



Chief Secretary launching SWAN coverage.

After digitization focus should be on timely service delivery: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today remarked that after successfully digitizing all the services, focus should be laid on timely delivery of services and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in managing the affairs of Government departments.

Dr Mehta was speaking in the 14th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) attended by other members including Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary, GAD; DG Codes; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary stressed on moving towards use of AI/ML and IoT based technologies for better coordination and monitoring purposes. He maintained that technology is panacea for many of the problems. It is also the most effective tool for ensuring transparency.

He impressed upon the officers and scientists from IT and NIC respectively to work towards use of modern technologies towards obtaining desired results especially for the purposes of work estimation and their identification.

Dr Mehta directed for making good use of technologies by bridging the gap between the government and those governed. He made out that the power belongs to people and technology has empowered them in unprecedented manner. He told the officers to have virtual inspections of the offices and works on daily basis. He even suggested for taking feedback from public and PRI's about the quality of work being done in their areas or

any grievances they have against any of the government departments.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized upon end to end use of digital platforms like e-office by all the government employees especially ground workers like Patwaris, JEs etc. He declared that the actual purpose of digitization would be served when it enhances ease of living. He asked for making the work of every office be it Police Stations, Tehsil Offices, Hospitals, Engineering Departments, ULBs, Block Offices fully online for efficient delivery and effective monitoring.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, PremPuri gave a detailed presentation on the decisions taken during the 13th BoG meeting. She also detailed out the agenda for the meeting with a proposal for revamping the agency on more professional lines that would make the working of the J&K e-Governance agency more outcome oriented as per the requirements of present times.

It was revealed that in the previous meeting the decisions like establishment of 1012 ICT labs in schools, digitisation of office records, rolling out of National Generic Document Registration System, procurement of infrastructure for Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme and upgradation of State Data Centre was achieved as per the respective proposals.

Later on the Chief Secretary also launched the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) coverage for 168 blocks of the UT. He advised giving access to the 10 most vital offices at district level and 5 such offices at block levels for their easy access to safer network.

'Cultural, creative activities motivate students' NEP has redefined entire education ecosystem: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated 36th Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival 'Antarnaad' at University of Jammu today.

The 5-day long Youth festival is being organized by University

Music, dance, fine arts, theatre & literature encourage students to sharpen their thoughts and expand creative horizon," he added. The Lt Governor encouraged the youth to hone their artistic skills and inspire others with their creativity.



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating North Zone Youth Festival in Jammu University on Tuesday.

of Jammu under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

Sinha welcomed the participants from various Universities to J&K and underscored the need to provide more platforms like 'Antarnaad' to the youth to express themselves through art.

"Cultural and creative activities motivate students to achieve excellence, nurture the talents, ignite the minds and nourish the civilizational heritage for our future generations," he said.

"Artistic disciplines are like windows that open up to infinite universe of creativity for youth.

"Artistic expressions are source of intellectual inspiration. I want to see students transforming themselves as 'Triveni'- a confluence of knowledge, science & art, a balanced personality with a sense of inquisitiveness, serene, peaceful and dynamic," he said.

Sinha also highlighted the significant role of the Universities in nurturing the talent of the younger generation.

"The path to the prosperity of the society passes through educational institutions. Antarnaad, means the inner voice. Artistic disciplines will give our youth

new insight for innovation, new inventions," he added. "Our cultural history, lifestyle, social settings are all integrated. If knowledge and science is the body, then art is the mind. It is the perfect harmony between the two that forms the very foundation of development of any nation, observed the Lt Governor.

"The National Education Policy, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has redefined the entire education ecosystem. It fosters innovation & creativity and inspires students to participate in research & creative activities," he added.

Sinha sought active participation of Universities from J&K

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

and involvement of students in preparations for the ensuing G20 event in Jammu Kashmir.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University and Dr. BS Sekhon, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs & Sports), AIU briefed on the series of activities planned during the festival.

A souvenir of 'Antarnaad' was also released by the Lt Governor.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Prof Bechan Lal, VC, Cluster University Jammu; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education; faculty members and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

Govt's role that of 'facilitator', not 'intimidator': Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 31: 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 said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given us the Mantra of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government" which implies that the role of the Government is that of "facilitator" and not "intimidator".

The Minister was delivering inaugural address at the Foundation Training and Interactive Session with 2020 Batch of Assistant Section Officer (Probationers) at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM), under DoPT at New Delhi today. S. Radha Chauhan, Secretary, DoPT along with other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned that Prime Minister Modi has made things easier for those in Government service as well as the common man by removing hurdles and obstructions, which is driven by the mantra of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government". He noted that in the last 8 years, almost 2000 laws have been done away with by the Union Government which had become obsolete.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Central Secretariat, as the entire universe of Central Ministries and Departments is commonly referred to, as the nerve centre of functioning of the Government of India. He said that the Secretariat's primary responsibility is to assist and advise the political executive in policy formulation, implementation, review and modification of such policies from time to time.

