

India's education system unique fusion of traditional knowledge, technology: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

BILLAWAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said, India's education system offers a unique fusion of traditional knowledge and latest world-class technology, thus giving an exclusive advantage to India to lead the world.

Chandrayan-3, Aditya-L1, World's First Made in India DNA vaccine etc. endorse this exclusive advantage of Indian grooming, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh was



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing an education program at Bharatiya Vidya Mandir Senior School, Dadwara, Phinter, Bilawal in Kathua on Saturday.

addressing an education program at Bharatiya Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Dadwara (Phinter), near here, in district Kathua.

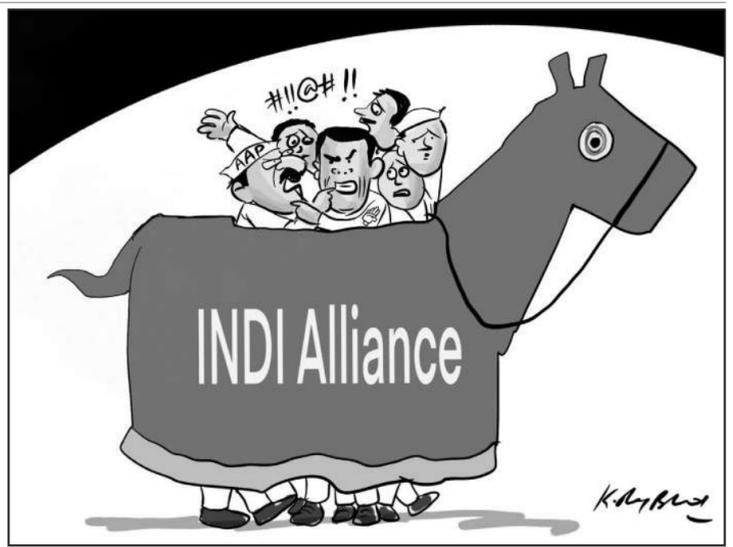
During the program, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is now ahead of the best devel-

oped economies of the world under PM Narendra Modi that was unimaginable a decade before. The world now wants India to lead them in almost every sphere, the success of G20, accepting the proposal of declaring 2023 as the

International Year of Millets, International Yoga Day becoming a global phenomenon etc. shows the prowess of India under the present government, Dr. Jitendra Singh added. By way of Research and Innovation through interna-

national collaboration and partnership, India is also committed to achieve the Net Zero emissions target which shows that India is also taking the lead in addressing the global concerns and leading the global climate movement under PM Narendra Modi.

While addressing the students, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, National Education Policy-2020 has opened up new vistas for the youth of this country which is no longer the prisoner of aspiration but has aspirations in abundance and avenues in tons, with numerous opportunities knocking at their doors.



Srinivas commends CGPWA, assures redressal of pensioners issues

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Describing the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association as one of the most active Pensioners' Associations in the country, the Secretary to Govt Dept of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare, V Srinivas said that it was most befitting that available valuable human resources in the shape of pensioners should contribute to the welfare of the society and extend help in accelerating the development process.

Addressing the members of the Pensioners' Association and representatives of Pension Banks here this evening, Srinivas said that his department has been endeavoring to ensure that the pensioners should lead a life of dignity and remain active to give back to the society in whatever way possible.

He said that in the recent past the Pension Department has revolutionized the grievance redressal system and made it easy with quick access to the pensioners. In



Union Secretary V Srinivas with members of the central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu after meeting

this connection, he referred to the pension portal, CPENGRAMS (centralized pension grievances redress and monitoring system) which is an online web-enabled system for speedy redressal of grievances related to pension by various Central Government Departments. Every case is regularly monitored at a higher level. The pensioners should use it for redressal of their pension related grievances.

Impressed by the work done by Jammu Association in utilizing the available talent for preparing project reports and

making recommendations for rejuvenation of the water bodies in kandi areas, environmentally friendly bathing ghats at the pilgrim's centres of Uttarvani and Purmadal, the Union Secretary said this technical support of pensioners would go a long way in contributing towards sustainable development even after retirement from active service.

