

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Science & Technology Ministry's new Central Headquarter complex

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday inaugurated the new State-of-the-Art Central Headquarter building complex of the Union Ministry of Science & Technology at Technology Bhawan campus at New Mehrauli Road here and described it as an auspicious milestone of independent India's distinguished Science journey being celebrated in the 75th year of independence.

The Minister said, Di-Silosation not only of work but also workplaces is needed for better and cost-effective outcomes.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Central Vista Project, Dr Jitendra said, even after 74 year of independence, the nation does not have a Central Secretariat and various ministries have hired premises and thousands of crore of rent is paid for the same. He said, this project will not only save money, but will also bring better cohesion in Administration and Output.

Similarly, he gave the example of Gatishakti launched by PM Modi yes-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh going around different blocks of the new Central Headquarter building complex of the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, after inaugurating it at New Delhi on Thursday.

terday, a beautiful illustration of synergy as the initiative will bring 16 infrastructure-related central departments on the same platform.

Recalling that the buildings occupied by DST were originally constructed as warehouses used for storage of food-grains imported by USAID under PL-480 "Public Law-480", Dr Jitendra Singh said that the New Building Complex symbolizes the march of India from the state of deficiency to Self-sufficiency under the present regime, as India has not only become Atmanirbhar

in food grain production but has also emerged as one of the leading exporting countries.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, we had eminent scientists and towering personalities in the decades of 60s and 70s, but they lacked the world class facilities being created now. He asked the planners and architects to use the open space in the complex to showcase India's Ethos and its Scientific Prowess. He also asked officials to cater to and reach out to young Start-ups through the state of the art facilities.

Dr Singh informed that the new buildings will accommodate DST, DSIR and also five Autonomous Institutes under DST located at Delhi i.e. Science Engineering Research Board (SERB), Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Technology Development Board (TDB), Vigyan Prasar, Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) as they were functioning from rented premises.

The new campus when completed will have a built-up area of 35,576 Square Meter, comprising of two new Office Blocks, a 500 seater Auditorium, Canteen, Reception, CISF Block (office & single living), Post office, Bank and other facilities as authorized under norms of MoUD (Ministry of Urban Development). The buildings are targeted to achieve Green Ratings as per IGBC, USGBC and GRIHA standards. The State-of-the-art Buildings harness solar power for its lighting needs; a Building Management System (BMS), an STP for use of recycled water for horticulture and other purposes, a State-of-the-art Auditorium having capacity of 500; basement parking space for 400 vehicles; LED lighting system to reduce power consumption.



My fight against terrorism, separatism, divisive ideologies & corruption will continue: Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: New Delhi Hotel Owners Association, Importers & Exporters Association of New Delhi & members of Central Waqf Council on Thursday organized a felicitation programme in honour of senior BJP leader & Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi at New Delhi for her nomination as the National Executive member of Bharatiya Janata Party.

The function was organized at Hotel Shiv Dev International lawns at Paharganj.

A glittering presentation on the social & political contribution of Dr Andrabi was digital-made amid huge applause from the audiences comprising of CWC members, Prominent Hotel Owners of New Delhi, Exporters & Importers of the National Capital & BJP Vjapar Mandal.

The programme was convened by BJP leader from Hyderabad & CWC member Hanief Ali.

Speaking on the occasion Ali said that nomination of Dr Darakhshan Andrabi to the highest decision making body of world's biggest political party is just the endorsement of Dr Andrabi's capabilities & vision as a politician.



Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi being honoured at New Delhi.

The organizing representatives presented bouquets, shawls, ang-vastra & trophies to Dr Darakhshan as a part of the felicitation.

Sonu Baba, Vice President of New Delhi Hotel Owners' Association & Sanjeev Kumar Singh representing Exporters & Importers Association New Delhi also expressed their views.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that she was highly thankful to the Prime Minister, Home Minister, BJP President & leaders of J&K BJP for investing their trust in her and nominating her to the prime body of BJP at National level.

"For me service of the people & the nation at large has been my motive & driving force in politics and I will also continue to deliver for my country with

more energy and vigor in the days to come. I feel proud to see my views regarding J&K being considered and accepted by the central leadership and the government in the interest of the people," said Dr Darakhshan.

