

From being led, India now in position to lead: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Science and Technology, on Saturday, hailed India's transformation from a follower to a leader in global science and technology during his address at the 8th Convocation of the Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR).

He attributed the nation's growing scientific prowess to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted achievements in the space, biotechnology, and CSIR Purple Revolution sectors.

Dr. Singh presented Doctor of Science degrees to four distinguished scientists: Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar, Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, Prof. Suresh Bhargava, and Dr. Thirumalachari Ramasami.

These luminaries were recognized



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the 8th Convocation of "AcSIR" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

for their groundbreaking contributions to polymer science, genomics, chemical sciences, and chromium chemistry, respectively.

Dr. Singh commended AcSIR for its interdisciplinary approach, blending engineering, biosciences, medical research, and agriculture with emerging fields, positioning the academy

among the top 3% of global universities despite its relatively young age.

He also praised the institution's role in fostering industry-academia collaboration and driving India's rise in global science rankings, especially with its Integrated PhD (iPhD) program, which links innovation and industry from the start of research

journeys. The Minister also noted India's success in space and biotechnology, citing the growth of over 300 space startups and nearly 9,000 biotechnology startups, which are vital to the nation's economy. He celebrated women's achievements in science, particularly the appointment of CSIR's first woman Director General. Dr. Singh connected AcSIR's initiatives to the government's futuristic policies, such as the BioE3 Biotechnology Policy and quantum technology advancements, underscoring that India is now leading global technological development.

He concluded by emphasizing AcSIR's partnerships with institutions like the University of Western Australia and ABST Japan, affirming the global competitiveness of Indian science and education. The convocation highlighted India's growing role as a global leader in science and technology, aligned with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat 2047".



ADGP Jammu zone inspects Drug De-addiction Center Jammu, reviews facilities, initiatives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, graced the inaugural ceremony of a vocational training course for the inmates of the Police Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centre, Jammu.



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain interacting with official.

The initiative, 10-day cooking workshop conducted in collaboration with the SBI Rural Self-Employment Training Institute, is part of the Center's comprehensive approach to drug de-addiction, which focuses on not only physical and psychological recovery but also skill development and social reintegration.

The ADGP expressed satisfaction with the Center's efforts in providing quality care and rehabilitation services to drug addicts. He emphasized the importance of a holistic approach, combining medical treatment, psychological counseling, and vocational training to ensure long-term recovery.

The ADGP was briefed on the workshop that is aimed at providing vocational training to patients undergoing rehabilitation. These classes are further designed to promote holistic rehabilitation for individuals recovering from substance abuse.

Anand Jain also took a comprehensive tour of the center, assessing the infrastructure, medical facilities,

and counseling services. He interacted with the patients undergoing treatment and inquired about their well-being and progress.

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He emphasized the importance of a holistic approach, combining medical treatment, psychological counseling, and vocational training to ensure long-term recovery.

The ADGP also directed the center's staff to continue their efforts in creating awareness about the dangers of drug addiction and encouraging early interven-

tion. He stressed the need for strong community support and collaboration with various stakeholders to address this pressing issue.

Shiv Kumar, DIG JSK Range; Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Irshad Hussain Rather, SP Hqrs. Jammu; Vikramjeet Singh, Director Rural Self-Employment Training Institute; Shagun Manchanda, District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department; Dr. Shehnaaz Bhat, Director De-addiction Centre; Sheezan Bhat, SDPO City East, and others were present on the occasion.

CS directs for launching RTI portal by Dec 10

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday while taking stock of the development of online RTI portal here in J&K impressed upon the concerned to make all efforts to dedicate this service to public by December 10 this year.

Those who were present includes Principal Secretary, Finance and IT Departments; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers.

Dulloo while going through the developmental plan of the NIC for development of this significant public service urged them to create an end to end digital solution for the same along with gateway for payment of fees and sending email and SMS alerts to the applicants.

He enjoined upon the General Administration Department to make provisions for on-boarding all the public authorities and nodal officers from each department. He stressed on monitoring its



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo.

progress on daily basis till its launch in the next month.

The Chief Secretary also advised for imparting necessary training to Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Appellate Authorities from the Departments and Districts to make them well versed about the use of portal for swift disposal of applications swiftly as per the provisions of law. He also asked for carrying out necessary security audit of the portal before its launch here.

The Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma apprised the meeting about the present status of the development of

this portal. He revealed that the portal based on the software employed by DoPT, GoI has been used here as well.

