India's Space economy on rise: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's Space economy is on the rise, particularly in the last nearly ten years and more so in the last five years under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

Due to the opening up of the Space sector, emergence of Space Startups and Industry linkages, India's Space economy could skyrocket to $100 Billion by in the years to come, as projected by foreign trade experts who are amazed by India's quantum leap, he said.

"Last ten years have been a watershed period in the scientific transformation in India's journey since Independence. And as far as the Space & Geospace and the entire ecosystem is concerned, it is even more visible, more so in the last five years," he said.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after launching the Capacity Building Programme on Geospatial Technology & Applications, organized jointly by ISRO and CBC through video conferencing on Wednesday.

Dr Jitendra said this while launching the Capacity Building Programme on Geospatial Technology & Applications, organized jointly by ISRO and Capacity Building Commission (CBC), through video conferencing.

Dr Jitendra said, Geospatial technology is being widely used in PM Gati Shakti infrastructure development programmes and SVAMTVA land mapping.

"Space technology is gradually becoming more and more component of India's overall economy. And I am sure this role of it, in the overall value addition to India's growth economy is growing to increase," he said.

Calling for more synergy between Research, Academia, Startup & Industry, Dr Jitendra said the ISRO, being a pivotal agency, has appropriately come forward to take this initiative.This will also prove to be major effort to achieve the 'Whole of Science, Whole of Nation' approach. The Capacity Building programme on Geospatial technology & its Applications will raise awareness and help motivate the youth to make wider use of it, he said.

"We might require such capacity building programmes more frequently, more extensively. But at least beginning from today we have realized the importance of this, we have tried to institutionalize it," he said.

The event was attended by the Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO, S.Somanath and CBC Chairman Adil Zainulbhai and senior officials.

Seminar on Tribal Rights, Constitution of India held at The Law School, JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Calling attention to the distinctive contributions of indigenous and tribal peoples to the cultural diversity and ecological harmony of humankind, The Law School, University of Jammu (JU) in collaboration with The Tribal Research Institute, Tribal Affairs Department J&K organized a one-day seminar in the institution's Seminar Hall on "Tribal Rights and Constitution of India" as part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Saptah- 2023 celebrations.

The seminar commenced with the inaugural address presented by Dr. Vandita Sharma, Faculty Member, The Law School with a formal welcome of the guests Mukhtar A Choudhury, Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Scheduled Tribes, Dr. Abdul Khabir, Dy. Director, Tribal Affairs Department, and Dr. Javaid Rahi, a prominent tribal writer and researcher, among other dignitaries.

This was followed by an insightful introductory address on the broad contours and dimensions related to issues faced by tribal communities across India in general and J&K in particular by Dr. Javaid Rahi.

Mukhtar A Choudhury, Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Scheduled Tribes and others at a seminar.

Dr. Mohd. Arif, Prof. (Dr.) Savita Nayyar, Dr. Aarti Sharma from Department of Law and Dr. Monica Narang, Dr. Seema Sharma, Dr. Shubha Vats, Dr. Monika Bhardwaj, Dr. Mrinalini Atrey and Anjali Sharma from The Law School, deliberated on the theme from multiple standpoints and stressed upon the fact that tribal populace are still unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights to the same degree as the rest of the population and their laws, values, customs and perspectives have often been given less value.

The speakers, however, highlighted the initiatives of the central government and regional administration especially Tribal Affairs Department in rolling numerous schemes for the welfare of the tribal population and expressed hope that the lofty ideal of distributive justice enshrined under the Constitution of India is not a faraway dream for this vulnerable lot.

Students Misbah Chowdhary, Anshika Gandhi, Hemanya Puri, Kasak Gupta and Jai Sidh Bhalla from first and third semesters of The Law School also highlighted various provisions under the Constitution of India and other statutes aiming to ensure equality and thwart discrimination in any form in human dealings.

Appreciating the students for their active participation and interest in tribal issues and challenges, Mukhtar A Choudhary, Guest of Honor, for the seminar emphasized the government's focus on tribal affairs and encouraged research in this area, expecting academia to submit proposals related to the theme for a broad spectrum of research.

Dr. Abdul Khabir provided an overview of the Tribal Research Institute and encouraged researchers to submit proposals for grants from the Tribal Affairs Department J&K.

During her closing remarks, Prof. (Dr.) Manju Jamwal, Director of The Law School, applauded the Tribal Affairs Department of J&K for including academics in their mission to raise awareness at the local level.

