

Modi's governance reforms are actually social reforms: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BENGALURU: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday that the governance reforms introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the last eight years are actually social reforms aimed at achieving 'ease of living' for the common man and a "level playing field" for the aspirational youth.

Delivering the valedictory address at the two-day Regional Conference on Governance in Bengaluru organized by DARPG and Karnataka Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the hallmark of Modi's governance model is his capacity to take out-of-box decisions, break the taboos of the past and the capacity to convert government's campaign into mass campaign on the basis of his courage, conviction and sincerity. Referring to the theme of the conference, "Bringing Citizens, Entrepreneurs and Government Closer for Good Governance", Dr Jitendra Singh listed a series of such reforms having wider social implications.

The Minister recalled that within three months of taking charge in May, 2014, Prime Minister took the most revolu-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as Chief Guest, delivering valedictory address at the two-day Conference on "Good Governance" organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms, Govt of India and the Govt of Karnataka, at Bengaluru on Tuesday.

tionary and path-breaking decision of abolition of attestation of certificates by gazetted officers instead promoting self-attestation, thus reposing faith in youth of India.

Similarly, Narendra Modi had suggested the abolition of interviews during Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2015 and the same was implemented by DoPT from 1st January 2016 that paved the way for level playing field for all the candidates. The Minister said, the number of complaints in CPGRAMS increased from 2 lakh per year in 2014 to 25 lakh per year at present, which also reflects positively that here is a government which listens to citizens grievances promptly and addresses them.

PM Excellence Awards focusing on flagship schemes rather on the individual profile of officers was another far-reaching governance reforms promoting healthy competition among 750 districts, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed the delegates that by the end of this year, the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) under DoPT is gearing up to conduct computer-based online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-Gazetted posts.

He added that to begin with, the test will be conducted in 12 Languages and gradually it will include all the 22 languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, which will overcome the complaints of language bias coming from some

southern states.

The Minister said, Prime Minister's Mantra of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance means more involvement of citizens, innovation, use of latest techniques and transparency. He said, the ultimate aim of all governance models is to reach out to the last man in the last queue to empower him economically. He said, there is a need to try to adopt best practices from each other and implement them in our respective sectors, regions and states. He mentioned that the Government has made the States coupled with similar problems so that they can share their expertise and experiences related to similar issues and also success stories to learn from each other.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, based on the model of Aspirational Districts, DARPG has introduced the novel concept of District Good Governance Index. He said, Jammu and Kashmir was the first state where the District Index was released in January this year followed by Uttar Pradesh and now the work is on in Madhya Pradesh. He said, the District Good Governance Index is a milestone and it is expected that it will provide a robust

framework for evidence-based assessment of the performance of all the districts in the states. The Minister also informed the gathering that in next phase the index will move to Block and Panchayat level.

Secretary, DARPG, V.Srinivas said, the conference is an effort to bring the Government and Citizens closer through various administrative reforms at centre, state and district level. The is being enabled by use of digital technology, pursuing next generation reforms and innovations with policy objective of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government", entailing Government process Re-Engineering, Universal access to e-services, excellence in digital initiatives at district level and excellence in adopting emerging technologies and use of ICT Management.

During the 2-day event, presentations were made in six sessions: (i) Administrative Reforms; (ii) The Outside in View: Private Sector & Good Governance; (iii) Replication of Best Practices; (iv) Administrative Reforms in States; (v) Benchmarking Governance and Experiments in Good Governance.

All Jammu-based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir calls on Ravinder Raina



Deputation of All Jammu-based Reserved Category Employees Association, Kashmir calling on Ravinder Raina, President, BJP J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A deputation of "All Jammu based Reserved Category Employees Association, Kashmir" called upon Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, former Minister & General Secretary, J&K BJP and Rajeev Sharma, former MLA also accompanied the BJP President on the occasion. The said employees are sitting on Protest Dharna for the past 40 days requesting for the redressal of grievances of All Jammu based Inter-District Reserved Category employees posted in Kashmir Division.

