

# Dr Jitendra addresses Central, State Information Commissioners; commends nearly 100% RTI disposal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Friday addressed and later interacted with Central and State Information Commissioners at the 13th Annual General Body Meeting of the "National Federation of Information Commissions of India" (NFICI) at the Central Information Commission headquarters here.

Chief Information Commissioner of India, Heeralal Samariya was present on the occasion.

Addressing the annual meeting, Dr Jitendra appreciated the Central Information Commission's efforts in increasing efficiency and commended nearly 100 percent disposal of Right to Information (RTI) appeals. He said "NFICI has been instrumental in advancing the cause of the Right to Information Act, 2005."

Ever since Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister in 2014, transparency, accountability and citizen-centric governance have been central to the Government's



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing Central and State Information Commissioners at the Annual General Body Meeting at the Central Information Commission headquarters, New Delhi on Friday. Also seen is Chief Information Commissioner of India, Heeralal Samariya.

model of governance, said the Minister.

Referring to RTI Act as a provision to ensure maximum disclosure and minimum exemptions, consistent with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Exemptions", Dr Jitendra shared that India's CPRAMS is now a role model on Grievance Redressal for many other nations of the world who are keen to emulate the same.

He shared that the effective time for redressal is as less as 5 days due technology linked solution and flagging of grievances.

Dr. Singh directed the Information Commissioners to integrate Artificial Intelligence and new age tools to increase efficiency in public disclosure of Information. The Minister at the same time underscored the importance of Human Intervention by recalling the setting up of the Human Desk to take feedback from citizens after disposal of the grievances.

During the interaction he also heard the State Information commissioners noted their Grievance and suggestions and assured a positive response to them.

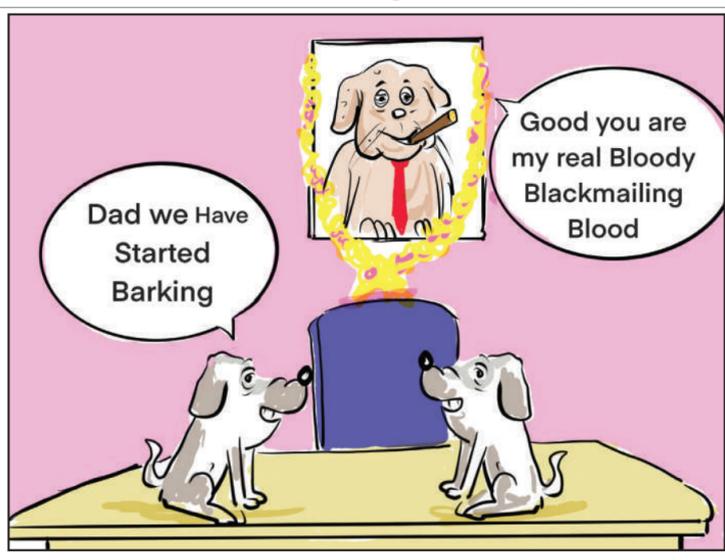
Dr. Jitendra appreciated the Central Information Commission's efforts in increasing efficiency and highlighted nearly 100 percent disposal of Right to Information (RTI) appeals with pendency coming down every year.

The Minister also highlighted the exemplary work done by CIC during Covid pandemic as they were functional throughout. He categorically

mentioned the ease to residents of J&K after opening a branch in the union territory.

In an inspiring message to young officers of CIC, he called them torch bearers and conscience keepers of VISION 2047.

Heeralal Samariya informed the minister about the steady progress and said the second appeals reaching to the CIC nearly 17000 appeals are disposed of every year. Secretary CIC, Rashmi Chowdhary informed the Minister about the initiatives taken up by the Information Commissions.



# AC STD cautions taxpayers against using fake use of QR codes, sale suppression

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Additional Commissioner, State Taxes department (STD), Administration & Enforcement Jammu, Namrita Dogra on Friday cautioned the taxpayers over consequences of fraudsters using fake or multiple QR (quick response) codes and showing sale suppression.

She also urged dealers to use own credentials like phone number and e mail getting GST registration to receive timely notification and communication.

Chairing a 'Dealers Meet' with taxpayers of Circle B of Jammu, the Additional Commissioner reviewed financial position of first quarter of fiscal year 2024-25 ending this June and devised strategy for revenue argumentation for remaining three quarters.

She stressed on 100% return filing compliance and urged dealers to ensure that 99.99 percent of return filing well before the last date.

Appreciating the dedication and honesty of Jammu City's dealers, the Additional Commissioner said that Jammu City's taxpayers traditionally remained obedient and file their respective taxes on time, which is expected in future too. She laid stress on



Adl Comm STD, Administration & Enforcement Jammu, Namrita Dogra chairing a meeting.

100% return compliance and clearing all the blocked payments. She also encouraged the business representatives to openly share their grievances with concerned STO.

