



Governance@Work

Good Governance to bring ease of living in the life of a common man

05 APR 2022

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also In-charge Ministry of Personnel (DoPT)/DARPG and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the State Governance Report titled "Madhya Pradesh Sushasan and Development Report-2022".

The programme was attended by all the Union Ministers from Madhya Pradesh including Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Shri Virender Kumar and Shri Fagga Singh Kulaste as well as senior bureaucrats from the Central and State Governments.

While complementing the Madhya Pradesh State government for coming out with a comprehensive report and working in close collaboration with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in the Union Ministry of Personnel, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Union Ministry of Personnel has been constantly endeavouring to pick up the best practices followed by each State and then motivate the other State Governments to replicate the same practices respectively. He complimented Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for having pulled out the State of Madhya Pradesh from the dubious stigma of being a "BIMARU" State to a highly progressive State excelling most of the other States of the country in several indices like the agriculture-index.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan appreciated the Modi Government's efforts in coming out with several governance reforms. He also hailed Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh for his constant and consistent focus to develop vision for India @2047. He said, for many years, Madhya Pradesh is on a fast track movement and will soon be able to achieve exemplary targets in every sphere.

Single Window Portal for benefit of pensioners and superannuated elder citizens

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The Minister Chairs the 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) for Review and Rationalisation of Pension Rules i.e (CCS) (Pension) Rules, 2021 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 setting up of Single Window Portal for benefit of pensioners and superannuated elder citizens. The Portal, he said, will not only enable constant contact with pensioners and their associations across the country but will also regularly receive their inputs, suggestions as well as grievances for prompt response.

Addressing the 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) for Review and Rationalisation of Pension Rules i.e (CCS) (Pension) Rules, 2021, Dr Jitendra Singh said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several revolutionary changes were brought in since 2014 in Pension Rules for bringing "Ease of Living" to the common man.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the objective of Common Pension Portal is to create a single window digital mechanism for pensioners to raise their grievances and get the same resolved without approaching different authorities in person. He said, all Ministries responsible to process, sanction or disburse pension dues, are interlinked to this system and grievances are forwarded after assessment to the concerned Ministry/Department for resolution. Pensioners as well as Nodal officer can view the status of the grievance online till disposal in the system.

SCOVA is a useful platform for holding consultation with the stakeholders i.e. the pensioners through their Associations and concerned Ministries/Departments. It provides the Associations an opportunity for raising their issues concerning pensioners' welfare etc. directly before the concerned Ministries/Departments. Pensioner Associations from Jammu, Jaipur, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh and other parts of the country participated in the meeting.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that since the launch of Doorstep Service for submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) through Postman in November 2020, more than 3,08,625 Life Certificates through India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have been done. The facility to submit life certificate online through Jeevan Pramaan-Portal was launched by the Prime Minister in November, 2014 with the objective to provide a convenient and transparent facility to pensioners for submission of Life Certificate. He also added that Doorstep banking for collection of Life Certificates is in place in 100 cities by Public Sector Banks and the number of Life Certificates done through Banking Agents is 4253.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Face Authentication Technique through Android phone for submission of life certificate digitally has been launched on 29.11.2021 and till date, more than 20,500 Life Certificates through face authentication have been done. Similarly, he informed that as on date total number of DLCs submitted by the Central Government Pensioners is around 1,07,75,980 /- since 2014. In 2021 total DLCs submitted till date is 19,80,977.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the 'Bhavishya' platform, an integrated online pension processing system is at present being successfully implemented in the main Secretariat of 96 Ministries/Departments including 813 Attached Offices. As on date, more than 1,50,000 cases have been processed i.e. PPOs issued which includes more than 80,000 e-PPOs. The Minister also informed that Bhavishya 8.0 released in August, 2020 with a new feature to PUSH the ePPO in Digilocker. Bhavishya' is the first application to use the Digilocker Id based PUSH Technology of Digilocker.

The Minister said that the Department had started in 2017 the unique experiment of holding Pension Adalats to resolve chronic grievances of Central Government Pensioners, falling within the four walls of extant policy and the First Pension Adalat was held on 20.09.2017. So far, the Department has conducted a total of 6 Pension Adalats. The next Pension Adalat is scheduled to be held on 05.05.2022.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the earlier Pension Rules were notified 50 years ago in 1972. Since then, a large number of amendments to the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 have taken place. He said, in the light of such changes and several office memoranda clarifying different provisions of these Rules, the Department has brought out a revised and updated version of the Rules i.e. Civil Services (CCS) (Pension) Rules, 2021.

Dr Jitendra Singh clarified that the revised Rules do not make any changes in regard to entitlement of amount of pension, family pension or gratuity. However, the new Rules bring about several new policy and procedural improvements over the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Also, some provisions in the old rules, which have become redundant over a period of time, have been omitted from the new Rules, the Minister added.

Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio calls on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed a wide range of State related issues ranging from development to placement of All India Services officers

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Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio called on 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 and discussed a wide range of State related issues ranging from development to placement of All India Services officers.

Neiphiu Rio appreciated Dr Jitendra Singh's keen interest and focus on development of Northeast and said that the people of the State always look upon him as their messenger in the national capital who is always ready to follow up issues of their concern.

Chief Minister of Nagaland brought to the notice of Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Minister In-charge Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T), some of the issues related to deputation and placement of IAS officers in Nagaland. In response, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he will ask the Department to give due consideration to all these issues and examine what best can be done.

The Chief Minister also requested the Union Minister to follow up with the Central Government the progress of some of the other proposals of projects in Nagaland. The Union Minister in return said that his office will take due cognizance of this.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is primarily because of the high priority given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Northeast has undergone miraculous transformation which is difficult to believe and the Northeast Model of Development is now being cited as a development model in other parts of the country as well. He said, the most striking example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priority for the Northeast is evident from the fact that in the first six years of his tenure as Prime Minister before the COVID pandemic, he had undertaken more than 50 visits to the North Eastern States, including frequent visits to the State of Nagaland. This, he said, may be more than the total number of visits undertaken by all the earlier Prime Ministers put together to the North Eastern States.

15th Civil Services Day function inaugurated

20 APR 2022

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 here that citizen-centricity will determine the India @2047 Governance model

Inaugurating the 15th Civil Services Day celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, citizen friendly approach will be the only viable option for civil servants in the new governance model. Quoting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, "The true meaning of Civil Services Day is dedication to the common man, and each Civil Servant must have steely resolve to bring significant improvements in the lives of the common man".

Referring to the theme for Civil Services Day 2022 which is "Vision India@2047 – Bringing Citizens and Government closer", Dr Jitendra Singh said, over the years the expectations of common man has increased and the Civil Servants have to do a serious introspection about their future role with a clear focus on delivery. He said, we must focus on officers having 25 years of active service ahead and the current officers must help in their capacity building for making India a frontline nation, when it celebrates the 100th year of Independence in 2047.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, one can't visualise India @2047 through the prism of 2022. He said, the future governance models may re-define the role of a civil servant and governance may pass on more and more to the citizen domain, thus truly personifying the spirit of "Minimum Government". He, however added that the nature of Indices relevant to 2047 must be perfectly visualised. The Minister said that an intricately interwoven interface of technology, new in-

stances and Artificial Intelligence may take over in a big way in coming years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Civil Services Day marks an occasion to celebrate the untold examples of Civil Servants doing the right thing and producing results in critical areas using innovative approaches. It is also an occasion to mark the seminal changes in Indian Administration, to rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in the Service of the Nation.

Dr Jitendra Singh referred to Sardar Patel's address to the first batch of the Indian Administrative Service in Metcalfe House, New Delhi as saying, "Your predecessors were brought up in the traditions of which they kept themselves aloof from the common run of the people. It will be your bounden duty to treat the common man of India as your own".

Referring to Mission Karmayogi's main mantra of moving from "Rule to Role", Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Civil Servants must train themselves for a new and challenging assignment as most of the flagship schemes of the Government are now hugely Science and Technology based.