They requested the BJP

President to press for the Inter District/ Inter Division transfer policy, which needed to be framed and implemented at the earliest in the wake of selective killings of non-local minorities including that of Mrs. Rajni Bala, who was serving as a teacher in Kulgam District in Kashmir. They stressed that all the Dogra employees have lauded the love and affection of the locals in Kashmir where they have been residing in the far off and remote places. However, in the wake of recent selective killings, in which the terrorists killed multiple teachers, they are afraid of their lives, as they have to discharge their duties in the remote and cut off places.

The deputation also requested that their services be kind-

ly utilized in the Jammu division till the situation becomes conducive in the Kashmir Division. They also demanded that the Dogra employees working in Kashmir must be treated at par with PM Package employees (Migrant). Ravinder Raina, listening to their grievances patiently, lauded their efforts in serving the society for all these years very dutifully.

He said that they are the Nationalist people who have discharged their duties without any prejudice and the BJP stands with all the justified demands of the deputation. "Sooner, he (Raina) along with other senior leaders of BJP will discuss their demands with the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha and press for the prompt redressal", Raina added.

Dr. Manyal, upon deliberations from the deputations, made a point that higher authorities in the district must also listen patiently and address the grievances of these teachers on the priority basis since they are discharging their services very dutifully in the most difficult places.

VC SKUAST-J felicitates B Tech students



VC, SKUAST-J, Prof. J.P. Sharma felicitating first passing out batch of B. Tech. (Biotech.) students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vice Chancellor (VC), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Prof. J.P. Sharma on Tuesday felicitated the first passing out batch of B. Tech. (Biotech.) students of School of Biotechnology by handing over project reports and mementoes.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded the efforts of coordinator and

faculty members for their sincere efforts in guiding the students and providing them exposure for excelling in future.

Prof. Sharma advised the students to keep their targets high for achieving excellence in life and blessed the students for a bright future ahead.

Earlier, Professor. R. K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology presented a brief outline of the achieve-

ments made by the students and faculty of School of Biotechnology.

He informed that students have undergone project work in public and private sector institutes, including industries for completing their degree programme.

The Vice Chancellor was accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Wali, Director Research; Dr. Rakesh Nanda, Director Education; Dr. Jyoti Kachroo, Director Planning & Monitoring; Dr. M.S. Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry; Dr. SEH Rizvi, Dean Faculty of Basic Sciences; Dr. A.K. Mondal, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. Sushil K. Gupta, Registrar; Dr. Sushil Sharma, Prof. & Head, Division of Agricultural Engineering and Dr. B.C. Sharma, Head Division of Agronomy.

The function was attended by the faculty members and students of School of Biotechnology. The vote thanks was presented by Dr. Manmohan Sharma, Professor.

People suffering due to BJP's 'Tax Raj': Sawhney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader J&K, Yogesh Sawhney, in a statement issued on Tuesday reacted strongly against administration's decision to reimpose water tax on farmers. He condemned the government over the decision terming it as a cruel decision, as the same was abolished to provide relief to farmers in past. "The decision taken by the political machinery of the UT will jeopardize farmers' future further, as they are already struggling due to several economic and financial distresses. I request BJP to put a stop to its 'Tax Raj' and help people recover from the financial mess that has been created by their own policies and decisions," he added.

Speaking further, Sawhney said that farmers got disappointed by the move and have raised their concerns around how this



water-tax will have far reaching consequences for them. "It was abolished back in 2015, terming it as 'symbol of feudalism' by the then Government, but Government is going to reinstate it which would further increase financial burden over farmers manifold. This will impact agricultural industry very badly, especially farmers. Administration is running Jammu and Kashmir with least concern. PHE workers are constantly fighting for regularisation, enhancement of minimum wages, enhancement of Medical Allowance, release of pending wages of 70 months and there is no response from administration. From privatisation of electricity to PHE workers' protests to all, none of the

issues have been tackled by the administration in a proper way," he added.

