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1 JUL 2022

A more integrated, holistic and synergized approach by IIPA has been the hallmark of the training programmes conducted by it, benefitting the participants from different walks of life, says Dr. Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, called upon participant officers of the 10-month 48th Advanced Professional Programme on Public Administration (AP-PPA) to develop the culture of working with “whole of government approach”, in order to provide common solutions and better outcomes.

The Minister, who is also Chairman Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), said that a more integrated, holistic and synergized approach by IIPA is the hallmark of the training programmes conducted by it, benefitting the participants from different walks of life. Dr. Jitendra Singh also inaugurated the new conference hall of the IIPA.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of 48th Advanced Professional Programme on Public Administration (APPPA) in New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), said that India is fortunate to have a Prime Minister like Shri Narendra Modi who is supportive of new ideas, progressive in thinking and is ready to take decisions benefitting public at large.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted with satisfaction that the APPPA Course has undergone changes and new areas like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Mission Karmayogi apart from other important government initiatives have been covered. He said that time to work in silos is over and there is need for better coordination and cohesion amongst Ministries / Departments of the country. He said that it will help the officers in better understanding and appreciation of various socio-economic schemes.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated the Mantra given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’ and mentioned that the government has been forthcoming about decisions. He announced that process for mass promotions to around 8,000 employees in central government departments has been taken up. Referring to the drastic and visible change in the work culture since May, 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out several out of box decisions like doing away with several old practices. He also referred to the “Prashan Gaon Ki Or” initiative of DoPT which is based on District Development Index programme to take administration and services to the ground level. A total of 37 officers of Defence forces and civil services are participating in 10-month long 48th APPA which will conclude on 28th April, 2023.

The APPPA course was started in 1975 and was first of its kind in the Mid-career training segment designed for middle-level Civil Servants and Defence forces officers. About 1600 officers have attended this course so far from 1975 and this programme has been the flagship programme of IIPA.

APPA deals in a variety of subjects useful for middle level officers to prepare them for more responsible leadership and decision-making positions. It encompasses a wide range of modules from Public Administration, Finance, Digital Governance, Cyber Security, Agriculture economics, Urban Governance and Consumer Protection to Environment and Climate Change and Social Systems. S N Tripathi, Director General, IIPA, Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar IIPA, VN Alok, Course Director and Ms. Kusum Lata, Assistant Course Director (APPPA) and officers of IIPA and all the participants of 48th APPPA course attended the inauguration ceremony.

01 JUL 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh hails DoPT for granting mass promotion to over 8,000 government employees in one go, the promotees belong to three key secretariat services

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh announced the DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) decision of granting mass promotion to over 8,000 government employees in one go. The promotees belong to three key secretariat services. Dr Jitendra Singh said the orders for mass promotion of these employees belonging to the Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographers’ Service (CSSS) and Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) have been issued after several rounds of high-level meetings in DoPT chaired by him in the last two-months. The Minister said, even legal experts were consulted widely as some of the orders were subject to the outcome of pending writ petitions.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, it was disheartening to see government employees attaining retirement from service without getting one’s due promotion and thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for this kind decision. Of the total of 8,089 promoted employees, 4,734 are from CSS, 2,966 from CSSS and 389 from CSCS.

Dr Jitendra Singh also met delegations of Central Secretariat officials on several occasions to thrash out the issue, as he considered that these three services – CSS, CSSS and CSCS form the backbone of the central secretariat administrative functioning. Dr Jitendra Singh also recalled that over three years back, DoPT had carried out mass promotions of nearly 4,000 officials in different departments at different levels, which had been widely hailed. Many of these promotion orders were also issued, subject to the outcome of pending writ petitions, he recalled.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the secretariat services are an essential tool of governance, since the notes and drafts prepared by them form the bedrock of Government policies as the proposals pass through various stages in the government hierarchy.

05 JUL 2022

Dr. Jitendra Singh chairs meeting of Executive Council of IIPA in New Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), announced the setting up of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration in the field of academic excellence, in memory of the first President of India who had also laid the foundation stone of the IIPA building complex in the national capital. While presiding over the 320th meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the Director General and staff of IIPA for receiving the ISO 9001:2015 certification and said, this speaks volume of the excellent work being done by this premier training institution of the Government of India.

The Union Minister also suggested a one-day visit of the Assistant Secretaries to the Government of India, to the Indian Institute of Public Administration to have a firsthand understanding of the training programmes being undertaken by it. He also opined that visits of the officers of friendly neighbouring countries like Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka etc to IIPA should also be organized.



The Union Minister said that the institute has to have a futuristic vision for the next 25 years to attain the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and, to achieve this, the institute needs to have an integrated approach to work in cohesion with similar departments/organizations/set-ups and entities with similar scope and focus, related to training, administrative expertise. The Minister said that IIPA has the capacity and it needs to continue performing by having an enlarged pool of experts and a wide spectrum of activities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed satisfaction on the enthusiastic number of serving and former civil servants and eminent academicians taking membership of the IIPA. The Minister appreciated the work done by IIPA, including conducting 75 training programmes in 2021-22 and 20 in period from April-June, 2022. IIPA also trained 12,795 participants in 2021-22 and 542 so far from April- to June, 2022. It also organized 75 online training programs in 2021-22 and 05 in the first quarter of 2022-23.

The Minister was apprised of the action taken on the minutes of the 319th Meeting of the EC held on 27th September, 2021.

The IIPA's Executive Council has the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as its President and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as chairman. The meeting was attended by members of IIPA's Executive Council, including, Shri Shekhar Dutt, former Governor, Chhattisgarh, Shri Srinivas R. Katikithala, Director, LBSNAA, Shri GP Prasain, Shri GR Kurup, Shri KK Pandey, along with Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member-Secretary, EC and Shri Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA. Several regional branches also attended the meeting virtually.

06 JUL 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, under PM Narendra Modi, DoPT is coordinating institutionalised capacity building of civil servants and for this purpose, an integrated approach is being followed with active involvement of Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Department of Administrative Reforms (DARPG), LBSNAA Mussoorie, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and ISTM

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) is coordinating institutionalised capacity building of civil servants and for this purpose, an integrated approach is being followed with active involvement of Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Department of Administrative Reforms (DARPG), LBSNAA Mussoorie, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and ISTM. Last 8 years of the Modi Government have changed the very ethos of governance in India, said the Minister.

