

Dr Jitendra calls for collective effort to meet Climate challenge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh has called for collective effort to meet the Climate challenge saying the issue is too serious to be left to the government alone.

The Minister said that there is an urgent need for decisive action to combat climate change, a challenge that is no longer a distant threat but an immediate reality affecting lives, economies, and the future of the planet. He was addressing the "Times Now" Global Sustainability Alliance's 6th edition of the SDG Summit 2024 in New Delhi today. The theme for the address was Game Changing India's Science Based Targets for Climate Change.

Recognizing India's responsibility as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, Dr. Singh reaffirmed the country's commitment to balancing sustainable development with global climate change mitigation efforts. He highlighted the importance of science-based targets, which, in alignment with the goals of the Paris



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the "Times Now" Global Sustainability Alliance's 6th edition of the SDG Summit 2024 at New Delhi on Wednesday.

Agreement, aim to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with aspirations to restrict it to 1.5 degrees.

Dr. Jitendra outlined India's key climate targets, which include (i) A reduction of 33-35% in greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2030,

using 2005 levels as a baseline; (ii) A commitment to increasing non-fossil fuel energy capacity to 500 GW, and (iii) An ambitious goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

The Minister of State underscored the importance of collaboration in achieving these targets, urging stronger partnerships between government, industry, academia, and civil society. He highlighted that innovation will be central to India's strategy, whether through advancements in renewable energy; sustainable agriculture, or green technologies.

Dr. Singh pointed to the robust policy framework established by the Government of India to guide climate action, with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) playing a pivotal role.

Moreover, the Minister emphasized that India has developed various sector-specific strategies to strengthen its climate goals. These goals include (i) Energy Sector: Investments in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and biomass, alongside the

implementation of smart grids and energy storage; (ii) Transportation: Promotion of electric vehicles (EVs) and enhancement of public transportation systems; (iii) Agriculture: Focus on climate-resilient crops, improved irrigation, and sustainable farming practices; (iv) Urban Development: Encouragement of sustainable urban planning, green building practices, and waste management initiatives; (v) Water Resources: Promotion of water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and enhanced river basin management; and (vi) Disaster Management: Strengthening resilience against climate-induced disasters through improved early warning systems and community preparedness.

Dr. Singh urged every citizen to actively participate in the fight against climate change, emphasizing that simple changes in daily life can have a significant impact. He stressed the importance of fostering a culture of sustainability and urged all stakeholders to collaborate towards a resilient and sustainable future.



Priya Sethi inaugurates 2-day exhibition 'Riti Rivaz' at Hotel Asia



Former Minister, Priya Sethi with others after inaugurating 2-day exhibition at Asia Hotel.

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JAMMU: The much-anticipated 2-day exhibition, Riti Rivaz, was successfully hosted by renowned event organizers Shikha, Rattan, and Aman at Hotel Asia on October 16th and 17th. The exhibition showcased a wide array of products from esteemed brands across India, drawing significant attention from visitors and exhibitors alike.

On the occasion, Priya Sethi, National Executive Member BJP and Former Minister was the Chief Guest who inaugurated the event and commended the efforts of the organizers for

bringing together such a diverse and vibrant display of products under one roof. She emphasized the importance of such exhibitions in promoting entrepreneurship and supporting local businesses, particularly those led by women.

The former Minister also expressed her appreciation for the platform provided to artisans and brands from across the country, which helps foster cultural and business exchanges.

Priya Sethi was joined by other notable guests, including Mitaali Gupta, Ruhi Sharma, Irfan Chaudhary, and Atul

Duggal, who collectively applauded the initiative and its role in promoting cultural and business exchange.

The exhibition, managed by INFOBUG, featured an eclectic mix of fashion, lifestyle, home décor, and artisanal products, offering visitors a unique shopping experience.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all the participants and visitors for making the event a resounding success and promised to continue hosting similar events in the future to encourage local talent and entrepreneurship.