Dr Jitendra Singh also inaugurated an exhibition on the Awarded initiatives of 2019, 2020 and 2021 on the identified Priority Programmes and Innovations and chaired a Plenary Session on the topic 'Vision India @ 2047-Governance'.

In his address, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba said that Civil Services Day is a day of celebrations as well as a day for reflection and introspection. He said, Transformational Approach of Aspirational Districts proves what regular indicator based monitoring can achieve and now the saturation approach will ensure that benefits of welfare schemes will reach to the last man in the queue.

Secretary, DARPG Shri V.Srinivas in his address said that PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration have been instituted with a view to recognize the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts & Organizations of the Central and State Governments for the welfare of common citizens.

Following 6 priority programmes have been identified for the Awards to be presented on Civil Services Day 2022: Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in Poshan Abhiyan, Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme, Digital payments and good governance in PM SVANidhi Yojana, Holistic Development through One District One Product scheme, Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention (District/Others) and Innovations (Centre, State and Districts).

10 Awards for 5 identified Priority Programmes will be given this year, while 6 Awards shall be given to organizations of Central/ State Government/Districts for innovations.

Former Cabinet Secretaries, former Secretaries, Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Chief Secretaries/ACS/Principal Secretaries and Heads of Central Training Institutions/ Resident Commissioners joined the event in Vigyan Bhawan. PCCsF/ DGSP/ Addl DGSP/ District Collectors, Academic Institutions, State ATIs/ Assistant Secretaries and IAS officers of 2013-17 batches who have served as Assistant Secretaries also joined the event virtually.

District Administration's lauded for achievements under ADP

25 APR 2022

As part of Union Government's special outreach Programme to get first hand appraisal of various developmental parameters, Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr.



Jitendra Singh chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla in J&K and reviewed progress of work being carried out under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

Speaking on the occasion Union Minister said that Central Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all. He said that ADP closely focuses on improving people's ability to participate fully in the developmental economy.

The minister said that the areas such as PM Fasal Bima Yojana, electronic National Agriculture Market, Bharat Net facility in each Panchayat, financial inclusion shall be some of the aspects to be addressed under ADP.

Deliberating on the mechanism of the programme Dr. Singh said that the districts are encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others.

Praising the work done in Baramulla under ADP, he said that by means of aspirational district there is contribution at different levels of work culture, social culture and behavioural culture to achieve the standard prescribed benchmark. He praised the utility of the model and said that it is based on a scientific approach which has the scope of dynamic real-time evaluation.

He said that government is committed to take Baramulla to the maximum of its potential in sustainable development and economic growth with proper follow-ups from time to time. Praising the biodiversity of the district he said that Baramulla is one of the oldest districts of J&K with huge forest reserves. He expressed his view of organising biotechnology workshops in the region to make people aware about the technological innovation for effective cost and time management.

After taking a comprehensive review of different parameters which have contributed to making Baramulla as one among the aspirational districts of India, Dr. Singh lauded the role of district administration for its efforts in achievements under ADP. He also directed the concerned officers to work with utmost dedication in order to be amongst the top in the ranks of the Programme.

Meanwhile various issues hampering the path of overall progress were thoroughly discussed in the meeting which the minister assured shall be taken into consideration for their timely resolution. Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other officials of the district administration were also present in the meeting.

Noteworthy to mention that Centre has directed Union Ministers to visit different aspirational districts for official appraisal of the ground level assessment of the initiative. Launched by the Prime Minister in January 2018, ADP aims to quickly and effectively transform under-developed districts across the country. The broad outline of the programme includes Convergence, Collaboration and Competition among districts through monthly delta ranking, all driven by a mass movement.

National Good Governance Webinar Series 2022-2023

27 APR 2022

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is organizing the National Good Governance Webinar Series over the year from April, 2022 to March, 2023.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space will be Inaugurating the National Good Governance Webinar Series on 28th April, 2022.

The mandate to hold virtual conferences/Webinars with District Collectors and other Officers over the next 12 months on a specific theme / Sector, in which past award winners since the inception of the Prime

Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration under that sector be invited to present their experiences given to DARPG, is being taken forward by conducting 13 National Good Governance Webinars over the year.

One webinar on an identified sector/theme will be held every month. The 13 webinars would be on different themes under the good governance initiatives that have been felicitated the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in the past years since its inception in 2006. The themes selected for the National Webinars are proposed to cover multiple sectors like health, education, environment, disaster management, priority programmes, Jal/water management etc. The awarded States/Districts will present their exemplary work in these National Webinars, the purpose being to highlight the best practices and award-winning initiatives for replication by other States/Districts.

The first webinar in the series is commencing on 28th April, 2022 on the theme 'Improving Service Delivery' under which two awarded initiatives will be presented. "SAKALA" the initiative conferred with PM's Award in the year 2012-13 to the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Government of Karnataka and the initiative "e-Seva" conferred with PM's Award in the year 2006-2007 to the Government of Andhra Pradesh will be presenting under the theme of "Improving Service Delivery".

Sakala, made possible through the Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act 2011 (amended in 2014), has been an example of success in time-bound service delivery to citizens. e-Seva is a good governance initiative that incorporates the vision of National e-Gov plan "Public Services Closer to Home" and its objective is to provide smart, citizen centric, ethical, efficient and effective governance facilitated by technology.

Chairman, IIPA Dr. Jitendra Singh addresses the Convocation of 46th and 47th Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA)

29 APR 2022

While awarding postgraduate degrees in Public Administration, 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), called for integrated curriculum. He said, the Professional Training Modules of Public Administration need a relook in the light of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's India @2047 vision.

Speaking at the Convocation ceremony of 46th and 47th Advanced Professional Programme on Public Administration (APPPA) in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the current challenges also demand a healthy mix of Civil and Military disciplines and more and more integration of courses are required.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh presented postgraduate degrees of M.Phil and Diploma in Public Administration to 31 participants of 47th APPPA and M.Phil. Degree through Punjab University, Chandigarh to the participants of 46th APPPA.

Earlier, Dr Jitendra Singh presided over the signing of MoU between IIPA and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, BISAG-N for preparing Civil Services Mentoring Module. S. N. Tripathi, Director General, IIPA and Shri T.P.Singh, DG, BISAG-N signed the agreement. The Minister also released a report on Socio-Economic Assessment of SAP in India.

Addressing the Convocation, 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, this makes the course more relevant and useful and it has given a good exposure to rural and urban development schemes. It has helped the officers in better understanding and appreciation of various socio-economic schemes, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, exposure to foreign training has some merits, but administrators must focus to find Indian solutions to Indian problems. He also recalled that IIPA has been resilient enough to tide over the precarious pandemic situation and dispense with the conventional mode of face-to-face training, however there was some blending whenever the circumstances demanded so.

The Minister said, 47th APPPA, besides the number it carries had many more significances as it became the first batch ever in the history of IIPA to be an audience to the oration of special address by the in-service chiefs of all three wings i.e. Army, Navy and Air force. The 47th Advanced Professional Programme on Public Administration (APPPA) has come to a conclusion after 10 momentous months.

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 the time old practice of getting documents attested by a gazetted officer and replacing the same with self-attestation, doing away with interviews for lower rung selections and abolition of more than 1500 obsolete rules/laws.

The Minister was informed that in the 46th APPPA course, the participants got the opportunity to visit Gujarat, Sikkim, Darjeeling as part of their rural, urban and forward area visits and IIPA organized special lectures and talks on very relevant topics of Indo-China Border Conflicts, Indo-Pakistan Relations, Mission Karmyogi & FRAC Strategy, New Education Policy etc. which enriched the knowledge the participants of 46th APPPA.

The APPPA course got 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.

Rashmi Chowdhary, Additional Secretary DoPT, S. N. Tripathi, Director General, IIPA, Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar IIPA, Faculty and officers of IIPA and all the participants of 46th and 47th APPPA course attended the Convocation ceremony

7th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi

05 MAY 2022

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, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has introduced a number of path breaking 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.