Chairing the 3rd brainstorming session on Mission Karmayogi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the three important pillars of capacity building are that of implementation of national priorities, citizen-centricity and how best and fast to adapt to new and emerging technologies. He, however, underlined that an ideal public administration must be competitive, efficient, cost effective and accountable to deliver good governance.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Mission Karmayogi will propose to the government for collaboration, coordination, sharing and action, which is the very essence of Capacity Building Commission. He said, with 60 Ministries, 93 Departments and 2600 organisations, enough demand is likely to be generated for appropriate training of civil servants in tune with the rapidly changing technological landscape.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed satisfaction that after 75 years of independence for the first time, India has its own Capacity Building Framework. He expressed hope that India will help and augment the civil services framework of 73 odd Commonwealth Countries, which inherited British civil service as a legacy. The Minister said, with time the Global South will share the best governance practices with Global North.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the imperative need of shift from "rule" to "role" in governance is essential to meet PM Narendra Modi's goal of New India and live up to its aspirations. He said, the era of generalists is over and this is far more relevant to Administration as we are entering the age of super-specialisation. He said, a civil service 'fit-for-purpose' and 'fit-for-future' requires a competency driven capacity building approach that focuses on imparting competencies critical to discharge its roles and that is exactly the main goal of Mission Karmayogi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Capacity Building Commission of India will be publishing an 'Annual Health of Civil Services Report' (AHC-SR) this year itself, which will take a deeper look at the performance of the Indian civil service and how Mission Karmayogi is impacting capacity building in the civil service. He opined that the concept of 'Good governance' is not alien to India and is well captured even in the country's ancient literature. It has been seen as a comprehensive pathway to achieving the ideal state of serving people and overcoming the crisis and challenges in administration. He said that in our ancient literature, the foundation of good governance is based on Dharma (righteousness). One who practises 'Dharma' immediately distinguishes oneself from the present materialistic repository of values. For a Civil servant following the path of Dharma and supporting it with good Karma will lead to administrative excellence. The earliest works on Public administration in India have been illustrated in various sacred texts such as Vedas, Buddhist literatures, and Jain canonical works.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that present governments can use the learning of traditional, historical knowledge and recent administrative reform attempts to further improve governance and achieve the goal of Maximum Governance, minimum government. The Minister expressed hope that Mission Karmayogi will be a key enabler in continuously augmenting and enhancing delivery, and over the time will be able to support in achieving the goal of \$5 Trillion economy set by the Prime Minister. He said, the foundations of this Mission are rooted in the recognition that a citizen-centric civil service empowered with role right attitude, functional expertise and domain knowledge will result in improved ease of living and ease of doing business. He said, in the background of ever-changing demographics, digital penetration as well as growing social and political awareness, there is a need to empower the civil servants to be more dynamic and professional.

09 JUL 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, PRIs are essential messengers of PM Narendra Modi's public welfare schemes: Calls for 100 percent coverage of beneficiaries and complete awareness of pro-people, pro-poor welfare schemes of Modi Government

Describing the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and their representatives as the essential messengers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Welfare Schemes, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that Panches, Sarpanches as well as the elected representatives in Block and District Councils have an opportunity to play a distinct role in reaching out to the last man in the last queue, at the grassroot level, and ensuring for providing him the benefit of each of the pro-poor and welfare schemes introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the last 8 years.

Addressing a gathering of the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the presence of Uttar Pradesh State Minister for Panchayati Raj, Choudhary Bhupinder Singh and others, Dr Jitendra Singh observed that right from beginning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

given priority to the empowerment of PRIs and to strengthen them to empowering the man standing at the last end of the shore. He recalled how Prime Minister Modi has ensured elections of District Councils in Jammu & Kashmir for the first time after seven decades and had also gone ahead with Panchayat elections in spite of resistance from certain opposition parties in the State.

The importance that Prime Minister Modi accords to the PRIs is borne out of the latest example of the 'Panchayati Raj Diwas' held in the month of April for which Prime Minister chose to hold the programme at Palli Panchayat near Jammu and from there he addressed the PRIs across the country. It is, therefore, now also the responsibility of the PRIs to ensure that not a single deserving citizen is left out from getting the benefit of schemes like PM Awas Yojna, Ujjwala Yojna, PM Garib Kalyan Yojna, PM Kissan Nidhi, Swachhata Yojna, etc, he added.

The Minister called for 100 percent coverage of beneficiaries and complete awareness of pro-people, pro-poor welfare schemes introduced by Prime Minister Modi. He said, this is fully in tune with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's philosophy of Antyodaya, which means rise of the last person.

Dr Jitendra Singh exhorted the PRI representatives to work in close coordination with district administration to ensure that no one should be left behind from every scheme for the welfare of the poor. He also asked each beneficiary of the scheme to add at least two more deserving persons to help achieve the saturation target.

Quoting from the Prime Minister's recent speech at 'Utkarsh Samaroh' in Bharuch, Gujarat, Dr Jitendra Singh noted that in 2014 almost half of the country's population was deprived of facilities like toilets, vaccination, electricity connection and bank accounts. He said, over the years, with everyone's efforts, the Centre has been able to bring many schemes closer to 100% saturation and after 8 years, there is a need to rededicate ourselves with renewed determination and resolve.

10 JUL 2022

Game changer schemes like Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana, Jan Dhan, Ujjawala, Sauchalaya, PM Aawas, Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Bijli and Ayushman made Modi a champion of poor and downtrodden: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will always be credited for having introduced a new work culture in India wherein each of the pro-poor and public welfare schemes were designed in such a manner so as to reach the most needy or the last man in the last queue, regardless of cast, creed, religion or vote consideration. Similarly, considering the emerging scenario of contemporary India, Modi has constantly boosted StartUps who should be capable of earning their own livelihood, he said.

