singh; Shri Mohammad Amin; Mandal General Secretary, Shri Charanjit Singh; Shri Rajneesh Sharma; and other officials and community leaders. The event witnessed



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma speaking at awareness camp.

enthusiastic participation from a large number of villagers, farmers, and construction workers, who were briefed about various schemes aimed at improving their livelihoods and ensuring social security. The Labour Department highlighted key initiatives under the Jammu & Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWFB), including registration and renewal of labour cards, marriage assistance, maternity benefits, disability support, chronic illness assistance, educational support for the wards of construction workers, and meritorious scholarships. Detailed discussions were also held on national-level initiatives like e-Shram registration and the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan

Yojana, which aims to provide pension support to unorganised sector workers.

Simultaneously, the Agriculture Department presented an overview of several important schemes aimed at modernising and strengthening the farming community. These included the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JK CIP), the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, and the Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. Officers also promoted the development of rainfed areas through the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as millets like Bajra and various oilseed crops, to enhance

income and sustainability in low-irrigation zones.

Addressing the gathering, Sham appreciated the efforts of both departments for conducting the camp at the grass-roots level and said that such initiatives are crucial in bridging the gap between government schemes and the public. He stated, "This awareness camp is an excellent initiative to bring essential information and benefits directly to our rural population. The schemes introduced by the Labour Department reflect the government's commitment to social welfare and economic support for our working-class citizens. Similarly, the agriculture-related initiatives aim to empower farmers with modern tools, sustainable practices, and financial inclusion." He further added, "A

scheme only becomes meaningful when people are aware and come forward to avail its benefits. I urge every eligible citizen to take full advantage of these government programmes. Our government stands committed to ensuring that every household, especially in remote and rural areas, has access to these opportunities."

Sharma also emphasized the importance of community cooperation and active public participation in making development schemes successful. "Government alone cannot achieve inclusive growth," he said. "When citizens participate, when youth get informed, and when panchayats work in tandem with departments, the impact of each scheme multiplies. I appeal to the people to act not just as beneficiaries but as stakeholders in the development process."

The event concluded with on-the-spot assistance, scheme demonstrations, and active interaction between departmental officers and attendees. The camp reinforced the administration's dedication to ensuring inclusive growth, citizen welfare, and equitable development across Jammu North.

ICC Jammu's 10K Run today



Chairman ICC Jammu, Rahul Sahai talking to reporters.

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JAMMU: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu Chapter announced the much-awaited ICC Jammu 10K Run scheduled to take place on June 29, 2025, with the inspiring theme "Run for Peace & Innovation."

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Rahul Sahai, Chairman, ICC Jammu, stated, "This run is more than just a sporting event-it is a movement to position Jammu as a hub for peace, wellness, and a new frontier of innovation, IT, and startups. We are honoured to host this event with the support of dignitaries and the participation of youth, entrepreneurs, and changemakers."

The Chief Guest, Sports Minister Satish Sharma, will flag off the run. The event will

be graced by Guests of Honour, including Maj Gen Mukesh Bhanwala, GOC 26 Infantry Division, Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu, Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Sports J&K, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Debnalya Banerjee, Regional Director, ICC, Prof. Omesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Kiran Radurappa, CEO, Posspole, Bangalore, Vikas Gupta, Director, Tourism Jammu, Ajaz Qaiser, Director, Tourism, and M.M. Madhavan, Director, Narayana Hospital.

The run will commence from Jammu University Sports Complex (Back Gate) with reporting time at 4:30 AM, followed by an energetic Zumba session. The 10K run will begin at 5:30 AM, and the

5K run at 5:45 AM, with a prize distribution ceremony at 7:00 AM. Over 400 participants, including students, youth, professionals, and innovators, are expected to join. Kiran Radurappa from Posspole Bangalore, while speaking at the press meet, shared several innovative ideas and expressed his commitment to guide young minds and support startup culture in Jammu. Debnalya Banerjee, Regional Director, ICC, highlighted the Chamber's impactful activities and legacy.