She continued by saying that appropriate action must be taken at all levels to support these peoples' full realization of their social, economic, and cultural rights while respecting their institutions, customs, and social and cultural identities.

Dr. Nitan Sharma gave a formal vote of gratitude and Manav Seth led the seminar proceedings.

The dignitaries presented certificates and mementos to each speaker as the session came to a close.

Other faculty members who participated in the seminar includes Dr. Renu Jamwal, Dr. Rajneesh Khajuria, Dr. Upasana Sharma, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, and Dr. Mool Raj Sharma.

BFDC express concerns over delay in constitution of shrine board

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) was held regarding the Shrine Board, in which concern was expressed over no action being taken on the consent letter sent by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to the Secretary Tourism Department on March 4, 2023 for the formation of the Shrine Board.

Speaking on this occasion, Committee Chairman Rajeev Charak said that due to the pending process of formation of Shrine Board, we have become suspicious as to why the Secretary Tourism Department is not taking action for the last 9 months whereas he had sent this letter only to the Principal Secretary GAD. He said sitting on the proposal for the last 9 months raises some doubts on his working style and questions are raised as to what is his compulsion due to which the matter is stuck in his office till date.

BFDC Chairman Rajeev Charak speaking in a meeting.

He added that after the direct train to Katra, the business units related to tourism of Jammu have been suffering continuous losses, which will further mount when the rail reaches Kashmir in the coming days.

He said that before the train reaches Kashmir, the shrine of Bawe Wali Mata temple should be established so that religious tourists coming to Jammu get facilities and the temple city of Jammu becomes a center of attraction for religious tourists like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

He said that there are so many offerings in the temple of Mata Mahakali Bawe Wali that the district administration runs a parallel administrative unit of Jammu, for example, for development, salary and temples, by renovating the ancient temples lying in dilapidated condition in the city of Jammu and providing employment to the unemployed people living there.

He appealed to Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene in this noble work so that the work started by the then Governor NN Vohra from the year 2016 can be completed with his efforts.

CCI delegation calls on Commissioner/Secretary I&C Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The delegation of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), led by its President Arun Gupta, met with Commissioner /Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh, to discuss the challenges faced by industrial units in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) UT.

Arun Gupta highlighted several issues and made specific requests for the benefit of the industry in the region.

Arun emphasized the unique challenges faced by J&K UT due to its geographical location at the border and the impact of militancy and cross-border terrorism.

This, he argued, leads to high input costs and production expenses for the industry.

While acknowledging the incentives provided by the J&K UT and central governments for existing and new industries, Gupta pointed out hurdles that hinder the effective implementation of these incentives. He urged the authorities to remove these obstacles to facilitate the industry.

CCI delegation calling on Commissioner /Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh.

Gupta requested an extension of the validity period for provisional registration benefits, particularly for units facing delays in starting production due to issues like road connectivity, electricity, and water supply.

The CCI President highlighted that turnover incentives announced by the government for existing industries had not been disbursed. He requested the prompt release of these incentives for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Arun raised concerns about industrial units facing challenges in filing SGST refund claims on time, leading to their exclusion from incentives. He requested additional time for filing these claims.

The delegation demanded gross GST reimbursement incentives for existing industries undergoing substantial expansion to enhance their viability. Due to high commercial rates, Gupta urged the introduction of separate market value/stamp duty rates for industrial categories. He specifically called for a separate clause for land value/stamp duty rates for industrial units.

The delegation proposed that there should be no negative list for industrial products manufactured by registered units to support their viability.

Gupta suggested a scheme allowing ownership rights for leasehold industrial land to local entrepreneurs after a specific period, with a nominal conversion fee. The CCI President recommended that 50% of the land developed for industries should be reserved for micro-industries.

Gupta also proposed providing price/purchase preference to local micro and small industrial units and reimbursement of road freight incentives for their supplies.

In response, Commissioner/Secretary Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh, assured the delegation that the government would address the concerns raised, including providing turnover incentives, resolving SGST refund issues, and ensuring equitable land development for micro and small industrial units.

The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary.

IIM-J celebrates 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' to honour tribal legacy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM) Jammu on Wednesday celebrated "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023" with a week-long series of activities aimed at commemorating the birth anniversary of the revered tribal leader, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, and honouring the invaluable contributions of tribal freedom fighters.

Floral tributes were paid to commemorate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023.

The event was attended by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu along with faculty, officers, and staff of the Institute.

"Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas", is observed annually on the occasion of Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, is a testament to IIM Jammu's commitment to recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of our tribal communities.

