

# Rs 1,000 cr earmarked for Venture Fund to Space StartUps: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Rs.1000 crore has been earmarked for Venture Fund to Space StartUps.

This was stated here on Sunday by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who said that the decision was taken within first 100 days of Modi 3.0 government, which is an indication of high priority that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives to the Space sector: Space is one of the top three or four areas identified as the focus of the government in its



third term 3.0, he said. Briefing the media, Dr Jitendra Singh said, about four years back, as a revolutionary step, it was decided to open the space sector to private players. While New India Space Limited (NISL) was a new PSU established, IN-SPACe India was established as the interface with the private sector. The result, he informed,

has been amazing in the form of the quantum jump from just one digit Startup to 200 plus space sector Startups today within a short span of time. Not only this, he said, some of India's Space StartUps are of world potential and are also among the first of their kind. He referred to India's first private Rocket, Vikram-S.

It is not a small achievement, pointed out Dr Jitendra Singh, that the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) was established in the year 1969 when America landed its first human being Neil Armstrong on the surface of the Moon. However, in less than 60 years, India's Chandrayaan 3 has reached the South Pole of the Moon before any other country of the world, which indicates that India is not only a first line nation in the

space sector but also in a position to offer valuable cues for other nations to follow.

Dr Jitendra Singh further disclosed that there is 100% FDI provision allowed by the government in the space sector which has proved to be a great boost for the new initiative and new entrepreneurs. While the number of StarUps in India has gone up from 350 in 2014 to more than 1.5 Lakh, thus raising India to number three in the world ecosystem, the space sector StartUps have also started contributing hugely in adding values to India's future economy which is rapidly growing from fragile five to first five and is likely to reach to number four and number three in few years.

Referring to Gaganyaan, Dr Jitendra Singh said, we are trying to have the final

test flight with the Robot Vyom Mitra before the end of this year or beginning next year so that the first Indian human being may be sent to Space through Gaganyaan during next year i.e. 2025.

A unique feature of India's space sector, said Dr Jitendra Singh, is that even those who do not have a direct stake with space and who are just common citizens of India are feeling a sense of esteem that India has now risen to be a nation to reckon with. Another important feature is that we are not confined to simply launching rockets but also space technology has started playing an important role in various infrastructural and development sectors including agriculture, roads and buildings, smart cities, urban development, land revenue record, health care, etc, he added.



## Law on nomination of MLAs dates back to Congress era in 1963: Arun Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: There was no merit in statements made by the Congress regarding LG Manoj Sinha's powers to nominate five MLAs in the near future. The law about the Central government, or LG, nominating a specified number of MLAs to a Union Territory (UT) legislature has existed in the Constitution from 1963, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta has said.

There is nothing new in this law which was a constitutional amendment done by the Congress government. Giving details, Gupta said that the relevant provision regarding nominations can be traced back to the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.

This law specified that the Puducherry legislature was to have 30 elected MLAs and three nominated MLAs. The UT Act, 1963, was moved in Parliament by then Union Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and it was to create a legislature for the UT of Puducherry, he added.

Incidentally, the initial proposal of the Congress government of the time was to have a fully nominated legislature, with no provision for carving out single member territorial assembly segments. When the government of the day faced strong opposition, it was forced to have 30 elected and three

(03) nominated MLAs, Gupta said. This is how the tradition of nominated MLAs in any Union Territory (UT) started, he pointed out explaining things in detail.

In this manner, instead of having a 100 per cent nominated assembly, the Congress decided to have 10 per cent nominated legislators in a UT legislature. If the present Central government had followed the pattern established by the Congress government, it could have given Mr Sinha powers to nominate nine (09) MLAs as elections were held for 90 assembly segments in Jammu & Kashmir, he said. However, the present Central government has legislated such powers that LG can nominate only five MLAs, he pointed out.

The powers of the LG to nominate MLAs in a UT assembly are derived on a firm precedent set by the Congress in 1963. In July 2023, the Reorganisation Act, 2019, as a consequence of which J&K became a UT, was amended and powers to nominate five MLAs were given to LG, Mr Gupta explained. The Union Home Ministry led by Amit Shah was only following the Puducherry UT model at that time. The relevant provisions regarding nominated MLAs in UT legislature can be found in Article 239A of the Constitution, he pointed

out. What all this unnecessary noise and din being created by the Congress means is that its action is akin to cutting nose to spite the face. The Congress had introduced the provision of nominated MLAs in UT legislature and this provision has been there for over six decades now. However, the Congress is trying to mislead the masses by terming this due process of law as undemocratic and unethical, Mr Gupta pointed out.

Under Article 239A of the Constitution which was inserted in the Constitution by a Congress government in 1963, the legislature of a UT can be based partly on elected members and some of its members can be nominated. A legislature that is part elected, part nominated is an established norm and the Congress never uttered a word seeking any change in this existing law, Mr Gupta said. It has suddenly woken up now and is trying to mislead everyone by virtually disowning what it had done, he pointed out.

Quoting a similar provision in respect of Parliament, Mr Gupta said the President can appoint 12 members to the Rajya Sabha. These members enjoy the same voting rights as elected members, except that they can't vote in the election of the President, he concluded.