A large number of young Government servants are coming with scientific and technological background, observed Dr Jitendra Singh, which will help the Government in creating awareness about specialised flagship programs related to drone, space technology, which require technical



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh delivering inaugural address at the Foundation Training and Interactive Session with 2020 Batch of Assistant Section Officer (Probationers) at the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM), New Delhi on Tuesday.

expertise and having that provides an edge to the younger lot as the entire government today has become technology-driven. He added that this will also help in adapting to the changing roles of CSS - being tech savvy for assessment of citizen's needs, real time monitoring of schemes/programmes and using cutting edge technology for smart delivery of services.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Government of India attaches high priority to training needs of every official and, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, it has also started implementing the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building or Mission Karmayogi (Prarambh) aimed at creating an opportunity of world class

capacity building to all Government officials based on the key principle of "role-based" learning". He said that the young officers will appreciate that the role based learning empowers them directly to play their role effectively than the earlier practice of training in Rule based programs.

Dr. Singh said that the Secretariat has an important role of looking after several other important functions such as drafting legislations, rules and regulations, Sectoral planning and programme formulation, and exercises Budgetary control. He said that since now they are part of the government machinery, and this machinery requires their inputs and knowledge.

Govt constitutes panel to review restrictions on establishing new chemical units

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday constituted a panel to review the restrictions imposed on setting up of new plant protection chemical units in Jammu Division.

As per an order, Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee shall be the chairman of the panel while Director General, Industries and Commerce, Jammu shall be the convener.

The order said Director Horticulture, Jammu; Director Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K; Dr Sudhir Kumar Singh, and Dr RS Bandral, Professors, SKUAST-Jammu, shall be the members of the committee

Pertinently, the

Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee led panel shall assess the scope for setting up additional plant protection chemical units (pesticides, weedicides, and herbicides etc.) in terms of capacity which could be allowed in the industrial estates of the districts of Jammu Division, where number of such units is low.

The panel would also carry out a comprehensive exercise and recommend the criteria, guidelines, norms and standards for setting up such units keeping all aspects including those pertaining to geographical, environmental and ecological situation of the area into consideration.

"The committee shall submit its report within a period of one month," read the order.



J&K Bank Management interacting with HNI clients of Jammu Division during a meeting in Jammu on Tuesday.

J&K Bank Mgmt meets HNI clients in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 31: J&K Bank on Tuesday organised the second customer meet with its High Net-Worth Individual (HNI) clients from Jammu Division.

As per a statement, MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash chaired the interactive meet in presence of Bank's General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen, GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, GM Sushil Kumar Gupta, DGM Nishikant Sharma, Zonal Head Rajesh Dubey and other senior officers.

Expressing his pleasure to the guests for gracing the occasion, Baldev Prakash said, "As an institution with great legacy of empowerment, we have always been there for you through thick and thin of times. And with a unique bond of time-tested relationship between us, we will keep supporting each other so as to grow and prosper together."

"We have effected some fundamental changes in the Bank's operational structure and service culture during the last three quarters keeping betterment of our clients at the heart of such transformation. We have upgraded our technology system and aligned our procedures and policies while complying with the evolving regulatory frameworks across the industry."

"And I deeply appreciate your patience and the kind of support

you have extended to us during the transition period that witnessed some teething issues. And let me assure you that all the changes are well thought out and we will live up to your expectations", the MD & CEO J&K Bank said, while addressing the HNI clients of the bank.

He further said that the purpose of the interaction is to ascertain the impact of changes on the clients and get feedback to improve upon the areas of mutual understanding and progress.

General Manager (Credit), Ashutosh Sareen spoke about the conceptualization of the new structure in form of Large Credit Units.

"In terms of importance, all customers are equal for us but we do understand that the level of attention provided to clients requires a certain sense of proportion with the quantum of his/her exposure. It is with this objective these LCUs were established to provide specialized yet highly personalized services to HNI customers under one roof. And we believe we need to take special care of our most valuable clients like you," he said.

The participants thanked MD & CEO Baldev Prakash along with the management for conducting the meet and put forth their concerns and suggestions.

Earlier, Divisional Head (Jammu), Sunit Kumar welcomed the HNI clients and discussed the context of the meeting in detail.

Panel to examine SHA's report on AB-PMJAY best practices

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 31: The Health & Medical Education Department (H&ME) has constituted a committee to examine the reports prepared by the State Health Agency (SHA) on best practices followed by different States for better implementation of the AB PM-JAY and AB PM-JAY SEHAT.

