

# Dr Jitendra addresses Ranchi University students, calls them architects of 2047 India

## STATE TIMES NEWS

RANCHI: Describing the young students and youth as architects of 2047 India, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh called upon them to recognise their role in the making of "Viksit Bharat".

India will be the world's biggest economy by 2047, said Dr Jitendra. Since 2014, after PM Narendra Modi took over, esteem of Indian youth has risen globally, he added.

Dr Jitendra was addressing the "Youth Connect" programme at Aryabhata Auditorium of Ranchi University.

He emphasized the role of youth in the building of a developed India, for which the current central government is fully committed to provide necessary facilities.

Dr Jitendra stated that since 2014, the situation of India on the global stage has changed dramatically due to



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing an interactive programme of students "Yuva Connect" at Ranchi University, Ranchi on Saturday.

the hard work and visionary programs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that before 2014, Indians were hesitant to identify themselves abroad, whereas now they feel proud. By citing several visionary plans and statistics, he highlighted the hard work put in by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi based on courage, dedication, and innovative strategies to bring about

this positive change. He urged the youth to take full advantage of this changed environment and prepare themselves for a developed India, so their roles can be more impactful.

Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned that the Hon. Prime Minister has abolished outdated 2,000 regulations, which has provided more convenience for youth in

their future endeavors.

He also referred to the changes made in the space policy by the Central government over the past three years, stating that in just three years, the number of startups has increased from about nine to three hundred. He explained how the central government effectively utilized technology not only to assist people during the lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic but also in improving their conditions thereafter. He said that the situation today has vastly improved in comparison from 2014, when India was viewed as among the top five fragile economies of the world, whereas today it is viewed as the top five strong economies of the world.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Prime Minister has scrapped nearly 2000 obsolete rules and regulations so that youth do not face much hassles in their endeavour for a better future.

# Div Com reviews preparedness, preventive measures for Dengue



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and preventive measures for Dengue in districts of Jammu Division.

Director Health Services, Jammu, Director ULB, Deputy Commissioners, CMOs, State Malariaologist, representatives of municipalities and concerned attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the ongoing efforts, preparedness and measures for prevention and minimizing the cases of Dengue.

Director Health Services, Jammu apprised the Divisional Commissioner on

the yearly comparison and monthly trends of the District wise Dengue cases. He further informed about the teams of Doctors, Logistics, equipment and medical stocks deployed in the areas with Dengue cases. The Div Com directed the concerned district officials for monitoring the situation and submit daily report of the trend of cases especially from the hotspot areas. He further asked to intensify the fogging for disinfecting the areas with Dengue cases and conducting house to house spraying activities.

The Div Com called for rigorous awareness campaigns on Dengue and its prevention with prime focus on

market areas, residential colonies and dwellings. "It should be ensured there is no water stagnation anywhere while drains, nallahs should be cleaned for proper flow", he said.

The Div Com also sought the details of preparedness of GMCs and hospitals for treatments of Dengue patients. District Administrations and CMOs were asked to take the private hospitals onboard to keep them prepared for treating the Dengue cases.

The Div Com directed the concerned officials to also focus cleanliness and disinfectant fogging drives in Industrial areas and places with high movement of people.

# ADGP Jammu felicitates officers for outstanding efforts in investigation of cases

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, on Saturday felicitating Mohan Lal SDPO Akhnoor now (SP), and four other members of his team for their exceptional work, which had a deterrent impact on criminals and gangsters in the area.

Their concerted efforts have contributed significantly to maintaining law and order, instilling fear among wrongdoers, and ensuring the safety and security of the local populace.

In addition, DySP PC Jammu Sahil Mahajan was

ther strengthened the credibility of law enforcement in the region.

In recognition of their commendable work, ADGP Jammu awarded appreciation letters along with cash rewards to SDPO Akhnoor now SP and his team members besides DySP PC Jammu. These rewards are a testament to their tireless efforts in combating crime and upholding the law with integrity and professionalism.

