

LG Ladakh thanks Dr Jitendra for granting IAS centre, promoting 'Leh Berry'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lt. Governor Ladakh, R.K. Mathur on Wednesday met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh and thanked him, as Minister Incharge DoPT, for granting an exclusive centre for holding of IAS /Civil Services Exam at Leh, for the first time since independence.

LG also thanked Dr Jitendra for promoting "Leh Berry" through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Union Ministry of Science & Technology, which is under his charge.

"Leh Berry" is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood, said Mathur.

Dr Jitendra referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ladakh in May 2018, wherein the PM had strongly advised for widespread cultivation of sea buckthorn, which is also the source of "Leh Berry".

He said, the value addition



Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, R.K. Mathur calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, at New Delhi on Wednesday.

of this agriculture product has potential to revolutionize the economic scenario of the newly created Union Territory.

He said that reference to its medicinal properties is also being found in the Tibetan literature of the 8th century AD. The Minister was apprised by the LG that it is also very useful for armed force personnel deployed at a very high altitude due to its antioxidant properties.

The Minister informed the LG that CSIR, in collaboration of UT Govt of Ladakh, will start commercial cultivation of sea buckthorn berry from coming spring season in Ladakh.

He said, CSIR will also develop harvesting machinery to be used by local farmers and self-help groups, as currently only 10% of berry is being extracted from the wild sea buckthorn plant.

Dr Jitendra said that local entrepreneurs will be provided gainful employment through farming, processing and marketing of about 100 odd products from sea buckthorn plant like jams, juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps in a completely organic manner.

He said, this immunity boosting natural berry is getting increasingly popularized not only in India, but also in great demand in foreign countries for its medicinal value.

The Minister informed that the ancient local Ladakhi amchi medicine system also places a very high premium on the seabuckthorn berry and its curative properties.

Dr Singh told Mathur that a high level team of senior scientists from CSIR will soon visit Ladakh to evaluate the Zinc Fortification

project for Pashmina Goats, Sheep and Yak as Ladakh is mainly an Animal-based economy.

He said, CSIR is contemplating to start a Geo-Thermal Energy Project for warming and cooling systems in a Zero-net energy programme by linking it with Solar Power.

Mathur also thanked Dr Jitendra for granting the exclusive centre for holding of IAS /Civil Services Exam at Leh, for the first time since Independence. He informed that Civil Services (Preliminary) Exam were held successfully on 10th October this year.

The Minister said that the Common Eligibility Test, planned through the recently constituted National Recruitment Agency, will also have one Centre each in the districts of Leh and Kargil respectively.

Dr Jitendra said that a

Common Eligibility Test (CET) will be conducted across the country from early 2022 to screen/shortlist candidates for jobs in Government sector for which recruitment is presently carried out through the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). He said, this is not only a Governance reform but a huge Social reform for the job aspirant youth living in remote and far flung areas.



Rename Srinagar Airport after 'Saviour of Kashmir' Major Somnath Sharma: Sham Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP State Vice President and former minister Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday demanded that the Srinagar Airport should be renamed after the 'Saviour of Kashmir' Major Somnath Sharma (Param Vir Chakra).

He was speaking during an event to commemorate 74th death anniversary of Major Somnath Sharma, who was awarded the first Param Vir Chakra, here at Bhalaw Raipur Domana Vidhan Sabha on behalf of Shri Kailak Jyoti and Vedic Sansthan Trust.

Major Jammu Chandra Mohan Gupta, Lieutenant General Rakesh Sharma (retired), Director Agriculture Jammu KK Sharma, Director Central Sanskrit University Prof Madan Mohan Jha, Sarpanch Rajdev, Gharota Police Station In-charge Khayatimaan Khajuria and others were also present.

Sham Lal said that Kashmir is with India today because of the martyrdom of Major Somnath Sharma.

He said, "Major Somnath was born on January 31, 1923 in



BJP J&K Vice President Sham Lal Sharma and others paying tributes to Major Somnath Sharma.

Himachal. He was the company-commander of the Delta Company of the 4th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army. In the Indo-Pak conflict of October-November 1947, the martyr Major, with his valor, saved the enemy's sixes. Major Sharma attained martyrdom on November 3, 1947. The Government of India posthumously awarded him the Param Vir Chakra. He was the first military officer to receive the Param Vir Chakra.

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He said, "Major Somnath was born on January 31, 1923 in

so that the coming generations also compete to do something for the country and become a hero like Major Somnath Sharma."

Major Jammu Municipal Corporation Chander Mohan Gupta said that we have dedicated the Fourth Tawi Bridge to Major Somnath Sharma.

Retired army officers were also honored in the programme including Honorary Captain Dalip Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Parshottam Das, Chuni Lal, Subhash Chandra, Joginder Singh, Brahmin Chand, Prakash, Thodo Ram, Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Chuni Lal, Bhima Ram, Som Dutt, Dayaram, Pritam Singh.

Rakesh Gondota, Dr. Vishwa Gupta, Prabodh Sharma, President Awardee Sanjeev Sharma, Vicky Khajuria, Satpal Sharma, Sargam Gondota, Rohit Seth, Ashu Panth, Uttam Chand Sharma and others were also present.

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fight. Still, I will not give even an inch and will stand till my last bullet and last soldier. Jai Hind".

Mahant Rohit Shastri, chairman of the trust, said that there was a demand to declare January 31 as a holiday on the birth anniversary of Major Somnath and also put up a statue in the temple city of Jammu.

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