Addressing the 7th All India Pension Adalat in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that 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 implications.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government follows the Mantra of Good Governance for bringing "Ease of Living" to the common man. He said, under guidance of Mr Modi, out of box ideas and solutions are being devised for the well-being of pensioners. He said, the purpose of Pension Adalat is to resolve the grievances of beneficiaries in a prompt manner as well as to learn the procedural bottlenecks in disbursement of benefits.

Dr Jitendra Singh directed the senior officials of the Department to come out with a comprehensive "Manual for Pensioners" based on the feedback received from all the Central Ministries/Departments and Subordinate Offices for bringing further ease to pensioners. In the Pension Adalat, the Minister randomly interacted and obtained feedback from the Pensioners, Staff and Officers dealing with the cases in Delhi and about 225 locations across the country. Over 1000 cases are listed for the resolution and the Department is giving special preference to cases pertaining to family pensioners and super senior pensioners aged 80 years and above.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Pension Adalat initiative was started in 2017 by the Department which is leveraging technology for speedy resolution of Pensioners' grievances. The model adopted is that all stakeholders to a particular grievance are invited on a common platform and the case is resolved as per extant policy. He informed that since 2017, some 22,494 pensioners' grievances have been taken up and 16,061 matters resolved on the spot.

Dr Jitendra Singh in his concluding remarks said that the primary objective of the exercise is to provide "Ease of Living" to the Pensioners and to prevent litigation which involves financial stress to the pensioner as well to the Government and at the same time is a very lengthy process. It also creates an All-India impact and convey a message to all the Ministries/Departments/Organizations the importance this Government attaches to Pensioners' individual grievances, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that the earlier Pension Rules were notified 50 years ago in 1972. Since then, a large number of amendments to the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 have taken place. He said, in the light of such changes and several office memoranda clarifying different provisions of these Rules, the Department has brought out a revised and updated version of the Rules i.e. Civil Services (CCS) (Pension) Rules, 2021.

V.Srinivas, Secretary Pension stated that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has ensured end-to-end digitization of the Pension payment process by making BHAVISHYA software mandatory for all the Ministries to process their pension cases. He stated that this software has laid out dead-lines for every stake holder to complete the Pension processing so that pension is started on time. All Ministries have been instructed that their Nodal Officers should conduct weekly review meetings of pending grievances ensure accountability of Government officials dealing with Pensioners' grievances.

Dr Jitendra Singh addresses the three day Orientation Programme on Urban Governance for Mayors/Chairpersons and Municipal Commissioners/Chief Executives Officers from Urban Local Bodies from Jammu & Kashmir at IIPA in New Delhi

11 MAY 2022

Addressing the Orientation Workshop/Programme on Urban Gov-



ernance for Mayors/Chairpersons and Municipal Commissioners/Chief Executives Officers from Urban Local Bodies from Jammu & Kashmir, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO and Minister of State Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Chairman Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), emphasised municipal infrastructure and said that small and medium towns of the UT will play an important role to develop municipal infrastructure as enabler to economic activities particularly in the areas of processing agro-produce, weaving industry, and development of IT services.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that transition from agriculture sector to manufacturing is particularly important for J&K which has taken up specific steps towards rapid economic growth and investments in the state economy, particularly during the last three years. These steps will bring a shift in the economic profile of the state and create more jobs in manufacturing and services.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Modi has great plans for the development of J&K and accordingly, we have established urban local bodies as per 74th Constitution Amendment Act. He said, with elected bodies, application of urban missions of Government of India like the development of Infrastructure, improvement of quality of life, environment, mobility, water and sanitation will achieve full potential.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the three day orientation programme will provide a suitable exposure on government missions, schemes and programmes. He noted with satisfaction that towns in state are taking important steps in Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Livelihood promotion, AMRUT (ATAL Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and PMSVanidhi which is helping street vendors with working capital loans and concessions on timely repayment and digital transactions. The Minister added that water, sanitation, mobility and housing are key areas of attention. He said, Jal Jeevan Mission is focussing on Har Ghar Nal se Jal and informed that the state has achieved ODF (Open Defecation Free) status for all the urban areas. Smart Cities Mission is providing infrastructure and governance, while PMAY is focusing on affordable housing.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the light of global examples, India has also followed expansion of manufacturing and services within and around urban areas and this non-farm sector is providing 86 percent of GDP whereas only 35-40 percent population is living in urban India. He said, it is visible in our country that the states with the above average level of urbanisation have much higher per capita income than states with low level of urbanisation like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha etc. The states from Gujarat up to Tamil Nadu have either achieved 50% mark (Tamil Nadu) or are closer to the urban majority, the Minister pointed out.

Coming back to the J&K, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the UT has 27% urban population in 2011 and this poses a challenge to move towards half way mark of urbanisation which means more attention on industries and investment in coming decades. This journey process means acceleration of urban sector reforms effectively for municipal services and infrastructure as initiated by our urban missions and underlined that the role of elected leaders of municipal bodies will be important to achieve this goal as these leaders constitute a pool of grass root leaders and promote a bottom up leadership in our federal structure of democracy.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the organisation of this course by IIPA in the 75th years of Independence has special significance in view of our plans for India@2047. He said, during the next 25 years India will undergo a transition from semi-urban (25% plus) to urban majority society and economic growth and urbanisation will go hand in hand. The Minister hoped that this three day visit on urban governance will provide live cases and agenda for each of our elected representatives and will add to our efforts to make the State a clean, green and productive city.

Release of e-book Civil List-2022 of IAS officers

13 MAY 2022

Releasing the e-book Civil List-2022 of IAS officers at North Block, 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 in the last 8 years, several pathbreaking reforms have been undertaken by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), which can be categorised as reforms related to Governance and reforms related to practitioners of governance.

Releasing the e-book Civil List-2022 of IAS officers in North Block, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the dynamic list will help in selecting the right officer for the right assignment based on available profile and is a vital source of information on the officers manning various posts for the general public. He said, the e-book IAS Civil list is an effort by the Department to contribute towards Digital India initiative of the Government of India.

Referring to governance reforms inspired and guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014, Dr Jitendra Singh listed out several out of box ideas like abolishing the century old colonial practice of attestation of documents by a gazetted officer and replacing it by self-attestation, doing away with interview for Group-B (Non-Gazetted) and Group - C posts in the Central Government since 2016, three month Central stint for fresh IAS officers as Assistant Secretary, change in the nature of PM Excellence Award and abolition of around 1500 rules, which have become obsolete.

Similarly, the Minister pointed out that the Mission Karmayogi is the most revolutionary change pertaining to practitioners that is the civil servants. The e-book IAS Civil List also adds to the 2nd category of reforms.

This is the 67th edition of the Civil List and the second edition of e-book in pdf with unique search facilities and hyperlinking of contents for ease of access of information. The IAS Civil List contains vital information in respect of officers' batch, cadre, present posting, pay scale, qualification and date of superannuation along with their overall cadre-wise strength, number of IAS officers retiring in next five years including number of IAS officers appointed based on Civil Servicers examination from 1969 onwards. The list also contains photographs of IAS officers.

The Department of Personnel and Training is the cadre controlling authority of IAS officers and the Civil List is prepared with the help of inputs received from the State Cadres. The e-book IAS Civil List, 2022 is also available on the website of the Department at <https://dopt.gov.in>.

Centre will train 20,000 Jammu & Kashmir Govt officials in grievance redressal

16 MAY 2022

Centre will train 20,000 Jammu & Kashmir Govt officials in grievance redressal and the task will be undertaken by the Department of Administrative Reforms, Union Ministry of Personnel.

This was announced here by Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, while inaugurating a two day Regional Conference on the theme "Bringing Citizens and Government Closer – Through Administrative Reforms" at SKICC Srinagar.