She thanked the organizers for their love & honour: Dr Andrabi said that her political journey of two decades has been a consistent fight against terrorism, separatism, divisive ideologies, corruption and deprivation.

"I have fought relentlessly for the welfare of the public during my political career and I will continue to do so in the days to come. As a politician, I am convinced that Jammu & Kashmir has stepped on a long lasting path of peace and small distractions to derail will not succeed," said the BJP National Executive member.

Srinagar National Airport ready for direct International flight to Sharjah on Oct 23

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The much-awaited direct flight service connecting Srinagar and Sharjah will take off from Srinagar Airport on October 23, thereby bringing cheer to air-travelers and trade community of Kashmir.

As per a senior official of airport, 'Go First' earlier known as 'Go Air' has given its nod to start operations from Oct 23 onwards after a meeting of the operators with the Government held last month. "Mumbai-based airline operator will start first flight from Srinagar to Sharjah, which will depart from Srinagar at 8:30 AM. It will be the first direct end-to-end flight between two regions. In 2010-11, direct flights from Dubai to Srinagar were operated normally by Air India for a period of six months but the service was stopped later. Now, it will be direct flight, with a travel time of just 5 hours," the official said, adding, "Resumption of international flights between Sharjah and Srinagar will boost tourism in the region."

Earlier on September 24, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia informed that efforts are being made to operate international flights from Srinagar to Sharjah, so that international passengers can directly travel to Jammu & Kashmir. The Civil Aviation Minister further said that the Government is planning to invest Rs 1,500 crore on Srinagar airport and Rs 600 crore on Jammu airport to upgrade requisite infrastructure for smooth operation of flights.

Earlier, STATE TIMES carried a detailed report highlighting that Srinagar International Airport is only Airport in country, which is not functioning as an International Airport despite being recognised as an international Airport. This Airport even operates Hajj flights. Till date, only one international flight has been witnessed at the airport many years back, which was Dubai to Srinagar flight.

STATE TIMES also raised issue of lack of night-landing system at Airport even though the proposal for the same has been cleared by Indian Air Force (IAF), which controls run-way and apron areas of airport. The terminal building of the airport is controlled by the AAI.

While latest announcement for Srinagar-Sharjah flight brought a cheer among people, especially frequent flyers between Kashmir and UAE, many others said that they are 'cautiously optimistic' about the announcement. "We hope there is long-term commercial viability of the flight and it continues for the long run. This also depends on load factor and passenger demand but right now the prospectus of this flight looks quite bright," said Shahid Shah, a traveler, who is presently working in Dubai.

International Airport had witnessed a spurt last year when a number of repatriation flights were facilitated by Union Ministry for Civil Aviation from various destinations like Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan etc to Srinagar International Airport, which were operated by India-based airlines.

Katra Navratra Festival 2021 concludes with Kanjak Poojan, Shobha Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Navratra Festival 2021 concluded on Thursday amid a series of religious and cultural events here at Katra Township-the base camp of holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

The nine day Festival concluded with Kanjak Poojan and grand Shobha Yatra, which started from Hotel Surya and concluded at Fountain Chowk, Bus Stand.

Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Charandeep Singh -the chief guest accompanied the Shobha Yatra after Kanjak Poojan.

Earlier, Mata ki Kahani theatre show was presented at Spiritual Growth centre Katra.

The DC, while speaking on the occasion, complimented the organisers for holding the mega annual religious event with traditional fervour and gaiety. He expressed gratitude to the people and organizations associated with the Festival activities for extending their



Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Charandeep Singh and other officials performing Kanjak Poojan on concluding day of Navratra festival 2021 at Katra.

cooperation and contribution towards making the event a great success despite many challenges. He expressed satisfaction and happiness over the growing success of the event among the visiting pilgrims.

He also lauded the performances of the Artists who performed at different venues during the festival days.

Later, Mementoes were pre-

sented to the organisers, Associations and Departments associated with the Festival. Other officers present on the occasion were Amit Bhasin ASP Katra; Natasha Kalsotra Joint Director Tourism Jammu, CEO Municipal Committee Katra, and Assistant Director Tourism and other officers of the Department.

