

Dr Jitendra launches state-of-art Helicopter-borne Survey technology

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JODHPUR: 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 Tuesday launched state-of-the-art Helicopter-borne or Heli-borne survey technology for groundwater management, developed by CSIR-NGRI Hyderabad.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti and Lok Sabha MP from Jodhpur, Gajendra Singh Shekawat graced the occasion with his presence.

To start with, the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana are being taken up for this latest heli-borne survey for groundwater and the beginning was made today from Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the water technologies of CSIR from source finding to water treatment will benefit millions of people across the

Girl injured in acid attack in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An 18-year-old girl was hospitalized with burn injuries sustained in an acid attack on her in Shopian district on Tuesday, police said.

An unidentified person threw acid on the girl at Kral Check in Shopian district, resulting in burn injuries to her face, hands, feet and back, a police official said.

The official said the girl was taken to a hospital wherefrom she was referred to Srinagar for treatment.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigation, he said.

The identity of the attacker or the motive behind the attack was not known yet, the official said.

Ruchi Chouhan Khan, who conducted



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after launching the state-of-the-art Helicopter-borne or Heli-borne Survey technology for Groundwater management at Jodhpur, Rajasthan on Tuesday.

country and positively contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" as well as "doubling farmers income" goals. He said, the latest state-of-the-art technology is being employed by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) for mapping groundwater sources in arid regions and thus help utilize groundwater for drinking purposes.

Dr Jitendra said, the technological wealth of CSIR will be a great asset for the various programs of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and this is the right time to join

hands to take up bigger challenges of the country in the Water sector.

Dr Singh said, CSIR, along with National Geophysical Research Institute NGRI, have undertaken High Resolution Aquifer Mapping & Management in Arid Regions of North Western India to augment the groundwater resources. He said that the Heli-borne geophysical mapping technique of CSIR-NGRI provides a high resolution 3D image of the sub-surface up to a depth of 500 meters below the ground.

Dr Jitendra informed that the project is aimed at mapping potential groundwater

sources and its management for providing safe drinking water to millions of people living in the water scarce arid regions of our country. This is a mega project of Rs. 150 crores to be implemented in two phases in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti as a part of National Aquifer Mapping Project. This project is expected to bring high visibility to CSIR in implementing the Government of India's most ambitious project Jal Jeevan Mission.

Dr Jitendra said that Arid areas in north western India spread over parts of States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab cover nearly 12% of the total geographical area of the country and are home to more than 8 crore people. He said, with an annual rainfall in the range of less than 100 to 400 mm, this area faces an acute shortage of water throughout the year and it is proposed to take up high-resolution aquifer mapping & management to augment the groundwater resources.

J&K Book Suppliers organise webinar, highlight issues



J&K book suppliers interacting during a webinar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To highlight numerous issues being faced by book suppliers, J&K Book Suppliers Association organised a webinar which was attended by a number of dignitaries including Secretary, Higher Education Department, Sushma Chouhan; Director Colleges Dr Yasmeen Ashai, Principals of Nodal Colleges (Jammu & Kashmir province) besides a number of officers of Higher Education Department.

Ruchi Chouhan Khan, who conducted

the proceedings of the webinar, welcomed all dignitaries on behalf of book-suppliers & raised various points regarding absence of a universal purchase procedure. She further said that modus operandi adopted by various colleges is not in accordance with the Goods Office Committee/ FPBAI. "Sale of books does not fall under the category of GFR (General Financial Rules) under Rule-143 hence not exempted from tax. Moreover, the percentage of discount is also not fixed while

Principals demand high discount, thereby making book supplier incapable to supply textbooks, due to which students suffer & strive for textbooks," she added.

President, J&K Book Suppliers Association Sanjay Anand of M/s Radha Krishan also highlighted numerous other problems. Others who spoke on the occasion included representatives of Oberoi Books Store, JK Publishing House, Fair Deal Books, City Book Centre & Vinod Book Depot.

After giving a patient hearing to all issues highlighted by book suppliers, Sushma Chouhan assured for taking necessary action in the matter. While addressing webinar, Dr Yasmeen Ashai also appraised participant book suppliers about the order passed by Govt in 2016 regarding purchase of books through nominated purchase committee. Pertinent to mention here that Ruchi Chouhan Khan, the only female book-supplier across North India, was representing Amazon Info-Tech Book Sellers.

Court frames corruption charges against Patwari & others

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Jammu Ritesh Dubey framed corruption charges against Anil Kumar Sharma Patwari and a private person in a trap case.

