

‘Anusandhan’ Foundation to realise vision of India’s science driven growth: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "Anusandhan" National Research Foundation (NRF) will realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India's science driven growth, said the Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh while chairing the monthly joint meeting of Union Secretaries of all the Science Ministries and Departments, at Science Centre here on Friday.

The Minister said, the NRF, envisaged by PM Modi, will catapult us to the league of handful of developed nations pioneering new research in new frontiers, he said. "Anusandhan" NRF Act was passed by the Parliament in the recent Monsoon session. NRF will provide high level strategic direction for research, inno-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh holding monthly joint meeting of Union Secretaries of all the Science Ministries and Departments, at Science Centre, New Delhi on Friday.

vation and entrepreneurship in the fields of Natural Sciences including Mathematical Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Environmental and Earth Sciences, Health and Agriculture. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Dr. Abhay Karandikar informed the Minister that he convened the first meeting of NRF Implementation Committee recently. The

Draft Rules & Regulations will be ready by next week and once finalized, it will be tabled in Parliament. Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood said, a proposal of names for the 16-member NRF Governing Body is also under finaliza-

tion. It will include 6 Experts, 5 Industry representatives and 1 Humanities expert. The NRF will connect to Tier 2 & Tier 3 institutions since 11% of its budget is earmarked for their Capacity Building. Dr Jitendra said the Executive Council of NRF is mandated not only to monitor the progress of the different projects but also to analyse the accountability of the funding at different level stages. NRF will promote the culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges,

research institutions, and R&D laboratories and give further impetus to Clean energy research in India and Mission Innovation, he said.

Dr Singh stressed that Tier 2 & 3 Institutions will need handholding so that they can absorb the funds. Besides, he said, the NRF will bring about sweeping changes in the work culture as Industry will have to come forward to take risk cover and await the gestation.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the NRF will hike the R&D spending in the country.

"The demarcation between the Public and Private sector will be bridged and there will be integration. NRF will also act as a think tank, it has the mandate of deciding the themes on which the projects have to be undertaken and funded, and deciding on foreign tie-ups," he said.

Militancy in J&K at its lowest level: DGP Dilbag Singh



Record number of commercial route permits issued after 10 years

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Continuing action against traffic violators, Motor Vehicle Department has been tirelessly working towards creating awareness about the importance of wearing helmets and seat belts while riding a two-wheeler or driving a car.

Despite these efforts some individuals continue to disregard the safety regulations, putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.

Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir officials made it clear that the department is committed to ensuring road safety and will not tolerate any negligence in this regard.

Under the MVA, it is mandatory for all two wheeler riders to wear helmets and for four wheeler drivers' seat belts. Failure to comply with this requirement is treated as violation of law.

RTO officials urged district officers to continue working with enthusiasm towards this objective and emphasized that violators should not only be penalized, but their driving licenses, registration of vehicles, and commercial permits

should be suspended and cancelled.

RTO official data reveals that across all the districts of Kashmir Division, 303 driving licenses, 52 registration certificates of vehicles, and 305 commercial permits were suspended or cancelled in the last two quarters, beside this during the Q1 & Q2 of the financial year, 43297 new vehicles were registered. Also, 2604 fresh permits were issued and 9792 renewed; 2627 fresh fitness certificates were issued and 14256 renewed; 17599 fresh driving licenses were issued and 17956 renewed, besides 6594 vehicle transfer cases were completed in the first two quarters.

RTO Kashmir officials reiterated the importance of prioritizing a smooth and reliable public transport system to enhance the convenience of the general public. "By implementing an efficient public transport system, the number of cars on the roads can be significantly reduced, thereby alleviating traffic congestion. It will not only ensure ease of mobility for the residents but also con-

tribute to more sustainable and environment friendly transportation", an official said.

It is important to mention that the Regional Transport Office Kashmir has recorded revenue of Rs 216 Cr in the first two quarters of the current financial year 2022-23, representing a growth of 30 percent compared to the previous financial year during the same period.