The Regional Conference is being organized by the Department

of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI in collaboration with UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The conference is being held in the backdrop of replication of good governance practices in Union Territory of J&K. 16 PM Awardees presented their innovations in the 2 day event.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Jammu & Kashmir grievance system had already been integrated with the Central Grievance Portal in October, 2020, thus making it the first Union Territory of India to have its district level grievance offices integrated with Central Government Portal of CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System). Describing it as a successful story of the first-ever experiment to integrate District Portal with State and thereof with the National Portal, the Minister hoped that this mechanism will also be emulated by more States and Union Territories.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Jammu and Kashmir became the first UT in the country to have Good Governance Index and was also first to launch District Good Governance Index for 20 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in January this year. He said, the Index represented a major administrative reform in benchmarking good governance at District level and a significant step for timely collation and publication of statistics at State/ District level.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that governance reforms must be taken to next level and he proposed the idea of Aspirational Blocks on the lines of Aspirational Districts based on 41 scientifically evolved indices and aimed at bringing districts lagging in certain parameters at par with the best performing districts.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has accorded the top priority in bringing the overall development in J&K UT. "Prime Minister's objective scientific approach even in designing, structuring and planning in administrative reforms has worked to a great benefit as it is based on very objective parameters," he said. Citing examples of Baramulla and Kupwara being under the Aspirational District Program (ADP) he lauded the Central Government's such initiative which he called dynamic in approach based on real time evaluation.

Speaking during the meeting, Union Minister said that Central Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all. He said that ADP closely focuses on improving people's ability to participate fully in the developmental economy.

Taking about reforms in governance he said that it becomes imperative to reform rules that have become obsolete over time. Keeping pace with the contemporary time is the need of the hour. Such reforms are an example of minimum government and maximum governance and reform perform and transform slogan, he said. These are not only governance reforms which are being spoken about but also huge social reforms which are meant to carry India on the path to become a part of the global world.

During the two-day event, presentations are being made on priority programs from the Prime Awards for Excellence In Public Administration, 2021; Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in Poshan Abhiyan; Promoting excellence In sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme; Digital payments and good governance in PM SVANidhi Yojana; Holistic Development through One District One Product scheme; Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention (District/Others) and Innovations (Centre, State and Districts). One Session is also on the theme "Improving e-Service Delivery in J&K."

In his address, Secretary, DARPG, Shri V.Srinivas said that the conference is an effort to bring the Government and Citizens closer through various administrative reforms at centre, state and district level. This is being enabled by use of digital technology, pursu-

ing 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. Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary UT of J&K while addressing the inaugural session of the Regional Conference informed about the various reforms around good governance and effective implementations of schemes and initiatives over the recent past.

Dr Jitendra Singh proposes to share best practices in Governance Reforms with Gambia, particularly in areas like pension reforms, e-recruitment and grievance redressal

17 MAY 2022

In an interaction with the Permanent Secretaries of the Govt of Gambia, who are currently in India to attend a one week Capacity Building Programme on Public Policy and Governance, 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 emphasised technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven governance, which, he said, is going to become an essential part of our future working.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call for adopting Next Generation Reforms by bridging the gap between government and citizens. He said, in order to translate this vision into reality, several initiatives such as Secretariat Reforms, Swachhta Campaigns, Benchmarking of Governance and Services, Redressal of Public Grievances & Improving Service Delivery, recognizing meritocracy and replication of good governance practices have already been undertaken.

This is the 3rd Capacity Building Programme being organised for Permanent Secretaries of the Gambia by National Centre for Good Governance, NCGG in collaboration with MEA under ITEC. 25 participants are attending the training programme being held in New Delhi from 16th May to 21st of May. This programme is being organised under the aegis of the MoU signed between DARPG and Public Service Commission of the Gambia on 8th July, 2021 on Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

After giving a patient hearing to many of the Gambian Secretaries, Dr Jitendra Singh informed the delegates that India's shining governance and electoral reforms are being emulated by several countries in the world. He told the secretaries to adopt technology-based reforms in administration. The Minister said, India is celebrating its 75th year of Independence as Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav and it is the fittest occasion to underline that bilateral relations between India and Gambia have been very cordial and friendly.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last nearly 8 years, India has resorted to use of technology in Governance Reforms in a massive way for achieving end-to-end service delivery without human intervention and offered to share such best practices with Gambia. He pointed out that the reforms that have been implemented through technology intervention to bring transparency in the day to day administration include implementation of e-Office, e-Leave management system, Employee Information System, Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW), Aadhar enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), Pension Sanction and Payment tracking System (Bhavishya), Public Financial Management System (PFMS), Web Responsive Pensioner's Service for pensioners, introduction of Face Recognition Technology for elderly pensioners, Family Pension to differently abled child of a deceased Government employee/Pensioner, Electronic Pension Pay Order etc.



The Minister said, the widespread adoption of e-office has created paperless offices in the Central Secretariat and enabled smooth governance functioning not only in the pandemic but also in day-to-day functioning. The organisational reforms coupled with significant reforms in Personnel Administration undertaken by the Government include Mission Karmayogi and Lateral recruitment. The Central Secretariat has adopted the initiative of increasing efficiency in Decision Making in Government wherein the channel of submission has been reduced to not more than 4 levels from 7-8 levels. The Desk officer system adopted by the Government has ensured single point of file disposal. This has shown increased efficiency in processing of cases.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Mission Karmayogi envisages continuous capacity building of every officer through digital mode in order to prepare him for every new assignment taken up by him and at the same time also enable the authorities to scientifically choose the right officer for the right assignment. The main mantra is moving from 'rule based to role based' governance. Similarly, as part of reforms in the field of recruitment, the GoI has constituted the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) for conducting Common Eligibility Test (CET) in order to provide a level playing field to every job aspirant across the country, regardless of his socio-economic background, the Minister added.

The Minister said, in order to redress public grievances, there is a dedicated Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) online system for grievance redress. CPGRAMS facilitates citizens to lodge their grievances for redress from anywhere and anytime (24x7). The year 2021 witnessed 21 lakh Public Grievances cases being received on the CPGRAMS with 19.95 lakh cases being redressed.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed his best wishes to all the Senior Permanent Secretaries of The Gambia for the training programme and also for a comfortable stay in New Delhi.

Referring to the usefulness of Capacity Building training programmes, Mustapha Jawara, High Commissioner of Gambia requested Dr Jitendra Singh for more such training modules for mid-level officers besides the senior secretaries in the Gambian government. He sought specific help from the Indian government in areas like pension system, grievance redressal and e-recruitment. The Indian Minister agreed to extend all help and added that the best practices in other governance areas will also be shared with the African partner.

NRA gearing up to conduct computer-based online Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to Non-Gazetted posts by the year-end

22 MAY 2022

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that there will be Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to Non-Gazetted posts from this year, and the first such test is being scheduled to be conducted before the year end.

Chairing the joint meeting of all the six Autonomous Bodies under the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) at North Block here, the Minister said, 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 by the year end. This will be a game-changer providing ease of recruitment to the job aspirants, with at least one exam centre in each district of the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Common Entrance Test is a path-breaking reform carried out by the DoPT to bring about "Ease of Recruitment" for young job aspirants and it will prove to be a major boon for youth, especially those living in far-flung and remote areas. He said the historic reform will provide a level playing field to all the candidates, regard-

less of his or her background or socio-economic status. There will also be a huge benefit to women and Divyang candidates and for those who find it financially unaffordable to appear for multiple tests by travelling to multiple Centres.

Initially the test will be conducted in 12 languages including Hindi and English and will later on add all the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the "whole of Govt" concept which has not only removed silos but also facilitated an integrated holistic approach in governance with all the different Ministries, Departments and agencies of the government collectively addressing each issue, without one leaving it to the other. He said, the entire context and concept of governance is undergoing reorientation to suit the current needs and requirements of 21st century India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the review exercise of the Autonomous Bodies functioning under central Ministries/Departments is of utmost importance in view of furthering the aim of "minimum government, maximum governance", efficient use of public funds and reducing financial burden on the Government Exchequer, besides making the governance people-friendly.

Heads of all the 6 Autonomous Bodies gave a detailed presentation about the mandate, work, budget and aims and objectives of the Institutes. These included National Recruitment Agency (NRA), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI), Grih Kalyan Kendras (GKK), Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) and Kendriya Bhandar (Registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act).