Addressing a press conference in Moradabad, UP, Dr Jitendra Singh said, purely objective parameters were followed to meet the requirement, wherever the requirement was not met in the past and to deliver justice wherever justice had been denied in the past. This, he said, was quite a departure from the past practice followed by Congress and its allied governments wherein vote bank politics pre-determined the selective rolling out of State benefits. Modi successfully raised the standards of public delivery much above the vote consideration, based on the principle of justice for all and then left to the public to decide whom they wanted to vote for, and the public too endorsed this approach by returning the Modi government for the second term with a much higher mandate than the earlier election, he added. Citing an example, the Union Minister said, the citizen-centric schemes like PM Awas Yojna, Ujjawala Yojna, Sochalaya, etc., reached every such household where these amenities were found lacking and the authorities never asked as to which religion or caste the family belongs to, or which political party

they had voted for in the last election. This new work culture, he said, will become a new norm in Indian politics and the masses will expect every political party to follow the same.

During a short span of 8 years, the Centre has been able to bring many schemes closer to 100% saturation and benefits are given to deserving people by following the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas". Dr Jitendra Singh said that due to game changer schemes like Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana, Jan Dhan, Ujjawala, Sauchalaya, PM Aawas, Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Bijli and Ayushman, the people of the country have reposed faith in Modi Government time and again both at the Centre and in most of the States. He said, people are getting the benefits of welfare schemes without any discrimination, unlike in the past, when appeasement policy was rampant. The Minister emphasised that these welfare measures brought crores of people out of the clutches of abject poverty and gave them a life of dignity.

Dr Jitendra Singh told the journalists that they can find out themselves that the beneficiaries of these welfare schemes belong to all caste, creed and religion as the lists of beneficiaries are made with full objectivity and without any bias, as was the case in earlier dispensations. The Minister also added that these schemes along with other measures like rural job scheme have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor and have helped raise their standard of living to a level of dignity. The Minister also emphasised that full benefits are directly reaching to the needy without any leakages through a transparent and efficient delivery mechanism. Giving the example of North-Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh said prior to 2014, the region suffered economically due to myopic policies of the successive Central Governments, but soon after the Modi government took over in 2014, Prime Minister had stated that every effort would be made to bring the North Eastern region at par with the more developed regions of the country. He said, in the last eight years, not only developmental gaps were bridged successfully, but the North-Eastern Region has also gained psychological confidence. He added that significant development in terms of Road, Rail and Air connectivity is helping facilitate the movement of goods and persons not only across the region but also across the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh also gave the example of Mizoram to the scribes that the state was always opposed to BJP, but without any discrimination, Modi Government helped in establishment of Citrus Fruit "Centre of Excellence" in Mizoram with the help of Israeli technology. He said, the Citrus Fruit Centre has emerged as a unique of its kind institution in India which, though located in Mizoram, caters to the entire North-Eastern region and indeed, to the entire country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that because of the impetus given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which began with his call for "Startup India StandUp India" from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2015, the number of StartUps in India has grown to 70,000 from about 300 to 400 which is something to be cherished by youth of Uttar Pradesh who want to have a career in different Start-Ups. There are more than 100 unicorns in India and Biotech StartUps have shown an upward swing.

The Minister reiterated the need to spread awareness, particularly among youth, about vast unexplored avenues of Startup and the technology as well as financial support being offered by the government to StartUps. Dr. Jitendra Singh also noted that the eight years of Modi Government has set a new dawn and direction to 'Yuva Shakti' and 'Nari Shakti' in the country giving prominence to their aspirations, objectives and goals.



12 JUL 2022

The Minister delivers the valedictory address at the two-day Regional Conference on the theme “Bringing Citizens, Entrepreneurs and Government Closer for Good Governance” in Bengaluru

Delivering the valedictory address at the two-day Regional Conference on Governance in Bengaluru organized by DARPG and Karnataka Government, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the hallmark of Modi’s governance model is his capacity to take out-of-box decisions, break the taboos of the past and the capacity to convert government’s campaign into mass campaign on the basis of his courage, conviction and sincerity.

Referring to the theme of the conference, “Bringing Citizens, Entrepreneurs and Government Closer for Good Governance”, Dr Jitendra Singh listed a series of such reforms having wider social implications. The Minister recalled that within three months of taking charge in May, 2014, Prime Minister took the most revolutionary and path-breaking decision of abolition of attestation of certificates by gazetted officers instead promoting self-attestation, thus reposing faith in youth of India. Similarly, Narendra Modi had suggested the abolition of interviews during Independence Day address from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2015 and the same was implemented by DoPT from 1st January 2016 that paved the way for level playing field for all the candidates.

The Minister said, number of complaints in CPGRAMS increased from 2 lakh per year in 2014 to 25 lakh per year at present, which also reflects positively that here is a government which listens to citizens grievances promptly and addresses them. PM Excellence Awards focusing on flagship schemes rather than the individual profile of officers was another far-reaching governance reforms promoting healthy competition among 750 districts, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed the delegates that by the end of this year, the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) under DoPT is gearing up to conduct computer-based online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-Gazetted posts. He added that to begin with, the test will be conducted in 12 Languages and gradually it will include all the 22 languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, which will overcome the complaints of language bias coming from some southern states.

The Minister said, Prime Minister’s Mantra of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance means more involvement of citizens, innovation, use of latest techniques and transparency. He said, the ultimate aim of all governance models is to reach out to the last man in the last queue to empower him economically. He said, there is a need to try to adopt best practices from each other and implement them in our respective sectors, regions and states. He mentioned that the Government has made the States coupled with similar problems so that they can share their expertise and experiences related to similar issues and also success stories to learn from each other.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, based on the model of Aspirational Districts, DARPG has introduced the novel concept of District Good Governance Index. He said, Jammu and Kashmir was the first state where the District Index was released in January this year followed by Uttar Pradesh and now the work is on in Madhya Pradesh. He said, the District Good Governance Index is a milestone and it is expected that it will provide a robust framework for evidence-based assessment of the performance of all the districts in the states. The Minister also informed the gathering that in next phase the index will move to Block and Panchayat level. Dr. K. Sudhakar, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, Government of Karnataka in his address said, people-centric governance model is being followed in the state. Referring to success of “Ease of Doing Business”, he said that because of conducive business eco-sys-

tem, 400 odd MNCs have set up units in Karnataka. Dr Sudhakar also referred to the RRR model of Recognise, Respond and Redress to empower the youth and the common man. Secretary, DARPG, Shri V. Srinivas said, the conference is an effort to bring the Government and Citizens closer through various administrative reforms at centre, state and district level. The is being enabled by use of digital technology, pursuing next generation reforms and innovations with policy objective of “Maximum Governance, Minimum Government”, entailing Government process Re-Engineering, Universal access to e-services, excellence in digital initiatives at district level and excellence in adopting emerging technologies and use of ICT Management. During the 2-day event, presentations were made in six sessions: (i) Administrative Reforms; (ii) The Outside in View: Private Sector & Good Governance; (iii) Replication of Best Practices; (iv) Administrative Reforms in States; (v) Benchmarking Governance and (vi) Start-ups and Experiments in Good Governance.