## SPIC MACAY organizes Heritage Walk in Jammu

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JAMMU: SPIC MACAY's Jammu and Kashmir chapter on Sunday organized a heritage walk, aptly titled "Purane Jammu ke Mandiron Ki Kahani," aimed at showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage through its historic temples. The walk provided participants with a unique opportunity to explore the centuries-old traditions and architectural marvels of Jammu's ancient temples, offering deep insights into the Dogra community's heritage.

This initiative aligns perfectly with SPIC MACAY's mission to connect the younger generation to their cultural roots and the world's rich traditions.

As many as 200 participants took part in the event, which began at Sardaron Ka Mandir, Panjtirthi. Enthusiastic students from Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Viharthi Gurukul, Oriental Academy, GCW Parade College, University of Jammu, Cluster University of Jammu, Central Sanskrit University, volunteers of Scouts and Guides, along with scholars, teachers, historians, and individuals from all walks of life joined the walk.

The walk covered several ancient temples in Jammu city, including Radha Krishna Temple (Billu Mandir), Satyanarayan Temple, Gadadhar Mandir, Mahalaxmi Temple, Old Raja Maldev Mandir, Shri Ram Mandir, and Rani



Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), Convenor of SPIC MACAY's J&K unit with participants during heritage walk.

Bandralti Radha Krishna Mandir, before concluding at Jammu's oldest temple, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir. Each temple has its own unique history and significance, shedding light on the rich cultural legacy of the city.

Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), Convenor of SPIC MACAY's J&K unit, highlighted that this heritage walk was the first of many planned, alongside cultural and musical events. He emphasized, "Our primary goal is to engage the youth with the region's rich traditions, ensuring they remain connected to their cultural roots."

Deepak Kumar, an eminent theatre personality closely associated with SPIC MACAY, Cultural initiatives of Panjvaktra Mahadev Temple & Founder/Director of Rangvyug, also shared valuable insights with the participants. He elaborated on

the history of the temples, their architectural significance, and the cultural traditions associated with them. His engaging explanations deepened the participants' understanding of the region's heritage, linking the present with the rich legacy of the past.

Mukul Magotra, Curator of the Dogra Art Museum, and Ajay Khajuria, Professor of Practice at MIET, also contributed to the walk by offering additional context on the art, architecture, and cultural symbolism embedded in the region's temples. Their insights further enriched the experience for all attendees.

At the culmination of the event at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, renowned classical singer Pankaj Pradhan performed a soulful bhajan, leaving participants in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. His melo-

dious rendition added a divine touch to the conclusion of the heritage walk.

Expressing gratitude, Suresh Kumar Sharma added, "Today's walk was a journey through Jammu's ancient temples, reconnecting us with our heritage. These temples are living symbols of our history, architecture, and spirituality. I thank all participants and volunteers for their enthusiasm in preserving our rich cultural heritage for future generations."

During the walk, students were informed about Comrade Dhanwantri, a freedom fighter from Jammu's Kali Jani area who played a key role in India's independence movement. His inspiring story was shared, and his home was shown to the participants, connecting the younger generation to his legacy of patriotism. Students expressed deep appreciation after visiting the temples and vowed to uphold and cherish their cultural heritage.

Members of civil society also participated, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving Jammu's heritage. Prominent participants included Deepak Sharma, Harminder Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Harmohan Gupta, Ravi Kant Khajuria, Raj Kumar Behrupia, Er. Amarjeet Singh, Dr. Vikas Padha, Prof. Sachin Gupta, Yogesh Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Ashish Sharma, Gourav Gupta, and Anil Gupta.

## J&K Judicial Academy's Refresher Course on 'Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition Laws' concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two day refresher course on "Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition: Land Reforms and Amendments in Land Acquisition Laws, Procedural Fairness and Natural Justice, Determination of Compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Affected Persons, Adjudication of Offences & Penalties under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013" organized by the J&K Judicial Academy for District and Session Judges of Jammu province concluded here on Sunday.

The event was organized under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Justice Tashi Rabstan, guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

On the first day, the sessions were conducted by Sanjay Parihar, member J&K Special Tribunal, who explained about the Land Revenue Laws and the recent amendments to Land Acquisition Laws. He said that laws are at the heart of the legal framework that governs land disputes, acquisitions, and compensation.

He delved into the critical principles of procedural fairness and natural justice in the context of land acquisition. He added that these principles are essential to ensure that the process of land acquisition is not only



Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India delivering valedictory address.

legally compliant but also morally and ethically sound. He further discussed the determination of compensation and the rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons, a key element of the 2013 Act. On the second day, the sessions were conducted by R.S. Thakur, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who provided insights into how courts can ensure that compensation is just, transparent, and compliant with the legal standards. The learned Resource Person also addressed the adjudication of offenses and penalties under the Act, ensuring that there is accountability and that the rights of affected persons are upheld.

During the valedictory function, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Judge, Supreme Court of India, delivered the valedictory address and shared his experience as the judge of Supreme Court of India. He underscored that the laws governing land ownership, acquisition, and compensation such as the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013 are crucial in ensuring that while the state fulfils its developmental goals, the rights of landowners and

affected persons are safeguarded.