According to ACB the case was registered on 17.12.2018 on a written complaint lodged by one Jaimal Singh S/o Basant Singh R/o Village Sarora, Tehsil Marh, Jammu alleging therein that the complainant moved an application before Tehsildar Marh for issuance of 'Fard' of land bearing Khasra No. 385 of Village

Sarora, Marh which is in the name of his father, who is ill and is very old. The application was marked to the concerned Patwari namely Anil Sharma Patwari Halqa Sarora Akalpur and the complainant approached the Patwari Anil Sharma, who demanded an amount of Rs. 20,000/- as bribe for issuing the Fard of said land. The complainant had already paid him Rs. 10,000/- and the balance Rs. 10,000/- he does not want to pay to the Patwari. The complainant being against the bribe approached

Vigilance Organization Jammu (now ACB) requesting for legal action against Patwari Anil Sharma. On receipt of complaint, case FIR No. 41/2018 was registered under relevant sections of law and investigation taken up by the Vigilance Organization, Jammu (Now ACB). Thereafter, a Trap was laid and said Anil Sharma Patwari, Patwar Halqa Sarora Akalpur was caught red handed while demanding and accepting Rs 10,000/- for issuing Fard as illegal gratification which he kept in his right hand and further passed on the money to other

accused namely Joginder Lal S/o Late Sita Ram R/o Patniyal, Marh who was working as Munshi in Om Brick Kiln. Both accused persons were arrested and after investigation the said case was concluded as proved against the accused persons for commission of offences U/S 5 (1) (d) r/w 5 (2) J&K P.C Act Svt. 2006, 4-A of PC Act 2006 and Section 120-B RPC.

Additional Sessions Judge

Anticorruption Jammu Ritesh Dubey after hearing APP Anoop Kumar for the ACB, framed charges.

Navratra festival activities to be organised with strict adherence to COVID SoPs

Div Com urges devotees to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tourism Department Jammu in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board have geared up for organising annual Navratra festival 2021 at Katra from October 7 to 15.

Pertinently, to promote pilgrimage tourism in J&K, the Navratra festival was started in 1996 and the event has attained international fame and popularity over the years.

The festival could not be organized last year due to Covid-19. This year, the administration has decided to organize it on limited scale, owing to the fact that a large number of people have been vaccinated.

While people are still supposed to observe Covid appropriate behaviour, it is also felt that the yearly tradition must be maintained.

Addressing the media persons here on Tuesday, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer said that the festival has huge significance but keeping in view the COVID Pandemic the administration with active involvement of all the stakeholders like

and the last Navratra to avoid public gatherings, while Devotional Song performance will be hosted for two days instead of National level competition for 8 days.

The play 'Mata ki Kahan' would be presented by Natrang Theatre Group in the Auditorium of Spiritual Growth Centre with a limited audience. The show will also be telecast at different locations through LED screens to avoid large gatherings at a single place and to ensure that a greater number of people can witness the performance in their own personal space.

However, Prabhat Pheri will continue for 8 days

from Bus Stand covering Darshani Deodi to Raghunath Temple and Bhumika Temple. The festival shall be inaugurated from Hotel Surya Palace on October 7, at 11 am. A shobha yatra would be taken out from the venue to Fountain Chowk, Katra.

It was informed that culture programmes and Multimedia exhibitions would be held at Higher Secondary School Katra, Devotional Songs performances at Yog Ashram Ground, Bhagvat Katha from 8 to 15 October at Shri Raghunath Temple Katra, Kavi Samellan and Hassaya Samellan at Higher Secondary School Katra on 11 and 12

October respectively, wrestling competition on October 10 at Katra stadium, programme by specially abled children on October 13 at Spiritual Growth Centre Katra.

It was further informed that district administration Reasi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board have made elaborate arrangements for Navratras in Katra and all along the old track for a comfortable and memorable Yatra.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anshul Garg informed that three events are being organized in Jammu district for the tourists and the people of Jammu and Kashmir for creating an atmosphere of festivity. Gharba and Dandia Night would be held at Gulshan Ground Jammu on October 9, Dogri Food Festival and Traditional Costume/ Attire display competition at Jammu Haat on October 10, Mata Ki Bhait (Jagran) at Raghunath Bazar on October 13.

Director Tourism Jammu, SSP Reasi were also present on the occasion.



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer talking to reporters



Cong stages protest against UP violence, Priyanka Gandhi's detention



Congress leaders scuffling with police during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress Tuesday staged a protest outside the party headquarters here against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and the subsequent detention of party leader Priyanka Gandhi.

The protesters jumped police barricades, marched on the busy Residency Road for a short distance, raised slogans against the BJP government for its "dictatorial rule" and harming democratic institutions, before concluding the demonstration peacefully.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi was detained in Sitapur on her way to Lakhimpur Kheri, where eight people died and several others were injured on Sunday in the bloodiest clash since the beginning of the farmers' protest over the Centre's new agri laws.