In line with the mandate of the Department of Expenditure Dr Jitendra Singh directed the senior officials to explore the possibility of the merger of Grih Kalyan Kendras (GKK) and Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board (CCSCSB) due to overlapping mandate and aims and objectives. He asked the officials to come out with a feasibility report within one month.

The Minister also guided the Kendriya Bhandar to open more outlets at centers of Grih Kalyan Kendras and IIPA for increasing sales and cost-cutting. He asked the Kendriya Bhandar to go whole hog to promote its unique product of organic pulses and build a brand for the same. He also lauded the KB officials for achieving 500 percent growth in sales from Rs 750 crore in 2021-18 to Rs 4,000 Crore in 2021-22.

Family pension rules relaxed for missing Central government employees

23 MAY 2022

In a major relief, particularly for government employees serving in militancy affected areas like Jammu & Kashmir, North-East as well as Naxal prone pockets, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh announced that the Government has relaxed family pension rules for missing central government employees.

According to the earlier rule, the next of the kin of an employee would not receive the family pension, if he went missing and the family pension would not be paid till the missing Government was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years had passed since he went missing. As per new the OM, 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 and in case



he re-appears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary.

Referring to the new OM of Department of Pension in this regard, the Minister said, this is going to provide huge relief particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently. He said, cases of abduction of central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

Minister informed that if a Government servant covered by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 goes missing, the benefits of arrears of salary, family pension, retirement gratuity, leave encashment, etc. are paid to the families of the missing employees in accordance with the instructions issued dated 25.06.2013. He said, the matter has been examined in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training, Department of Financial Services and Department of Expenditure and considering the hardship faced by the family of such Government servants, it has been decided to extend the benefits of this Department's OM No. 1/17/2011-P&PW (E) dated 25.06.2013 to the families of Government servants covered by NPS who go missing during service.

The other provisions of the OM states that in all cases where a Government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension may be paid to the family if the missing Government servant had exercised option for benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules on death or discharge from service on disability/invalidation or the benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules is the default option under the Central Civil Services (Implementation of National Pension System) Rules, 2021. The benefit of arrears of salary, retirement gratuity and leave encashment shall be paid to the family in all cases where a Government employee covered under NPS goes missing during service, irrespective whether the employee had exercised option for benefits under CCS (Pension) Rules or under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under National Pension System) Regulations, 2015. Payment of the benefits to the family of the missing Government servant would, however, be subject to the conditions and procedural requirements, as mentioned in this Department's OM dated 25.06.2013.

In the case of a Government servant covered under NPS goes missing during service and his family is given family pension under CCS (Pension) Rules or CCS (EOP) Rules, the Permanent Retirement Account under National Pension System would remain suspended till the Government servant re-appears or till he is declared dead in accordance with the law. In the event of re-appearance of Government servant, the NPS account would be re-activated and the same account under NPS will become operative. Recoveries of payments made to the family of missing NPS employee would be made from the indemner as provided under this Department's OM dated 25.06.2013. However, in the event of Government servant being declared dead at any time or after seven years, Government contribution and returns thereon from the accumulated pension corpus under NPS would be transferred to the Government account and remaining corpus comprising of employees' contribution and returns thereon would be paid to the nominee or legal heir as the case may be in accordance with CCS(Implementation of NPS) Rules, 2021 and family will keep getting benefits as per CCS (Pension) Rules or CCS(EOP) Rules, as the case may be.

Dr Jitendra Singh reminded that ever since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had introduced 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 pen-

sioners, Electronic Pension Pay Order, assistance from Postal Department to facilitate pension process etc. He said, moreover 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 implications.

Kashmir essential part of Modi's New India journey: Dr Jitendra Singh

31 MAY 2022

Kashmir is an essential part of PM Modi's New India journey. It is time to avail of the enormous new openings initiated over the last 8 years, which are shaping the destiny of 135 crore Indians, under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This was stated by Union Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Earth Science, MoS in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh while addressing a public gathering at Budgam.

Titled "Gareeb Kalyan Sammelan", the event was organised at the Bihishte Zahra Park in Budgam to mark the completion of eight years in service of the current government.

Dr Singh said that a three-tier system of government has been introduced for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir in seventy years and it will not be long before people get to see and feel the benefits of such a system.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister deliberated on different centrally sponsored schemes and different initiatives launched by the Modi Government to ensure equitable development of people of Jammu and Kashmir, something which they had been deprived of for long for no fault of theirs.

The Minister also distributed benefits under Mudra, PM Svanidhi, Ayushman Bharat, PMAY-G and various agriculture and horticulture related schemes and distributed various logistics among them.

The Sammelan was also addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through virtual mode from Shimla. The PM also credited Rs 21 thousand crore in farmers' accounts through DBT mode on the occasion.

The Minister later on also interacted with the District and Sectoral Officers in a meeting convened in New Conference Hall Budgam. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza through PowerPoint presentation highlighted the overall district profile, major achievement of various departments in sectors including power, water supply, roads, social welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture and allied activities. The Minister took stock of status of various sectors including health, education, water supply and construction of roads among others.

On the occasion, Dr Singh laid e-foundation of different development projects including Watalpora-Wahabpora road, upgradation of Gariend-Wadwan road, and upgradation of Dajimalik Gund, Punch Gund, Nijloo Wahpora including Mamgund Road. E-foundation was also laid for one receiving station at Ompora Budgam.

The Minister also e-inaugurated OPD Block, Operation Theatre and Wards at SDH Nagam, additional accommodation for Model Higher Secondary School Chadoora, Middle Anganwadi Training Centre at Karipora, Budgam and Govt. High School Wagoora B.K Pora, Budgam. The Minister also e-inaugurated District Bilingual Website designed and developed by NIC Team Budgam. It is pertinent to mention here that the website will act as a vital link between the District Administration and citizens so far as dissemination of information is concerned.

An awareness cum training programme on eco-friendly and sustain-



able farming methods and demo and distribution of solar pumps by Science and Technology Department was also held at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall on the occasion.

Commenting upon the potential of Budgam, the Hon'ble minister said that the district has biggest assets in the form of agriculture, horticulture and other allied activities. He said that in this direction, more areas need to be explored so that maximum resources are tapped for socio-economic development of public.

The Minister emphasised upon holding of massive awareness campaign and instructed KVK Budgam, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines and SKUAST to hold joint seminar cum awareness programmes in the near future to give further boost to agricultural activities across district Budgam. Some villages in Budgam shall be identified and developed as solar villages, the Minister announced.

While concluding, the Minister applauded efforts of District Administration Budgam for the steps and initiatives taken for overall development of the district. The Minister also hailed the sincere coordination and joint synergy between District Administration and elected representatives including DDCs, BDCs and PRI workers of the district.

Book on 8 Years of Administrative and Pension reforms released

1 JUN 2022

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh released a book and its e-Version on 8 Years of Administrative and Pension reforms (2014-2022).

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, eight years of administrative and pension reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi are aimed at social transformation.

Delivering the inaugural address at a webinar on Administrative Reforms and Pension Reforms (2014-2022) in New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, large scale use of technology and integration approach are the twin pillars of both the revolutionary Governance and Pension Reforms carried out in the last eight years.

Dwelling on Pension Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh said, ever since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had introduced 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.

He said, moreover 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 implications.

Referring to the last month's decision for relaxation of family pension rules for missing central government employees, Dr Jitendra Singh said the move will instil confidence among the employees working in extremist-infested and violence-prone areas. He said, 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 and in case he reappears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that at the behest of the Prime Minister, the Department also started a portal entitled "Anubhav" to show-case

the experiences in Government of retiring officials which has now become a huge resource base for us. The Department not only introduced the concept of Pension Adalats but has leveraged technology to hold digital Adalats through video-conferencing. He informed that since 2017, some 22,494 pensioners' grievances have been taken up and 16,061 matters resolved on the spot in Pension Adalats. The Minister said, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has ensured end-to-end digitization of the Pension payment process by making BHAISHYA software mandatory for all the Ministries to process their pension cases. He stated that this software has laid out dead-lines for every stakeholder to complete the Pension processing so that pension is started on time.