14 JUL 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, a Task Force has been constituted to coordinate the progress of filling up of the vacant posts as per the ‘Recruitment Plan’

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that a Task Force has been constituted to coordinate the progress of filling up of the vacant posts as per the ‘Recruitment Plan’.

Chairing a joint meeting of DoPT, DARPG and Department of Pensions, the Minister said, the meeting comes in the wake of instruction by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi last month to recruit 10 lakh people in mission mode in next 1.5 years. He said, all Ministries/ Departments have also been requested to chalk out a plan to fill up the vacancies latest by December, 2023.

Dr Jitendra Singh also appreciated officers of DoPT, particularly the CS Division and UPSC for working hard to grant mass promotion to over 8,000 government employees in one go. The orders for mass promotion of these employees belonging to the Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographers’ Service (CSSS) and Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) have become effective before 1st of July, 2022. Of the total of 8,089 promoted employees, 4,734 are from CSS, 2,966 from CSSS and 389 from CSCS. He said, it was a mammoth task as it involved preparation of Select Lists in all grades of CSS/CSSS/CSCS which were pending for 5-10 years. Promotions were held up in the three services in all the grades, due to pending litigations in Supreme Court of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh also lauded DoPT for achieving 70 percent working in e-office mode within 6 months of adoption of E-file version 7.2. He instructed the officers to achieve 100 percent e-office compliance barring some sensitive files related to CVC, CIC etc.

Reviewing the progress of the Electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) launched by Dr Jitendra Singh in December 2017, the Minister noted with satisfaction that E-HRMS has been implemented so far in 114 organisations covering 44000 employees. Till now 48 out of 52 Ministries, 46 out of 56 departments and 19 attached /subordinate offices, 3 state Governments and 4 autonomous bodies have been covered. The Minister called for greater use of Artificial Intelligence tools so that Government employees can access their service-related information with ease. With the advanced version of e-HRMS, employees will be able to not only see all their details w.r.t service book, leave, GPF, Salary etc., but also apply for different kind of claims/reimbursements, loan/advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, Tour etc. on a single platform.

Reviewing the progress made by DARPG, Dr Jitendra Singh was apprised that the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) was made operational in all Scheduled Languages to expand its outreach to all regions. Earlier, it was available only in 5 languages (Hindi, English, Bangla, Gujarati and Marathi). Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery. It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States.

17 JUL 2022

Interacting with the Assistant Secretaries Batch of 2020, the Minister calls for massive use of technology to bring in meaningful exchanges and definite improvements in national governance

Addressing the young IAS officers of 2020 batch, undergoing three months' stint as Assistant Secretaries in Central government before going to their respective State cadres, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh reminded them of their destined role in 2047 when India celebrates 100 years of independence. With age on their side, only they have will have that opportunity and privilege, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in order to make the Government citizen centric, it is important that we use technology to bring in meaningful exchanges and definite improvements in national governance. He said, today's citizen aspires to have a voice in the processes of policy formulation and policy implementation.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that the initiative of mandatory stint of Assistant Secretaries with the central Ministries / Departments was a huge experiment introduced at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 has paid off extremely well to the benefit of the Government of India. He said, the Assistant Secretaries are expected to give their inputs for improvement in various Flagship Programmes in different Ministries/Departments of Government of India. This not only gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their skill and talent but also an opportunity to make a presentation before the Prime Minister of India, which is an opportunity that might have eluded their senior batches.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he was informed that this batch of 175 officers has 108 officers with engineering background and many officers with background in medicine, management, law and Arts have also joined. He emphasised that it would be very much admirable if they utilise their educational background to showcase how the Ministries/Departments can innovate, use new ideas and deliver high quality outputs directly to citizen with complete elimination of middlemen and leakages. The Minister also hoped that the technocrats will be able to do justice to the flagship programmes of the government in sectors like Health, Agriculture, Sanitation, Education, Skills and Mobility to name a few, which are technology based and technology driven.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, as the expectations and aspirations of citizens from the administration and governance are on the rise, information technology, internet, mobile technology, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning etc. can bring dramatic changes in the lives of the people and they can help the administration to establish a direct contact with the people. He said, the required improvement in citizen services and speedy resolution of grievances related to them can be brought about by utilising technology in an effective manner. Dr Jitendra Singh exhorted the young bureaucrats to remain grounded and added that their attitude to the common citizen who comes to the

doorstep of the Government is going to be one of the most important factors in shaping citizen's satisfaction from Government Services. Once the attitude is supportive and full of empathy, the attitude of those who are working with civil servants is bound to change and therefore they should strive for being the role model in this Attitude Changing Mission, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh also advised the young officers to adopt a very respectful attitude towards public representatives and listen to them patiently and promptly examine their suggestions in the light of policy framework. He said, wherever feasible or desirable, we may have to seek approvals from the higher ups to serve the cause of citizens. He said, the public representatives be it an MLA or MP or Ward Councillor or Members of Panchayat Societies are elected by people and can provide the officers a lot of insights into what citizens require and how can Government provide effective doorstep services to citizens. The Minister emphasised that young officers in charge of Districts or Tehsils or any Department must ensure that no citizen who needs your intervention or support is turned away from your office empty handed.

