

'Employees National Federation' representatives meet Dr Jitendra, hail DoPT's proactive approach

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A delegation of the "Government Employees National Confederation" (GENC) called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh here today to discuss a wide range of service-related matters concerning Central Government employees.

The delegation appreciated the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for being consistently receptive to employee concerns and cooperative in addressing their suggestions. They particularly appreciated the proactive approach of DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training), particularly in



A delegation of the Government Employees National Confederation calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at Parliament House New Delhi.

clearing the backlog of promotions across different services, which has brought greater clarity and morale among staff.

The GENC members conveyed that these steps have helped boost morale among government staff and brought greater clarity to career progression frameworks.

The delegation thanked

Dr. Jitendra Singh for giving them appointment for meeting from time to time and thus offering them an opportunity to present their point of view and expressed confidence in the government's continued engagement on these issues.

The interaction was described as constructive, with the delegation sharing inputs on broader systemic

reforms and pressing employee concerns. Matters pertaining to the 8th Pay Commission, rationalisation of CGHS benefits, and clarity on UPS norms were taken up in the context of employee welfare and administrative efficiency.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, who holds multiple key portfolios including Minister of State (Independent Charge) for

Science & Technology and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, was receptive to the delegation's inputs. While no official statement was issued following the meeting, officials familiar with the discussion described it as part of the government's ongoing effort to maintain open channels with employee bodies and institutional stakeholders.

The meeting also covered certain concerns of the employees, suggested reforms in the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and cadre-related issues.

The delegation thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for the opportunity to present their concerns and expressed confidence in the government's continued engagement on these issues.



AIIMS Jammu performs first orbital tumor surgery, launches advanced oculoplasty services

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Ophthalmology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has successfully performed its first orbital tumor surgery (orbitotomy), marking a significant milestone in the advancement of super-specialty healthcare in the Jammu region.

This complex and high-stakes surgery was led by Dr. Nazia Anjum, Assistant Professor, who has played a pivotal role in establishing Oculoplasty services at the Institute.

She was ably supported by Dr. Asma Jabeen (Senior Resident) and Dr. Supritam Das (Junior Resident).

The procedure involved meticulous surgical planning and precision to preserve the patient's vision and vital orbital structures.

"Performing this surgery was both a challenge and an opportunity. It reflects our department's growing capabilities and our commitment to offering advanced eye care locally," said Dr. Nazia Anjum.



The patient, a middle-aged individual from rural Jammu, had been suffering from progressive eye bulging (proptosis), discomfort, and visual disturbance for several months. With limited access to specialized care in the past, his condition had gone undiagnosed until the Ophthalmology team at AIIMS Jammu undertook a detailed evaluation aided by high-resolution CT and MRI imaging. The scans revealed a high-risk orbital tumor, pressing against critical eye structures. Under the expert supervision of Dr. Nitin Kumar (Associate Professor) and the clinical guidance of Dr. Bhavani Raina (Head of Department, Ophthalmology), the team carried out a successful orbitotomy.

The tumor was excised in toto, with no intraoperative complications. Postoperatively, the patient showed excellent recovery with restored ocular alignment, no loss of vision, and significant relief from symptoms.

"This case demonstrates AIIMS Jammu's

readiness to handle advanced surgical procedures with precision and care. Our goal is to ensure that no patient in the region has to travel far for such life-changing treatments," said Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

The critical anaesthesia support during the procedure was provided by Dr. Sunaina Gupta, Dr. Raksha Kundal, Dr. Salomi Gupta, and Dr. Bindu, whose expertise ensured patient safety throughout the surgical course.

The successful completion of this surgery not only highlights the capabilities of the Department of Ophthalmology but also represents AIIMS Jammu's broader vision of delivering world-class, super-specialty care to underserved regions.

With this milestone, the institute has officially launched its Oculoplasty and Orbital Services, and plans are underway to further expand into lacrimal and eyelid surgeries, bringing a full spectrum of sub-specialty eye care to the region.

Will invoke all possible efforts to boost tourism in Ladakh: LG Kavinder Gupta

Meets with delegations, assures to address every genuine issue

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Kavinder Gupta, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, said that the Administration will invoke all possible efforts to transform Ladakh into a premier global tourism destination.

