

‘Gaganyaan’ Test Space Flight scheduled for October 21: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The launch of "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Space flight, that is, "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1) is scheduled on 21st of this month. This was disclosed here on Tuesday Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the gathering at a felicitation programme of ISRO scientists associated with the Chandrayaan Mission, here.

ISRO will also test the efficacy of the Crew Escape System which is the crucial part of "Gaganyaan" mission, resulting in unmanned and manned missions to outer space by 2024. The test is to be conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Crew Module will carry the astronauts during the Gaganyaan mission to outer space.

The test involves launching a crew module to outer space and bringing



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh felicitating ISRO Scientists, Dr Veeramuthuvel Project Director Chandrayaan-3, K. Kalpana Associate Project Director Chandrayaan-3, M. Shrikanth Mission Director Chandrayaan-3 and Nigar Shaji, Project Director, Aditya L1, at New Delhi.

it back to Earth and recovering it after touchdown in the Bay of Bengal. Indian Navy personnel have already started mock operations to

recover the module. The success of this test will set the stage for the first unmanned "Gaganyaan" mission and ultimately

manned mission to outer space in low Earth orbit, informed the Minister. Before the ultimate manned "Gaganyaan" mission, there will be a test flight next year, which will carry "Vyommitra", the female robot astronaut, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is among the top five nations in the field of space exploration.

Dr Jitendra Singh said ISRO is the epitome of India's Naarishakti, - with women scientists not only participating but also leading the various activities in Space research programmes.

On the occasion, ISRO scientists, - Dr Veeramuthuvel, Project Director, Chandrayaan-3; K. Kalpana, Associate Project Director, Chandrayaan-3; M. Shrikanth, Mission Director, Chandrayaan-3& Aditya L1; and Nigar Shaji, Project Director, Aditya L1 were felicitated by the Union Minister.



NC, its allies of Gupkar Gang betrayed people of Jammu Region: Yudhvir

Calls for unity, support for PM Modi's development agenda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President on Tuesday strongly criticized the National Conference and other political parties of Gupkar Gang for misleading the people of the region concerning the Assembly elections.

In a statement issued today, Yudhvir Sethi recalled the troubled history of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, pointing out that it was the National Conference that won the 1983 Assembly elections through rigging, which ultimately led to the rise of terrorism in Kashmir and the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from the Valley. He questioned Farooq Abdullah's motivations behind boycotting the 1996 Lok Sabha elections and the need to discuss Greater Autonomy.

Sethi questioned the National Conference's credibility in talking about the interests of Jammu people, especially when it comes to tourism development in the region.



Expressing concern over District Development Council (DDC) elections, which were organized by the Modi Government with the aim of strengthening grassroots democracy. He accused the National Conference of consistently betraying the people for personal gain and discriminating against the Jammu region in terms of government jobs, funds, medical and engineering seats, and overall development. He asked the National Conference's credibility in talking about the interests of Jammu people, especially when it comes to tourism development in the region.

LAHDC Kargil election, Yudhvir Sethi clarified that the Bharatiya Janata Party has accepted people's verdict and on ground BJP has gained in the election. He asserted that the Party has secured 2 Council seats and garnered more than 11,000 which are much better than 2500 votes in the previous LAHDC polls.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that the responsibility for conducting elections lies with the Election Commission of India, not the BJP, and that the Election Commission will decide when the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is conducive for Assembly elections.

Yudhvir Sethi urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain cautious of divisive policies promoted by such political parties like the National Conference, Congress, and PDP. He called on them to unite and support Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his efforts to drive overall development in the region.

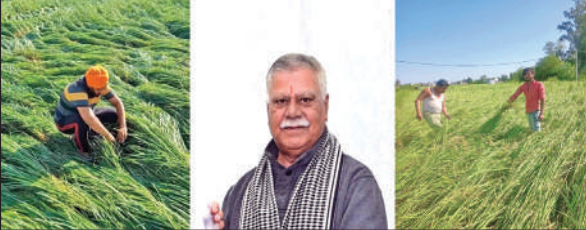
Over 75% of Kharief crops damaged in Jammu Sukhnandan demands compensation for farmers hit by unseasonal rains, storm

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and Senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan on Tuesday said it is the responsibility of the government to look into the plight of "poor farmers" and demanded timely compensation for those whose crops were damaged in last night rains and hailstorm.

"Farmers are our annadatas. Today, all of us are sad since our annadatas are aggrieved. Looking at the plight of farmers, I think it is the responsibility of all of us that we should unitedly work to provide them succour," Sukhnandan said during his visit to various villages in border areas in Jammu sector.

The last night storms and rains have caused heavy damage to the standing crops of rice in Jammu province, thus leaving a large population of poor farmers at the mercy of God. Making a fervent appeal to LG



Manoj Sinha, former Minister Sukhnandan Kumar, demanded that immediate survey of the losses should be conducted and adequate compensation provided to the affected farmers.