This year's celebration was marked by a diverse range of activities that showcased the Institute's dedication to fostering a spirit of inclusivity and appreciation for tribal culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, said, "IIM Jammu takes pride in celebrating the cultural diversity of our nation. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is an opportunity for us to reflect on the rich heritage of our tribal communities and pay homage to their leaders and freedom fighters. It provides a moment to reflect on the exemplary leadership of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the sacrifices made by tribal freedom fighters. The success of the events organized throughout the week reflects the Institute's dedication to creating an inclusive and supportive academic environment."

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu paying tributes to tribal leader, Birsa Munda.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized the educational aspect of the day, stating, "As an academic institution, it is our duty to educate and create awareness about the rich cultural heritage of our tribal communities. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas serves as a platform to not only pay homage but also to learn and understand the diversity that makes our nation unique."

The week-long celebration featured engaging events such as debates, cultural programs, and interactive sessions that aimed to promote awareness and understanding of tribal traditions. Students and faculty actively participated in these events, creating an atmosphere of unity and appreciation for the unique contributions of tribal communities to our nation's history. One of the highlights of the celebration was the distribution of certificates for academic excellence to the three students ranging from MBA, MBA (HA & HM) and IPM programme. This recognition not only acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the students but also underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering academic achievement among its diverse student body. The celebration concluded with a sense of pride and accomplishment with the national anthem, with the IIM Jammu community looking forward to future initiatives that promote cultural diversity, inclusivity, and academic excellence. The event was coordinated by Student Affairs Office, Administration and Students of the Institute.

College on Wheels -Day 4

J&K students' contingent visits Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad University Campus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: "College on Wheels" initiative marked a momentous occasion as a dynamic group of students, mentors and administrative staff embarked on an educational odyssey across Ahmedabad.

This unique initiative seeks to provide students with immersive learning experiences beyond the conventional classroom setting.

The journey commenced with a visit to Sabarmati Ashram, where students delved into a profound exploration of the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

The immersive experience aimed to foster a deep connection with the cultural and historical heritage associated with the father of the nation.

Students not only gained insights into Gandhi ji's lifestyle but also actively participated in an interactive session with Sabarmati Ashram's office bearers.

This hands-on experience included learning the use of the charkha and the art of weaving a thread, bringing to life the principles Gandhi ji himself practiced.

Shobha Bagai, Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, New Delhi also spoke on the occasion and apprised the contingent about the principles and the teachings of Gandhiji.

Haryana Minister for Fisheries, Jai Prakash Dalal, Bollywood Singer Jubin Nautyal and many foreigners who were also on a visit to the Ashram, had an elaborate interaction with the students and they also appreciated the initiative of the University of Jammu for organizing the educational trip for the students of J&K UT.

Continuing their educational expedition, students had the privilege of exploring the dynamic campus of Ahmedabad University.

The blend of modern facilities and traditional architecture created a unique learning environment. Interactions with the Dean and faculty members of the Science and Humanities Department provided valuable insights into the University's development. Students learned that the students of the institution have played a pivotal role as architects in designing the University's modern building. The preservation of the University's heritage building alongside the modern structure was emphasized, showcasing a blend of tradition and progress.

'College on Wheels' J&K contingent during visit to Ahmedabad University.

The day's journey reached another pinnacle with a visit to Adalaj ki Vav, a stepwell renowned for its architectural splendor and historical significance. Students immersed themselves in the rich cultural and architectural heritage of the region, expanding their understanding beyond the confines of traditional learning environments.

Meanwhile, from the Jammu University's war room in Jammu, the Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai engaged in a live interaction with the students. This session was not only an opportunity for the Vice Chancellor to gather feedback on the students' experiences at various locations but also to hear from those traveling on the College on Wheels with assigned projects. The interactive dialogue allowed students to share impressions, pose questions, and articulate their perspectives on the educational value derived from the day's visit.

Notably, the Vice Chancellor also seized the opportunity to collect feedback on the assigned projects, emphasizing the commitment of the University of Jammu to seamlessly integrate experiential learning and academic projects within its educational framework.

The "College on Wheels" initiative stands as a testament to unwavering dedication to innovative pedagogical methods, nurturing a well-rounded education that transcends traditional classroom boundaries.

The contingent comprises of 780 students, mentors and Administrative Staff from University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Cluster University of Jammu, Cluster University Srinagar, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Kashmir besides the affiliated colleges of the varasities of Jammu, Kashmir and the Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC) are a part of the College on wheels.