The Committee has been tasked to look into the reports prepared by the SHA in terms of financial sustainability.

The committee will have Director Finance, Health and Medical Education Department as Chairman, Director Coordination, New Medical Colleges, J&K as Member, Deputy Secretary (A) to the

Government, Health and Medical Education Department as Member, State Nodal Officer, State Health Agency as Member Secretary and any other Officer H&ME may be co-opted by the Chairman of the Committee as Member.

The Committee formed, has been directed to submit its report to the State Health Agency within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of the formal constitution order along with its suggestions/recommendations.

"Consequent upon receipt of the suggestions/recommendations of the Committee, the State Health Agency, J&K may place the report before the Governing Council for consideration/approval," reads the order.

JMC Mayor, Rajinder Sharma addresses General House Meeting of the Urban Local Body in Jammu on Tuesday.

Excelsior/Rakesh

'Councillors to pay Rs 10K, shopkeepers Rs 5K for using banned poly-bags' JMC to stop lifting goods displayed outside shops as e-Challans get nod

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 31: The use of poly-bags in Jammu city will now invite trouble as Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has decided to slap hefty fines on its use while in another development the Enforcement Wing of JMC will now stop lifting goods displayed outside shops as a resolution in this regard has been passed today in the General House Meeting (GHM) of the Urban Local Body which gave nod to e-Challans to such encroacher shopkeepers who display their goods outside their shops.

Moved by none else than Deputy Mayor of JMC, Baldev Singh Billawaria the resolution stated that while removing encroachments by the shopkeepers during anti-encroachment drives, JMC used to bring valuable items to its offices which were mostly mishandled and a procedure was to be followed

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com for their release.

The resolution also mentioned that in order to make the anti-encroachment exercise purposeful, the Enforcement Wing should impose e-Challan to fine the encroacher shopkeepers on spot.

During discussion on the resolution by Deputy Mayor which also sought enforcing ban strictly on the use of poly-bags, the Mayor Rajinder Sharma intervened and said that a fine of minimum of Rs. 10,000 shall be slapped on JMC Councillors if they are found using banned poly-bags while the shopkeepers doing so shall be fined Rs. 5000.

Another resolution moved by Shama Akhtar—Independent Councillor from Ward number 71 demanding some policy to regularize small lands in her Ward (Sidra area) where some landless people are living, triggered heated debate.

She had demanded that the occupants of such lands should not be evicted from those lands.

Opposing the resolution Narinder Singh of BJP, Sanjay Baru of BJP and some other Councillors claimed that there were large scale illegal constructions around Jammu city area which should be removed. As the debate intensified, Mayor, Rajinder Sharma intervened and said that a Committee shall be constituted over the issue with Narinder Singh, Kamal Singh of Congress and others as its members.

Resolution moved by Rajinder Singh Jamwal of Congress demanding naming a

Chowk between Ward number 39 and 26 as Durga Mandir Chowk as there is a Durga temple in the vicinity was passed along with his another resolution which was in shape of demand that a new bridge should be constructed over Ranbir Canal to facilitate people who come from Bharat Nagar and Kabir Colony to Shakti Nagar Crematorium for performing last rites of their dear ones.

On a resolution by Independent Councillor, Sham Lal Basson demanding that a proposed park outside Balidan Stambh at Bahu Fort area be named after legendary freedom fighter Uddham Singh, JMC Commissioner, Rahul Yadav said, as the land belongs to Railway Department, JMC can't name the proposed park there.

To another resolution moved by Gopal Gupta demanding renovation and proper infrastructure to Government Schools in Jammu, the JMC Commissioner said that JMC will write to the School Education Department in this regard.

Resolution moved by Rashpal Bhardwaj demanding furniture and computer setup in Ward offices of JMC was passed.

To a resolution moved by Yash Paul Sharma demanding constitution of a Committee to make a mechanism for revenue collection from illegal colonies for facilities given by JMC there, the Mayor said that a detailed memorandum shall be prepared in this regard and it will be sent to the concerned authorities.

However, Yash Paul said that he had demanded that for construction works in illegal colonies JMC should charge something as otherwise certain personnel from JMC accept illegal graft from the people who do construction works in such colonies and allow illegal constructions.

To the resolution by Ashok Singh demanding Primary Schools, ICDS Centres and Health Centres with assets and liabilities and funds be transferred to JMC as per 74th amendment, the JMC Commissioner said that there already exists such mechanism but as there is at present no budget for that the JMC will write to the concerned departments.

On resolution by Jeet Angral demanding revocation of recent order by Social Welfare Department demanding documents to be re-submitted for old age, widow and other pensions through online mode, the JMC

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