Dr Jitendra Singh summed that like other years, the officers posted as Assistant Secretaries for the 2020 batch are being given the opportunity to contribute to the major programmes of the Government of India and they are getting posted to different Ministries and are being allocated work relating to the flagship programme. He said, the officers will be required to give suggestions and ideas to improve the delivery of these programmes both qualitatively and quantitatively. During this period, your special focus should be on the States and Districts where implementation of these programmes is slow to take off, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged the officers to examine the status of the programmes, ideas and suggestions that were initiated by the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 batches of Assistant Secretaries and ensure that their ideas and suggestions are also taken to the logical conclusion. He said, through this programme, officers are getting an awesome opportunity to gain insight into Policy making with the senior most and most experienced officers at the beginning of the career, which is going to be very useful, relevant and enlightening for all of the officers. It will also help one to understand how policy review and analysis takes place at the highest levels and how decisions are taken before you join the field postings, the Minister concluded.

18 JUL 2022

The Minister launches the "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions"; India becomes the first country in the world to come out with such a unique model

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has institutionalised the capacity building mechanism for civil servants, who are the pivotal instruments of governance: Launching the "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions" at Capacity Building Commission (CBC) headquarters, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India became the first country in the world to come out with a unique model to create standards for civil service training institutions at national level and expressed hope that soon India will be a global model in this regard.

Dr Jitendra Singh also inaugurated the web-portal and approach paper for the National standards, as a part of the launch event in presence of over 103 participants consisting of 25 Central Training Institutions, 33 State level Administrative Training Institutions and



other civil service training institutions along with capacity building commission.

The National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSC-STI) is developed by CBC to create a baseline for Central Training Institutes on their current capacity, for elevating their quality and capacity of training delivery and to harmonise standards for training. It will also set aspirations for training institutions to strive towards excellence. The country is having standards and accreditation in higher education, healthcare and environment, but for the first time it became applicable for training institutions also.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi's address at Kevadia, Gujarat during the 2nd edition of 'Aarambh' in October, 2020, wherein Shri Narendra Modi referred to the importance of the training and its major role in developing the skill-set for achieving new goals, for adopting new approaches and new ways in the country, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Standards will equip Central Training Institutions (CTIs) to help civil servants tackle emerging challenges of 21st century.

The Minister said, Mission Karmayogi is aimed at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India. He added that training is one of the most important tools for capacity building and we must ensure that our civil servants are trained based on their needs and have any-time-anywhere learning opportunities. The Minister emphasised that the Mission Karmayogi has been launched to achieve this objective of continuous improvement and the Capacity Building Commission has been entrusted with realising the goals of Mission Karmayogi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined that the Civil Service Training Institutes are the most critical actors in the supply-side ecosystem as our civil service training institutes train 31 lakh employees of the Government of India. He talked about the importance of having a common baseline and a standard scale of measurement for the diverse training institutes in India, which is instrumental in enhancing the capacity of CTIs and supporting them in adopting an aspirational path to achieve their specific goals and parameters.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, standardisation in the training ecosystem will play a pivotal role in elevating capacities of a training institute. He congratulated the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) for developing 'National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions' (NSCSTI), which will act as a tool to drive standardising and harmonisation. The Minister also commended the whole-of-government approach taken by the Commission while ideating on the focus area of the standards.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that CBC consulted various Central Training Institutions (CTIs), academia, global standard setting bodies in the development of the standards. He added that studies conducted by CBC highlighted 8 focus areas such as Training Needs Assessment (TNA), Faculty Development, Collaboration with different institutes, digital readiness etc. which have the potential to significantly elevate civil service capacity building.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's Central Training Institutions (CTIs) must contribute to the lifelong learning of the officers and act as mentors throughout their careers. He said, the three Es of civil service learning: Empowered learning, Effective Learning, Exploratory Learning and Electronic Learning. He further elaborated that engaging CTIs through a process of self-assessment will instil ownership of their transformation. A one-stop platform has been developed for streamlining the accreditation process for our training institutions and this will highlight best practices and enable cross-sharing and collaborative learning among CTIs, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the pandemic has changed a lot of things and it also made us realise how quickly change can happen. He said, in post-pandemic world by leveraging technology, the world is mov-

ing towards a phygital way of learning – a mix of physical and digital. He added that the Standards will usher a shift towards digital learning through iGOT.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister said that training of officers and personnel requires to be constantly reviewed and upgraded in view of the fast pace of evolution in all spheres of life. He said, best global practices should be incorporated in training modules along with some incentives for excellence. He said, there is a need to align individual and departmental priorities to our national aspirations and priorities.

Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman of the Capacity Building Commission, Members of the Commission – Praveen Pardeshi, Member-Administration, Dr R. Balasubramaniam, Member-Human Resource and Hemang Jani, Secretary of the Commission were present at the event.

21 JUL 2022

A total of 1,59,615 candidates were selected by UPSC, SSC and IBPS during 2020-21 and 2021-22: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that recruitment in Central Government continued even during COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha by Dr Jitendra Singh stated that recruitment in Central Government is a continuous process. A total of 1,59,615 candidates were selected by UPSC, SSC and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, popularly known as the IBPS during 2020-21 and 2021-22.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) have been conducting their examinations duly complying with all COVID-19 safety protocols. Following recruitments have been made by UPSC, SSC and IBPS during COVID-19 pandemic period:

YEAR	UPSC	SSC	IBPS	Total
2020-21	4,214	68,891	23,496	96,601
2021-22	4,699	29,023	29,292	63,014
GRAND TOTAL (2020-22)	8,913	97,914	52,788	1,59,615

On the issue of granting age relaxation and extra attempt to candidates for Civil Services Examination (CSE), due to COVID-19 pandemic, the matter was also brought before the Supreme Court of India vide Writ Petitions by CSE aspirants. Based on the judgments passed by Supreme Court of India, the matter was considered and it has not been found feasible to change the existing provisions regarding number of attempts and age-limit in respect of the Civil Services Examination. As regards examinations to be conducted by SSC for the examinations being advertised in the year 2022, the SSC has decided to fix crucial date for determining age as on 01.01.2022. In the normal course, the crucial date for determining age for these examinations would have been 01.08.2022 or 01.01.2023, depending on the schedule of conduct of Tier-II Examination. As regards the Banking Sector, since each year exams were conducted, the issue of age relaxation is not applicable.