Officials of the Regional Transport Office Kashmir said while providing figures a record number of 1607 Fresh Commercial Route Permits were issued for Maxi Cabs, Taxis, and Buses in the last six months, after the process was resumed after nearly 10 years. Meanwhile, the RTO officials praised the district officers and other officials of MVD for their remarkable performance in collecting fines for various road safety, traffic, and transport violations. The fines collected have witnessed a remarkable growth of 71 percent, with total recovery increasing from Rs 0.87 Cr. to Rs 1.50 Cr. during the period under review.

Saffron harvesting season is about to begin Despite dry weather, farmers are hopeful of a good harvest

■ MASROOR AHMAD

DUSOO PAMPORE: The Saffron harvesting season in Kashmir runs from mid-October to late November. Saffron is one of the most expensive spices in the world, and it comes from the stigmas of the purple flower of the plant. Saffron is also referred to as "Red Gold". Pampore area is the famous for Saffron cultivation, and out of total 5,707 hectares of land under saffron cultivation in Kashmir, more than 90 per cent is in Pampore Tehsil of Pulwama district.

According to Saffron growers, after years of losses, we were in depression and most of the farmers were changing their crops.

Fayaz Ahmad a Saffron farmer from Khrew area of Pampore, said Saffron was cultivated on large scale in rural areas of district Pulwama in the past.

However, due to different obstacles in Saffron cultivation, growers shifted to other horticulture crops and today Saffron crop is limited to the Pampore and its adjacent areas.



Musavir Ahmad, a young saffron grower from Dusoo Pampore told the State Times, "Saffron fields are shrinking drastically as illegal construction of residential houses and other buildings continues. Revenue officials are watching but no action is taken against the culprits. I am

just 20 year old and we have several acres of Saffron land in Dusoo and Lelhar area, my father is taking care of this land, we are getting good yield but I don't understand why people are constructing their residential houses in Saffron field."

He added, that there are hundreds of Kanals of other open land in the area but people are destroying saffron land.

Pampore meadows attracts tourists from everywhere to witness the yellow, maroon and purple colour of blossoms that bloom beside giant Chinars and harvest time resembles a festival for villages in the area.

The Saffron farmers of Dusoo area are still waiting for Saffron blossoms. "Due to the constant dry, hot and humid weather this year, we do not expect that we will get more productions this year, may be it will be less," he said.

Meanwhile the Director Agriculture Kashmir visited Saffron areas of Pampore and took stock of the crop scenario.

During the visit, the Director

inspected different fields and took feedback from the concerned saffron growers regarding the saffron crop. He assured farmers that the department is taking steps to strengthening of irrigation facilities in the saffron areas of Pampore.

He said the recent spell of showers is a blessing from almighty for the saffron crop as this was the need of hour.

The Director said that the department has already ensured that the functional bore wells in the areas are put to the service of Saffron farmers but the wet spell has complemented the overall efforts by the department in this direction. He said that the department is working for area expansion under Saffron crop and different stakeholders including farmers, Kisan advisory board are on board in this endeavour.

The department has identified 350 saffron farms (nurseries) for saffron corn multiplication so that the seed could be provided to more and more farmers and the crop could be introduced in newer areas.

IGP Jammu reviews arrangements for Annual National Police Day



IGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting.

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JAMMU: To review the preparation and ensure adequate Police/Security arrangements in connection with Commemoration Day Parade, a meeting was held by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain at ZPHQ,

Jammu this afternoon.

The function is being organised on October 21, 2023 to pay rich tribute to the martyrs. A blood donation camp will also be organised on the occasion of the Commemoration Day Parade. During the meeting, detailed briefing was given by

the participants to IGP Jammu Zone with regard to preparation, administrative arrangements, publicity/invitations and other important arrangements required to be made.

Anand Jain advised the participants to maintain close cooperation and ensure that all the arrangements are put in place well in time in a coordinated manner.

The officers who attended the meeting include DIG JKS Range, DIG Armed Jammu, DIG IRP Jammu, SSP Jammu, CO SDRF Jammu, SSP Railways Jammu, SSP Traffic City, Jammu, SSP APCR, Jammu, SP City North/South/Rural Jammu and Police other officers.