While interacting with the delegation of All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association at the LG Secretariat here on Tuesday, the Lt Governor emphasised that Ladakh's breathtaking natural beauty, unique cultural heritage, and adventure tourism potential make it a jewel of India's tourism sector.

The Lt Governor said that the Administration will also involve Bollywood stars and renowned celebrities for boosting tourism in Ladakh, thereby showcasing the Union Territory on national and international platforms. He assured that proactive measures are underway to enhance connectivity, develop world-class infrastructure, and pro-



Delegation of University of Ladakh calling on Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

note sustainable tourism initiatives.

The Lt Governor highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's personal interest in the welfare and development of Ladakh and the UT Ladakh Administration's commitment to the welfare of the people of Ladakh with Ladakh-friendly policies and initiatives.

Earlier, the members of All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association highlighted various issues faced by them, including the need to simplify norms for registration of hotels/guest houses, the need to restructure loans due to low footfall of tourists in Ladakh and making the Ladakh Residence Certificate (LRC) mandatory for registration of hotels and guest houses.

Similarly, another delegation comprising members of different wings of Anjuman Moin ul-Islam met with Lt Governor and highlighted their issues. They informed about the under-representation of the Sunni community in LAHDC Leh and highlighted the need to conduct a delimitation exercise for equal representation of their community in the upcoming LAHDC Leh elections.

Another delegation of University of Ladakh headed by its Vice-Chancellor, Prof Saket Kushwaha, informed the Lt Governor about the

convocation ceremony to be held at the Kargil Campus on 5th September, along with the launch of the website on space science and related fields as a part of the collaboration between the University of Ladakh and the Indian Space Research Organisation in the last week of August.

Additionally, Chief Representative Officer (CRO), Choglamsar Sonamling, Tashi Dhondup, members of All Ladakh Taxi Operators Cooperative Limited and 207 Union, Anganwadi Workers along with officials from HDFC Bank, also met Lt Governor and highlighted their concerns and operational challenges.

Giving patient hearing to the visiting delegations, the Lt Governor assured them that the Administration is committed to addressing their concerns. He reaffirmed that every genuine issue raised by the stakeholders would be duly examined, and necessary steps will be taken to ensure the overall development and prosperity of Ladakh, while maintaining its unique cultural and environmental heritage.

IGP Jammu leads Integrity Pledge ceremony as part of 'Day of Resolution for Freedom from Corruption'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In observance of August 5 as the "Day of Resolution for Freedom from Corruption," a solemn Integrity Pledge Ceremony was held on Tuesday at Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) Jammu. The event was presided over by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, who administered the pledge to all officers and staff. The ceremony underscored the department's firm commitment to promoting transparency, ethical conduct, and zero tolerance for corruption across all levels of policing. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, through an official order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) in year 2022, had mandated that all public officers observe August 5 annually by organizing pledge-taking ceremonies to reaffirm commitment to a corruption-free administration.

The order further directs that the week following August 5 be observed as "Vigilance Awareness Week", during which government departments will conduct seminars, workshops, and IEC activities focused on enhancing transparency, digital governance, and reducing human interface in public service delivery. IGP Jammu Zone, after administering the pledge, stressed that corruption continues to be one of the most serious



impediments to national progress and emphasized the need for institutional integrity at every level of policing. He reiterated the collective responsibility of all personnel to foster a work culture that is honest, service-oriented, and aligned with public expectations. The ceremony was attended by SO to IGP Jammu, Shamsheer Hussain, JKPS, along with officers and staff posted at ZPHQ Jammu. The pledge taken by the officers encapsulated key ethical values such as the rejection of bribery, adherence to legal and regulatory frameworks and ensuring the protection of stakeholder rights.

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Several legislators meet CM, raise issues concerning development

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss a range of public concerns and development issues of their respective constituencies.

The legislators who met the Chief Minister included Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah), Saifuddin Bhat (Khan Sahib) and Javed Iqbal Choudhary (Budhal).

During the meeting, the MLAs brought to the Chief Minister's attention various constituency-specific issues relating to infrastructure development, public service delivery and implementation of welfare schemes. They urged for swift redressal of pressing public demands to ensure



Several MLAs calling on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday.

timely benefits reach the people. The MLAs further urged the Chief Minister to take necessary measures for early opening of

tourist destinations of Tosamaidan and Doodhpathri in Budgam district, as the livelihoods of the local population

depend on these areas. The legislators also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for recently extending the power amnesty scheme to electricity consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. They lauded the initiative as a significant step towards providing relief to thousands of households grappling with non-payment of timely power bills resulting in interest and penalty on principal amount and making it difficult for them to clear the payments.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the legislators that the government remains committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts between the administration and elected representatives for inclusive development.

