

Dr Jitendra addresses International Conference commemorating Madrid Protocol on Environment

■ 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 Monday addressed the International Conference commemorating the signing of the Madrid Protocol for Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

The conference was attended virtually by Prime Minister of the host country Spain Pedro Sanchez, Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of Australia James Morrison, Ministers and delegates representing the different countries signatory to the Protocol.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to curtail carbon emissions in the Antarctic atmosphere. He said, India has already adopted the green energy initiative by experimenting with the feasibility of wind energy production and installed moderate output of Wind Energy Generators (WEG) on an experimental basis.

The choice of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) for Bharati station to reduce carbon emissions in the Antarctic also promotes India's pledge to protect the environment, he added.

Dr Jitendra said, India is looking forward to contributing to the evolu-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the International Conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Madrid Protocol on Environment Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, on Monday.

ing Climate Change Response Work Programme of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP). He said, Climate-induced Carbon Dioxide (CO2) uptake by polar oceans causing acidification that destroys marine environments and ecosystems, gradually affecting fisheries, and lastly, propelling disastrous biome shifts is one of the challenges for the next 30 years. The Minister reiterated that India also anticipates tourism growth and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as potential issues.

Dr Singh said, India is committed to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosys-

tems, and the designation of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science. He said, India also reaffirms its commitment to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and at this moment claims to as follows: 1. Implement all Decisions, Resolutions and Measures adopted at ATCM in the Indian Antarctic programme effectively. 2. Use green alternate energy system in both the Indian Antarctic research stations; Maitri and Bharati like solar panels and wind energy generators so compromising use of fossil fuel gradually and make station efficient with alternate green energy. 3. Reduce carbon footprints by using vehicles and machinery only when required at the most 4. Use shared supply ship to deliver human resources, materials and machines to Antarctica 5. Control the introduction of non-native species into Antarctica by any means or through vector transfer.

Dr Jitendra said, "We have completed 30 years of adoption of signing and implementation of the Madrid Protocol, which reaffirms its commitment to preserving Antarctic environmental and dependent ecosystems". Forty-two state parties acceding to the Madrid Protocol are a remarkable feat of sustainable preserving the Antarctic environment and Indian felt honoured to sign the "Protocol" in the year 1998, he added.

The Minister congratulated Spain for organizing this successful meeting

and conference and providing an opportunity to mark our commitments towards protecting the Antarctic Environment.

India signed the Antarctic Treaty on 19th August 1983 and soon thereafter received consultative status on 12th September 1983. The Madrid Protocol was signed by India which came into force on 14th January, 1998. India is one of the 29 Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty. India is also a member of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programme (COMNAP) and Scientific Committee of Antarctica Research (SCAR). All these representations show the significant position that India holds among the nations involved in Antarctic research.

India has two active research stations; Maitri (commissioned in 1989) at Schirmacher Hills, and Bharati (commissioned in 2012) at Larsemann Hills in Antarctica. India has successfully launched 40 annual scientific expeditions to Antarctica till date. With Himadri station in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Arctic, India now belongs to the elite group of nations that have multiple research stations within the Polar Regions.

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991 and entered into force in 1998. It designates Antarctica as a "natural reserve, devoted to peace and science".



Congress takes out protest rally against arrest of Priyanka Gandhi, killing of innocent farmers

Suppressing farmers' agitation by using force murder of democracy: Bhalla



Congress leaders and others raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Congress leaders under the leadership of JKPCC Vice President Raman Bhalla today took out protest rally from Bhour Camp to Karan Bagh Chowk Gadigarh against arrest of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, while she was on her way to visit the kin of the victims of Sunday's violence in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district and killing of innocent farmers.

The protest was organized by Congress Refugee Cell Vice Chairman & Block President Amrit Bali.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Senior Vice President District Rural Sarpanch Ravinder Singh, Gurmeet Kour, Rajinder Singh, Pawan Bhagat, Jagmohan Sharma, Chandan Sharma, Kewal Krishan, Asa Singh, Baldev Singh, Gurbachan Kour, Kapoor Lal, Sunil Slathia, Rajesh Sharma Babbi and

others.