Sham hails Jammu people for massive mandate to BJP

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JAMMU: Hailing the people of Jammu for their overwhelming support and a massive mandate to BJP in the recently held assembly elections, senior BJP leader and MLA, Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma today said that the party will work hard to fulfil the aspirations of the people without any discrimination. He said people of Jammu region have voted for peace, security, strengthening of communal harmony, mutual brotherhood and safeguarding the dogra heritage and culture, for which the BJP is committed to protect at all costs. Addressing a large gathering of party bearers, workers and prominent citizens at a felicitation function organized by the BJP Janipur Mandal in his honour here today, Sham Lal Sharma said that party will play the role of constructive opposition and work for restoration of lasting peace,



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma speaking at a programme.

prosperity, justice to every section of the society and holistic development in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. He said though the party has been mandated to sit in opposition, but importantly has secured three percent more vote share than National Conference, which puts more responsibility on the party, Sham asserted.

Reiterating the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's slogan "Sab ka Saath-Sabka Vikas and Sab ka Bishwas",

Sham said that the party believes in this mantra and will continue to work for the welfare of every section of the society. He said the party will protect the interests of Jammu watchfully and ensure equal share to this region at all costs. Developmental activities will be speeded up and all Central Welfare Schemes will be implemented on ground in letter and spirit, he noted.

Conveying his gratitude to the party bearers and workers for their marvellous work during

the elections, Sham said that the workers have exhibited great discipline and close coordination during the entire election process that led to a massive win in Jammu North. Workers are the real strength and backbone of the party and BJP will do everything possible to encourage and boost their morale for the future endeavours. He assured that there will be regular interactions with the party workers, general public of the constituency and concerned sectoral officers for addressing the public grievances at an open Darbar.

The dates for such darbars/meetings and venues will be notified well in advance so that the public can avail benefits of these events.

He cautioned the functionaries of different departments to improve their style of functioning and deliver on ground. The performance of each functionary will be reviewed periodically.

He also urged the people to

keep a watch on the functioning of the employees, especially of PHE and sanitation staff and bring to his notice the grievances, if any. He assured that a detailed roadmap for the development of Jammu North along with priorities will be formulated in consultation with the people of every ward to improve the public services, he maintained.

Former MP and senior BJP leader, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, District President, Oni Khajuria, Mandal President, Raveesh Mengi, District General Secretary, Ajay Sharma and BJP State Election In-charge, Praduman Singh welcomed and felicitated the MLA for his thumping win on Jammu North seat.

Other prominent who were present on the occasion included, ex-Councillors, Surinder Sharma, Subash Sharma, Yash Pal Sharma, Sunita Gupta, Rani Devi, J. D. Singh, Bharat Bhushan and Sanjay Bhat.

Modi Govt has been devoted towards welfare of farmers, poor: Sukhnandan

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JAMMU: Former minister and ex-MLA Marh, Ch Sukhnandan has welcomed the union cabinet decision to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Ravi crop for marketing season 2025-2026.

He told that rapeseed and mustard MSP has witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.300 per quintal followed by Lentil at Rs.275 per quintal. MSP of wheat has been increased Rs.150 per quintal.

It is pertinent to mention here that the process of MSP was started in the year 1966-67 and in 46 years i.e upto 2013 previous governments has raised MSP of paddy to Rs.1310 and of wheat to Rs.1350 whereas after taking over as Prime Minister of the country Narendra Modi in 2014 has increased MSP of paddy and wheat to Rs. 2300 and Rs. 2275 respectively in the year 2024-25 (in just 10



years) which is respectable increase of 75% in paddy and 68.5% in wheat prices in just 10 years of governance.

One can compare the governance of Modi Govt and the previous governments by having a look at increase in MSP in last 10 years.

"Modi Govt. once again reiterated it's resolve towards welfare of farmers and poor people by raising the MSP of Ravi crops today", he added.

"This unprecedented hike in MSP by Modi Govt. is a pragmatic effort towards doubling farmers' income", he asserted.

Those opposing Modi Govt.'s Agricultural reform are against the welfare of farmers and policy of giving them the right value of their produce.