Lashing out on BJP government, Sawhney said that needs and issues of people of Jammu and Kashmir have been neglected. He said that various taxes have been increased and introduced during BJP's rule, like the one Gabbar Singh Tax. "In Jammu alone, people have been slapped with tax after tax with new toll taxes being levied under the administration. BJP's complete tax system is a nightmare to all sections, starting from working class, to businessmen and now even to farmers.

At a time, when farmers need help, Government is introducing such policies only to aggravate the situation further. We completely stand behind the farmers in support and demand immediate rollback of the decision to reimpose water tax," Sawhney maintained.

Huge flow of Yatris continues in Mahajan Bhawan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mahajan Bhawan located at Shalamar Road Jammu is an attractive place for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Though the Yatra stands temporarily suspended due to inclement weather conditions, the Yatris accumulated in Jammu city are mostly coming in Mahajan Bhawan to avail of Langar facilities made available by the Sabha.

The Mahajan Sabha is committed to serve the Yatris during the full Annual Yatra 2022 of Shri Amarnath.

A well maintained Langar is in service which provides breakfast and lunch Prashad to the pilgrims who come in Mahajan Bhawan for getting Yatra cards from the Government Agency established in the main Hall of the sabha. The daily inflow of the yatris in Mahajan Bhawan is more than 700. The Jammu Central

Mahajan Sabha have deputed a team of dedicated workers headed by Romesh Chander Gupta President of the Sabha who is actively assisted by Shiv Partap Gupta Senior Vice President and Sanjay Mahajan General Secretary. Harinder Gupta Senior Vice President and Arun Gupta President CCI along with his team also actively participated in today's management.

C.P Gupta and Mukesh Mahajan are looking after the Press matters and protocol arrangements in the campus. Balbir Gupta and Yash Paul Gupta are the Incharge of the Langar.

Other team members who actively participated in today's Langar activities include Surinder Gupta, Dr. Mohan Lal Gupta, Atul Gupta, Subash Jandial, Sat Paul Gupta, Romesh Gupta (Bartan Wale), Vijay Gupta, Satish Gupta, Darshan Gupta, Rajesh Gupta and Rajneesh (Pinki).

Shiv Sena carries out 'Tiranga' rally demanding restoration of statehood to J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena activists on Tuesday staged a Tiranga rally here in support of their demand for early restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The rally, led by J-K Shiv Sena president Manish Sahni, was taken out from Raghunath Mandir chowk and concluded peacefully at Purani Mandi in the interior city with participants distributing handbills containing a list of 25 issues.

We have taken out this rally to remind the central government of the promises made to the people of J-K on August 5, 2019 when our erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two union territories and its special status was removed, Sahni told reporters here. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had time and again promised to return the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

All the promises made (by the government) to the people of J-K including restoration of statehood have proved hollow. The militancy is on the rise and so the unemployment among the youth as the promised huge investment and development are nowhere visible, he said. Referring to handbills, Sahni said the points raised by the party are a reflection of the people's aspirations and the Shiv Sena will enter the next assembly elections with a pledge to fulfil all these issues.

Besides the restoration of statehood, major points highlighted by the party in the handbill included reservation in employment and educational institutions for local youth, unemployment allowance, liquor prohibition in the city of temples (Jammu), safe rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants and free electricity and water.