29 JUL 2022**Participating in one-day interactive session with Assistant Secretaries organized by IIPA, Dr Jitendra Singh says, the success of good governance consists in including and making the common man feel equal stakeholders in the process of development**

While addressing the new IAS officers of 2020 batch undergoing 3-month stint as Assistant Secretaries in the Govt of India, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh redefined their role for 2047.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invocation of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" Dr Jitendra Singh said, the next 25 years are critical for India because these will be the years of ascent of India's ascent in the global arena. Therefore, the current lot of IAS officers is privileged because they have the time on their side and also the opportunity to devote the next 25 years of active service to realise the dream of Century India.

Reiterating that every training module for the current lot of civil servants needs to be designed with vision of 2047 in mind, the Minister said, it is difficult to visualise 2047 through the prism of 2022 and therefore, exclusive indices pertaining to 2047 India needs to be determined. How much will be the role of civil servant, what will be the role of civil servant and whether at all there will be any role of the civil servant in 2047, is the question, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that this Assistant Secretary Training Programme was started in 2015 as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when 2013 batch officers were for the first time posted as Assistant Secretaries in Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The objective of this programme is to provide exposure to the young IAS officers about the functioning of the Government of India at an early stage in their career on completion of their Phase II training at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. These Assistant Secretaries are posted for a total period of 13 weeks.

The Minister informed that since 2015, the programme is successfully implemented by DoPT and added that this type of exposure helps them to acquire a national perspective and appreciation of diversities in national policies. This also sensitise them to the larger perspective of policies and programmes of Government of India and the officers are likely to be an inspired Change Agents when they will go back to their cadre States. Special themes were also included from 2019 and in that year Water Conservation, which was the one of the focus areas of the Government of India was added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Technology and innovation hold the key in addressing the gaps in delivery and implementation, but the basic prerequisites are dedication and commitment of the public servants with a pro-people attitude, which means being proactive as well as responsive to the citizens' needs and aspirations while remaining mindful of the concerns. He said, we also need to build trust between the government and citizens as no society can prosper peacefully and attain its potential with a trust deficit existing between the government and citizens.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, he was informed that this batch of 175 officers has 108 officers with engineering background and many officers with background in medicine, management, law and Arts have also joined. He emphasised that it would be very much admirable if they utilise their educational background to showcase how the Ministries/Departments can innovate, use new ideas and deliver high quality outputs directly to citizen with complete elimination of middlemen and leakages. The Minister also hoped that the technocrats will be able to do justice to the flagship programmes of the government in sectors like Health, Agricul-

ture, Sanitation, Education, Skills and Mobility to name a few, which are technology based and technology driven.

Lauding the role of Indian Institute of Public Administration, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that IIPA is working as knowledge partner with different ministries and incorporated in their training and research activity, the latest trends and advancements in public governance and administration. This includes a) India@2047, a vision plan for a 'future ready India' that suits the 100th year of India's independence; competency framework for the civil services under Mission Karmayogi which envisages to prepare civil servants for the future by making them more constructive, enabling, energetic, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, transparent and technology enabled; Indian thoughts on good governance and new methods of governance like PM Gati Shakti which aims at the coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects in India to enhance efficiency and reduce logistics cost.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister has been emphasising on People's participation as the essence of good governance through Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas aur Sabka Prayas. So, trust is central to governance. He said, while one key to good governance is technology, the other essentially is moral standard. Technology fosters transparency and hence accountability, which is the basic feature of good governance, while moral standards impart legitimacy. These two together will usher in a new political culture preparing the ground for bringing in transformational, path-breaking reforms. The Minister said, gone are the days where we can afford to work in silos that had held us back for a long time. Today it is an all-encompassing, all-enveloping, all-inclusive and all-participating march toward development.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh told the young civil servants that gaining knowledge from institutions like IIPA will help them to meet the various decision-making challenges, which they will face in the States and the Districts and conveyed his best wishes to officers in all their future endeavours.

04 AUG 2022**As on 01.01.2022, there are 1472 vacancies in IAS and 864 vacancies in IPS in various States**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Government has increased the annual intake of IAS officers to 180 through Civil Services Examination (CSE) since CSE-2012. Similarly, intake of IPS officers through CSE has been increased to 200 from CSE-2020.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh said, optimal intake of directly recruited (DR) IAS officers increased on the basis of the recommendations of Baswan Committee. The Committee had also recommended that any number above 180 would a) compromise quality; b) exceed the LBSNAA's capacity and; c) lead to distortion in the career pyramid of IAS officers, particularly for senior posts in the Government of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, as on 01.01.2022, there are 1472 vacancies in IAS and 864 vacancies in IPS in various States. He added that occurrence and filing up of vacancies is a continuous process. It is the endeavour of the Central Government to fill up the vacancies in the cadres. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts Civil Services Examination (CSE) for filing up of vacancies on direct recruitment basis in the category of IAS & IPS every year.



The Minister also informed that to fill up vacancies in Promotion Quota, Selection Committee Meetings are held by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with the State Governments.

V. Srinivas, Secretary DARPG said that the CPGRAMS Monthly Report, is a unique initiative to present a comprehensive analysis on types and categories of public grievances in Government of India and nature of disposal along with relative performance of Ministries/ Departments. The CPGRAMS Monthly Report says that 68576 PG cases were redressed in July 2022 along with 8539 appeals. The CPGRAMS Monthly Report contains the Grievance Redressal Index which ranks Ministries/ Departments on the overall quality and timely disposal of grievances. For the month of July 2022, Department of Land Resources, Department of Public Enterprises and Department of Expenditure are the top performers in the Grievance Redressal Index for July 2022.

All the 4 reports will be available at www.darpg.gov.in.

The launch function was attended by all Senior Officers of DARPG, all Nodal Appellate Authorities, all Nodal Grievance Officers as well as all Nodal Officers of the Special Swachhta Campaign in Government of India.

18 AUG 2022

DARPG in collaboration with Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh and Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad has developed a District Good Governance Index, a first for North Eastern States for improving the efficiency of Governance across Districts

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the work culture of Northeast has got revolutionary transformed in the last 8 years.