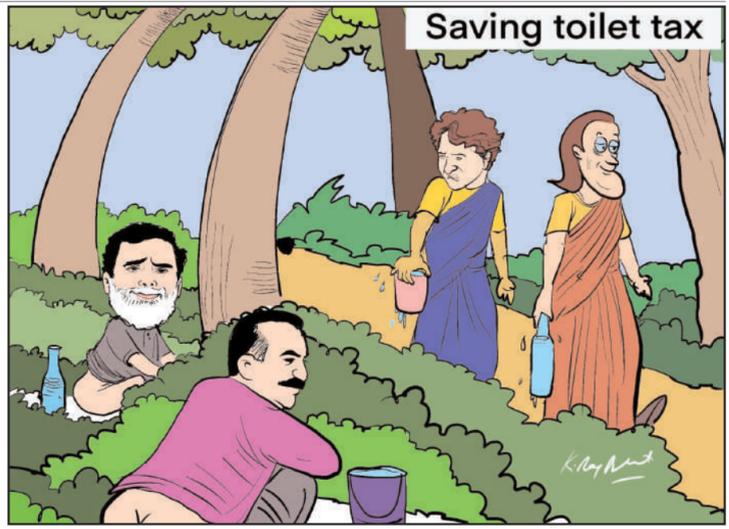
Anand Jain lauded the team for their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to duty. He emphasized the importance



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain felicitating DySP PC Jammu Sahil Mahajan and SDPO Akhnoor Mohan Lal.

commended for his thorough investigation into a high-profile case. His dedication, devotion, and professional approach to solving the case have brought critical breakthroughs and fur-

of such efforts in building a strong deterrent against crime and assured continued support for all officers working diligently towards maintaining peace and order in the region.



# Gold prices rise steadily, demand falls in Kashmir

## MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Jewellery markets of Hari Singh High Street and Saraf Kadal are now silent; speak volumes about the far-reaching impact of this price hike. The glow of gold bangles and jewellery-covered necklaces with the soundtrack of Kashmiri weddings have been muted due to economic concerns.

In Kashmir, where gold has long symbolised prosperity and tradition, the middle class now faces a harsh reality. In just one week, gold prices have soared by Rs 4,000 per 10 grams, leaving many families struggling to afford the precious metal. With prices hitting Rs 77,500 per 10 grams, the surge threatens not only the ongoing wedding season but also deeply rooted cultural practices.

In addition to weddings, this increase has disrupted the role of gold in wealth accumulation and cultural events, forcing many families to reconsider their investments and traditions. Historically, gold has played an important role in amassing wealth of Kashmiri families and has been an integral part of festivals and cultural events. But the recent surge has disrupted a centuries-old practice, forcing families to

reconsider their investments. As jewellers watch sales plummet and families grapple with financial strain, Kashmir's golden traditions hang in the balance, clouded by uncertainty and economic hardship.

The price of gold in Kashmir's bullion market has now skyrocketed to a staggering Rs 77,500 per 10 grams which was hovering around Rs 73000 a week ago, leaving many would-be buyers stunned and jewellers worried about their livelihoods.

President of the All Kashmir Valley Gold Dealers and Workers Union, paints a grim picture of the situation. "The onslaught of soaring prices has significantly impacted demand. You can imagine in a week price of gold has increased by Rs 4000 per 10 grams, there are hardly any buyers, he said"

"Families are shying away from purchasing gold due to its high costs. People have scaled down their gold buying even in marriages, most of the jewellers are sitting idle, there is no work," he said.

The impact on ordinary Kashmiris is palpable. Many local residents, shares his disappointment: "people had been saving for months to

buy gold for my sister's wedding, but the prices have become so high that it's now completely out of reach. This is a devastating blow for a middle-class family like ours."

