

# Dr Jitendra hails UPSC initiative facilitating alternative jobs for Civil Services aspirants

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has hailed the UPSC's "PRATIBHA Setu" initiative for facilitating alternative job avenues for Civil Services aspirants.

PRATIBHA stands for "Professional Resource And Talent Integration" and Setu stands for "bridge".

The Minister, who is also Incharge DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) with which UPSC is administratively affiliated, said that this is emerging as a meaningful gateway for Civil Services aspirants who are among the very few who narrowly miss out in the last stage because of not being able to make it in the final interview even after having successfully cleared the Civil Services Exam Final and also having appeared in the interview.

Describing it as a "forward-thinking approach" to talent utilisation, Dr Jitendra Singh's remarks came after a meeting with the newly appointed Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, Dr. Ajay Kumar, who briefed him on the growing attraction the platform has gained among employers in both government as well as private sectors.

According to the Chairman, the initiative- originally developed from the Public Disclosure



Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr. Ajay Kumar calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

Scheme introduced in 2018-has been received positively across the board. Several private organisations have started approaching the Commission to access the pool of candidates who cleared the written exam and interview stages but were not finally selected.

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that aspirants too are welcoming the move, as it offers them a viable alternative to channel their skill and knowledge into meaningful career paths outside

the civil services framework.

PRATIBHA (Professional Resource And Talent Integration) Setu - Bridge for Hiring Aspirants, enables verified organisations to register and access data of non-recommended yet willing candidates from various UPSC examinations, including Civil Services, Indian Forest Service, Engineering Services, and Combined Medical Services, among others. The initiative has already onboarded 113 organisations, with more showing interest in the portal as a trusted source of well-assessed human resources.

What sets PRATIBHA Setu apart is that it transforms a passive disclosure model into an interactive recruitment bridge. While earlier the UPSC published candidate data on its website, the revamped platform allows recruiters to log in and reach out to shortlisted candidates directly. The programme excludes exams such as NDA, NA and select departmental competitions, but covers a wide spectrum of competitive examinations with rigorous assessment practices.

Dr. Jitendra Singh acknowledged that the success of such platforms not only benefits individual candidates but also addresses a broader need for efficient and transparent recruitment practices. With the continued interest from stakeholders, Pratibha Setu is poised to expand its impact in the coming years. PRATIBHA stands for "Professional Resource And Talent Integration" - Bridge for Hiring Aspirants.

## Gulliver and the Lilliputians



## PIOCCI delegation calls on Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta in New Delhi

### Discusses investment opportunities in UT Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation comprising members of the People of India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PIOCCI) led by its Secretary General, Kirti Sharma and Lalit Mahajan, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, in New Delhi to discuss foreign investments and boosting economic development in the Union Territory.

The meeting aimed to explore collaborative opportunities for promoting foreign investments across diverse sectors in Ladakh.

The PIOCCI delegation highlighted PIOCCI's success in facilitating businesses and project collaborations with overseas Indians across sectors, such as technology, agriculture, education, healthcare, tourism, and green energy.

They also informed the LG about PIOCCI's plan to soon organise a Global Investment Summit exclusively focused on Ladakh.



PIOCCI delegation meeting with LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta at New Delhi.

The LG highlighted Ladakh's immense investment potential. He specifically mentioned key areas, including eco-tourism & sustainable Hospitality, renewable energy (leveraging high solar irradiance), agro-based industries (organic farming, medicinal herbs), handicrafts & cultural exports, and education & skill development.

The LG highlighted the region's strategic importance and assured potential investors that the Government of India is dedicated to creating a favourable business environment through attractive

incentives, ease of doing business, infrastructure development, and policy stability.

The LG expressed full support for initiatives that bring socio-economic transformation to Ladakh. He encouraged the diaspora and Indian industrialists to view Ladakh as 'an emerging hub of sustainable innovation and strategic investment,' with a vision to make it 'a model of inclusive, eco-sensitive, and high-impact development.' He also invited entrepreneurs, global investors and the Indian diaspora to explore investment avenues in Ladakh.