On Administrative Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh listed out several out of box ideas like abolishing the century old colonial practice of attestation of documents by a gazetted officer and replacing it by self-attestation, doing away with interview for Group-B (Non-Gazetted) and Group - C posts in the Central Government since 2016, three month Central stint for fresh IAS officers as Assistant Secretary, change in the nature of PM Excellence Award and abolition of around 1450 rules, which have become obsolete.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, after 2014, the process and selection of PM's Excellence Award have been institutionalised and now this is based on the performance of the district, rather than that of the District Collector or individual civil servant. He said, another improvisation brought is to assess the scale and rating of the implementation of Flagship Schemes in the district.

Referring to Mission Karmayogi's main mantra of moving from "Rule to Role", Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Civil Servants must train themselves for a new and challenging assignment as most of the flagship schemes of the Government are now hugely Science and Technology based.

e-Book version on major reforms and achievements of DoPT of last eight years released

03 JUN 2022

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh released a book on major reforms and achievements of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) during the last eight years. He also launched an e-book version of the same.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been instrumental behind reforms like self-attestation and abolishing the interviews with his out of the box thinking and his encouragement to initiatives aimed at achieving ease of governance resulting in ease of living for the common man.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that it is quite visible that the Prime Minister Modi accords high priority to administrative reforms that he announced decision like abolishing the interviews from the ramparts of the Red Fort during the Independence Day speech and the DoPT worked tirelessly to bring it into effect within a short time of three months. Dr. Singh said that the Prime Minister's vision of minimum government, maximum governance is the idea behind all such reforms brought out by the DoPT in the last eight years.

The Union Minister termed all these reforms as socio-economic, futuristic and citizen-centric, with people's participation, which ensures that every citizen gets equal opportunity. He listed out a number of key reforms, achievements and initiatives by the DoPT such as proposed Common Eligibility Test, Mission Karmayogi, setting up of National Recruitment Agency, Citizen-centric online RTI portal. The Minister noted that the initiative of mandatory

stint of Assistant Secretaries with the central Ministries / Departments was a huge experiment which has paid off extremely well to the benefit of the Government of India.

Talking about various training programs being conducted by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the sole aim of these training modules is to train the officers and people's representatives about several flagship schemes of the government and how to prepare themselves well to help people in getting benefits of such schemes.

Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned Prevention of Corruption Act as a tool to bring transparency in governance by ensuring enough safeguards for honest officials. He said that zero tolerance against corruption has been the top priority of the Modi government. Dr. Jitendra Singh complimented the entire team of DoPT for putting sincere efforts to bring out this E-booklet and said that this will be shared with other Ministries / departments, as well. Senior officials of the Department of Personnel & Training were present on the occasion.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, Vision India @2047 must take into account optimum utilisation of India's capacity resources

03 JUN 2022

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 Vision India @2047 must take into account optimum utilisation of India's capacity resources.

Chairing a meeting of Advisory Committee on Vision India @2047, organised by Department of Administrative Reforms (DARPG), Dr Jitendra Singh said, Capacity Resource Management is going to present a huge challenge for India as the country prepares a roadmap of 25 years of journey ahead. He said, adopting 21st century management practices represents a significant challenge for Governments and it is with this objective that Prime Minister Modi has embarked on the ambitious Vision India@2047 initiative.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR), blockchain, drones, Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, 3D printing and virtual reality (VR) are going to have a huge impact on all aspects of life including governance. He said, though, it is difficult to visualise the exact shape of India that emerges 25 years from now, but one thing is certain that when independent India turns 100, it will be the world's Technological and Economic powerhouse.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, several initiatives, policies, schemes and programmes during the last 8 years of Modi Government have contributed to the dawn of New India and the emergence of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, but there are challenges on many fronts that need innovative solutions. Calling for integrated approach for problem solving, the Minister underlined that there is need to increase trust and reduce compliances for "Ease of Living" for common man.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, as we formulate the Vision for Governance, "Climate Change and Disaster Management" must become an essential pillar of training for civil servants. Visualising the role of Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Management, the Minister informed that a mega Science Mission on Climate Research will soon be unveiled. He said, new opportunities and new challenges will keep emerging and therefore the civil servants must gear up to seize the initiatives at the right moment. He added that to bring citizens and Government closer, digital institutions have to be created.

Dr Jitendra Singh also laid great stress on ethics in delivery of public services and visualised that in coming years technology will propel a model of Governance by Citizens. He said, the Government has tried

to ensure digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen by providing unique digital identity, access to common service centres and has provided thousands of Services on Demand by seamless integration of services across Departments/Ministries.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the unprecedented scale at which several programmes have been implemented like One Nation One Ration Card, e-Office, CPGRAMS, Passport SevaKendras, e-Hospital reflect in the Government's willingness to adopt 'Building to scale Building to last' approach where Reforms are deep rooted and long lasting.

Shri V.Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG informed that in 2021, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has strived to adopt the Whole of Government Approach in implementing 3 critical campaigns aimed at deepening administrative reforms. The initiative for Increasing Efficiency in Decision Making envisaged reducing the channels of submission, financial delegation, operationalization of e-Office version 7.0, Digitization of Central Registration Units and Operationalization of Desk Officer System in all Ministries/ Departments.

Some of the eminent Sectoral Experts who presented their views for India Vision @47 included Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary, Ajit Kumar Seth, former Cabinet Secretary, Sanjay Kothari, former CVC, Dr C. Chanramauli, former DoPT Secretary, Dr K. Radhakrishnan former ISRO Chairman, Prof Himanshu Roy, Director, IIM, Indore, Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur, Dr R. Balasubramaniam, Member-HR, Capacity Building Commission, S.N. Tripathi, DG, IIPA.

Development of the Himalayan States like Uttarakhand has been top priority of the government in 8 years: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

04 JUN 2022

After interacting with the beneficiaries of various government schemes in Raiwala, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh chaired the 'DISHA' (District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee) meeting at Dehradun.

Members of Parliament Ramesh Pokhriyal and Naresh Bansal also attended the meeting.

The Union Minister said that the aim of the Union Government is to achieve 100% saturation of government schemes in a true sense. He added that it means that district magistrates use their discretionary powers to ensure that no bonafide eligible beneficiary remains outside the cover of the scheme.

Considering the frequent man-animal conflict in Uttarakhand, the Union Minister suggested to the district officials, a collaboration with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research to find ways to reduce animals venturing into habitated areas.

Deliberating the implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', the Union Minister said that all banks should follow similar criteria while deciding on the eligibility of the applicant. While reviewing the construction under Gram Sadak Yojana, the Minister advocated taking into account the recent urbanisation of 'rural' areas and said that this means that higher standards of road construction should be adhered to. While discussing the hilly and often inaccessible nature of farming in Uttarakhand, the Union Minister recommended the greater use of drone technology in agriculture in collecting data, applying insecticide or conducting surveys.

Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined the need for such outreach meetings by



stating that this provides a useful tool to flag issues that our varied geography engenders. Dr Singh said that it is a priority for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that hilly and newly founded states like Uttarakhand are brought on the path of rapid development.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh advocates integrated training modules in governance for Central Training Institutions

06 JUN 2022

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 advocated integrated training modules in governance for Central Training Institutions.

The Minister was presiding over a joint meeting attended by senior officials of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) and Central Training Institutions like Lal Bahadur Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) and CBI Academy.

Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon CTIs to prepare institutional interactive curriculum and come forward to involve other training institutions of the country in this endeavour.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed on specialised training faculty from different strata and inclusion of more women faculty members amongst other issues. He also floated the idea of having visiting resident professors for the institutes.

The Union Minister said that the CTIs should work with more cohesion and integrated approach in order to try to learn and benefit from each other's expertise.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the era of generalisation is over and there is a need for a Role specific module and Panel to impart citizen-centric delivery mechanism, which is the core of all Governance Model. He also called for increased use of technology in learning and training modules.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's penchant for Governance Reforms, Dr Jitendra Singh added that in this transformation, CTIs have a huge role to play in training and shaping the officers for execution of the tasks throughout their careers.