Sukhnandan Kumar said these rains have caused heavy losses to the standing crops, which has sent a wave of uncertainty among farmers. He said that in many areas Desi Basmati Crop has been totally damaged, whereas the early varieties of rice at the harvesting stage have laid down in fields.

These rains with storms of over 100 kilometers speed have affected 75% of crops

Sukhnandan Kumar said that PM Narendra Modi has always expressed concern for the welfare and upliftment of the farmers as he considers them as "Ann Datta". The PM's concern for these hapless farmers should be converted into reality by providing immediate and adequate compensation. LG Manoj Sinha also always work for the welfare and upliftment of the farmers. The former minister also expressed concern over damage caused to the electricity poles and wires by the rains and storms and stressed upon the JKPDCL to take effective steps to restore power supply in the affected villages.

Adopt foolproof security system to neutralize any terrorist activity: IGP Jammu asks officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu

Zone, Jammu, Anand Jain, after taking over the charge of Jammu Zone, on Tuesday chaired an introductory meeting with Range DI&G/District SSSP of Jammu Zone in order to have an overall functioning of the Zone at ZPHQ Jammu.

IGP Jammu reviewed crime patterns and issued directions to district heads to improve police working and better public relations.

Besides, IGP Jammu also emphasized to adopt measures to deal drug menace stringently and directed them to infuse extraordinary efforts to put kingpins of the drug smuggling behind bars.

He directed all the officers to remain alert and vigilant and adopt a foolproof security

system to neutralize any terrorist activity in their area of responsibility.

Moreover, IGP Jammu stressed upon the district SSSP to reach out to the common people particularly in the remote and border areas and seek their valuable cooperation and assistance in curbing the menace of infiltration and checking the movement of terrorists and maintenance of communal harmony and brotherhood.

He also asked the officers to remain extra vigilant against any threat from terrorists and other anti-social elements. Range DI&G also gave a detailed introduction regarding the day-to-day policing in their respective Ranges.

All the Police Officers assured IGP Jammu Zone for wholehearted efforts to achieve the targets.



Piyush Singla assumes charge of Secy, PD&MD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Piyush Singla, assumed the charge of Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD) here on Tuesday.

After assuming the charge, Dr. Piyush Singla, chaired a meeting of officers of the department and Directorate of Economics and Statistics, J&K, at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The Kashmir based officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

A detailed presentation was presented to Dr. Piyush Singla apprising him of the functions of Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

Director General, Economics and Statistics, informed the Secretary that the DPCs have been con-



Dr. Piyush Singla honoured as he assumed charge of Secretary, PD&MD on Tuesday.

vened both at Gazetted as well Non-Gazetted level and a number of officers have been promoted to the higher ranks.

The administration section of PD&MD informed Dr. Piyush Singla about the ongoing initiatives, Court Cases, RTI Cases, SRO-43/ RAS Cases, Grievances and

other administrative issues. The Physical/ Financial progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Centre Sector Schemes like BADP, PMDP, RMIS was also presented to the Secretary.

The status of programmes like Pro Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), Project

Monitoring Group (Central/ UT), E-Smiksha, Prime Minister's Reconstruction 20 Points Programme, Aspirational District/ Block/ Panchayat Programmes, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and Departmental Deliverables was also highlighted.

DG, E&S apprised the Secretary that the Department undertakes 100 per cent physical verification of completed works, evaluation studies of schemes/ projects, peak harvesting prices, Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Economic Census, State Domestic Product/ District Domestic Product, Civil Registration System (CRS), KAP Surveys etc.

Secretary, while addressing

the officers and officials, asked them to lay special emphasis on Data Analysis, Orientation/Training Programmes, Capacity Building Programmes and sharing the price data with the Deputy Commissioners on fortnightly basis. He stated that Planning Cadre officers are performing their role effectively in plan formulation, data capturing and evaluation. He also said that Sustainable Development Goals are an essential component of planning process and more emphasis should be laid on it.

Director General Planning, Director Finance in Planning Department, Special Secretary Planning, Joint Directors Planning and other senior officers of the department were present in the meeting.

MOU signed to start HIV Viral Load Testing in GMC Jammu



Officials of AIDS Control Society and GMC Jammu after signing MoU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A memorandum of understanding was signed on Tuesday between Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) and Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu for starting free of cost HIV viral load testing in the premier hospital of the people living with HIV (PLHIV).

The agreement provided for utilization of the spare test-

ing capacity of COBAS RT-PCR equipment for the quantitative HIV -1 Viral Load Testing in the Department of Microbiology, GMC Jammu.

At present, the samples of PLHIVs are being sent to Chandigarh for viral load testing. This in-house testing at GMC, Jammu will reduce turnaround time in the reporting of the final result which will help the clinicians to provide timely treatment

to the PLHIVs.