Referring to the publications of the Association, Srinivas suggested to include article of the leading contributors from outside J&K for making publications more

comprehensive and readable. He said that individual Associations in the country have taken up innovative projects like the one association published relevant judgments of constitutional courts that helped the Department in further simplifying the rules for pensioners. The Jammu Association should also consider such innovative projects.

He impressed upon the members of the Association and pension banks including JKB to join in the national campaign for Digital Life Certificate to benefit the pen-

sioners. He said that the Department would cover 50 lakh pensioners for DLCs. He advised the Association to benefit from the SBI Pension Seva Portal presentation.

Responding to the issues raised by the General Secretary of the CGPWA, Jammu, K B Jandial, the Union Secretary, the matter of increasing Grant-in-aid to Pension is already under process and a decision would soon be taken.

Regarding the issue of two Wellness centres in Jammu, he said the CGHS has already accepted this demand and as confirmed by the representative of CGHS in the meeting, a second Wellness Centre would also be established in Jammu. The representative of the JKB also confirmed that henceforth the disbursement of DR sanctioned by the Central Govt for Central pensioners would be paid in one go and not in installments besides crediting pension on a fixed date as is

being done by other pension banks.

Srinivas also agreed to consider the cases of pensioners relating to denial of third raise in salary after 30 years of service under MACP scheme, notional increment for those who had retired on 30th June in terms of judgments of CAT & Supreme Court and removal of anomaly in fixing pension in the apex grade of two PCCF.

Earlier, welcoming Srinivas Jandial apprised the multifarious activities of the Association and put forth demands. The Vice President of the Association, Dr Sudarshan Kumar also spoke about the issue of SPARSHI defence pension.

The Director DoPPW, Dr Pramod Kumar presented the vote of thanks. Among others, BR Sharma, State Election Commissioner and Dr Ashok Bhan former DGP were also present. The representatives of CGHS, SBI, PNB & JKB also participated in the meeting.

Rail traffic restored in Jammu after farmers end protest in Punjab

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The train traffic was restored at the Jammu Railway Station Saturday evening after agitating farmers in Punjab called off their three-day long strike, a senior railway official said.

The resumption of rail traffic provided much needed relief to hundreds of passengers including Vaishno Devi pilgrims who were left stranded at Jammu and Katra railway stations owing to the farmers' strike. "Five trains were cancelled earlier in the day but the

service resumed after the farmers in Punjab moved away from the tracks at 4 pm," senior railway official Prateek Shrivastav told PTI.

He said a total of 50 trains got cancelled, while 85 others were diverted over the past three days in view of the protest by the farmers.

"We are resuming normal operations from tomorrow (Sunday). In case of need, additional trains will be made available to clear the stranded passengers," Shrivastav said.

Insp Sheikh Aftab GuI deputed to CBI

STATE TIMES NEWS

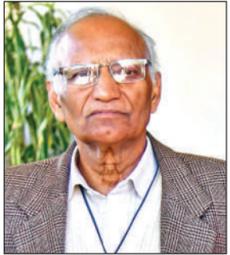
JAMMU: The J&K Home Department on Saturday deputed Inspector Sheikh Aftab GuI with CBI for the period of 3 years. According to order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary, "Sanction is hereby accorded to the deputation of Inspector Sheikh Aftab GuI, PID No. EXK-026287 of J&K Police, to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), for a period of three years on the standard terms and conditions of deputation, as contained in schedule (XVIII) of J&K Civil Service Regulations, 1956.

Former Judge Ch Bashir Ahmed passes away at 80 DIG Udhampur-Reasi bereaved

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ch. Bashir Ahmed, a prominent figure of Gujjar community, a former Judge and member of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission breathed his last at his residence in Channi, Jammu last night. He was 80 years old.