As a result, the Minister said, now the projects in Northeast are getting completed within a fixed timeline and the utilisation of Central funds is almost 100 percent. Every State is connected to the union capital by railway and each of the eight States is coming up with its airport whereas Guwahati has turned into an important international airport.

Inaugurating the two-day Regional Conference on the theme «Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms» along with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Dr Jitendra Singh said, prior to 2014, the North Eastern Region suffered economically due to myopic policies of the successive central governments, but soon after the Modi government took over in 2014, the Prime Minister had stated that every effort would be made to bring the region at par with the more developed areas of the country. He said, in the last eight years, not only developmental gaps were bridged successfully, but the north-eastern region has also gained psychological confidence. The Minister added that the significant development in terms of road, rail and air connectivity is helping facilitate the movement of goods and persons not only across the region but also across the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that it is only after Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister that such conferences are held in the farthest North Eastern States like Arunachal Pradesh as well as other hilly and backward areas to empower them in every walk of life. He said, the Itanagar Conference being organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances comes after the National Conference on e-Governance held in Meghalaya in August, 2019, when 'Shillong Declaration' on e-Governance was adopted to share best practices, latest technology developments and leveraging

them for achieving effective governance and public service delivery.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances in collaboration with Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh and Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad has developed a District Good Governance Index, a first for North Eastern States, on the lines of the National Good Governance Index for improving the efficiency of Governance across Districts. He said, DARPG also plans to collaborate with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to develop a District Good Governance Portal for monitoring the Rankings of each District of Arunachal Pradesh on a monthly basis and help in benchmarking performance within the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It is pertinent to mention that it is desirable to build an online good governance index for the North East Region that tracks annual improvements on the lines of District Good Governance Index of Arunachal Pradesh, which is then monitored through a digital portal.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Modi is working to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia. Modern infrastructure is set up, seeing Arunachal's role regarding national security. Nature has endowed Arunachal with a lot of its treasures and the Centre is also trying to take the tourism potential of Arunachal to the whole world.

Coming back to Administrative Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India believes that 21st century Public Grievance redressal would be based on single window agencies which will help citizens use information for seeking better services. He added that many methods have been contemplated including One Nation One Portal, Multi-lingual CPGRAMS for enhanced citizen outreach, data analytics to measure the quality of grievance redressal, feedback call centres and provision for citizen transcripts on the CPGRAMS portal etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded that he believes India in 2047 would be governed by our diligent civil servants and would serve the nation with utmost efficiency. It is crucial to inspire and involve the young civil servants with the Vision@2047.

Shri NBS Rajput, Joint Secretary, ARPG presented the welcome address. After welcome address, Shri Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh; Shri Lok Ranjan, Secretary, DoNER and Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, ARPG also addressed the inaugural session. A film on PM Awarded initiatives 2021 in North East Region, made by DAR&PG was screened. The vote of thanks was given by Shri Ajai Chagti, Secretary (AR), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh during the inaugural session.

30 AUG 2022

Integrated Pensioners' Portal for "Ease of Living" of Pensioners to be developed by Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare

A two-day Bankers' Awareness Program has been inaugurated by Shri V Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) at Government of India at Amritsar. Shri Gauri Prasad Sharma, CGM, GBD PNB, Shri S N Mathur, Joint Secretary (DoPPW), Shri Bhupal Nanda, CCP, CPAO, and Shri Parveen Goyal, GM, PNB participated in the inauguration ceremony. More than 50 officers from northern zone from CPPCs and pension dealing branches are participating in this 2-day program.

Shri V Srinivas, in his inauguration address, stressed on providing seamless experience to pensioners for which the Department is working on an AI/ML enabled Integrated Pensioners Portal, linking the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare portal Bhavishya and Pension Portals of various Banks, creation of Chat bot to ensure seamless interaction between pensioners, Government and banker.

Shri Srinivas said, the Department is setting up a technology team for creating the above digital systems as the first deliverables in collaboration with PNB as well as with other banks. Utmost attention is to be given on process and people related grievances by PNB. Digital life Certificate was launched in 2014 which is available through Aadhar based bio-metric devices, Indian Post Payments bank's 1,90,000 Gramin Dak Sevaks and Doorstep banking by banks. Face authentication technology was launched in November, 2021 which will transform the way pensioners submit their life certificate. Use of fintech in much larger way will enable quality of life for pensioners.

To enhance "Ease of Living" of pensioners and family pensioners, Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Government of India has taken a number of welfare measures in pension policy as well as in digitization of pension related processes. There have been a number of amendments in the pension rules and several clarificatory orders/ instructions have been issued during the last 50 years. These have been compiled and brought out as Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 2021 in December, 2021.

Since the major Pension Disbursing Authorities are banks, the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has started a series of Awareness Programs for Central Pension Processing Centres and field functionaries handling pension related work in the bank. The objective of these programs is to spread awareness of the various rules and procedures regarding disbursement of pension to Central Government pensioners as well as to update the field functionaries about the changes that take place from time to time through various amendments in the policy and procedures. The purpose of the program is also to understand issues faced by Bank officials in handling these processes and pensioners' grievances. Digital life certificate and face authentication technology would be a game changer for pensioners and banks in submission of life certificates. These awareness programs would serve as a huge capacity building exercise for bank officials.

It is expected that such awareness programs would be highly useful for bank officials and pensioners/ family pensioners. The first such program for officers of Punjab National Bank is being held on 30th and 31st August, 2022 at Amritsar, covering the Northern region of country. Four such awareness programs will be conducted in collaboration with Punjab National Bank to cover the whole country. On similar lines, awareness programs will be conducted in collaboration with other Pension Disbursing Banks in 2022-23.

05 SEP 2022

Building of household toilets, Ujjawala, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Mahila E-haat, STEP & Working Women Hostels were aimed at women empowerment: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance reforms in the last 8 years have enabled "ease of working" for women and are actually, in a broader sense, huge social reforms aimed at providing women employees an opportunity to perform to the best of their potential with a high level of dignity and self-esteem.

Addressing the women officers and staff of DoPT, DARPG and Department of Pensions on the occasion of Teacher's Day, dedicated to Matrashakti, Dr Jitendra Singh said, his Ministry has taken concerted efforts to increase the representation of women in Central Government jobs and to provide them a balance between professional as well as family life.