## DM Jammu reviews preparedness for Independence Day celebrations at MA Stadium

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the arrangements being made for the smooth and successful conduct of the Independence Day celebration function at MA Stadium.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Joginder Singh, ADC Ansuja Jamwal, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey, besides Sub Divisional Magistrates and other senior officers from police and other departments as well.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding seating arrangements, stage prepara-



District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

tion, decoration, security, traffic regulation, cultural programmes, power and water supply, sanitation, health care and other allied services. The concerned departments were directed to make all necessary arrangements well in advance to ensure the event is conducted in a dignified and coordinated manner.

The DM emphasised inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of responsibilities. Police and allied security agencies were instructed to ensure foolproof security and manage traffic diversions. JPDC and Jal Shakti departments were directed to provide their services as per their mandate.

Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams and station ambulances at the venue, while JMC was directed to undertake sanitation drives and ensure cleanliness in and around the stadium. The Department of Floriculture was entrusted with floral decoration and the Information Department with

installation of the public address system and other communication facilities.

The DM directed all departments to depute nodal officers and submit detailed action taken reports. He called for collective and coordinated efforts to ensure the event is celebrated with patriotic fervor and grandeur.

## DIPR announces Online Competitions to celebrate Independence Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, has launched three online competitions to encourage citizens-particularly students and youth-to participate in creative and patriotic expressions.

Participants are encouraged to take part in the National Anthem Singing Competition, where they can showcase their love for the nation by submitting their renditions of the National Anthem. The best entries will be awarded cash prizes. Entries can be submitted through the link: <https://forms.gle/qrn6aou9tNHrZr7>.

To inspire thought leadership and visionary thinking, an Online Essay Writing Competition has been announced on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047". Participants are invited to pen down their aspirations and innovative ideas

for a developed India as we approach 2047, marking 100 years of independence. Entries can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/ebK8Fz2hQWx2zMWv8>.

In addition, DIPR has also initiated an Online Painting Competition on the theme "Draw Your Favourite Freedom Fighter". Budding artists are encouraged to honour and depict the legacy of India's freedom fighters through colours and creativity. Entries for this competition can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/PH4GKXKvqK6AdPLf9>.

All competitions are open to the general public and aim to instill patriotic spirit, nurture talent, and celebrate the idea of India. Attractive prizes and certificates await the winners.

DIPR urges citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to participate enthusiastically and make this Independence Day truly memorable by contributing their voice, vision, and creativity.

## Div Com pitches for comprehensive, robust Traffic Management System in Jammu City

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Tuesday discussed the actionable points for a comprehensive and robust Traffic Management System in Jammu City, while chairing a meeting of Multi-Disciplinary Committee.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic J&K, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner JMC, Vice Chairman JDA and Transport Commissioner Jammu, Chief Engineer PWD(R&B), SSP Traffic



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

Jammu City.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on traffic planning and management system, decongestion meas-

ures, increasing road capacity and infrastructure, encroachment control and relocation of street vendors, identification of one-way

routes and traffic flow adjustment, safety and accident reduction measures.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for

constituting a joint team of officials from Traffic, Transport, District Administration, JMC and JDA to conduct a survey to identify traffic congestion points, spots to be designated as no parking zones, one way routes, Taxi/Auto/Bus Stands and other steps necessary for improving the traffic management system in the city.

The meeting decided to further hold detailed discussions in the next meeting on the basis of points and observation reported by the joint team of officials after their visit.

## Carry independent verification of rural waste management infrastructure: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II (SBM-G Phase-II), to highlighting significant achievements in rural sanitation and outlining ambitious plans for the future.

The review meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, RDD was attended by MD, Rural Sanitation; COO, Himayat and others to take appraisal of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on furnishing a detailed report on the door-to-door waste collection status in rural areas. He directed that a sample survey be conducted through the Economics & Statistics (E&S) offices in each district to assess the actual implementation and progress of this initiative at the village level.