He emphasized that ICC, founded by Mahatma Gandhi, is celebrating its centenary year and has placed Jammu & Kashmir at the center of its strategic focus, with many developmental initiatives planned.

Rahul Sahai concluded by expressing gratitude to all sponsors, partners, dignitaries, and media houses. "We request our media friends to widely share this initiative and support our vision of transforming Jammu into a vibrant innovation hub," he said. The ICC Jammu 10K Run stands as a testimony to the region's spirit-resilient, forward-looking, and united in purpose.

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SRINAGAR: In a significant stride towards transparent land records management system, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the ongoing digitization and modernization of land records across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting saw the participation of key officials including the Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Law; CEO, JaKeGA; Director, Land Records; a representative of BISAG-N; and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting virtually from their respective offices.

The Chief Secretary while emphasized the paramount importance of quality assurance in the digitization process. He stressed the need for a robust system of checkers and approvers for data entries made by the field staff. This will ensure that every entry is meticulously cross-checked with corresponding physical records by the experienced revenue officers. He observed that the correctness of records ensures fewer grievances and fewer court cases, thereby saving the time and energy of both people and public servants.

Dulloo highlighted the far-



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Saturday.

reaching benefits of this exercise, noting that its completion would simplify crucial processes like registrations, mutations and real-time, transparent seasonal crop monitoring.

He also underscored the critical need for capacity building for the additional staff deputed for this technical work. He directed for repeated hands-on training sessions to ensure a full understanding of the assignment's nuances for these novices.

To facilitate seamless data entry, the Chief Secretary instructed the Deputy Commissioners to establish a dedicated, fully equipped data entry centers in their districts, complete with sufficient computers, reliable internet connectivity and power backup.

He also directed for exploring the possibility of deputing

another team of Survey of India to Srinagar so that field staff from Kashmir Division do not have to shuttle between Jammu and their places of posting for carrying out rectifications or other updations while doing geo-referencing of cadastral maps of their revenue villages.

Secretary Revenue, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed overview of various components driving this modernization, including the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), Survey Of Villages And Mapping With Improvised Technology In Village Areas (SVAMITVA), National geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of urban Habitations (NAKSHA) and generation of Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers (ULPIN).

He gave out that for digitization of RoRs the necessary software customizations for local adoption have been completed and the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) committee is currently evaluating the software. The portal is slated to enter the production stage after July 1st, 2025, and will be live for data entry by July 10th, 2025, he informed.

The Secretary further added that in order to support this mammoth exercise across the 6,850 revenue villages, the department has already trained 244 Master Trainers, 1,253 Patwaris and 1,053 MTS/other staff. Furthermore, 7,000 User IDs for Patwaris/MTS for data entry had been created and a monitoring dashboard is under development, expected to be ready by July 10th, 2025.

Under the SVAMITVA pro-

gram, the meeting was apprised, that 4,368 out of 4,395 villages have been surveyed by the Survey of India. Ground truthing is ongoing, leading to the eventual generation of property cards by respective Tehsildars for occupants. Additionally it was given out that the one-year pilot NAKSHA program is going to be implemented in over 100 cities nationwide, with the Survey of India as the technical partner under DILRMP. In J&K, Bishnah and Katra in Jammu Division and Avantipora and Pattan in Kashmir Division have been selected for this project. Rovers will be purchased/hired for ground surveys, leveraging the CORS network of the Survey of India. ULPINs, a 14-digit unique alpha-numeric identifiers, are being generated for land parcels surveyed under SVAMITVA prior to property card generation. These ULPINs provide the exact location, area and other land record credentials of each parcel.

The meeting was apprised that 5,23,998 ULPINs have been generated across the UT in 1,718 villages, so far, marking a significant step towards creating a truly unique and verifiable land records system in J&K.