Bhalla told reporters amid high pitch sloganizing by party activists in support of Gandhi and against the killing of farmers.

Bhalla said the Congress leader had tried to go there to wipe the tears of the bereaved families but was detained in an unconstitu-

tional and unethical manner. We will continue our protest against the BJP governments, which are intoxicated by power. We will press for revocation of the three farm laws. The farmers are on the streets for nearly a year but this government is not paying any heed, the Congress leader said.

Condemning the UP government, he demanded immediate release of Gandhi.

Youth Congress leader Uday Bhanu Chib, who was also part of the protest, said the people of Uttar Pradesh have lost faith in the BJP governments both at the state and at the centre.

The strong-arm tactics against peaceful protests is the hallmark of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, he said, demanding restoration of democracy and rule of law in the state.

Installation of smart meters underway in Srinagar city

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The installation of smart meters is going on in uptown of Srinagar city with the aim cover these areas in coming days.

Jammu and Kashmir administration is sure that with the installation of smart electricity meters it will facilitate transparency in power consumption, metering, billing and collection which will eventually reduce power losses and will ensure quality and reliable power supply to consumers.

Last year, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had started a vital project to install smart cum prepaid meters across Srinagar.

The project, after successful completion, provides consumers with the freedom to control their electricity consumption and allow them to pay, by simply recharging in advance.

Typically, like the way people usually recharge their mobile phones for daily and monthly packs.

With smart meters, people will be able to know their electricity consumption pattern and bill on real-time basis, which will help them manage the load and also monitor their monthly bill.

According to officials of KPDCL, the installation of smart meters is currently going on in uptown areas of Srinagar city under the first phase with the executing agency tasked to

complete the project within a time-bound manner.

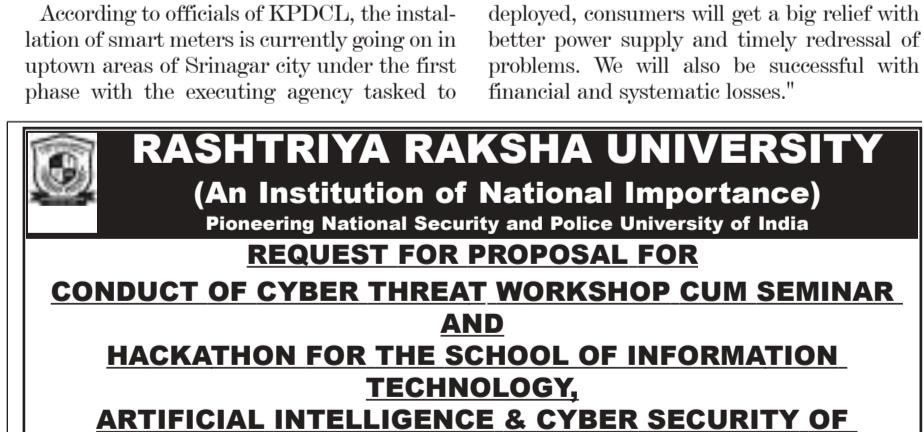
Under the first phase, the department has taken up areas of Srinagar on board while in the next second and third phases, the entire city will be placed within the ambit of such meters.

The smart meters as well as new fibre-based transmission cables, official added, will prove instrumental in combating electricity thefts and overload across Kashmir Valley, which in turn, will result in uninterrupted power supply and effective services to the end consumer.

"This will eliminate illegal consumption, theft and overloading of electricity. It will also help to controlling and preventing further losses faced by the department at the hands of erring and illegal consumers," official added.

Official of the department said that 60% of the consumers across Kashmir valley are making use of electricity without meters while most among the remaining 40% are resorting to illegal ways of power consumption and overload, resulting in major power breakdowns and cuts especially during the winters.

Officials said that "Once the high-end cable wires and smart meters are successfully deployed, consumers will get a big relief with better power supply and timely redressal of problems. We will also be successful with financial and systematic losses."



The Rashtriya Raksha University invites interested training partners for CONDUCT OF CYBER THREAT WORKSHOP CUM SEMINAR AND HACKATHON.

Interested reputed training partners invited for submission of RFP (From all over India) Vide advertisement on Times of India (All India Editions) published on 06/10/2021.

Interested training partners from all over India can download specifications documents from the website www.rru.ac.in from Dt. 06/10/2021 at 16:30 hrs.

Physical submission of the documents will not be accepted later than 13/10/2021.

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Sd/
I/C Registrar