Dulloo further called for a comprehensive audit of assets created by the Department. He underscored the importance of verifying the dashboard data with the ground realities,



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

ensuring both are aligned. Highlighting the purpose behind these infrastructural investments, he stated that the ultimate goal is to enhance cleanliness, and to make villages more liveable and environmentally ambient. The MD, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra while speaking of the progress and achievements made out that since its initiation in February 2020, SBM-G Phase-II has made substantial strides in J&K. She elaborated that 18,29,495 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) have been constructed including 8,450 Community Compost Pits, 1,69,158 Individual Compost Pits for waste management in rural areas. For Grey Water Management she mentioned

that 7,334 Community Soak Pits, 3,56,458 Individual Pits 4,89,250 Individual Kitchen Gardens have been developed by the Department.

Moreover about the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2024-25 it was said that significant achievements were noted against planned targets, including the construction of 43,280 IHHLs against a target of 36,000, and 740 CSCs against a target of 1,000.

With respect to 2025-26 the meeting was informed that an AIP of Rs 405 Cr has been approved for SBM(G) in J&K out of which Rs 61.25 Cr as Ist instalment of Central share for 2025-26 was sanctioned on June 27, 2025. Similarly, the corresponding UT share of approximately ₹700.00

lakhs has been released, the meeting was informed.

Regarding the functionality of Assets an online platform called mWaterdash Board gives insights about each asset created by the Department. It was revealed that as per the report generated on this dashboard 7,317 out of 7,562 CSCs stands verified and reported functional (100% verified).

Similarly 2,585 out of 2,900 Segregation Sheds had been said to be verified and found functional (45% verified). About Plastic Waste Management Units 96 out of 131 verified assets are functional (100% verified). 560 dysfunctional/defunct units are currently being retrofitted for functionality.

It was given out that out of the total of 6,650 villages,

4,585 villages (69%) are covered by door-to-door garbage collection. User charges collected until December 2024 amounted to ₹141.40 Laacs, with an additional ₹32.14 Laacs collected in the first quarter of FY 2025-26. The UT has 874 procured and 84 hired collection vehicles.

The meeting was also apprised that extensive preparations had been made to ensure a clean, green, and sustainable Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, with a focus on robust sanitation measures including the deployment of 7,404 sanitation workers, installation of 5,613 toilets/baths, 15 waste management facilities, and 80 soak pits.

A dedicated IEC campaign using visuals, signage, and social media is being conducted along the yatra routes, complemented by a tech-enabled waste monitoring system via a web-mobile application. As of July 2025, a total of 192.61 metric tonnes of waste has been collected which includes 125.75 MT from the Baltal Axis and 66.86 MT from the Pahalgam Axis.

Some of the SBM-G best practices showcasing innovative initiatives taken up by the Department includes

ECO-KARIGARI (Waste to Wealth initiative), Sandesh-e-Swachta, PWMU facilitated under PMEGP, Public Park on Community Soak Pit, DEWAT System, a community-led greywater management unit and organic waste composting machine within the Central Jail Srinagar, run by trained inmates, converts 500 kg of solid waste into organic fertilizers daily.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took note of the functioning of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme here. The scheme focuses on skill training and placement for rural poor youth in the age group of 18-35 years. The scheme provides placement-led skilling, with a focus on post-placement support, career progression, and sustainable employment.

The COO, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta threw light on the implementation and success of this scheme here. He gave out that 17,000 placements had been made till date under this scheme. He assured that the expenditure would show an upward trend as the implementation has started gaining pace after initial phase of its operation in the UT.

## Omar extends sympathies to Reyaz Ahmad Wani on bereavement, visits family



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressing condolence on demise of mother of Reyaz Ahmad Wani.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday condoled the demise of the mother of Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) with the Chief Minister.

In a show of solidarity and compassion, the Chief Minister visited the bereaved family at their residence to offer his condolences. Accompanying him were Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, MLA Kangan Meher Ali, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, and the entire staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt sympathies to Reyaz Ahmad Wani and other members of the bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul. "In this hour of grief, I stand in support with the family and pray that Almighty Allah grants them strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister, along with his staff, also participated in fatiha held at the residence for the departed soul. Earlier Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani also visited the family to offer his condolences.