

# Dr Jitendra inaugurates CAT Guwahati building complex, hails Northeast transformation in 11 years

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GUWAHATI: Inaugurating the new Court-cum-Office Complex of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in Guwahati today, 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 described the development as a reflection of the remarkable transformation witnessed by the North East over the past decade.



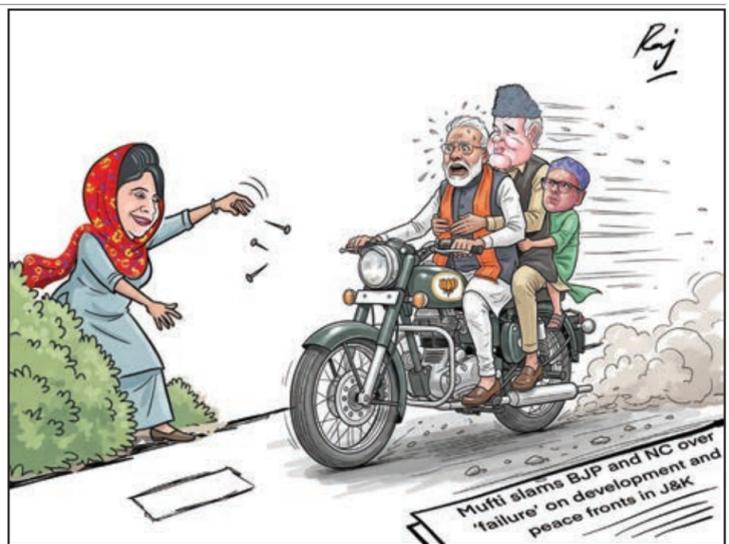
Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating new Court cum Office building complex of CAT Guwahati Bench, at Guwahati on Saturday. Also seen are Assam State Cabinet Minister Ranjit Kumar Das and Chairman CAT, Justice More.

The Guwahati bench of CAT, among the oldest in the country, now finally has its dedicated infrastructure nearly 40 years after its establishment. Addressing a gathering that included Assam Cabinet Minister Ranjit Kumar Das, CAT Chairman Justice R.K. Morey, other judicial dignitaries, and members of the legal fraternity, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored how the Modi government's focus since 2014 has translated into tangible change across the region. Highlighting the specific evolution of CAT, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that while the tribunal was set up in 1985 to ensure accessible and time-

bound justice for government employees, it struggled for decades with backlog and operational constraints. "The Guwahati bench was constrained to function from a rented premises before PM Narendra Modi took over and it could get its own building complex," he said. Dr. Jitendra Singh cited statistics to showcase the turnaround: Of the 8.88 lakh cases disposed of by CAT since 1985, over 2.54 lakh were cleared in the last ten years alone-accounting for nearly one-third of the total disposals. The newly inaugurated Guwahati complex includes state-of-the-art features such

as earthquake-resistant construction, CCTV surveillance, and facilities for differently-abled users. Dr. Jitendra Singh also acknowledged the swift action by the Assam government in providing land and enabling completion of the building within just three years-a timeline he noted is rare even in private sector projects. The Minister credited technological interventions-e-filing, video conferencing, digital judicial records, and online payment systems-as key enablers in ensuring continuity even during the COVID-19 lockdown. He recalled that new benches in Jammu and

Srinagar were operationalised during the pandemic, yet managed 100% disposal rates due to video-based hearings. Addressing systemic reforms, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to a critical amendment that now allows administrative members to head CAT benches, a departure from the earlier requirement of only judicial members. "There were concerns initially, but experience has shown that seasoned administrators are fully capable of understanding and applying service rules judiciously," he said, adding that the move has helped reduce pendency and improve bench functioning. Dr. Jitendra Singh did not



## Need to explore hidden potential of Jammu: Sharma

Former Mayor says, Political empowerment of Jammu is a step to a Viksit Bharat Vision

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu must be represented by those who have achieved excellence in their field of profession. This was stated by senior BJP leader and former Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma on Saturday while addressing a mammoth gathering at elite club 'Rejuvenation Centre' in Trikuta Nagar. Sharma also said that while bodies of transport, lawyers, trade unionists and many others have so far represented Jammu as per their experiences and potential.



BJP leader and former Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma speaking at a programme.