These people do not want our hardworking farmer brothers who feed the country to ever be as rich and empowered as they themselves are.

Winter near but weather in Kashmir constantly dry

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: More than 70 structures, including residential houses, mosques and other commercial structures have been reduced into ashes in the past 48 hours due to continuous dry weather in the Chenab region and Kashmir Valley.

These fire incidents took place in Warwan Kishtwar and Gurez areas, where dozens of families lost their roof and were living in the open air on cold nights.

Keeping these factors and facts in-view, the Fire and Emergency Department in the Valley has urged caution for the locals and pressed for taking all necessary and possible precautions to prevent fires in residential homes and other buildings. The fire incidents tend to go up during these months as use of coal, kerosene, wood, and LPG becomes extensive to counter the harsh temperatures.

Given the materials used for construction in Kashmir homes, including wood, the officials from the Fire and Emergency Department have asked people to follow all the safety measures.

According to the officials of the Fire and Emergency services, it's up to individuals to ensure they follow the safety measures.

"As the dry season begins, it becomes crucial to follow the

do's and don'ts to prevent fire incidents. Structures in this region are particularly vulnerable because of the widespread use of wood in construction, which is highly susceptible to catching fire. Officials further explained that fire protection measures are often overlooked during the design and construction phases in Kashmir.

"We recommend that people avoid using flammable materials like wood, or at least integrate fire-safety designs into their homes. The lack of such measures often results in widespread damage when fires occur. Having basic fire extinguishers and other safety equipment can make a significant difference in controlling small fires before they become unmanageable," officials said.

He also highlighted the common causes of fire during these months, including LPG leaks and electrical short circuits, both of which are prevalent due to the increased use of heating devices as winter approaches.

As people rely more on heating gadgets during winter, they need to ensure proper usage and maintenance. Faulty gadgets and overloaded circuits are major contributors to fire incidents. The department's advisory also included a list of do's and don'ts, stressing simple but effective preventive measures.

The dry weather and low moisture content in forests during these months also elevate the risk of forest fires, which can quickly spread and cause extensive damage to both property and life. Residents living in forest-adjacent areas were urged to exercise particular caution.

"Forest fires are a real threat in these months due to the low moisture content. One small spark can quickly lead to large-scale destruction, so it is vital to take all necessary precautions," he emphasized.

The department has also assured the public that they are on high alert and ready to respond to any emergencies. Department of fire and emergency has advised the public to use electrical appliances with caution.

And stressed the importance of not leaving these appliances unattended and urged residents to purchase high-quality electrical items.

Winters in Kashmir are a delight for outsiders, offering snow-covered mountains and breathtaking hill stations. However, for the local Kashmiri population, these months bring a host of problems from skyrocketing vegetable prices and electricity shortages to a rise in fire incidents, which are often deadly and destructive.

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JAMMU: In view of ongoing festival season and notable congestion due to the construction/widening work on NHW, general public has been appealed to adopt alternate transport options such as public transport, carpooling etc. to avoid jamming at the crowded locations of NHW/other places till the culmination of festival season.

Wrong, improper parking particularly at the crowded places is a major concern and cause of congestion leading to obstruction in the operation of emergency services and disruption in the flow of Traffic, said SSP Traffic Rural

Jammu.

"Although, adequate action against the wrong parking is being taken by Traffic Rural, Jammu and over 12878 violations have been booked during the current year on the account of wrong parking, (Overall 116153 challans enforced and fine amounting to Rs. 11,35,27,300/- imposed on the violators) co-operation of general public in this connection is mandatory to prevent disruption of traffic flow especially during the ongoing festival season" a handout issued by the SSP Traffic rural stated. It further appealed to General public to utilize earmarked parking spaces and

SSP Jammu holds crime review meeting



SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh chairing crime review meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder Singh convened a crime review meeting of Sub-division Nagrota at the office of SHO Nagrota. The meeting was attended by the SP Rural, Jammu, SDPO Nagrota, SHO Nagrota, SHO Bakshi Nagar, IC PPs Sidhra, Manwal, IO's and other officers.