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JAMMU: Keeping in view the very less affordability of common masses to go for such complex interventions as it involves huge economic and social burden for everyone, Department of cardiology SSH Jammu under the supervision and undaunting spirit of Dr Sushil Sharma added another feather to cap by organizing one day complex cardiac workshop for congenital / structural heart diseases in which therapeutic interventions were done free of cost.

Dr Sushil Sharma told that congenital heart defect is a problem with the structure of the heart that a child is born with. Some congenital heart defects in children

Workshop on heart diseases at SSH Jammu Big boost in providing affordable, accessible cardiac healthcare: Dr Sushil



Dr Sushil Sharma and other doctors conducting surgery during a workshop.

are simple and don't need treatment. Other congenital heart defects in children are more complex and may require several surgeries over a period of several

years. The aim of organizing such workshops is to provide world of art cardiac care to patients of this region and far flung areas and such procedures are

now being done in government setup that too free of cost. During this workshop besides imparting knowledge to medical and paramedical staff, paediatric cardiac interventions which included device closure for ASD and PDA were successfully done at par with any paediatric cardiac Center nationally or worldwide. The main purpose of this workshop was to provide state of art paediatric cardiac intervention to the needy patients who are unable to travel to other centers of the country to avail these facilities and this time it was made possible for the patients of Jammu region with joint

efforts of Dr Neeraj Awasthy, Director Paediatric Cardiology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, New Delhi, Dr Nasir Ali Choudhary, Dr Yashwant Sharma, Dr Venkatesh Yellapu and supporting staff of Cardiac Cath lab and assistance from Anesthetic team including Dr Rasmeeth Kour, Dr Vikas Gupta, Dr Priya Chauhan and Dr Heena Bhagat.

During this workshop six procedures were done successfully which included device closure for ASD in 3 cases, PDA done in 3 cases and younger child who was operated having an age of 5yrs, he added.

BJP conducts ‘Amrit Kalash Yatra’

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conducted "Amrit Kalash Yatra" in which the 'Mitti' (soil) collected from the homes of martyrs, statues of eminent social personalities, other prominent places of historical relevance was collected at the Block and then District level and then Yatra (procession) was taken out with the chanting of patriotic songs and sloganeering by hundreds of BJP activists at various places in Jammu & Kashmir.

BJP Jammu District led by its President Parmod Kapahi organized Amrit Kalash Yatra commencing from Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Park Jewel Chowk and culminated at Maharaja Hari Singh Park.

BJP NEM & former Minister Priya Sethi, BJP JKUT Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, Mandal Presidents Keshav Chopra, Parveen Kermi, Atul Bakshi, Raman Sharma, JKUT BJP Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra, BJP JKUT OBC Morcha President Sunil Prapapati, Municipal Councillors Sanjay Baru, Jeet Angral, Suneet Raina, Neelam Nargotra, Satpal Karhupia, District General Secretaries Kuldeep Kandhari, Adv Rajesh Gupta & others were amongst the prominent present on the occasion.

Priya Sethi said that the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" programme aims to respect and remember those heroes who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Yudhvir Sethi said that this initiative has been aimed to infuse a sense of



BJP JKUT Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, Priya Sethi and other leaders taking out Amrit Kalash Yatra.

patriotism and nationalistic fervor within the hearts of the people and this mission has been successfully completed.

Meri Mati Mera Desh which was started on 15th August 2023 was concluded today.

Under this campaign, Yudhvir said, soil was taken from door to door and put in the urn. The purpose of which was to make our future generations understand these sacrifices, he said adding that all this soil will be used to make Amrit Vatika on Kartavya Path in Delhi, where 75,000 saplings will be planted.

Vistarak Ashok Kumar, Ex Councillor Sanjay Mahey, Hari Om Sharma, Asha Gupta Manav Mahajan, Rajesh Gupta, Anil Angral, Krishan Lal Sharma, Munish Gupta, Kushant Daffara, Rajesh Nischal, Deepak Sharma, Parveen Ghai, Bhubesh Sharma, Bablu Chand, Geeta Sodhi, Ashok Salgotra, Omkar Verma, Jatinder Khajuria, Sunil Bindru, Arun Sethi, Vipin Sharma, Sudhir Anand, Puneet Chawla, Rajeev

Sethi, Swati Bakshi, Vicky Pandey, Sharda devi, Vikas Bali, Sonu Manhas, Naveen Sharma, Pardeep Sharma, Dimple Kumar, Sanjeev Gupta, Bishan Singh, Gourav Singh Anuradha Sharma, Chaman Lal Angral, Rohit Mehra and others were also present.

