

'Mission Karmayogi' to train officers for priorities of Amrit Kaal: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government has launched "Mission Karmayogi" and Mid-Career Training programmes which are aimed to train officers for the priorities of Amrit Kaal and to equip them to contribute to the making of Atmanirbhar Bharat with the optimum use of new technology.

Addressing the inaugural session of 49th Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA) at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) here on Monday, the Minister said that the Government has initiated the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Governance to facilitate delivery of Citizen-centric services for welfare of the common man.

Towards this end, Dr Jitendra said, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi amended the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2018 after 30 years so that the bribe giver is also subject to punishment.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, addressing the inaugural session of 49th Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA), at IIPA New Delhi on Monday.

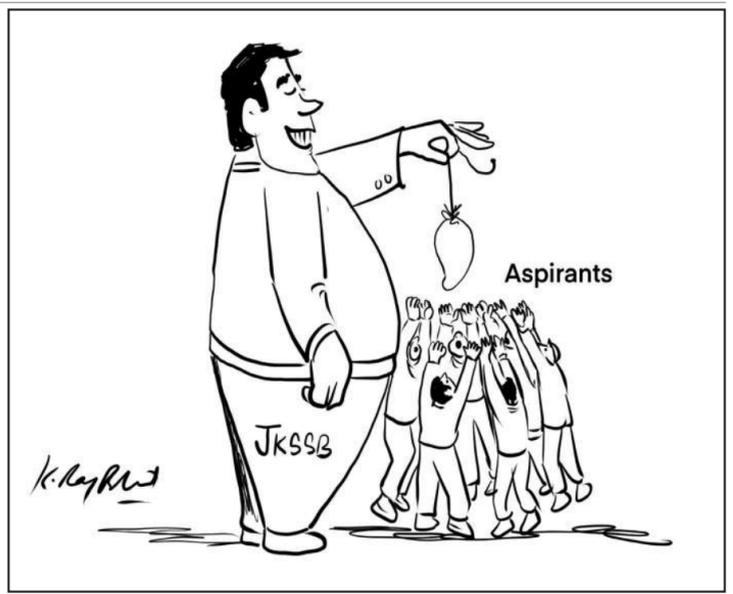
"So the idea of this Government is that, on the one hand as the Prime Minister says, "Zero tolerance towards corruption", at the same time to provide a working environment which is enabling, which allows you to give maximum outlet to your potentials and capacities, and the Government is very supportive about that," he said. Mission Karmayogi aims at creating an opportunity of world class capacity building to all Government officials based on the key principle of "role-based" rather than "rule-based" and "Competency based" learning to enable government servants play their role efficiently, smartly and effectively. Dr Jitendra said, the Government has also changed the format of the PM Excellence Awards, which is now based on outcomes and targets achieved in implementation of the

Flagship Programmes of the Government. Officer trainees will be required to submit dissertations on Flagship Programmes as part of their training, he said.

Dr Jitendra said the pace of movement is now very fast and Officers have to keep pace with it, especially since we are now part of the global world. New areas like Artificial Intelligence have a huge role in the Defence Forces as well, he said.

APPPA is a customized ten-month course for senior officers of the All India, Central Services including the Defence Services and the State Civil Services. It is designed keeping in mind the priorities of the government and the National Development Agenda.

Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has successfully completed 48 such programmes and trained 1620 administrators/officers from All-India and Central Services including those from the armed forces and a few foreign countries, teachers of Indian Universities and officers of State Civil Services.



Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of J&KSCARD branches



Comm Secy Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal, on Monday reviewed functioning of J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (J&KSCARD) branches operating across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held at Civil Secretariat in

this regard.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon the concerned officials to further intensify their efforts to achieve the set targets within the stipulated time frame. She emphasized the need for stringent action against poor performing bank branches, specifically addressing the J&KSCARD.

She directed all the stakeholders to devise effective mechanism to streamline the operations of their respective units, ensuring achievement of set targets while taking care of the people.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on various vital aspects including Reserves, Deposits, Loan and Advances, CD ratio, Recovery against NPAs, Loan disbursement, Cash Liquidity and other related matters.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Director Finance Cooperative Department, Additional Secretary, Cooperative Department, Managing Director, J&KSCARD and other officials in person and through virtual mode.

State Taxes Deptt organises poster, slogan competition on GST awareness initiative

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Taxes Department, Jammu, on Monday organized a Poster making and Slogan writing competition on day 2 of Goods and Services Tax week celebration being celebrated to mark the 6th anniversary of implementation of GST in the country here at the State Taxes conference hall Rail Head, Jammu.