Dwelling on the theme of Integration, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Indian Institute of Public Administration, IIPA has established a Mission-Karmayogi Resource Cell at IIPA and is working in close coordination with National Capacity Building Commission, LBSNAA and other central training institutions (CTIs).

The Minister assured all CTIs to look into the issues of shortage of faculty and at the same time advised them to become financially self-sustainable.

He said that the aim of "Mission Karmayogi" is to impart futuristic vision to civil services which could effectively determine the roadmap for next 25 years and shape the Century India of 2047.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacts and felicitates first 20 All India Toppers of IAS/ Civil Services Exam 2021

07 JUN 2022

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 interacted and felicitated first 20 All India

Toppers of IAS/ Civil Services Exam 2021, who called on him at the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) headquarters at North Block here. The result of the exam was declared on 30th of May.

Among the first 20 IAS/Civil Services toppers invited by Dr Jitendra Singh, the first three toppers this year Shruti Sharma (First), Ankita Agarwal (Second) and Gamini Singla (Third) happen to be women, followed in that order by Aishwarya Verma, Utkarsh Dwivedi, Yaksh Chaudhary, Samyak S Jain, Ishita Rathi, Preetam Kumar, Harkeerat Singh Randhawa, Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, Yasharth Shekhar, Priyamvada Ashok Mhaddalkar, Abhinav J Jain, C Yaswanthkumar Reddy, Anshu Priya, Mehak Jain, Ravi Kumar Sihag, Diksha Joshi and Arpit Chauhan.

In his welcome address to the top-20 rankers and their family members, Dr Jitendra Singh described the 2021 batch of Civil Servants as the "Architects of Century India". He said, when India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav coinciding with 75th Year of India's Independence, this Century Batch with 25 to 30 years of active service ahead will charter a new course when independent India turns 100.

The Minister said, onus will be on them to become active partner in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of New India that leads the rest of the world. He said, under Prime Minister Modi, India is already on the ascent and Civil Servants of this new genre have the privileged responsibility of taking it to the top league in the global arena.

During introduction of the 20 toppers, Dr Jitendra Singh pleasantly noted that there are 10 engineers and two medicos among them and hoped that they will add value to the work assigned to them in carrying out various specialized schemes and programmes introduced by the Modi Government in the last 8 years. The Minister hoped that the technocrats will be able to do justice to the highly specialised flagship programmes of the government in sectors like Health, Agriculture, Water, Environment, Industries, Education, Skills and Mobility to name a few.

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that apart from the first three toppers in Civil Services Exam-2021, there are 8 female candidates out of 20 toppers, which is nearly 40 percent and asserted that we are closely arriving at gender parity. The Minister also took note of the demographic change happening over the last few years and said that they represent a pan-India coverage as these candidates hail from the States/UTs of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana. He said, this gender and demographic change augurs well for a diverse country like India.

The Minister also underlined that even candidates having done schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya School and Government schools are cracking the exam, while earlier it was mostly confined to elite schools.

Dr Jitendra Singh said after he joined the government in 2014, he had introduced in the DoPT a new tradition of personally inviting the All India Toppers to North Block and felicitating them and since then this tradition continues.

Responding to some of the suggestions of toppers that India language students face difficulties and challenges in taking up the exam, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Indian Government is committed to promote Indian languages and efforts are on to translate the engineering and medical books in Indian Languages through professionals. He also reminded the officers that National Education Policy, NEP-2020 will also address some of the challenges.

The Minister also informed that 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 by the year end. He added that to begin with, the test will be conducted in 12 Languages and gradually it will include all the lan-

guages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

Dr Jitendra Singh also recalled some of the path breaking reforms brought in for the young probationers and IAS officers during the last seven years. These, he said, included introduction of a 3 month stint of mentorship at the Central government before giving over to the respective State or Union Territory to join the allocated cadre.

Dr Jitendra Singh in conclusion said that interacting with the successful candidates is always a learning experience for future course corrections. He wished that in their great career ahead full of diverse opportunities and challenges, they would be able to give their best to the country. The programme was attended by all the senior officers of the department.

PRIs meet at Majalta, Udhampur in J&K

12 JUN 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said at Majalta, Udhampur in J&K that Prime Minister Narendra Modi personifies the true essence of democracy, wherein common man from a humble background can rise to the highest echelons on the basis of sheer merit and people's popular support.

Addressing a meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the true essence of democracy is that whenever a new child is born, regardless of whatever is the social or economic status or lineage of the household, the mother should have the confidence to dream that in a democratic order, even her child has the opportunity to achieve the highest position in hierarchy. If that be so, Modi's rise to the position of Prime Minister restored the faith of common people in the democratic strength and the values of India. At the same time, it also marked the end of dynasticism that had resulted in family rule of successive generations at the Centre.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that the public welfare schemes and programmes introduced by PM Modi during the last eight years for the benefit of deprived sections of society are in fact redemption of six decades of struggle by BJP for establishing a governance system based on the principle of "Appeasement to None Justice to All". He said, soon after taking over as Prime Minister, Modi had committed himself to the service of the poor and equitable development of the neglected sections and regions of the country. Looking back, one can evidently say that he has walked the talk, he added

Another striking feature of Modi's welfare schemes is, said Dr Jitendra Singh that they have sought to introduce a new culture and a new political culture in the country. The benefits like Ujjawala Scheme and PM AwasYojana reached the neediest, regardless of caste, creed and religion or even the political affiliation or vote bank considerations. As far Udhampur-Kathua-DodaLok Sabha constituency, Dr Jitendra Singh said, not only national level projects like Devika River Project and PakalDul Hydro Power Project were initiated, several of the stalled projects like Shahpur-Kandi project and Rattle project were introduced. At the same time, North India's first Industrial Biotech Park, the first Express Corridor from Katra to Delhi were initiated and rare in a single constituency that got three government Medical Colleges.

On the occasion, Pamphlets were also distributed highlighting 75 major development projects initiated in Udhampur-Kathua-DodaLok Sabha constituency during the last eight years.

Dr Jitendra Singh also addressed a booth level meeting and visited a Dalit family during the visit. He was accompanied by BJP J&K Vice President PawanKhajuria and local Sarpanches, Panches and PRIs.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh releases the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021, NeSDA 2021

13 JUN 2022

Jammu & Kashmir tops among all the Union territories of India in e-Governance services delivery, which has also enabled it to save around Rs 200 crore annually that was incurred in carriage of physical files during the Annual Darbar move between the two capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

This was stated here by 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, while releasing the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment report, prepared at the initiative of Department of Administrative Reforms in the Union Ministry of Personnel.

The Minister lauded the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for achieving this position with an overall compliance of nearly 90%.

Addressing the National Workshop on e-Office and Launch of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA 202), Dr Jitendra Singh informed that in the Union Territories category, Jammu & Kashmir was assessed for the first time in NeSDA 2021 and scored the highest amongst all UTs for six sectors. He said, after coming into force of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 with effect from 31 st October, 2019, J&K became the first UT in the country to have Good Governance Index and was also first to launch District Good Governance Index for 20 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in January this year.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the operationalization of two Secretariats in Jammu & Kashmir was possible because of e-Office and that has put an end to Annual Darbar move carrying over 300 truckloads of files between the two capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu. This also saved Rs 200 crore per annum and led to uninterrupted work culture in the entire UT without any official break of six weeks for organization of files in Jammu and Srinagar respectively.

The Minister said, the adoption of e-Office has enabled the simultaneous operationalization of both Jammu and Srinagar Secretariats and was one of the biggest reforms related to the practice of Darbar move. Dr Jitendra Singh released the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021, NeSDA 2021. The report has been prepared covering the assessment of States, UTs, and focuses on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens. The report also provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, 28 Ministries/Departments have already adopted e-Office version 7.0 along with digitization of the central registration units enabled creation of paperless secretariats where receipts move online, files move online and correspondence moves online. He said, the migration schedule of the remaining 56 Ministries/Departments has been drawn up and by February, 2023, all Ministries will have e-Office version 7.0. The limited file movement with 4 levels of submission and adoption of the desk officer system has ensured that non-performing officials can no longer hide files, the Minister added.

