

## STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL URBAN GOVERNANCE BODIES IN J&K

*I*n line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to strengthen the local bodies in Jammu & Kashmir, the Indian Institute of Public Administration has been organizing several orientation programmes on Urban Governance for Mayors, Chairpersons and Municipal Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers from Urban Local Bodies from Jammu & Kashmir from time to time.

In March of this year, the Institute organised a three-day event in which Hon'ble 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 and Chairman of IIPA Executive Council Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the participants from Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the smooth elections process of the village councils and mentioned about the first-ever election conducted in the Union Territory at District Councils after seven decades. These governance reforms are indicative of commitment of the Government of India led by Prime Minister Modi to strengthen the local bodies.

The Hon'ble Minister also spoke about how honesty and accountability should be an essential elements for the smooth conduct of the duties by people's representatives. He added that the local bodies' representatives should be in better coordination with the officials to be able to remove several obstacles easily. He urged all the participants attending the programme to inculcate vision, imagination and innovation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh gave away certificates to participants attending the programme at the valedictory session and also released a booklet titled, 'Training Need Assessment for Virtual Training on Urban Governance for Municipal Engineers' by IIPA Faculty Professor KK Pandey and Dr. Sachin Chowdhry.■

**- Amitabh Ranjan**