UN could not execute Indian Complaint for 77 yrs-Is it not time to make a direct call on Pakistan to move out of POJK by an appointed date?

How long will status of Internally Displaced Persons & not of 'refugees' will continue for POJK-1947 DPs? Voicing concern only through UN desk route is not going to make Pakistan behave and yield occupied areas

DAYA SAGAR
In February 1992 J&K was engulfed in acute militancy as well as separatist activities so it can be argued by some that Sri. P. V Narasimha Rao government (June 21, 1991 to May 16, 1996; Congress MPs 252 and BJP MPs 121) might not have asked Pakistan to vacate the areas by an appointed date since what next after Pakistan does not vacate could be the question and Mr. Narasimha Rao did not return for 2nd term in 1996. Instead from May 1996 till Oct 1999 India had two Lok Sabha elections (11th and 12th) and four Coalition Governments(Atal Behari Vajpayee Ji- (May 16, 1996 to June 1, 1996) , H.D. Deva Gowda ji (June 1, 1996 to April 21, 1997) , I.K. Gujral Ji (April 21, 1997 to March 19, 1998) and Atal Behari Vajpayee

ji (March 19, 1998 to October 10, 1999). No doubt after 22 Feb 1994 also once again there was a war between India and Pakistan initiated by Pakistan in 1999 along Ladakh region of J&K but that did end in only throwing out the Pakistan intruders / forces from areas intruded in 1999.

Even after Narasimha Rao Government i.e after 1996 no government had carried the demand of Parliament pointedly to Pakistan fixing some appointed date for vacation without war and hence some onemay plead with same 'reason' that governments were not that stable and hence what next in case Pakistan did not vacate. Simply contesting no party was in clear majority and difficult to take extreme decisions do not stand on firm footing with respect to India nation since whenever there is danger from

external forces all political parties have been standing with party / minority government in power.

After 1999 three coalition governments did last full terms, For 13th Lok Sabha (PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee BJP- NDA- 10 Oct 1999 to 22 May 2004' BJP189 MP/ Cong 118 MP) , 14th Lok Sabha (PM Man Mohan Singh Ji UPA 17 - 5- 2004 to 18-5- 2009; Congress 259MP and BJP 144 MP) and 15th Lok Sabha (PM Man Mohan Singh Ji (May 18, 2009-May 18, 2014 UPA Congress 211 MP BJP 119 MP)) and one could still plead in defence like what next in case Pakistan does not vacate by an appointed date.

After 15th Lok Sabha Elections (

A Look through the Mist Part-II



Government) even that compulsion of old having prevailing authority for taking decisions does not appear to be there to defend.

It was on 21st March 2018 that in reply to Rajya Sabha Q. No 2957 (SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN) : (a) whether Government is still committed to the resolution on Jammu and Kashmir passed by the Parliament on 22nd February, 1994; and (b) if so, the measures taken to liberate Pakistan Occupied Kashmir from Pakistan? , The Minister of State MHA Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir

had said < "India is committed under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, to resolve all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions." Here too no material reply on liberation of POJK was made. Before that it was on 12-12-2018 that replying to a question in Lok Sabha (*32. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA) , External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj without elaborating on where and in what form the issue was raised with Pakistan, had said "We have repeatedly and consistently called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation, most recently on November 30, 2018." Still it was so "hitting" that even in 2020 Shrimati Mala Roy MP went to the extent of even asking the government < whether the Government is aware of a

Parliament resolution on PoK ?>. In reply to a Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 2977 on 1994 resolution on POJK from Shrimati Mala Roy asking :a) whether the Government is aware of a Parliament resolution on PoK; (c) the details of steps taken till date on PoK? it was on 11-03-2020 that "The Minister of State MEA V. Muraleedharan replied by saying <" Government monitors all developments taking place in the territories of India including in territories that are under illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. We have consistently called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal and forcible occupation, >" But no specific details were given for steps taken till date on "PoK" (POJK) liberation.

To be continued (The writer is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs)