

Dr Jitendra informs RS about unique initiative for IAS aspirants

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who also holds charge of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), presented in the Rajya Sabha a detailed account of key government initiatives aimed at supporting UPSC aspirants and ensuring effective implementation of reservation policies in Central Government services.

Addressing a question on employment opportunities for unsuccessful UPSC candidates, Dr. Singh spoke about the innovative "Public Disclosure Scheme", launched to provide alternative career opportunities to civil services aspirants who reach the interview stage but are not finally selected. Under this scheme, recruitment agencies publicly share the data of non-recommended candidates—those who cleared prelims and mains but did



not qualify in the interview. This information is accessible to private and public sector employers via the National Career Service (NCS) portal, managed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Additionally, Dr. Singh highlighted

the 'Pratibha-Setu' portal, launched by UPSC to enable private companies, PSUs, and other organizations to access and recruit from this pool of highly qualified candidates. Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, over 52,910 candidates appeared for UPSC interviews, out of which 33,950 were not selected—these candidates now stand to benefit from these new platforms.

In response to a separate query, Dr. Singh reaffirmed the Government's strong commitment to social justice through reservations in government jobs. He outlined the existing reservation quotas 15% for SCs, 7.5% for STs, and 27% for OBCs in direct recruitment, along with 4% reservation for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). In promotions, SCs and STs continue to receive 15% and 7.5% reservations, respectively.

To address backlog vacancies, the

Government has taken multiple measures, including constituting In-House Committees, conducting root cause analyses, and launching Special Recruitment Drives.

Ministries are also required to appoint Liaison Officers and establish Special Reservation Cells to monitor and ensure compliance. Since 2016, approximately 4.8 lakh backlog reserved vacancies have been filled, demonstrating the Government's commitment to equity and inclusion.

Dr. Singh also informed the House about SANKALP, a digital platform linking pensioners with NGOs for voluntary work. With over 2,000 pensioners, 46 associations, and 16 organizations registered, the platform also facilitates Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshops, helping retirees transition into purposeful post-retirement engagement.



Sanatan Dharma cultivates discipline, inner strength to protect self from destructive influences like deadly drug menace: Zorawar



Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal speaking at Viraat Mahayagya.

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JAMMU: In a spiritually enriching and culturally significant event, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman Team Jammu, participated in the Viraat Mahayagya organized for the consecration of 1.25 lakh Parthiv Shivlings, held under the divine guidance of Shree Mirdul Shastri Ji Maharaj.

The event witnessed the participation of hundreds of devotees, saints, and social activists united by the shared vision of spiritual upliftment and societal reform.

Addressing the gathering, Zorawar made a powerful appeal to parents and guardians across the region to remain vigilant against the rising threat of drug abuse

among youth.

He stressed that the growing menace of narcotics can only be countered through a holistic and value-based approach, deeply rooted in the teachings of Sanatan Dharma.

"Sanatan Dharma is not merely a religion; it is a way of life that cultivates discipline, compassion, and inner strength. These are the very values we must impart to our children if we are to protect them from destructive influences," he said.

Zorawar highlighted the efforts of Team Jammu, a volunteer-driven organization actively working to combat drug abuse through awareness campaigns, de-addiction initiatives, and youth engagement.

He called upon all sections of society, especially the youth, to reconnect with their cultural and spiritual roots to find strength and purpose.

Mahant Rajesh Giri, organizational general secretary, All J&K Sadhu Sant Samaj, also graced the occasion and blessed the gathering. In his address, he emphasized the urgent need for spiritual awakening among the masses to combat social evils.

In a gesture of encouragement and appreciation, Mridul Shastri Maharaj commended the impactful work being carried out by Team Jammu and offered his divine blessings to all its volunteers. He emphasized that such grassroots efforts are essential in preserving the moral fabric of society.

Tara Chand demands solid employment policy for J&K

Daily Wagers, need based & contractual workers be regularized

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KHOUR: Working President, Pradesh Congress Committee and Former Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand demanded a solid employment policy for Jammu & Kashmir with immediate regularization of all daily wagers, need based and contractual workers already engaged in different departments and public undertakings.

Addressing a monthly meeting in border village Chak Malal of Chhamb Constituency today, Tara Chand said that Governments both Central and UT are busy in misleading the public by shutting the responsibility of providing employment to educated and trained youth of Jammu & Kashmir on one another.