The protesters holding placards and flags raised slogans against UP Govt and demanded immediate arrest of all those who are involved in this heinous crime. Later a candle light tribute was paid to farmers who were killed yesterday in UP to express solidarity with bereaved families in this pal of gloom.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla strongly condemned the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, where eight people including four farmers were killed in a protest against two BJP ministers.

He hit out at the BJP and said that people will take revenge for the "bullets" through the "ballot". Sometimes ballots of the poor are more powerful than the bullets of the oppressors. Nothing can stop the farmers, They will fight, they will win," he said.

Bhalla slammed Uttar

Pradesh Govt over police "manhandling" party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Lucknow.

He said Priyanka Gandhi was acting as a responsible leader without disturbing peace.

Like any other responsible political leader in the country, she felt it was her duty to meet the families of those who were brutally treated and terrorised by the Uttar Pradesh police," he said.

"The Uttar Pradesh has unfolded mayhem over the last few days against those who have been protesting against this unconstitutional law. The state is functioning like a banana republic. All civil liberties are violated. The Congress party stands with all protesting against this unconstitutional law," he said.

He said such incidents cannot deter Congress and it will continue visiting the state without violating any law.

Wanchoo condemns Mattan Temple desecration, demands stringent punishment to culprits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM) State Spokesperson, Chetan Wanchoo has strongly condemned the desecration of the religious place in Mattan and has demanded that the Government take immediate steps for the protection of the temples across the J&K Union Territory especially those in Kashmir Valley.

In a statement issued to media here today, Chetan Wanchoo said that this is a historical temple of Mata Barghashakha Bhagwati and vandalizing of this sacred shrine has hurt the sentiments of people of Hindu religion in general and Kashmiri Pandits in particular. Expressing utter displeasure over this, he urged the government to take steps for the protection of the temples so that such incidents do not happen again.

"It becomes the bonafide duty of the government to ensure safety and preserve the sanctity of all religious places by placing the all time protection round the clock and not only on any festival or ceremony. The latest discretion of Mattan (Martand) has hurt the sentiments of Kashmiri Hindus in particular and all Hindus in general. It may be a part of some serious designs of those outfits who intend to stall any action related with the return of displaced community," Wanchoo said, adding that this needs to be looked into from a broader horizon so that



the resentment brewing inside the community may not explode as the discretion of any religious place damages the tender fabric of secular set up adopted by the founding fathers of the Nation.

The BJYM leader stated that the Central Government is taking all possible steps for the safe return of Kashmiri Pandits to

Valley besides launching a portal for the safety of property of Kashmiri Pandits. He demanded that elements responsible for the incidents should be identified and handed over stringent punishment under law.

Wanchoo however lauded the Modi Govt for working day and night to rehabilitate the KPs in Valley in a dignified manner despite all odds.

The BJYM leader appealed to the Lt Governor to intervene in the matter and take all possible steps in protecting the religious places in the Kashmir Valley. He asserted that being the Head of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, it became the moral responsibility of Lt Governor for safety of religious places as well as property of Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir Valley. He also warned that if the administration does not take any concrete action against the culprits of such desecrations, it will undoubtedly have an adverse impact on the secular fabric of the Union Territory as well as the nation.

HC rejects bail of Cross Border Narco Smuggler

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul rejected the bail application of one Mohammad Tajamul Masoodi business man who was booked by the Police in Cross Border Narco Smuggling.

According to the police case that on 21st July 2017, acting on an information received from SSP, Baramulla, police party of Sub Division Uri along with security wing and Custom Department officials, deployed at TFC Salamabad for Cross LOC trade checking, recovered 1332 packets/sachets of contraband apparently Heroin/Brown Sugar, concealed/hidden in 333 suit boxes, which were carried from Chakoti Muzaffarabad in a truck bearing registration No.AJ&KXA-267, driven by one POK resident driver, namely, Syed Yousef Shah S/o Syed Ali Akbar Shah R/o Charwaya, Tehsil & District Muzaffarabad. The consignment was sent by M/s J. K. International, Muzaffarabad, to M/s Kuloo Suppliers, Srinagar and in this regard case FIR No.54/2017 was registered in police station Uri. The investigation of the case had been closed as challaned and produced before the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Baramulla, on 23rd November 2017.