"Now Jammu needs representation by those who have achieved excellence in their fields of profession like Padma Shree awardees, Generals, Politicians of high integrity, top bureaucrats, International awardees in sports, Columnists, Retd. Judges, trade and Commerce associations etc." "Such people have knowledge of their fields and they also have a vision and maturity about the subject to workout issues confronting certain groups regarding such subjects." People from the diverse backgrounds were present at the club and they said that work on the subject is under-

way to accomplish the dream of Viksit Bharat by PM Modi. Rajinder Sharma said that as per the vision of the PM Bharat should be Viksit by the year 2047 and for that Jammu must ready itself with for today's plan to get Viksit by 2047. "If it is to be done in letter and spirit, a proper strategy is required to be planned and Bharat will only be Viksit (developed) when Jammu in particular gets empowered politically, economically and socially" he continued. The former Mayor said that development in true words means when the system work on its own and that too well in time. "We have never heard that

our market is in trouble. Train has gone to Kashmir but the entire region from Jammu to Banihal has been pushed to the wall," he said. Politically Jammu has never been assertive. It has always been on mercy. Sharma also said that another thing is that Jammu has never explored itself properly though the region has so many things like culture, heritage, hard working people etc on its side. Prominent who were present were Ashok Gupta, Chief Patron, K S Sambyal, President, K R Puri, Vice Secretary, Romesh Gupta, Treasurer and Subh Chander Verma.

## HC barred J&K Bank from dipping into pension for loan recovery

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant judgment safeguarding the rights of pensioners, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a petition filed by J&K Bank Limited seeking to overturn an appellate court's order that restrained it from deducting funds from a retired grantor's pension account. Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi after hearing Adv Raman Sharma for the J&K Bank whereas Adv Himanshu Beotra for the respondent, ruled that pensionary benefits, even after being deposited into a bank account, retain their exempt status under Section 11 of the Pensions Act, 1871, and Section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC). The court emphasized that such funds cannot be attached or deducted unilaterally, even under contractual agreements like deeds of guarantee. The case arose after Chander Uday

Singh, a retired individual suffering from age-related ailments, challenged the bank's action of unilaterally deducting Rs 25,000 from his pension account. Singh had stood as a guarantor for loan accounts of businesses run by his wife, which later turned into Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Despite a pending civil suit, the bank froze Singh's pension account and began recovery, prompting him to seek court intervention. The trial court initially dismissed Singh's plea for interim relief, but the Principal District Judge overturned that decision and barred the bank from further deductions. The bank then filed a petition under Article 227 of the Constitution, which has now been dismissed by the High Court. In her detailed judgment, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi cited multiple precedents, including Radhey Shyam

Gupta v. PNB and Farooq Ahmed Khan v. Mehmooda Khan, reiterating that pension retains its protected status even post-credit. The court also ruled that supervisory jurisdiction under Article 227 cannot be used to reassess evidence or replace the appellate court's discretion unless there is a manifest error or miscarriage of justice. "The statutory protection of pension is not just a technical shield but a fundamental safeguard ensuring financial dignity for retirees," the judgment noted. It further stated that contractual terms in deeds of guarantee cannot override the public policy embedded in statutory exemptions. The court vacated its earlier interim order and upheld the appellate court's protection for Singh, warning that allowing banks to enforce deductions in such a manner would nullify legal protections meant for pensioners.

early identification of land to address space-related issues and facilitate establishment of new court complex. The need for modern amenities and citizen-centric infrastructure within the premises was also emphasized. The inspection served as a crucial step in assessing the on-ground realities of the justice delivery mechanism in Budgam. Justice Kumar applauded the judicial officers of district Budgam for their services despite infrastructure constraints. The Executive Chairman also reiterated the commitment of the J&K Legal Services Authority to ensure

## Justice Sanjeev visits DCC & ADR Centre Budgam, reviews Court infrastructure

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BUDGAM: Justice Sanjeev Kumar (Administrative Judge District Budgam & Executive Chairman J&K LSA) conducted an extensive inspection of the District Court Complex & ADR Centre Budgam on Saturday. He was accompanied by Shazia Tabasum (Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority), Khurshid Ul Islam (Registrar Judicial), Central Project Coordinator e-Courts, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority. The visit was aimed at reviewing the infrastructure, functioning, accessibility and overall service delivery to the public at District Courts/ Legal Services institutions of the district.



Justice Sanjeev Kumar conducting inspection of District Court Complex & ADR Centre Budgam on Saturday.

During the inspection, he interacted in detail with the judicial officers, advocates, officials of District Court Budgam, and functionaries of DLSA Budgam. He also held a separate interaction with the panel of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), discussing their roles, challenges, and the effectiveness of legal aid being rendered to the marginalized sections of society.

Emphasis was laid on strengthening the legal aid system and ensuring timely justice delivery to the needy. A key highlight of the inspection was the detailed review of court infrastructure, where Justice Kumar took stock of available facilities, space constraints, and the need for infrastructural augmentation. He issued clear directions to the district administration for the

access to justice for all through effective legal aid services, robust infrastructure, and continuous engagement with judicial officers and legal practitioners at the grassroots level. Justice had separate session with bar members in which bar members flagged-off their grievances. He assured them that their grievances will be addressed at an earliest. This significant visit marks a major step forward in the advancement of judicial infrastructure in Budgam and reinforces the commitment of the stakeholders to ensure accessible, effective, and timely justice for the common people.