Referring to some of the success stories, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the uninterrupted functioning of the Central Secretariat in the pandemic and lockdown was possible because of e-Office. Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries had access to Virtual Private Network and could take policy decisions on e-files during this period.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the adoption of e-Office in DRDO, represented a milestone as it demonstrated that Departments with multiple field offices could use e-Office for real time transfer of files. He informed that in 2022, DRDO collaborated with DARPG in propagation of the use of e-Office in DRDO and all field offices



of DRDO and the Headquarters. Similarly, e-Office has enabled the seamless movement of files to IFD and Department of Expenditure. E-Office version 7.0 is a significant advancement on e-Office over 6.0 with a number of new features, enabling references to external offices. This has enabled seamless movement of files to IFD and Dept of Expenditure.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's e-Governance policies have shown improvements and citizen satisfaction levels have risen and, in many ways, Technology has succeeded in Bringing Government and Citizens closer.

In conclusion, Dr Jitendra Singh expressed satisfaction that in assessment of State portals, Kerala became a front runner and the progress made by Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in NeSDA 2021 was also commendable. In Service portals, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Meghalaya have topped the rankings. All States/ UT's have shown improvements in the promotion of integrated service portals and the number of services being offered on their state portals.

In his address, V.Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG said, that DARPG currently monitors adoption of e-Office on its dashboard on a daily basis on its dashboard, submits progress reports on e-Office implementation in its monthly DO letters to the Cabinet Secretary and circulates information to the Council of Ministers. Further DARPG had instituted certificates of recognition to institutions that achieve 90 percent of e-Office digitalization. The significant increase in number of instances and users under e-Office was possible because of these untiring efforts.

In NeSDA 2021, 1400 services across all States and UTs were assessed as compared to 872 in 2019, an increase of over 60%. 74% respondents of the nation-wide citizen survey conducted during the study had stated that they are satisfied with the e-Services provided by the States and UTs. The e-Services of Finance and Local Governance & Utility Services sectors were the most widely used by citizens. The rising trend of e-Services delivery shifting from single silo departmental portals to integrated / centralized portals has resulted in higher citizen satisfaction.

The Minister addresses the mammoth 'Jan Kalyan' public rally at Kathua in Jammu

14 JUN 2022

Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology; Minister of State (I/C) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here that Narendra Modi's 8 years as Prime Minister gave India vision for 2047 and laid the roadmap for the next 25 years of Amrit Kal which would witness the ascent of India as a front-rank nation in the world.

Addressing mammoth 'Jan Kalyan' public rally at Kathua in Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh said that these 8 years witnessed unprecedented development and growth, but what is often not discussed is the subtle rise of self-esteem in the common Indian as well as reinforcement of self-confidence in party workers.

From the point view of a common man, these 8 years, since 2014, said Dr Jitendra Singh has been a journey from pessimism to optimism and from hopelessness to hope. There were times when Indian youth going abroad were sometimes shy of disclosing their identity whereas, they are not only held in high esteem but also preferred for professional jobs and Start-Up initiatives by their western counterparts.

While releasing a pamphlet enumerating 75 major development works and initiatives during the last 8 years in the Lok Sabha constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, Dr Jitendra Singh said if one start-up the from entry at Lakhanpur, one would come across a monument of development after every 2 or 3 kms which were set up in the last years. These, he said, include Keediyand-Gandiyal bridge, Maharaja Gulab Singh's Statue, Seed-processing plant, Bio-tech Industrial Park, high-

way village, centrally funded engineering college, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Juthana bridge, above 200 bridges including, Udhampur river Devika project, Bhaderwah higher altitude Medicine Institute, Kishtwar airport, Chenani Nashville tunnel, Atal setu, Express road corridor from Katra to Delhi etc. In addition, there have been about 200 bridges and at least 3 new national highways.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Kathua's Birla Park, the first of its kind, set up about 3 years back, is rated better than the Green Belt Park in Gandhi Nagar Jammu. This is possibly the only Lok Sabha Constituency in which 3 central government funded Medical Colleges were set up within 4 years, he added.

Bhavishya bags 3rd Rank in recently released NeSDA-2021 Assessment

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 the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare will soon launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled Common single Pension Portal for the benefit of pensioners and elder citizens. This will also help seamless processing, tracking and disbursal of pension.

Interacting with beneficiaries of Bhavishya, a Portal for Pension Payment and Tracking System, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in keeping with PM Narendra Modi's motto of "Ease of Living" for all, AI supported portal will send automatic alerts to pensioners and superannuated elder citizens. He said, the Portal will not only enable constant contact with pensioners and their associations across the country but will also regularly receive their inputs, suggestions as well as grievances for prompt response.

Most of the superannuated senior citizens including from paramilitary services and those about to get superannuated lauded the prompt pension processing through the Bhavishya platform and thanked the Union Minister for such seamless seva. Some of the hiccups from the banking side were brought to the notice of the Minister, which he said, would be taken care of automatically in the AI enabled portal with fixed responsibility.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Bhavishya has ensured End-to-End digitization of the Pension processing and payment in tune with Modi Government's objective of transparency, digitization and service delivery. He also advised the officials to conduct pre-retirement workshops at regular intervals to counsel them and learn from their experiences. The Minister reiterated that pension reforms are not only governance reforms, but have huge positive social implications.

Dr Jitendra Singh also complimented Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare for bagging the 3rd Rank for BHAUVISHYA as per the recently released National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021, among all the Central Government e-Governance Service Delivery Portals. He informed that the ranking is based on Accessibility, Content Availability, Ease of Use, Information Security & Privacy, End Service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery, Status & Request Tracking. The Minister said, being a small Department, it is truly a milestone achievement since this has been done completely in-house by utilising the services of NIC and without spending huge amounts on outsourcing.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the 'Bhavishya' platform was made mandatory for all central government departments since 01.01.2017 and this system is at present being successfully implemented in the main Secretariat of 97 Ministries/ Departments including 815 Attached Offices, along with 7,852 DDOs on board. He also informed that as on date, more than 1, 62,000 cases have been processed i.e. PPOs issued which includes more than 96,000 e-PPOs.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Bhavishya 8.0 was released in August,

2020 with this new feature to PUSH the ePPO in Digilocker. Bhavishya' is the first application to use the Digilocker Id based PUSH Technology of Digilocker and 3892 e-PPOs have been pushed to Digilocker till date. Bhavishya provides an option to retiring employees for linking their Digilocker account with "Bhavishya" to get e-PPO. This initiative has created a permanent record safe from destruction of pensioners. He said, the 'Bhavishya' system has now been made available on a Mobile App, thereby making it simple especially for those Para Military Forces who are out in the fields to keep track of their pension cases.

Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Shri V. Srinivas said, PPO in Digilocker eliminates delays in forwarding PPO to new Pensioners, as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy. Considering that a very large number of retirees are from CAPFs who serve in far flung areas of the country, such a software is a boon both in terms of Ease of processing as well as speed and accuracy in pension processing.

From the retiree filing his/her papers online till issue of the PPO in electronic format going into the Digilocker, this platform has shown the intention of complete transparency and efficiency of the Government. Every stakeholder has a deadline to complete their part of the pension processing and alerts keep going on the pensioners' mobile. As was in the past, this obviates the necessity of the retiree to keep chasing his file from seat-to-seat months before his retirement. Since the software is fed with the latest pension rules, the calculation of pension is accurate and as per rule and not based on the interpretation of the dealing staff.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare will soon launch Art the benefit of pensioners and elder citizensificial Intelligence (AI) enabled Common Single Pension Portal

15 JUN 2022

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 today informed that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare will soon launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled Common single Pension Portal for the benefit of pensioners and elder citizens. This will also help seamless processing, tracking and disbursal of pension.

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Source: PIB

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