Referring to Prime Minister's 76th Independence Day speech, wherein Modi said, "I can see the manifold contribution of 'Nari Shakti', my mothers, sisters and daughters, in the next 25 years compared to the contribution in the last 75 years of India's journey", Dr Jitendra Singh said, right from his 1st Red Fort address in 2014, Modi has announced several schemes for empowerment of women, be it building of household toilets, Ujjawala, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Mahila E-haat or Working Women Hostels. He said, even STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme) for Women Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/ entrepreneurs.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that only three days back, DoPT has taken a historic decision to grant a 60-day special maternity leave for women Central government employees in case of stillbirth or death of an infant within a few days of birth. He pointed out that various instructions have been issued by DoPT from time to time highlighting the special provisions in the rules/regulations for the benefit of women employees for increasing representation of women in Central Government jobs and ease the difficulties being faced by them.

Referring to some of the major reforms / initiatives taken towards women welfare, Dr Jitendra Singh said, steps like continuation of grant of 730 days CCL, facility of Leave Travel Concession (LTC), while an employee is on CCL, removal of the limit of 22 years in case of disabled child for the purpose of a Government servant availing Child Care Leave and Special Allowance @ Rs.3000/- p.m. to Women employees with Disability has been granted for child care have resulted in better output, besides bringing ease of living for women employees.

Dwelling on Pension Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh said, a number of revolutionary reforms including relaxation in the provision of Family Pension for divorced daughters and Divyangs, introduction of Face Recognition Technology through mobile app for ease in submitting Life Certificate by elderly pensioners, Electronic Pension Pay Order, assistance from Postal Department to facilitate pension process etc and steps like extension of Family Pension to differently abled child of a deceased Government employee/Pensioner or giving a major hike in the Family Pension emoluments for Divyang children of a deceased government servant/pensioner are not only pension reforms but these are social reforms having wide socio-economic implications.

The Minister said, in May this year, DoPT relaxed family pension rules for missing central government employees and the new rule has done away with seven-year mandatory wait and, in all cases, where a government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing Government servant.

Speaking on the issue of Capacity Building and Empowerment of Women, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) extensively covers topics relating to the women, their empowerment, protection from domestic violence and prevention from sexual offences, in all its major cadre training programmes. It organizes women issue specific training courses also, ranging from two-day to five-day long durations at ISTM and outside. The Minister added that during the last five years, about 800 officers of different grades and positions have been covered in as many as twenty-five (25) courses, which have been organized at ISTM on the topics of, Gender Sensitization, Gender Budgeting, Protection, Prevention and Redress of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence.



Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that in the last few years India has graduated from women participation to women led leadership and they are an equal stakeholder in the nation building. He said, in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, women folk will contribute their might in making India a frontline state in 2047 in an enabling milieu and they will confidently assert their rightful place, when India celebrates 100th year of Independence.

29 SEP 2022

A high-level Singaporean Delegation led by Mr Loh Khum Yean, Minister in PMO and Permanent Secretary, Public Service Department (PSD), Singapore calls on Dr Jitendra Singh

Singapore Minister in PMO Loh Khum Yean, currently on a 2-day visit to India, called on his Indian counterpart Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block.

Dr Jitendra Singh told the high-level Singaporean delegation led by Loh Khum Yean, Minister in PMO and Permanent Secretary, Public Service Department (PSD) that India and Singapore are closely collaborating in cutting edge areas that will shape the future in the context of accelerating technological disruption - fintech, information technology, cyber security, skill development, smart city solutions and renewable energy and food security.

Simon Wong, High Commissioner of Singapore also attended the delegation level talks between the two sides.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the strategic partnership between India and Singapore has shown its resilience and both sides look forward to further strengthening this important relationship in areas like trade, defence, science and innovation, education, governance and the digital economy.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the maiden India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable held in New Delhi on 17th September, 2022 was envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he described as a path breaking initiative that is a testament to the unique India-Singapore bilateral ties and can pave the way for coordination in new areas of partnership.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that India and Singapore show convergence on a variety of issues of international importance and they are part of numerous groupings like G20, Commonwealth, IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), East Asia Summit, and IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium). He said, following the conclusion of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) of 2005, this robust relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Loh Khum Yean told his Indian counterpart Dr Jitendra Singh that Singapore has emerged as the top source nation in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) equity flows into India for the financial year 2021-22. The amount of FDI inflow from Singapore to India in fiscal year 2022 was estimated to be almost 16 billion U.S. dollars. Both the sides also discussed to firm up the Exchange Program of Civil Services and visit by PM Excellence Awardees to Singaporean Institutes of Excellence. The Future of Work, Workforce and Workplace of Singapore has agreed to work closely with the Vision India-2047, being headed by Dr Jitendra Singh.

Earlier, the Second Bilateral Meeting was held in New Delhi which was co-chaired by Secretary (DARPG) Shri V. Srinivas and Loh

Khum Yean, Permanent Secretary, Public Service Department (PSD), Prime Minister's Office, Singapore. During the meeting both sides exchanged information on initiatives taken in the field of governance reforms. Indian side made presentations on Good Governance Index, National e-Governance Service Delivery and CPGRAMS and the Singapore side on Service Delivery Benchmarking Study, Citizen Centric Public Services and The Future of Work, Workforce and Workplace.

V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG informed that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration was signed on 1st June, 2018. Key areas identified for cooperation include Public Service Delivery, Human Resource Management, Public Sector Reform, Leadership/Talent Development and E-Governance/Digital Government. After signing of the MoU in June, 2018, both sides held the first round of bilateral meeting virtually on 6th July, 2021 due to pandemic.

The MoU facilitates sharing of information and experience through workshops, seminars and conferences, exchange of information and experts to deliver lectures, build capacity and undertake joint comparative research of common interest, co-operation between training institutes of the both the countries in the training of public officials. In his concluding remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he is quite confident that both sides will continue to engage in exchanging of best practices in areas of Public Administration and Governance Reforms and will also explore the possibility of its replication. ■

Source – PIB

Compiled by – Nandita Thagela