The tradition of exchanging gold between families during weddings, long a symbol of prosperity and blessings in Kashmiri culture, is now under threat. Rakesh Handa, a Chandigarh based goldsmith, observes, "The demand for gold, especially among upper-middle-class and middle-class families, has plummeted. Only the affluent households can afford to keep the tradition alive, leaving a substantial void in the market."

As geopolitical tensions continue to influence global markets, gold buyers and sellers in Kashmir alike are left wondering when, if ever, the shine will return to this precious metal that has long been at the heart of their cultural and economic life.

Its impact extends far beyond the realm of personal purchasing. The gold industry, which plays an important role in the local economy, is facing unprecedented challenges. Jewellers report a sharp decline in sales, with many considering alternative business models to survive.

# AIIMS Jammu debuts Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeries

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its first Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

The surgical procedure involved the enucleation of a large odontogenic cyst, provisionally diagnosed as an Odontogenic Keratocyst, in the right maxilla. The surgery, followed by chemical cauterization, was performed under general Anaesthesia.

The surgical team was led by Dr. Amanjot Kaur, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, with the Anaesthesia team headed by Dr. Raksha Kundal and Dr. Sandeepika.

This achievement marks the



AIIMS Jammu surgical team after performing surgery.

beginning of a new chapter for the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at AIIMS Jammu.

The Department aims to expand its services to include advanced procedures such as TMJ ankylosis

surgery, Total Joint Replacement (TJR), Genioplasty, Bilateral Sagittal Split Osteotomy (BSSO), Lefort surgeries, and Distraction Osteogenesis (DO), among others.

Prof. (Dr.) Saurabh Kumar Gupta, Head of the Department of

Dentistry, congratulated Dr. Amanjot Kaur and her team for this significant accomplishment, which enhances the department's profile.

With the initiation of oral and maxillofacial surgeries, AIIMS Jammu will now cater to patients with maxillofacial problems across the regions of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Leh-Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Amanjot Kaur expressed that the department's outpatient services are already seeing strong patient response.

She emphasized that the upcoming introduction of TMJ and jaw correction surgeries will bring great relief to patients from Jammu & Kashmir and neighboring states, eliminating the need to seek treatment outside the region.

# IGNOU extends last date for admission till Oct 15

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has further extended the last date of admission for the July 2024 admission cycle till October 15, 2024. The last date has not been extended for certificate programmes of six-month duration and semester-based programmes. No extension in the last date for re-registration for the next/ subsequent year/semester has been considered. Seeking applicants who wish to apply for fresh admission can access the admission portal at the front page of the National website www.ignou.ac.in or directly follow the link https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in. IGNOU offers admission to

various UG, PG, Certificate, Diploma, PG Diploma programmes in distance learning and online education mode. As per the new UGC guidelines, candidates can now study two online or offline programmes at the same time. Before filling the admission form online, a candidate needs to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee.

Learners seeking admission must provide their own email ID and mobile number at the time of registration even if they are submitting their admission forms online from a Cyber

Cafe. Learners must exercise caution and be vigilant while submitting their admission forms. They must note their User ID and Password for future use. Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director, IGNOU RC Jammu informed that the University, in yet another significant decision in the interest of student community, has further extended the last date of admission for the ongoing July 2024 admission cycle till October 15, 2024 and called upon the prospective learners to avail this extended opportunity and enrol afresh for the programme of their choice from a bouquet of well crafted IGNOU programmes well before the admission portal closes.

# POJK DPs and Kashmiri Migrants are now looking for their nominations to Legislative Assembly

## DAYA SAGAR

Regular elections to 1st Legislative Assembly (LA) UT of J&K for direct election to 90 MLA single member constituencies are over with Phase- III polling on 1st Oct 2024. People are waiting for results after counting on 8th October. The LA of UT of J&K was to have direct elections for 90 MLA seats as against 83 for the areas of J&K State now included in UT of J&K, there can be 5 nominated members in UT of J&K as against just 2 in the then J&K State legislative assembly.