These Governments are totally failed in fulfilling the promises made at the time of elections. He said, about one lakh vacancies are still lying vacant in various depart-



Working President PCC, Tara Chand addressing public meeting.

ments. Even a single youth did not get himself engaged in Educational Department as teacher. Educated and trained youth after completing their respective education/ training heading towards outside states to ensure job for their livelihood. Thousands of daily wagers who are at the verge of retirement are still hoping for their services to be regularized. Before announcing J&K as union territory, the innocent voters got buttered for more jobs and even cheap

prices for essential commodities, 12 cylinders, free ration and good paced development for border areas were the main promises made by the representatives who are now at helm of affairs and in govts.

Recalling his Govt's days pre 2014, Tara Chand claimed that Rehbr-e- Jirat, Rehbr-e- Taleem, Rehbr-e- Khel etc was their approach to adjust unemployed educated youth of state and its also matter of satisfaction that all are now working as

responsible employees earning handsome salaries.

Describing restoration of statehood for J&K as basic right of the people, Tara Chand said that on various occasions honorable Prime Minister and Home Minister both in and outside parliament also promised in this regard but did not fulfill this so far. This right was snatched 6 yrs ago on 5th August 2019, the prosperous Dogra State was degraded to UT and by this way the Central Govt has inflicted

wounds on we Dogras.

He hoped that Govt. should respect the aspirations of people of J&K who are continuously steering on the ongoing parliament session in which a legislation can be introduced anytime to restore statehood. It's the obligation of Central Govt. not a favour as per the rights of genuine residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those who also spoke were Madan Lal Sharma, Pt. Som Raj, Ex. Sarpanch Tarsem Singh, Ex President Municipal Committee Khour Ashok Sharma, Suraj Singh, Kasturi Lal, Mohan Lal, Romesh Verma, Pt. Govind Ram, Bodh Raj Sharma, Sham Lal Radhe, Block President Raj Kumar Sharma, Yash Paul Sharma, Devinder Singh Bittu, Hans Raj Bhagat, Mukesh Kumar, Veena Devi, Sarfo Devi, Neelam Devi, Sharda Devi, Bachno Devi, Pt. Kamal Chand and others.

Our young minds need proper platforms to express their positivity, creativity: Andrabi

Inaugurates three-day training workshop by NCPUL



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi speaking at a workshop.

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SRINAGAR: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday participated in the inauguration event of a three-day training workshop titled "Development of Literary & Creative Skills in New Generation" organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language at the Chinar Book Festival 2025 as Chief Guest today.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that our new generation

has greater potential and she was convinced about their creative potentialities.

"We only need to chisel the talent of our youth and provide them suitable platforms to express themselves. Encouragement and pushing the capabilities of our young generation can give us surprising results", said Waqf Board Chairperson.

She congratulated the Director of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) Dr Shamas Iqbal and the Dean

Arts of Kashmir University Prof Aijaz Mohammed Sheikh for organising this much needed workshop for young writers on the sidelines of the Chinar Book Festival.

"We have come out of a long spell of suppression and violence which has crushed the potentialities of our youth. Such fairs, festivals and workshops are a necessity to let our youth come out of the darkness of suppression and express themselves with positivity and confidence", said the writer politician Andrabi.

Khatana lauds PM for India's economic resurgence, global growth milestones

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NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana has

praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for steering India towards a phase of sustained economic buoyancy, calling the recent economic indicators a testament to strong and visionary leadership.

Citing the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s latest report, MP Khatana highlighted that the IMF has lifted India's FY26 growth outlook to 6.4%, while also raising projections for FY27, driven by favourable external factors and robust internal reforms.

He noted that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has made significant strides in global trade and manufacturing, including the landmark achievement of overtaking China in smart-

phone exports to the U.S. with a staggering 240% jump in manufacturing output.

Khatana further underscored that inflation is now at a six-year low, while jobs and trade have remained steady as India enters FY26 on strong footing. He also praised the 17-year high in

India's private sector manufacturing PMI and the remarkable rise in pharmaceutical exports to \$30.5 billion, fueled by complex generics and an ambitious global expansion strategy.

"These achievements reflect the strength of India's economic fundamentals and the bold reforms undertaken by the government under Prime Minister Modi's leadership," Khatana said, adding that India is now poised to emerge as a global manufacturing and innovation hub.

Need to change mindset of youth to help them become job-providers instead of job-seekers: LG Kavinder

Pushes for Entrepreneurship Courses in 5 New Districts



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta with officials from EDII Ahmedabad and Adm Secretary Skill Development Ladakh.