During the meeting, the status of under investigation cases related to NDPS Act, Excise, Bovine smuggling and Crime against women & children were reviewed and threadbare discussions were held to close investigations on merits and in time bound manner.

The progress made in ongoing criminal investigations was discussed to ensure timely resolution and justice for victims. SSP Jammu said that the Investigation officers must take all the measures to improve investigation and disposal of cases.

He directed that the quality of investigation and disposal of these cases needs improvement and stressed upon them to adopt the latest techniques and standard operating practices which would bring better results in investigation process. Beside this stress was also laid on Beat patrolling and maintenance of Beat Book record. SHO's were directed to ensure regular surveillance of bad characters and their up to date police record.

SSP Jammu directed the participating officers to remain extra-vigilant, strengthen nakas/check points, and generate actionable intelligence so that the nefarious designs of anti-national elements can be thwarted. He further directed the officers to take the lead while conducting area domination/patrolling in vulnerable areas/pockets.

avoid blocking driveways or access points adding that in case of the non-availability of the parking space, the vehicle should be parked in such a way that flow of traffic is not interrupted.

The office of SSP further observed that negligent approach of people towards the applicable cautionary signages visible on the road is also a cause of major concern which not only leads to disruption in the flow of traffic but also causes road accidents. "Public by large is appealed to strictly follow the applicable

instructions such as speed limits, parking restriction, overtake restrictions to prevent any mishap/disruption of the flow of traffic" he added.

"Encroachment of pathways by hawkers/shopkeepers particularly during the ongoing festival gave rise to apprehension of mishap and disruption of the flow of traffic. Shopkeepers/hawkers are appealed not to occupy pathways as the encroachment of pathways forces the pedestrians to walk on the road causing apprehension of mishap and disruption of the flow of

traffic", it maintained.

The department said that over 60 thousand challans of Traffic Rural, Jammu are pending before the various Courts including notable number of challans pertaining to the year 2022 and 2023. Through the medium Press, concerned owner/violators are appealed to dispose of these challans to avert punitive action under law. For any assistance in this connection, they may contact E-challanning Section of Traffic Rural, Jammu on mobile No. 96223-49183.

Second CITaG Capacity Building Program concludes at IIM Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted the valedictory ceremony for the second batch of the Capacity Building Program for officials from the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday at Vivekananda Classroom.

The program was spearheaded by the newly established Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), a visionary initiative of the Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K.

This center integrates the State Institute of Transformation, NITI Aayog, GoI, the PPP Cell funded by the Department of Economic Affairs, GoI, and the Future Ready Governance initiative of the J&K Government. IIM Jammu served as the Nodal Knowledge Partner and implementing body for CITaG, guiding its mission to bring transformational change to the region.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, in his valedictory address emphasized the institute's dedication to capacity building in public administration and expressed gratitude to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the opportunity to conceptualize CITaG. He celebrated the



IIM Jammu faculty at a programme.

journey of the second batch and urged participants to apply their learning to make CITaG a model for other states. He also highlighted the value of peer learning during their two-day experience at IIM Jammu.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, participants, and faculty members. Dr. Ramswarup Bhaskar, Program Director, IIM Jammu presented a comprehensive report on the program's objectives, key takeaways, and the overall impact on the participants.

Participants shared their reflections on the program, emphasizing the value of the training sessions in enhancing their skill set and knowledge.

They expressed their gratitude towards IIM Jammu for providing them with this opportunity.

Certificates were distributed to all participants in recognition of their successful completion of the program.

Present on the occasion were Program Directors, IIM Jammu Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Dr. Bijoy Rakshit. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem, marking the end of a successful capacity-building initiative.

The training program was coordinated and executed by Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE & C) IIM Jammu. The Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu is a pioneering initiative that seeks to drive positive change and innovation in governance. By focusing on capacity building, promoting public-private partnerships, and developing future-ready governance frameworks, CITaG aims to elevate Jammu & Kashmir to the level of the best-performing states and UTs in India.