Commissioner State Taxes, Dr Rashmi Singh, inaugurated the event.

Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling), J&K, Ankita Kar; Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement) Jammu, Namrita Dogra, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Headquarters) J&K, Ashima



Commissioner State Taxes, Dr Rashmi Singh presenting prize to a winner student.

Sher; Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Appeal-II), Shazia Kousar and Assistant Commissioners, Aijaz Qaiser, Sanchi Mishra, students, parents, volunteers from different NGOs and other senior officers and officials of concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rashmi Singh emphasized the importance of observing the 6th anniversary of implementation of GST. She complimented the senior officers of State Taxes Department Jammu for being open towards adopting new ways of spreading awareness about

GST among the consumers through various initiatives.

Ankita Kar appreciated the role of senior officers in conducting awareness programs during GST Week celebration.

Namrita Dogra, Additional Commissioner State Taxes Jammu, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of awareness on GST and steps being taken to further strengthen the system.

Later, Commissioner State Taxes distributed certificates and mementoes among the participants to encourage their views and ideas high-

lighted during the awareness program on GST.

In the primary category of poster competition, Rian Gupta clinched the first place, Ruhaan Chowdhary second and Ranveer Singh secured third position. In the above primary category, Ayushi Rana secured first position, Aadarsh Bhagat second and Amrita Bhan declared as third winner.

In slogan competition, Navya Bali emerged as first, Bhairav Sharma second while Devansh Langer secured third position.

Smart meters will go into prepaid mode very soon; consumers are unhappy with this decision

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The installation of smart power meters is in full swing in Kashmir Valley, although people unhappy in some areas and department is facing heated argument from consumers in several areas. According to official data, more than 50 per cent of Srinagar city has been covered under the smart meter installation programme.

In a recent development KPDCCL issued a notification which reads, the customers have been advised by the government-owned KPDCCL to settle any outstanding debts before switching their post-paid electricity connections to prepaid mode.

Over 57,000 smart electricity meter users have been told by the (KPDCCL) that they must switch from post-paid to the prepaid mode to keep receiving electricity. Else, their connections would be cut off.

"To avoid inconvenience due to the dis-



connection of electricity supply, you are requested to clear your previous bills and port your electricity connection from post-paid mode to prepaid service immediately by visiting

http://smrtps.jkpccl.net," KPDCCL notification reads.

A senior KPDCCL official said that switching to the prepaid mode for getting power supply was the only alternative available to the electricity customers.

"Over 57,000 postpaid smart meters in Kashmir would be changed over to prepaid mode in the first phase. It is as per the directive of the Union Power Ministry which has set a deadline to convert all power connections across India to prepaid mode by 2025," he said.

On how the pre-paid smart meters operate, the official said, "If a household uses Rs 3500 worth of electricity each month, they will receive a bill in this price range. They can prepay the money and will receive updates on their usage by SMS and SmartBS App. We won't cut off service, as cellular providers do, in the event that the

recharged amount is used up. Instead, we'll provide the customer with a grace period during which they can replenish their account and continue to get electricity."

He said that only smart meter users in Kashmir would be allowed to use the prepaid billing option. "In the coming days, we will cover all areas under smart metering, but it will take some time," the official said.

However, some people are upset by this decision and claim that customers are not prepared for this. Resident of Srinagar, said, "KPDCCL is moving very quickly with this." He said that besides prepaid payments would further burden the people, who will have to make advance payments for electricity, which was not the case earlier. "Imagine a family which has nobody using smartphones. How can they port or recharge their connections according to department guidance".

LG pays obeisance at Mata Roop Bhawani Temple Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday paid obeisance at Mata Roop Bhawani temple, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar.

Inside the temple premises, the Lt Governor offered his prayers and participated in the Yagya organised on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima.

He also interacted with the devotees and extended



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with KPs after paying obeisance at Mata Roop Bhawani temple, Srinagar.

his hearty greetings on the auspicious occasion.

NPS has relatively inferior benefits/security-so can surely affect motivations for taking unfair pressures

Politicians are sensing a very 'Vote Catching Bait' in Old Pension Scheme for Govt Employees

State needs to provide reasonable degree of social security to public servant & OPS surely does that

Why should not PSEs employee (who work under similar conduct rules) be also given Pension like OPS?