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LEIH: There is a need to change the mindset of youth by providing them with entrepreneurial skills so that they can become job creators instead of job seekers. Upskilling the youth would help in promoting unique local products on the national and global stage. This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Kavinder Gupta, in his meeting with officials from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad. In the meeting, the Lt Governor highlighted the need to change the mindset of youth to seek government jobs and instead provide necessary entrepreneurial skills to them so that they can come up with their own start-ups and provide jobs to others. He also emphasised introducing entrepreneurship courses in the five new districts to encourage them to come up with their own ventures. The

Lt Governor asked officials from EDII Ahmedabad and the Administrative Secretary, Skill Development Department, UT Ladakh, to publicise the courses and schemes so that more youth are attracted to join the classes. By enrolling in the course, Lt Governor stated that even youth from remote areas of Ladakh can come up with a viable business venture, such as dairy farming, to meet the needs of Army officials based in Ladakh. In the meeting, the officials from EDII Ahmedabad and the Administrative Secretary from UT Ladakh informed about entrepreneurship courses introduced in Ladakh under the banner of Enterprising Ladakh. They also informed about the upcoming National Entrepreneurship Day on November 9th in which 100 ventures of local youth are planned to be launched.

Three-Day Induction Programme at JU concludes with cultural bonanza

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JAMMU: A spectacular celebration of creativity, culture, and student talent marked the grand valedictory of the three-day Induction Programme at the University of Jammu (JU), as Utsaah-The Clubs Consortium organized a Cultural Bonanza at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium.

Addressing the students at the Valedictory function, the Chief Guest, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, called the university clubs a driving force for unity, creativity, and personal growth. "Clubs are not about drawing boundaries—they're about expanding possibilities. Creativity belongs to no one domain. Our aim must be to nurture talent, encourage collaboration, and create an inclusive environment where every student has the space to express and evolve," he said.

Prof. Rai assured of contin-



Chief Guest, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor JU along with faculty members and participating students.

ued institutional support for student-led initiatives, emphasising their role in enhancing critical thinking, reducing stress, and building confidence.

Reflecting on Utsaah's journey, Prof. Rai acknowledged the strong foundation laid under Prof. Satnam's convenship, and encouraged all clubs to reignite that momentum. He assured full administrative backing and

expressed his firm belief in creative freedom as a cornerstone of campus life.

Applauding the efforts of Prof. Meena Sharma, Convenor Utsaah, and all club coordinators, he noted, "They are not just classroom educators; they are nurturing a thriving ecosystem of co-curricular excellence with passion and vision."

Earlier, Prof. Meena Sharma, in her welcome

address, introduced Utsaah - The Clubs Consortium as a platform committed to encouraging student leadership, self-expression, and community engagement.

A spirited series of presentations and performances, were showcased with each club bringing its unique flavour to the stage.

All the club coordinators gave an overview of their respective clubs. The Film

Club showcased a short film exploring contemporary themes. The Nature & Wildlife Club highlighted its conservation campaigns through impactful visuals from green drives and nature trails.

The Science Club presented student-led activities. The Theatre Club captivated the audience with a socially relevant skit, while the Photography Club displayed

compelling snapshots capturing the essence of life. The Literary Club mesmerised the gathering with soulfully composed and performed self-composed songs.

The Community and Social Services Club presented its outreach efforts, including blood donation drives and community engagement programmes. The Painting Club brought colour to the event with a live art demonstra-

tion, and the Music Club delivered a powerful performance of Sufi kalam and fusion mashups, leaving a lasting impression.

A high-energy performance by the Dance Club blended classical grace, folk rhythm, and contemporary flair. The celebration culminated in a vibrant Heritage Ramp Walk, jointly presented by the Heritage Club and the Translation Club, where stu-

dents walked the stage in traditional attire representing regions rich cultural and linguistic diversity.

The event culminated with a thunderous Bhangra performance that had the entire auditorium clapping and dancing along.

The three-day Induction Programme was jointly organized by the office of Dean Academic Affairs and Department of Students Welfare.

Among others present on the occasion included Prof. Anju Bhasin Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Pankaj K Srivastava, Director CDOE, Prof. Prakash Antahal Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. J P Singh Joorel, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Sanjeev Mahajan, CoE, Deans, Rectors, Directors, Heads, Club coordinators, faculty members, officers, staff and students.