Ch. Bashir Ahmed was born on March 7, 1943, in Paloura, Jammu. He pursued his education in law at Aligarh Muslim University. In 1969, he started his practice at the Jammu High Court. In 1970, he joined the State Judiciary Services and retired as the Principal District Judge in 2001. In 2002, Ch. Bashir Ahmed was appointed as a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, until 2007. Ch. Bashir Ahmed was the first Chairman of the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in Jammu, a significant organi-



zation representing the Gujjar community. Ch. Bashir Ahmed's Namaz e Jenaza was offered at the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, and he was laid to rest in the Gujjar Colony, Channi graveyard. He is survived by his wife, Fehmida Begum, son, Suleman Choudhary IPS presently posted as DIG Police in the Udhampur-Reasi Range, and his daughters, Dr Shalmaz Choudhary and Dr Gulnaz Choudhary. Prominent personalities

paid their last respects at his funeral included former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, former ministers, and MLAs.

Leaders and intellectuals of the Gujjar community, expressed their condolences included Mian Altaf Ahmed, Dr Javaid Rahi, Ch. Talib Hussain (former MP), Ch. Javed Rana (former MLA), Mohammad Anwar Chowdhary, Ch. Shah Mohammad Advocate, and others, have mourned the loss of Ch. Bashir Ahmed. Ch. Bashir Ahmed's legacy as a dedicated public servant and legal luminary will be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His contributions to society and his unwavering commitment to justice will leave an indelible mark on the annals of Jammu and Kashmir's history.

CS for developing World's highest Rail Bridge site in Reasi as a tourist spot

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday called for immediate measures for turning the World's highest steel arch rail bridge site, an architectural marvel, near Jyotipuram in district Reasi, into a tourist spot.

During his visit, along with Deputy Commissioner and other officers, to the site in district Reasi which is nearing its completion, the Chief Secretary observed that the location of the bridge is also impressive in terms of its aesthetic appeal as it lies in the lap of nature. He observed that with little interventions the spot could turn into a great attraction for the tourists.

Dr Mehta had a detailed inspection of this structure in presence of the engineers of the executing agency and officers of Indian Railways. They apprised him about the unique features of this



Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta during visit to bridge in district Reasi on Saturday.

engineering marvel which has no parallel in the world and stands about 29 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the engineering staff for moving towards completing this challenging task. He observed that this feat in itself speaks volumes about the capacity of engineers of our nation and boosts the morale of others as well. He said that this is a pride for the citizens and is a steel monument.

He enjoined upon the Divisional and District administrations to take measures for better upkeep of the road from Reasi to Bridge site. He advised them to install crash barriers wherever required. He also instructed for improvement of road between Katra and Reasi forthwith.

Dr Mehta maintained that the District Reasi has highest tourist footfall in J&K which nearly crosses a crore mark each year. He made out that the District has a

very good potential to attract many more people to its historic and natural places. He stated that it has many well known sites such as Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, Shiv Khori, Salal Dam, Bhimgarh Fort, etc which offers it a huge opportunity to tap its potential by further developing these to bring them on the national tourism map.

He also gave many other suggestions to make this District a tourism hub which would create employ-

ment opportunities not only for locals but other residents of the UT as well. He called for having a well developed plan to develop tourist circuit(s) inside this district by developing all the relevant amenities and enhancing the connectivity between these places for hassle-free movement of the tourists.

Pertinent to mention here that the bridge over the Chenab River is 1,315 metre long (4,314 feet) and 359 metre high (1,177 feet) from the bed of the river. It will link the Kashmir valley with India's vast railway network by providing all-weather connectivity to its people. The 119km long (73 miles) railway project comprises of 38 tunnels and 931 bridges having a combined length of 13km (8 miles) to make the railway link possible in this rough terrain nestled in mighty Himalayas.

Rana lauds Jammu youths' urge for best possible education



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana at an event organized by Planet Education in Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday expressed satisfaction over Jammu students making a mark in the academic arena, saying the urge for education in best possible educational institutions across the world and even the world speaks of growing consciousness among the youngsters and parents.