## Div Com condoles demise of SDM Ramnagar Rajinder Singh, his son

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Saturday convened a condolence meeting to mourn the tragic demise of Sub Divisional Magistrate Ramnagar, Rajinder Singh Rana and his Son in an unfortunate accident. A two minute silence was observed by the officials and staff of the Divisional Commissioner office to pay tributes to the departed



Rajinder Singh Rana and his Son in an unfortunate accident.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner visited the Government Medical College Jammu, where the injured family members are undergoing treatment. He enquired about their wellbeing from the doctors and asked them to provide the best possible treatment for quick recovery of injured family members.

## Director RDD inspects development works in Block Satwari Inaugurates upgraded Block Headquarters

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Director Rural Development Shahnaz Akhter on Saturday conducted a surprise inspection of development works being executed under different centrally sponsored schemes here in Block Satwari. During her visit to Panchayat Sunjwan Upper, Satwari and Chatha, the Director reviewed both completed and ongoing works under MGNREGA, PMAY and CD & Panchayat schemes. She emphasized strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines of each scheme and directed field staff to ensure timely completion of works, proper maintenance of records, and installation of Citizen Information Boards (CIBs) to enhance transparency and public awareness. The Director also interacted with locals to listen to their grievances. She assured them that all feasible proposals



falling within the mandate of the department would be duly considered for the betterment of facilities in the area. Later, the Director inaugurated the upgraded Block Headquarters Building at Satwari, completed under the scheme "CD & Pyt, Year 2024-25". The work included wall tiling, panelling, and other allied improvements. She underlined the importance of proper upkeep and sanitation of departmental assets, urging officials to maintain high standards of cleanliness and functionality.

The Director was accompanied by Joint Director (Administration), Avleen Kour Bali, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Jammu, Er. Danish Rasool Mir, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Jammu, Shahzada Noor-Ul-Ain, Deputy Director (Planning), Ravinder Singh Rana, Block Development Officer, Satwari, Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Accounts Officer, Mukesh Kumar, along with other officers and field functionaries of the department.

## CS reviews dev projects, flagship Govt schemes

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SHOPIAN: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday chaired a review meeting of officers of district administration Shopian during his visit to the district. He had a comprehensive review of the ongoing development projects and flagship government schemes being implemented in the district. Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, presented the overall profile of the district development parameters while the district officers presented their individual sectoral progress and achievements. The Chief Secretary reviewed various important development projects under execution in the district under funding through UT Capex, district Capex and CSSs. He also assessed progress in respect of physical and financial achievements recorded in FY 2024-25 and current year 2025-26. The meeting took stock of latest status and completion details of prominent development projects under execution in the district. These included Industrial Estate Trenz, Critical Care Block & District Integrated Public Health Lab at DH Shopian, Trenz-Shiekhpora bridge, GDC Zainapora, Polytechnic College, Indoor stadium, Transit accommodation, PRI accommodation, District Court Complex besides others. Instructions were issued to the exe-



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing review meeting at Shopian on Saturday.

cutting agencies to expedite the works under construction, ensuring their completion within stipulated timelines. Similarly, instructions were issued to the officers to enhance performance under centrally sponsored schemes and UT sector schemes while conducting department wise and scheme wise analysis and appraisal. Major schemes including HADP, JJM, RDSS, SMAS, RKVY, Mission Yuva, Tribal Plan and other farmer welfare, employment and livelihood based, social welfare, skill, education, sports, child & women and health sector among others came up for detailed review. The Chief Secretary stressed on putting SHGs on the next level, leveraging the full potential of entrepre-

neurship development schemes for socio-economic prosperity of the population. He asked for laying special focus on alleviation of unemployment among the youth by connecting SHGs, FPOs and cooperatives with enhanced credit linkages. Highlighting the potential of government schemes in employment and entrepreneurship, the Chief Secretary urged officers to harness these opportunities while ensuring public accountability, transparency, and efficiency in their implementation. While reviewing the health sector, Atal Dulloo asked for posting of at least one doctor in each PHC. He said no PHC should remain without a doctor and no H&WC and Sub centre should be without a mid level health provider. He emphasised supply of

essential medicines and their availability along with diagnostic equipment in hospitals. The Chief Secretary also asked for improving the academic outcomes in schools under HADP, PMAY, JJM, RDSS, smart metering, PMGSY, NABARD and audit of rural development assets. The meeting was attended by the district, sectoral, subdivision and other tehsil and block level officers. The CS met the local applicants and delegations and listened to their demands and grievances. He asked the concerned to take appropriate action for speedy redress of the same. Earlier, Atal Dulloo inspected the departmental stalls and interacted with the staff and beneficiaries of different government schemes. On the occasion, he also distributed sanction letters among the progressive entrepreneurs sponsored under Mission Yuva by JK Bank for establishment of enterprises. Later, the Chief Secretary visited Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple at Nagbal where he interacted with the locals and Temple management committee. He enquired about the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Hawan Shrawan Bah Festival. The locals appreciated the district administration for extending necessary support in management of Festival arrangements.