Dislodging stable people & snatching their livelihood hallmark of BJP Govt: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Vice President and former Minister Raman Bhalla on Thursday claimed that dislodging stable people and snatching the livelihood of J&K people has been core agenda of BJP Govt over the last seven years.

This was observed by former Minister while interacting with markets associations including Apsara Market Association, Gandhi Nagar Market Association and Nai Basti Market Association who have been informed through notices that road is going to be widened as a part of Jammu Smart City Project. He said people of J&K want develop-



JKPC Vice President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

ment but never at the cost of their livelihood.

Bhalla maintained that the core issues which need attention for sustainable development, improvement in the living standard of the public are means for generation of employment, establishment of

research parks for startups, cleanliness of city, smart ways of waste disposal, uninterrupted power supply, adequate water supply, smart and intelligent traffic management systems, beautification of city, revamping of Dogra heritage, tapping of tourism potential in

and around Jammu city through better connectivity with surrounding areas and safety and security of women and children.

In addition extensive use of technology to increase the contact between people and government through the use of various technologically sound mechanisms like Li-Fi, e-governance, digitization of the office records, creation of citizen friendly Apps for on line interaction with government departments, implementation of Citizen charter for timely disposal of online cases and automatic file tracking system.

Bhalla further said that the

core issues which need attention of all the stake holders namely authorities at the helm of affairs, elected representatives and the public are first is the cleanliness of city. Proper disposal of garbage comes at the forefront of any area but ironically, the dustbins placed at various locations around the city are overflowing creating menace.

Moreover authorities should look into the innovative ways of recycling of waste disposal and installation of smart dustbins. It is of utmost importance to deploy sensor based technology oriented smart intelligent traffic management system at crowded places to

overcome the menace of unscrupulous parking and irrational and ruthless driving. To discourage the entry of private transport into the heart of city one must look in to the prospect of providing battery operated cars to commuters at certain exit points of walled city.

Another aspect which needs to be escalated as part of smart city development is the providing of better medical care for which existing infrastructure needs upgradation. For online consultation and diagnostic, a database needs to be created and telecommunication be used for diagnosis and treatment.

With J&K Reorganisation Act No 34 of 2019 separatist tones have started losing edge

► 'As warrior King leads other warriors, so does Sindhu lead other rivers': Atal Bihari Vajpayee

A darniye Rashtrapati Shri Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Leh town of UT of Ladakh this Thursday 14th Oct to first visit Sindhu Ghat to have Sindhu Darshan and perform Puja before flying to Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur and then returning to the UT for celebrating Dussheera with troops. With this surely a message this time flows more vividly from UT of Ladakh down to Kanayakumari that Sindhu too symbolises extents of Bharat.

A formal go was given to observance of Sindhu Darshan Festival on 7th June 2000 by the then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Shey (about 15 km from Leh city of then J&K State) where Vajpayee had said quoting a hymn from Rig Veda: < "Sindhu's might surpasses all the streams that flow - His roar is lifted up to heaven above the earth, he puts forth endless vigour with a flash of light, even as cow with milk rush to their calves, so other rivers roar in to Sindhu. As warrior king leads other warriors, so does Sindhu lead other rivers."

> Vajpayee also expressed that some people queried about existence of Sindhu in India as described in our National Anthem but little did they know that it flows from our soil in Ladakh symbolising 5,000 years ethos of Indian civilization and its re-discovery will strengthen emotional integration of country. So, is

not Ladakh & not Kashmir valley (Kashmir) presently & historically more north boundary land of Bharat? Surely Ladakh is.