The MOU was signed in the presence of Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Manu Bhatnagar, Additional Director, J&K AIDS Control Society, H&ME Department and Dr. Sandeep Dogra, HOD, Department of Microbiology, GMC, Jammu along with their respective concerned officials.

JU organises Academia, Industry Civil Society Interaction, bids farewell to ADGP Mukesh Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) organized a academia, industry, civil society interaction here on Tuesday and also showcased its major initiatives among the various stakeholders.

Three power point presentations highlighting the progressive initiatives of the university were presented before the invited guests and senior faculty members.

While Dr Ginny Dogra, Deputy Director DIQA in her presentation outlined the various major initiatives undertaken by the university in the past one year and unfolded the future roadmap of the university.

Dr Sadaf Shah, Dept of English dwelt in detail on the different contours of Jammu University's recently launched 'Design Your Degree' program.

Dr Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports & Physical Education and nodal officer of the forthcoming 'College on Wheels' train journey for students shared the concept and objectives of the program. The university of Jammu on this occasion also



JU administration honouring ADGP Mukesh Singh.

felicitated outgoing ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh for his services to the people of Jammu Zone especially to the university.

"It is the endeavour of the university to dissolve the unseen boundaries between different sections of society and take every one along in its path towards progression." Prof Rai said. Prof Rai also praised the extraordinary contributions of Mukesh Singh, ADGP towards the society and the university.

The university on the occasion also presented a souvenir and shawl to the outgoing AGDP as a mark of

respect and gratitude. Prof Bechan Lal Vice Chancellor Cluster University presented a souvenir to Mukesh Singh on behalf of Jammu University. Chief Guest of the function, Mukesh Singh in his address while expressing gratitude to the JU, also thanked his team of officers and jawans that worked hard behind the scenes to maintain peace and order.

Mukesh Singh also briefly spoke about his long drawn association with the JU.

Earlier the guests were formally welcomed the registrar of Jammu University Prof Rahul Gupta.

Prithvipal Singh, DDIB, Vivekananda Rai Director Tourism Jammu, Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce, Rahul Sahai Chairman PHD Chamber of Commerce, Padmashree awardee SP Verma, SP North Kulbir Handa, SP South Shaheen Wahid also participated in the interaction and graced the occasion.

Prof Anju Bhasin DAA, Prof Neelu Rohmetra, Director DDE, Prof Naresh Padma, Prof Meena Sharma Dean Planning, Dr Meenakshi Kilam Director DIQA, Prof Rajiv Rattan Director CDC, Prof Prakash Antahal DSW, Prof Sundee Pandita Director HRDC, Prof Kuldeep Singh Charak, Prof Alka Sharma, Director, SIIEDC, Dr Neeraj Sharma, Dr Anil Gupta, Dr Sumita Shama, Dr Chinmayee, Dr Imran Farooq, Irfan Goni were prominent among those who attended the interaction.

Ranjeet Kalra Teaching Faculty HRDC JU presented a vote of thanks. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof Sarika Manhas.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The main opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference, Congress and PDP, on Tuesday staged a nearly three-hour-long dharna for restoration of democratic and constitutional rights in the Union Territory.

This was the first major protest here since the revocation of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

The protest at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in the heart of Jammu was supposed to be led by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, but he could not make it to the heavily guarded venue due to "ill health."

However, senior party leaders led by provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta participated in the protest. Likewise, PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti also did not participate in the protest but almost all senior leaders of the party in Jammu, including vice president Abdul Hameed Choudhary and former MLC Firdous Tak, were part of the protest.



Senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla and others during Dharna in Jammu on Tuesday.

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday said the election commission not announcing the poll schedule for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly can push people to take to streets for their right to have an elected government.

"It seems like we are being pushed to a situation where we have to protest even for our democratic rights," Abdullah had told reporters in Srinagar on Monday, shortly after the election commission announced the poll schedule for five states - Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram.

Hundreds of leaders and

workers of various parties including CPI(M), National Panthers Party (NPP), Awami National Conference, Shiv Sena (UBT), Awami National Conference and social organisations turned up for the protest.

"The opposition parties have come together to demand immediate restoration of statehood, democratic and constitutional rights," Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani said.

"We will continue our protest for the rights of the people and safeguarding their interests," he further said.

Wani alleged the BJP is delaying elections deliberately,

knowing fully that it, along with its allies like the Democratic Progressive Azad Party and the Apni Party, will face the rout in the electoral battles.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami said they have no hope from the BJP-led central government as all its promises have proved "false".

PDP's Tak termed the joint protest as a "positive sign" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said the message from this platform to the country is that all opposition parties need to stand up against the "divisive politics" of the present dispensation to safeguard the secularism and the "idea of India."