Highlighting an analysis, the Additional Commissioner said, "I have noticed that some food vendors, restaurants, hoteliers and other traders are receiving payments through multiple UPI accounts to hide their actual turnovers aimed to show suppressed sale and avoid issuing tax invoices". She added that such trend is in notice of the department and soon a drive will be launched to check these violations.

The Additional Commissioner also urged the taxpayers to keep their stock positioning and directed STOs for frequent inspections of stocks in case of mis-

match. She added that the department has noticed that many important communications do not reach to potential dealers, due to which department and taxpayers suffered.

"I have noticed many cases where dealers are not aware of non-compliance or demand notices we issue because their own phone number is not registered with department, so I urge you all to register GST with personal email and mobile numbers to receive timely notification and effective communication," she said.

Earlier, State Tax Officer, Circle-B Neeraj Sharma briefed the attendees about agenda of meeting and introduced the dealers, which includes dealers from multiple trades like automobiles, restaurants & hotels, work

# CS for expediting progress on Parvatmala projects

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday held a meeting of National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) to take stock of the progress made on several projects proposed to be taken-up under Parvatmala across the UT.

Besides CEO, NHLML those present in the meeting includes ACS, Forests; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, R&B; Secretary, Revenue; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar/Reasi; Commissioner, SMC; VC, LCMA; MD, JKCC and other concerned officers.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary took note of the progress made on carrying out prefeasibility reports on part of the National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) regarding the construction of ropeway projects at different tourist destinations of J&K.

Dulloo impresses upon the

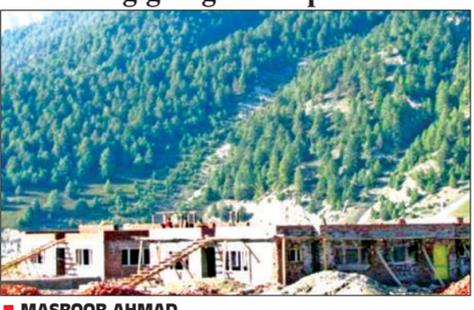
standing between them to resolve the impending issues.

He called for accelerating the process of establishing Multi Model Logistics Park in Samba and taking up the development of Public Transport Terminal Infrastructure (PTTI) at Katra here.

The meeting was briefed on the core issues and their status at present. It was added that out of 18 ropeway projects feasibility report of 3 had been carried out and consultation for 3 more is in progress.

It was further revealed that these ropeway projects includes Baltal-Amarnath Cave, Makhdoom Sahib-Hariparbat, Bhaderwah-Sejdhah, Nasri Tunnel-Sanasar, Shankaracharya, Sonamarg-Thajiwās besides others of great religious or tourism importance.

# Natural beauty at risk Construction activities in Sonamarg going on despite HC ban



**MASROOR AHMAD**  
**SRINAGAR:** Despite a ban issued by the Jammu and Ladakh High Court on construction activities in the eco-fragile zone of Sonamarg area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, the region continues to witness a surge in construction, transforming the once pristine area into a concrete jungle. The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has been making efforts to curb illegal construction, but the activities persist unabated. Reliable sources indicate that vehicles transporting construction materials to Sonamarg are allegedly using permits meant for Ladakh and Kargil to bypass checks at the Shuktadi Toll post. This tactic allows for the continued influx of materials into Sonamarg despite the ban. "If immediate steps are not taken to halt these illegal construction activities, Sonamarg's natural beauty will soon be overshadowed by buildings," warned a concerned local. The SDA has issued notices to stop illegal construction, but these have largely been ignored, resulting in significant damage to the area's aesthetics. Sources reveal that certain hotels continue construction activities, yet the authorities have not taken decisive action against them. The lack of enforcement contrasts sharply with the claims of efforts to preserve Sonamarg's natural beauty. In Sonamarg village, several individuals initially claimed they were building residential houses, only for these to later be revealed as hotels and guest houses. This trend extends beyond the main area of Sonamarg, with the village itself turning into a concrete jungle, the sources said.

The situation follows a landmark decision in August 2017, when the Jammu and Kashmir High Court banned all construction in the tourist resort of Sonamarg.

Locals are now appealing to Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene personally and address the ongoing illegal construction, which continues to produce a big threat to the natural beauty of Sonamarg.

CEO of the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), stated that when illegal construction is identified, the first step is to issue a notice, followed by demolition if necessary. The CEO mentioned that a spot inspection was conducted in Sonamarg village, and illegal structures will be demolished soon. He emphasized that there is a High Court order in Sonamarg, and under no circumstances will the demolition operations be halted. Additionally, he noted that the checkpoint at Shuktadi, Sonamarg, is designated solely for the passage of construction materials heading to Kargil and Leh.

He added that he has issued strict instructions to SDA employees at the checkpoint to prevent any construction materials from being transported to Sonamarg. Any violations of this order will result in the seizure of the materials.