As regards the present bail application of the accused, it is stated by respondents that he used to do cross LOC trade jointly with his nephew, namely, Musadiq Afzal Masoodi, and assigned him the job of crossing of vehicles at TFC Salamabad, Uri, and himself used to dispose of the material reached to him from Pak/Pok to Srinagar/Delhi/ Surat etc., with the active participation of accused, namely, Nayeem Rasool Bhat.

Justice Vinod Chatterji koul observed that at this stage prima facie for the purpose of this bail application, is unable to form the required satisfaction that there are reasonable grounds for believing that applicant is not guilty of offence and hence this Court cannot persuade itself to accede to the prayer of applicant for being enlarged on bail. Accordingly, the application for bail is rejected.

Judicial, Civil, Police Co-ordination meeting held at Distt Court Complex Jammu



Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In compliance with order of High Court of J&K and Ladakh regarding holding of co-ordination meetings at District level, a co-ordination meeting was held on Monday in the office chamber of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu which was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Superintendent Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, Superintendent District Jail Amphalla, Jammu, Deputy Director Prosecution, Public Prosecutor, Additional Public Prosecutor and other stake-holders.

The meeting was convened by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu who is also the Secretary of the Co-ordination Committee following directions of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu.

Various issues having bearing on the administration of justice were discussed in the meeting.

Apart from security issues in District Court Complex, Jammu and peripheral courts of the District viz. Munsiff Court, Akhnoor, Courts at R.S Pura and Munsiff court, Bishnah - the issue relating to acquisition of land for new court complex at Bishnah was also discussed and concerned authorities were impressed upon to expedite the process.

Emphasis on foolproof security in all courts including in judicial quarters at Amphalla was laid in the meeting.

Other issues pertaining to accommodation of witnesses, E-prosecution and issues pertaining to video conferencing with under-trials detained in jails and implementation of witness protection schemes were also discussed.

Meeting ended with a note that concerns raised be assuaged by full and complete implementation of decisions taken. Next meeting would be held at the end of the year.

DC Jammu reviews implementation of Mission Youth, PMAGY, Cleanliness drive, e-Darpan schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anshul Garg on Monday reviewed implementation of Mission Youth, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAGY), e-Darpan and formulation of strategy to carry out Swachhata activities during the month of October; here in spate meetings.

The DC took stock of progress made in the engagement of youth in different activities as envisaged under Mission Youth in the meeting of District Level Task Force.

Officer on Special Duty for Mission Youth, Dr Abdul Khabir gave a detailed resume on the objectives envisioned under the Mission. He apprised that Mission youth is the Apex body of the government for youth engagement and outreach in J&K and its core agenda is to positively engage youth by making them stakeholders in the development of the Union Territory.

Giving a power point presentation, he informed that Mission Youth covers a wide range of activities including promotion of self-employment through schemes like Tejaswini, MUMKIN, development of Tourist Village network, generating sector-specific employment, Skill Development, SAHYTA, AVSAR, PAARVAZ, besides eradication of drug abuse through De-addiction and deradicalization, promoting green youth alliance, constitution of youth clubs, holding talent hunts, establishment of District youth centres, special



DC Jammu, Anshul Garg chairing a meeting.

initiatives for youth with disabilities, Universities collaboration initiatives JK Super-75(boys and girls), young innovators programs for holistic and pragmatic youth engagement and empowerment on sustainable lines.

He informed that 5000 youths will be provided benefits under SAHYTA scheme which offers 15 self employment activities and assistance up to Rs 2 lakhs in two installments.

Similarly 2000 students will be provided coaching for various competitive exams including UPSC, SSC, JKPS, JKSSB under PARVAZ, he added.