Similar, Amrit Kalash Yatra was taken under the leadership of District Jammu South President Rekha Mahajan. She said that the soil collected, would soon become part of the 'Amrit Vatika' at Delhi, a place which would be visited by every person with a feel of belongingness.

Similar, Amrit Kalash Yatra was undertaken under the leadership of Kashmir Displaced District President Chand Ji Bhat, who focused on the strengthening of nation under PM Modi.

Another Yatra was taken in Ward 41 under the leadership of local Councillor Sanjay Baru, who stressed on the need to strengthen the patriotic emotions among all.

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JAMMU: In a recent pronouncement of legal significance, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has underscored a critical legal principle pertaining to the challenge of detention orders.

The Court, consisting of a division bench led by Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, has asserted that the pre-emption of detention orders through legal recourse prior to their execution effectively precludes the subsequent contention that such orders should be invalidated due to an absence of a "live link" between the present circumstances and the conditions prevalent at the time the detention orders were originally issued.

The Court's rationale is rooted in the notion that the act of pre-emptive challenge, by its nature, forestalls a comprehensive assessment of whether the grounds and evidentiary basis for a detention order were substantively justified. The Court articulated this principle eloquently:

"...But if the petitioners and the appellants have taken recourse to the legal remedy to challenge the order of detention even before it was executed, it is not open for them to contend that it should be quashed because there is no live link between the existing/subsequent situation and the previous situation when the order of detention was passed, overlooking that they succeeded in pre-empting the order by challenging it at the pre-execution stage, never allowing the matter to proceed so as to examine the most crucial question whether there were sufficient material or grounds to pass the

order of detention."

This seminal legal doctrine emerged from a case originating from the suspension of a detention order pursuant to the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988. The appellants mounted a multifaceted challenge, asserting that the immediate suspension of the detention order, as initiated upon their motion, ran counter to the guiding principle of circumspection when granting interim orders in cases of preventive detention. The respondents, in response to the detention order issued against them, posited its illegitimacy, contending a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and challenging the veracity of their implication in a drug-related case while already on bail. After a comprehensive evaluation of the petitioner's arguments, the Court discerned the presence of a prima facie case necessitating the suspension of the detention order; culminating in an order dated 11.05.2023 that temporarily halted the detention process. The Court invoked legal precedents, citing Secretary to Govt of India vs. Alka Subhash Gadia (1992) and Deepak Bajaj Vs. State of Maharashtra (2008), contending that preventive detention orders can be subject to challenge beyond the five conditions delineated in the Alka Subhash Gadia case. Notwithstanding this latitude, the Court emphatically emphasized that a detention order could not be invalidated solely on the basis of the temporal lapse and the argument that there existed no "live link" between the detention order and the prevailing circumstances, even when the

challenge to the detention order was initiated prior to its execution.

Upon scrutinizing the grounds of detention, the Court adjudged them to be meticulously specified and legally sound. The Court opined that the temporal delay in executing the detention order did not suffice to vitiate the order; particularly in light of the authorities' active monitoring of the petitioner's activities subsequent to his release on bail. The Court, consequently, concluded that none of the five conditions for challenging the detention order, as established in the Alka Subhash Gadia case, were met in the present matter.

The bench astutely noted that the respondent had been granted bail on November 11, 2022, and the detention order was issued approximately four months later, on April 27, 2023. It was judiciously observed, "From the pleadings of the writ petition relating to the detention order, it appears that the authorities were considering the activities of the writ petitioner since his release on bail also, and hence, it cannot be definitively said, without examining the records, that the delay of four and a half months had severed the live link."

In its final deliberation, the Court declared that the existence of a "live link" between the impugned activities and the detention order remained indeterminate without a comprehensive review of the records. Consequently, the interim order that suspended the detention order was deemed inappropriate. Consequently, the bench allowed the appeal and the order of detention was upheld.