# UK Experts from Imperial College of London visit AIIMS Jammu for Lecture on Medical Ethics and Law

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** AIIMS Jammu is dedicated to excellence in Medical Education, Training, Healthcare Research, and Patient Care. Through innovative programs and international partnerships, AIIMS Jammu strive to improve healthcare outcomes and contribute to the well-being of our community.

AIIMS Jammu recently hosted a distinguished delegation from the United Kingdom for an enlightening lecture on medical ethics and Law and discussions on future collaboration. The visiting experts included Dr. Daniel Sokol, a barrister in London and visiting lecturer in medical ethics at Imperial College London; Harjeet Singh, a trustee for an educational charity; and Abhineet Kour, an NHS nurse and dedicated charity volunteer.

Dr. Daniel Sokol, renowned



Experts Dr. Daniel Sokol, Harjeet Singh posing with faculty members of AIIMS Jammu.

for his expertise of 20 years in medical ethics, delivered a compelling keynote lecture that addressed critical ethical challenges in contemporary healthcare. Dr. Sokol's insights, drawn from his extensive legal and ethical background, provided valuable perspectives to the healthcare professionals and students at AIIMS Jammu.

Harjeet Singh, a passionate advocate for educational equity, engaged in discussions on potential educational collaborations. As a trustee for an educational charity, Mr. Singh shared best practices and explored initiatives aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for underserved communities, fostering a global exchange of ideas and strategies. Mrs. Abhineet Kour, an experienced NHS nurse and committed charity volunteer, conducted an impactful workshop on community health initiatives.

"Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, informed us that their visit was a significant opportunity for our Institution to gain international perspectives on medical ethics, education, and healthcare. The discussions and insights shared during their visit have laid the groundwork for future collaborations that will benefit both our communities."

The visit featured a series of events expanded over two days, which included the keynote lecture by Dr. Sokol for the Faculty; senior residents, Nursing faculty, Nursing Officers, MBBS students, and B.Sc. Nursing students, a discussion on global education strategies led by Mr. Singh, and a workshop on community health initiatives, Lt Gen Sunil Kant, Dean Research, MS, HoD Hospital Administration, AIIMS Jammu, who was present on the occasion and enlightened the audience about the research activities being done

at AIIMS Jammu, mentioning that currently, AIIMS Jammu is working on 41 Extramurally Funded Projects and 29 Intramurally Funded Projects from the Faculty, but the students have also contributed 11 Research projects.

Dr Sokol also presented his book "Tough Choices - Stories from the Front Line of Medical Ethics" to Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, along with MS and the Deans and Associate Deans AIIMS Jammu. He also mentioned that after visiting AIIMS Jammu, he was impressed with the facilities and found them at the level of the Global standards.

These events fostered meaningful dialogue and strengthened the ties between AIIMS Jammu and the visiting experts from the Imperial College London UK, paving the way for ongoing cooperation and knowledge exchange.

# Sanskrit is not just a language of rituals; it is mother of Sanatan Dharma and culture: Sham Lal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** As part of Sanskrit month, Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust organized a one-day lecture series on the importance of the Sanskrit language at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Domana, Jammu. The event concluded with a tree plantation.

The chief guest of the event, former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, special guest President of Sanatan Dharma Sabha Purushottam Dadhichi, honored guest SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, and others were present on the occasion.

Sham Lal Sharma said that the trust is playing a significant role in promoting the divine language, Sanskrit. Sanskrit is not just a language of rituals; it is the mother of Sanatan Dharma and culture.

Highlighting the antiquity of the Sanskrit language, he mentioned that Sanskrit has emerged on the global stage as the most precise language even for space. Knowledge of the Dogri language means that people of



Chief Guest, Sham Lal Sharma, Former Minister and others at a programme.

Jammu and Kashmir should have knowledge of Sanskrit along with their local dialect.

Purushottam Dadhichi said that such events will boost the morale of Sanskrit lovers. The culture that develops from Sanskrit and is refined by it continues to inspire world peace and social development even in today's era. History bears witness that from ancient times to the modern era, India

has never attacked the land of any other country.

SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma said that Sanskrit is the oldest language in the world, in which India's cultural pride is inherent. Today, there is a need for Sanskrit to reach the masses so that India's glorious culture can be further propagated.

President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, said that the script of the Sanskrit language is Devanagari. The sages chose this language for composing mantras because the pronunciation of its words is highly effective in creating proper vibrations in the brain. The Vedas were revealed in this language, and the Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas were composed in it. Sanskrit literature is the most rich and prosperous in human history. The main reason for organizing this program is to promote the divine language, Sanskrit.

On this occasion, the school principal Mohinder Sharma, students, school staff, Dil Bahadur Singh, SHO Domana Sushil, Vijay Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Rahul Salathia, Yash Seth, Rakesh Singh, Uttam Chand Sharma, Naresh Raina, Rajinder Seth, Angrez Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vijay Kumar, Bindu Kumari, Pawan Salathia, Babu Ram, Kartar Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Aditya Abhiraj Sharma, and other distinguished citizens were present.