Neglect of backward areas galore under present Govt: Rattan Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta on Tuesday criticized the present government for neglect of backward areas in J&K. In a statement issued to media persons here, the senior NC leader said that contrary to claims all the development projects have been stalled in the region with helmsmen having no clue about the funding procedure because the same have not been released so far. Citing media reports, Gupta said that despite lapse of nine months, 44 most backward blocks of J&K identified for focused development have not received any funding yet and the so-called plans prepared by the District Development Commissioners (DDCs) are still lying with the Finance Department for clearance. "This shows that there is much difference between words and deeds of the government as far as development is concerned because not only backward blocks but the entire J&K is facing development dearth as indifference of concerned quarters galore in the region", Gupta said, adding that government authorities are in deep slumber while the people are confronting issues and difficulties with regard to health, civic infra, power and water crisis, etc. The Provincial President said that government is

only best in rhetoric as helmsmen never get tired of self-praise but on ground the performance level is abysmal with common man facing the brunt of development deficit.

Gupta said that he already raised the issues of neglecting of far flung areas but the LG led administration in Jammu and Kashmir has not showed its serious concern towards the issues raised by the National Conference. "The dismal scenario of development projects with no progress in last over couple of years, the deadlines made public have been overshooting but those sitting at helm are taking things casually thus adding miseries into the lives of people", he said, adding that J&K is right now treading on the mercy of God as those sitting at helm are enjoying loaves of power giving two hoots to the responsibility on their shoulders to take care of common man.

Gupta said, even in the financial year 2021-2022 the funds sanctioned by the Central Govt for Central sponsored schemes are not being utilized even upto 65% that shows in capability and carelessness of the LG administration of Jammu and Kashmir and thus all the developmental projects of Central sponsored schemes are in bad condition which are made for the poorest of the poor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Revenue official nabbed while taking bribe of Rs 1,300

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Raj Kumar, a Prism-man in office of Naib Tehsildar, Udhampur for demanding and an accepting bribe of Rs 1,300 on Tuesday.

As per an official spokesperson, a complaint was received at Police Station ACB Udhampur wherein complainant alleged that five months ago, he applied in the office of Naib Tehsildar, Udhampur for issuing SC certificate in his name as well as in name of his son but Prism-man namely Raj Kumar, posted as dealing clerk in office of Naib Tehsildar, Udhampur demanded Rs 10,000 from complainant for getting his file cleared. "After negotiation, accused Raj Kumar asked the complainant to pay an amount of Rs. 5000 and in return, he will get his file cleared for issuance of SC certificate. A complainant lodged a written complaint against the accused public servant at Police Station ACB Udhampur after verifying the complaint. FIR No.02/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Udhampur, after which a trap team was constituted, which caught accused official Raj Kumar, red handed, while demanding and accepting of Rs 1,300 from complainant as bribe," he said, adding that further investigation is going on.

Court awards 2-yr imprisonment to two Pak nationals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Jammu Sanjay Parihar awarded two years imprisonment to two Pak Nationals for entering illegally into territory of India.

While awarding two-year imprisonment to Pak nationals identified as Basharat Ali, son of Mohd Rafiq, resident of Hailjatan, Tehsil & District Sialkot and Hunsain Farooq, son of Rehmat Ullah, resident of Gohadpur town, Sialkot, (Pakistan), Principal Sessions Judge Jammu Sanjay Parihar after hearing Public Prosecutor Kulbhushan Sharma observed that during confessional statement, accused disclosed that

they were working as traders and are in custody since 21.09.2019, thereby remaining in custody for a period of more than two years. As such, both are sentenced to undergo imprisonment of two years and a fine of Rs.1000. In default of payment of fine, they shall undergo further imprisonment of one month, the Court directed.

Principal Sessions Judge Jammu Sanjay Parihar further observed that in Prof Bhim Singh Vs Union of India, Supreme Court had observed that with regard to foreigners, who have been convicted and completed their sentence, in the event of confirmation of their

nationality, should be deported back to their respective country. In that backdrop, having regard to the fact that the accused persons are not involved in any unlawful activity against sovereignty of India and appears to be strayed into Indian territory inadvertently. Therefore, after the expiry of sentence, the Jail authorities in coordination with the Home Department UT of J&K shall take steps to coordinate with Central authorities at Delhi for deportation of the accused to their native country through international check post or through some other pivotal point, so as to enable them to meet his own people.