Section 47(1) of the un amended J&K State Constitution provided that the Legislative Assembly of J&K State shall consist of one hundred members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State; Provided that the Sadar-i-Riyasat / Governor ( after amendment ) may, if he is of opinion that women are not adequately represented in the Assembly nominate not more than two women to be members thereof. The J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Act 34 of 2019 too has provided for such like provision for Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K where in Section-15 provides for "Representation of women. Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (3) of section 14 the Lieutenant Governor of the successor Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate upto two members to the

Legislative Assembly to give representation to women, if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly." Only difference earlier in J&K State Assembly provision was for not more than two woman members for nomination whereas in UT of J&K provision is for up to two woman members for nomination by LG if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly. That means now the provision is more liberal.

For the LA of UT of J&K The J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Act 34 of 2019 was further amended in 2003 through Act No 35 of 2023 so as to create provision for nomination by LG upto two additional members of LA out of Kashmiri Migrants (Section -15A) and one additional member of LA (Section-15 B) out of the DPs of POJK ( displaced persons from Pakistan Occupied areas of J&K ). Section-15A and 15(B) were added after Section-15 of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Act 34 of 2019 to make the total members in LA of UT of J&K 93- 95.

As regards the nominated woman members they are not to be necessarily nominated.

But as regards the nominated members out of POJK DPs [15B< Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) of section 14, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union ter-

ritory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate one member from displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Explanation.-For the purposes of this section, the term "displaced person" means any person, who, on account of the setting up of the dominions of India and Pakistan, or on account of civil disturbances in any area of the then State of Jammu and Kashmir presently under occupation of Pakistan, during the years 1947-48, 1965 and 1971, had left or had been displaced due to such disturbances from his place of residence in such area and who has been subsequently residing outside such area and also includes successors-in-interest of any such person.] and Kashmiri migrants [15A < Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) of section 14, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman, from the community of Kashmiri Migrants, to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Explanation.-For the purposes of this section, the term "Migrant" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (e) of section 2 of the Jammu

and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997.Section-15A> } it could be inferred that LG may nominate one person from POJK DPs and upto two persons i.e not more than two ( not necessarily two) from Kashmiri migrants out of which one has to be a woman where in one could ask in case only one is nominated then should that be only woman ?

Anyhow let us go for process of nomination . But in these days utmost need has arisen for believable fairness of any action that designated authority takes and particularly when the power to authority is 'almost' discretionary and J&K is a UT.

As regards the nomination of woman members (upto to two) the Act authorizes the LG if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly , so for this first need is concerned it has to be felt after election results are declared..

But as regards the Kashmiri Migrants and POJK DPs are concerned they may be nominated as necessary but the issues are not that simple and if left to simple choice of LG or even choice of LG supported with the advice from the council of ministers



A Look through the Mist

Category: Families:20822 & Persons:66387, Non Relief Category: Families:23267 & Persons:83886 ). Similarly religion wise numbers in March 2022 for Kashmiri migrants were (1) Hindu: Families:39868 & Persons:133326 (2) Muslim: Families:2574 & Persons:11092 (3) Sikh: Families:1642 & Persons:5836 (4) Other: Families:5 & Persons 19. No doubt some Kashmiri migrant families are registered in Delhi also. Numbers quoted here are just for broader idea.

No doubt the present Parliament needs credits for creating such provisions for POJK DPs and the Kashmiri migrants but still something more could be done. So still in case provision for elections is created in the Act it would further strengthen faith of communities in the truthful intentions of the Parliament of India and it would not be of any loss in case their election takes 3 to 4 months more after formation of government in J&K and that would also provide all sanctity to providing voting right to nominated members in the Assembly regarding constitutional matters. It is not out of place to mention here that there is a good number of organizations of Kashmir Migrants and POJK DPs.

No doubt POJK DPs and Kashmiri Migrant families need a very compassionate & fair attention.

(The writer is Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and social activist)