DAYA SAGAR

According to Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions GOI Department of Pensions and Pensioner's welfare office memorandum No 57/05/2021-P&PW(B) dated 03-03-2023 in a major move according to a Personnel Ministry of GOI order of 03-03-2023 the employees who joined the central government services against posts advertised or notified before December 22, 2003, the day National Pension System (NPS) was notified, are eligible to join the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021) and take the benefit of the pension scheme under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021) on the ground that their appointment was made against the posts/vacancies advertised/notified for recruitment prior to notification for National Pension System, referring to court judgments of various High Courts and Central Administrative Tribunals allowing such benefits to applicants. Earlier to 2004 too the pension paid to government employees was irrespective of the economic status of the government resources being deficit or surplus since the policy of retirement pension atleast to government employees was based on the principle that a government servant had to handle the affairs of the society in a socialistic democratic setup to secure the social & material interests of one and all during his/her active service setting aside one's own material interests i.e one is debarred from rearing any private enterprise/ trade/ business by way of material or services so has to be provided minimum respectable material security for survival during later years within the means of the society that contributes to the state exchequer.

The provision of pension for providing some material security to senior citizens and atleast for government employees, is very much needed since they have to stand against all sorts of undue social pressures/ material pressures & allurement / pressures of the politicians / political governments (that change

every 5 years) so that one atleast hopes safe physical survival after retirement. Art-311 of constitution of India was surely incorporated to provides security to government employee against any undue pressure / treatment by the political "government" of the day { Art-311 - Dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State.-(1) No person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or an all-India service or a civil service of a State or holds a civil post under the Union or a State shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges)

To be brief it could be said that The Old Pension Scheme (OPS) provides a guaranteed pension (50%for retiring government employees based on their last drawn basic salary (50%) & years of service , no amount is deducted from employees' salaries during active service towards pension fund and the pension increases twice in a year with DA



A Look through the Mist

announced for in-service employees as well as whenever the pay scales are revised for government employees (like present pay commissions every 10 years). So the pension keeps on increasing .Instances could be quoted where the government employee retired fifteen to 20 year back may be getting total pension emoluments even more than the wages one drew at the time of retirement. It provides / provided guaranteed, inflation and pay commission-indexed pension payments to retired government employees and their spouses.

The government introduced New Pension Scheme an alternative to the existing OPS .The new scheme did not have any commitment to provide secure and stable retirement income and is a scheme administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)wherr presently government employees can contribute 10% of their basic salary plus Dearness Allowance (DA), and the government contributes 14% of the basic salary plus DA every month.NPS is a market-linked annuity scheme where consolidated contributions in a pension fund may be/ are invested in a diversified portfolio (government bills, bonds, corporate shares, debentures) by profes-

sional fund managers (such (SBI, LIC, UTI, etc.) regulated by the PFRDA where on retirement one can withdraw a part (presently say up to 60%)and invest the remaining (presently say 40% to receive pension annuities as a monthly pension). The income from investments and the interests that could be earned from even if total 60% of the fund withdrawn on retirement is invested in FDRs can nowhere match the provisions of OPS. In other words contrary to OPS the NPS does not provide guaranteed, inflation and pay commission-indexed pension payments to retired government employees and their spouses.

One would get a fair idea by looking into the data as regards a Government employee Mr. YYYY who retired on 31-10-1991 getting pay (Basic plus DA)as around Rs.7300/ pm, started with Pension of Rs.3617/pm (basic pension plus DA) and in June 2020 he was getting Rs.37948 /pm as pension. Physicals of an IAS officer appointed in 2004 cannot be quoted here since so far no employee who could get pension under NPS has retired but it is very certain that when someone will retire the 'position' will be very terrifying even when the employer contribution has already been revised to 14 % where as when it was the case of

Contributory provident fund for PSEs & Private sector for decades the employer contribution was 8.33% only and when revised to 10 % to 12% that to was not implemented that committedly. The reflections can just be seen from the case of a Government (GOI) PSU employee who retired in 8/2011 under contributory PF Scheme who just around Rs10 Lakh as share of government employer contribution and in case amount was kept in a FDR the interest would be hardly less than Rs.8000/pm and in 2020 August it would be Rs.5000/PM. Whereas under pension scheme he would have started with pension of over around 30000/pm and would have been getting pension of around 50000 in June 2020. Ofcourse OPS for government employees also have benefits like commutpart of pension.

So new pension scheme, since it has inferior benefits/ security on retirements for government employees on retirement, is surely going to affect adversely the motivation for taking challenges/ unfair pressures during active service . Why not GoI reverts to OPS for all instead of allowing politicians to kick the 'OPS Ball'.

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