Justice Kotiswar Singh appreciated the role of Judges in the judiciary saying that as custodians of justice, we must ensure that development and progress do not come at the cost of displacement, disenfranchisement, or the deprivation of fundamental rights.

In his special address, Chief Justice, Justice Tashi Rabstan, reiterated that Land revenue laws and procedures have historically played a critical role in shaping both the economic and social landscapes of regions, especially those like Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where the relationship between land, resources, and people is deeply intertwined. He stated that the Land Revenue Act in Jammu & Kashmir, historically, has functioned as a bulwark protecting the local populace from external pressures.

The Chief Justice underscored that in the aftermath of the abrogation, the judiciary has to play an increasingly active role in ensuring that the changes brought by the new laws do not disproportionately affect the vulnerable sections of society-particularly farmers, rural communities, and tribal groups. He advised that as judges and officers of the court, our pri-

mary responsibility is to ensure that the rights of these communities are not overridden by large-scale developmental projects or national interests, without due consideration of their traditional rights and unique circumstances.

While delivering the welcome address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, discussed the complexities and challenges associated with Land Revenue laws, particularly in balancing public welfare with the fundamental rights of individuals. He underlined that this program was not only an opportunity to enhance our knowledge but also to ensure that the judgments we deliver are informed, just, and rooted in the principles of natural justice.

Sonia Gupta, Director J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings for the two day Refresher Course and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource person.

## MNRE Joint Secretary chairs meeting with JPDCL on PM Surya Ghar Yojana



Joint Secretary MNRE, Ajay Yadav chairing a meeting.

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JAMMU: In a significant move to boost the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Ajay Yadav on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting with Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) officers.

The power point presentation was made by Choudhary Mohd Yasin MD, JPDCL. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Distribution, Chief Engineer Projects Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, concerned Assistant Executive Engineers of JPDCL, Bank officials and REC officials and vendors.

The meeting aimed to review the progress, address challenges, and streamline

the execution of the scheme, which provides free electricity to households in Jammu and Kashmir by installing solar panels on their rooftops.

"The PM Surya Ghar Yojana is a flagship program of the government, and we are committed to its successful implementation," said the Joint Secretary. "Today's meeting was crucial in resolving ongoing issues and accelerating the installation of solar panels in eligible households," he added.

He also said to arrange training programmes for Assistant Executive Engineers so as to make them fully conversant with the RTS portal. REC was asked to arrange it from Regional office through VC for Discoms employees next week.

The high number con-

sumers' registrations are being shown under PMSGMBY portal are due to J&K Energy Dev Agency (Jakeda)'s existing 200 MW solar rooftop schemes. The REC-IT Division was advised to resolve it or give access to Discoms so that they can approach consumers for the submission of applications.

On portal, vendors preferred area of RTS installations may also be indicated so that consumers get proper response from interested vendors in those areas. MD JPDCL had asked REC to integrate of State Subsidy to be done on portal. He further said to REC to share videos with Discoms and also to include Dogri language in media campaigns. The meet deliberated that REC CO and RO shall take up with JKPDD/LPDD/Discoms to nominate SIA and to submit Capacity Building programme for RTS installations to REC. He further said apart from National level Third Party monitoring, State Level can also be done if Discoms interested.

The MoUs between State Govt & MNRE is to be signed shortly. He also said Joint Certificate regarding correct mapping of discoms data has been submitted by LPDD.

JPDCL & KPDCCL will submit shortly.

The dignitary clarified eligibility criteria and documentation requirements. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the PM Surya Ghar Yojana aims to provide free electricity to households, promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon footprint.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government recently issued Order , outlining the scheme's details, including eligibility criteria, beneficiary selection, and installation procedures.

MD JPDCL said, "We appreciate the MNRE's proactive approach in addressing our concerns. This meeting has paved the way for smoother implementation and timely completion of the project."

The MNRE and JPDCL will work closely to finalize vendor agreements, Streamline payment process and Intensify awareness campaigns. The successful implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana will pave the way for a sustainable energy future, benefiting thousands of households in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Nodal officer presented the votes of thanks to the attendees.

Technology Department (JAKEGA). The trainer delivered training sessions to equip the participating employees with skill and knowledge to operate e-Office smoothly. He cleared difficulties on various levels to make the e-Office fully functional in the Directorate.

This will help the department to go paperless in official works and further improve its efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of government responses which will improve the quality of administration.

## Deptt of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to go paperless: Sidha

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JAMMU: A comprehensive hand on e-Office training program was conducted on Sunday at the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Mubarak Mandi, here.

"The program was aimed to equip employees of the department with the skills to effectively utilize digital tools and technologies, streamlining workflows and boosting productivity to enable efficient management of e-office services".

The program was organized on the ini-

tiative of Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, in which thirty employees were trained regarding operations, usage and implementation of the e-Office. The e-Office implementation will enable the department to achieve the goal of e-Governance and better delivery of government services.

The training program covered various aspects of e-Office application. The session was conducted by e-Office trainer, Ieshan Sharma of Information