He further informed that Mission Youth will cover 5000 Divyang Youths across the UT to make them self-dependent in life in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department. "75 Boys and 75 Girls from marginalized sections who were forced to leave their studies due to financial difficulties shall be given financial assistance upto Rs 1 lakh" he added.

In order to empower young innovators to innovate new products, services or models in any area of their interest, the

Mission Youth will provide Rs 5 lakhs per person and 50 applicants will be catered in a calendar year under Youth Innovation Program.

It was also informed that Youth clubs will be set up in each Panchayat and ULB ward comprising minimum 5 youths of that particular area and District Youth centres will also be established in each district. The OSD said that the vision is to make Mission Youth a one-stop solution for all youth aspirations and channelise their energy in a positive direction by providing ways of livelihood generation. The Deputy Commissioner said that special training/ coaching for the girls in consultation with the Mission Youth shall also be organised in the district to help them prepare for the NDA exam. He also directed the concerned officers to generate mass awareness about the schemes being implemented by their Departments under Mission Youth so that the public can avail the benefits of the same. While reviewing the status of Pradhanmantri Adarsh Gram Yojna, the Deputy Commissioner directed the

BDOs to get the works identified by PRIs. He further asked them to make the estimates of identified works in conversion with MGNREGA and send it to DSWO for uploading the same in order to put the works in public domain.

While formulating strategy for carrying out Swachhata activities during this month, the Deputy Commissioner said that the activities have already been identified for cleanliness drive. He asked them to make the plan and carry out the activities in their respective Blocks according to the calendar. He also directed the district officers to regularly upload the status of ongoing and identified projects on e-Darpan in order to put them in public domain.

ADDC Ramesh Chander, SSP Chandan Kohli, ADC Satish Sharma, CPO Yoginder Katoch ACD Ashok Choudhary ACD Rakesh Dubey, District Informatics Officer Sanjay Gupta, DSWO Ajay Salan, SDMs, BDOs besides senior officers of the concerned departments were present in their respective meetings.

Protests held in Jammu over vandalism of temple in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Protests were held in Jammu against the governor administration for allegedly failing to protect the religious places of Hindus in Kashmir after ancient Bargheshekha Bhagwati Mata Temple was vandalised by miscreants in Anantnag district.

Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit migrants, activists of Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena, Dogra Front and several other organisations held protests at various places in the city demanding that the culprits be brought to justice.

They also demanded protection for the religious places of the Hindus in the Valley. "We demand security around all temples in Kashmir. If our temples are not protected and our people are not safe in the Valley, how will KPs return to their homeland? The government has failed to protect our temples," said Sohan Lal of the Jagti camp.

Police on Saturday registered a case after the temple was allegedly desecrated in Anantnag district, officials said.

Senior officials of the police and civil administration visited the Bargheshekha Bhagwati Mata Temple in the Mattan area of the south Kashmir district for an on the spot inquiry, they said. Anantnag Deputy Commissioner Piyush Singla said the culprits will be punished and no one will be allowed to harm social and communal harmony.

"We want protection of all temples. The government is unconcerned about the incident," said Bajrang Dal activist Rakesh Kumar.

The Prem Nath Bhat Memorial Trust (PNBMT) also condemned the incident and demanded the arrest of the culprits.

Prominent Gujar leaders join BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Four prominent Gujar leaders, along with their supporters, joined the BJP here on Monday, the party said. J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina, party vice president Yudhvir Sethi and general secretary Devinder Kumar Manyal, welcomed the new entrants into the party fold, it said.

Those who joined the BJP included Choudhary Mohamad Sultan Khan from the Congress, Choudhary Mohammad Yaseen from Gujar Mahasabha, Choudhary Barkat Ali from the Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan and Choudhary Zulfikar Ali.

BJP ST Morecha district president Haji Salmuddin was present on the occasion. "The parties like National Conference, Congress and PDP took full liberty to enjoy the privileges of the power corridors, but did nothing to empower this most important pillar of democracy," Raina said. He said it was only the Modi government that took "substantial steps" to make sure that the democracy is strengthened at the grass-roots level in J-K. The policies of the BJP leadership are being appreciated by one and all, he said.