"Challenges in the field of education have increased manifold in the wake of the world shrinking as a global village and the youth have to maintain pace with fast changing aca-

demie advancements and also to satiate the needs of the student community", Rana said at an event organized by Planet Education here this afternoon.

He said the growth of the present generation is faster than the years before and therefore the challenges are equally higher. These challenges have to be met with courage and fortitude to excel in the field of education, especially as it entails hard earned money. He hoped the students will aim high as the sky is the only limit for them to grow in the fast changing world.

Rana also hoped that the

student community would appreciate the need to put in their best to remain relevant to highly competitive courses in the best possible institutes, as this is an era for those who have fire in their chest to make their mark. Devender Rana said that apart from pursuing the best available education the students have to keep in mind whether the disciplines they opt for are relevant to the fast expanding job market. The question is not only to obtain degrees but to strive for excellence so that the scholars after accomplishment of their courses can become beneficial for the

society, he added.

He also referred to Jammu emerging as educational hub and said that notwithstanding quality education available at doorsteps yet there is scope for getting better even if it entails travelling to continents, he said, adding that the students have to get placed in good stead to face the competitive world with much more confidence and vigour. Dr Choudhry of the Planet Education briefed Devender Rana about the strides made in the field of education over the years. He said the Planet Education is carrying immense credibility in the international student placement sector and it has now come in a big way. Planet Education, a reputable international education consultancy headquartered in Sydney has a significant presence in India, boasting of 33 offices nationwide and an experience of 25 years. "For the first time, we got the world's top-ranked universities to the pristine city of Jammu. This was an excellent opportunity for prospective students, academicians, policy-makers, and government officials to connect, collaborate, and map out their academic journey", he added.

'Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada': Jaishankar

STATE TIMES NEWS

WASHINGTON: Hitting out at Canada, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is necessary to call out things like violence, threats and intimidation against Indian diplomats and missions and wondered if this had happened to any other country would the world have taken it with equanimity.

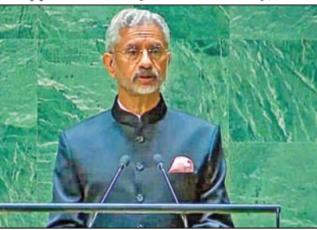
"Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada," Jaishankar said during an interaction with Indian journalists here on Friday.

His remarks came amidst simmering tensions with Ottawa following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side," he said.

"We have had smoke bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you consider this normal? If this had happened to any other country, how



would they react? Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada. It is important to call out what is happening there," Jaishankar said.

"What is happening in Canada, had it happened anywhere else, do you think the world would've taken it with equanimity?" he asked.

When asked about Trudeau's allegations, he said India has already pointed out to Canada that this is not the government of India's policy.

"But if they are prepared to share with us specifics and anything relevant, we are also open to looking at it. So in that sense, that's where the matter stands," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said one of the problems is that no incident is isolated and the totality as there is a context for everything. "There are multiple problems out there.

So, I guess in the case of individual incidents, the concerned governments will have to talk to each other and see how they sort of take it forward," he said.

"But there is a larger issue. And I think it's important that the larger issue should be flagged. The larger issue is this permissiveness that I have spoken about," he said.

He also asserted that it was not acceptable to make threats and intimidate diplomats in the name of freedom of speech.

"We don't need to learn from other people what freedom of speech is about. But we can tell people this. We don't think freedom of speech extends to incitement, to violence. That to us is a misuse of freedom," he emphasised.

Jaishankar said he always asks people one question, how would they react if they were in his place?

"If it was your diplomats, your embassies, your people, what would be your reaction?" he asked.

Jaishankar said the entire debate should not focus only on issue one and not on issue two and the bigger picture, which has been going on for some time and which is a very serious picture.

"After all, I was thinking back, when was the last time that any of our missions was intimidated to a point where it could not continue with its normal function? I will have to think back. And if someone says this could happen in a G-7 country, in a commonwealth country, it gives you a lot to think about," Jaishankar said.