With the reorganisation of the J&K State into two Union Territories the real size and people of the erstwhile J&K state have been more closely made known to the outside world, J&K is not represented by Kashmiri only belonging to a very small area within J&K and there is much more land & voice beyond Kashmir Valley. Rather with the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 No. 34 of 2019 in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India (received assent of President of India on 9th August 2019) even a message has gone to the people 'outside' that the real dimensions of Bharat Varsh should be gauged from Ladakh to Kanayakumari. The Act, 2019 No 34 of 2019 [9th August, 2019] provides for the reorganisation of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto forming two Union Territories on and from the appointed date (31-10-2019) by the names (i) Union territory of Ladakh comprising of territories of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir, namely: "Kargil and Leh districts" (ii) Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir comprising the territories of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir other than those specified for UT of Ladakh. No doubt

description of UT of Ladakh in terms of jurisdictions did not appear adequate and government of India

did immediately take corrective measures soon after 31-10-2019 in reference to the records of Survey of India existing before the commencement of the Constitution of India, clause (e) of Section 2 and Section 3 of Act 34 of 2019 (the principal Act) and the geographical aspects, to clarify the constituents of Leh district of UT of Ladakh in the Act 34 so accordingly in exercise of the powers conferred by Section -103 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the President, made the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2019, S.O. 3979(E) of 02-11-2019 redefining the territories of Leh District of UT of Ladakh as to constitute of the districts of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir, namely: "Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilas, Tribal territory and 'Leh and Ladakh' except present territory of Kargil". Accordingly maps were also issued first time very clearly showing the areas occupied by Pakistan and China as Indian territories clearing any doubts / myths about the extent of Bharat Varsh of the day i.e limits from 'Ladakh' to Kanayakumari. Earlier also suggestions had been made to also show the areas occupied by Pakistan / China in the Jurisdictions of



A Look through the Mist

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/ Divisional Commissioner Jammu/ Deputy Commissioner Leh/ Kargil. But still there are some occupied areas that need be formally mentioned under the jurisdictions of Divisional Commissioner Jammu/ Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

There have been some myths about J&K that got cultivated over the years since the notes and expressions made by some 'people' from within and outside projecting very conservative geographical boundaries, identities of people of J&K and opinions / aspirations projecting the same as of 'only' Valley of Kashmir have all these years after 1947 not been seriously responded neither by the National leaderships nor by the governments in the centre. Though it may take some time to let people believe that better way to express Bharat Varsh is Ladakh to Kanayakumari and not Kashmir to Kanayakumari since the territories of princely state of J&K that acceded to India in 1947 were much beyond Kashmir Valley through territories of Ladakh Region with boundaries touching China and like.

No doubt some people in J&K have expressed unhappiness over the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 No. 34 of 2019 that reorganised the then existing Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir into two

Union Territories. Objections have more come from the people of Jammu Region and that of Kashmir region where as the people of Ladakh Region are in general happy with the status of a Union Territory (rather they are often found expressing thanks to present government of India for having presented the reorganisation bill in the Parliament). Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been regularly assuring, both inside as well as outside the Parliament, that at appropriate opportunity Government of India will approach the Parliament for according the status of a State to the present UT of J&K and people should have no otherwise opinion on that.

Government of India in fair wisdom initiated some actions in August 2019 which were in a way never priorities of the earlier governments but had become the must need for setting some routes for treading the paths for bringing peace and stability in J&K for medicating the ideological pollutions by eradicating the myths about 'Kashmir' being constitutionally total India and uprooting the separatist ideologies that had been also helping the foreign players in their designs against India since nearly all J&K questioning tones were raised by the leaders having roots in Kashmir Valley and those professing all identities only in Kashmiri where as Kashmir valley is a very small region in comparison to even Jammu region what to talk of

Ladakh Region. Ladakh region not even reflected from the name of the erstwhile State of J&K.

What to talk of the anti India neighbouring countries even the Kashmir valley centric mainstream leadership cultivated more local regional controversies for their vote bank game plans to the extent that they even misused the existence Art-35A which could be otherwise used for giving extraordinary preferential treatment to Indian citizens of the class of permanent resident of J&K over other Indian citizens but the shelter of that article was used more to even harm some permanent residents of J&K simply to project Art 35A as a distancing symbol along with Art-370 where as in actual text both were constitutionally not alien.

In August 2019 Art-35A has been in a way rescinded / shed by a Presidential Order like it had been added in constitution of India and Article-370 has been amended/ modified using the constitutional provisions thereby weakening the myths on which some leadership / opinions survived which is surely going to help in the process that the present Modi led Government has initiated for medicating the ideological pollution that had grown around the innocent masses over last 7 decades.

(Daya Sagar is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).