He further gave out that few of the Departments had been on-boarded till now and the training of Nodal officers and PIOs of Civil Secretariat has also been accomplished already.

The SIO, NIC, JS Modi informed the meeting that nearly 3300 PIO/FAAs had to be on-boarded on the portal before dedicating it to public. He made out that an end to end solution for filing of applications would be developed here for the UT. About the status of the portal it was revealed that the necessary customization has already been done alongwith integration of payment gateway and SMS templates development.

It was further added that 41 Public Authorities had been on boarded by GAD and the creation of other PIO/FAA is under progress. It was given out that the site will be live for

general public once officially launched here.

Later the Chief Secretary went through the plans of the augmenting the NIC connectivity across J&K. It was said that the Informatics Centre is going to develop Mini NOC at Srinagar and Security Operations Centre (SOC) at Jammu for enhanced cyber and security monitoring from central NOC.

About the upgradation of bandwidth it was revealed that the same has been enhanced from 34 Mbps to 100 Mbps for 10 Districts and from 100 Mbps to 1G link the other 10 district headquarters.

It was further disclosed that there are around 224 websites and applications developed and hosted by NIC along with provisioning of 1166 online services through different platforms here.

Regarding some novel initiatives the NIC revealed that they are going to develop property rights cards for the rural population with the help of SVAMITVA portal and one separate portal for

Jammu & Kashmir at International Film Festival of India, Goa

J&K Film Policy to be game changer for stakeholders: Jatin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a bid to further promote and propagate the Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir pavilion has been set up at the Film Bazaar of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa to promote and publicise the newly launched Jammu and Kashmir Film Policy, 2024.

The prestigious film extravaganza was earlier inaugurated by Goa Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, and Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju.

Director Information, J&K, Jatin Kishore, while explaining the broad contours of the policy, highlighted the measures which have been taken to position Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for film production. "The policy aims to boost both the domestic and international



Director Information, J&K, Jatin Kishore along with others at International Film Festival of India, Goa.

film production in Jammu and Kashmir. It includes plans for high-impact financial incentives to enhance the attractiveness of filming in J&K", maintained the Director while speaking at a Special Session organised for J&K UT on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of India.

During his presentation, it was emphasised that J&K offers unparalleled natural and cultural diversity for filmmakers, ranging from scenic valleys and

lakes to historic sites and modern urban landscapes. To facilitate film production, Jammu and Kashmir Government has developed a single-window clearance system to streamline the process of obtaining shooting permissions, ensuring approvals are granted in a time-bound manner. Designated Nodal Officers would also be available to provide support to filmmakers. One of the major incentives under the policy is financial support for film projects the filmmakers can

avail a 10% subsidy on the cost of production and additional 25% subsidy for movies that win national or international awards. The policy also focusses on infrastructure development, including film studios, production facilities and hosting promotional events such as film conclaves. These efforts aim to revitalize J&K's economy by boosting employment, increasing tourism and promoting Jammu & Kashmir as a global hub for film tourism.

"J&K has witnessed a notable resurgence in filmmaking over the last few years marking a significant return of cinema in the UT after decades. Presence of J&K pavilion at the prestigious film festival has incredibly promoted the diverse cinematic offerings and splendid destinations that the region offers to the world", maintained the Director.

Chinar Boat Race 2024, huge success at Dal Lake

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: The much-anticipated Chinar Boat Race 2024 was successfully organized on Saturday by the 31 Sub Area Indian Army in collaboration with an NGO, with the support of the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA).

The race, which took place from Ghat No. 23 to Char Chinar and back, was a spectacular event that celebrated the rich culture and tradition of Kashmir, while also promoting conservation efforts for Dal Lake. In all 60 boats participated in the race.

The Chinar Boat Race 2024 aimed to highlight not only the athleticism and competitive spirit of the participants but also



the importance of protecting Kashmir's water bodies. The collaboration between the Indian Army, an NGO, and LCMA underscored the significance of maintaining the ecological health of Dal Lake while fostering community engagement through traditional sports. Officials of the LCMA said the department

is taking every possible step to conserve the famous Dal Lake from pollution and encroachments. "Not only this but the department is also working to attract more and more tourists and for this purpose we are working closely with the officials of the tourism department", the official added.

The event drew a large audience, with both locals and tourists lining the shores of Dal Lake to cheer on the participants. It served as a testament to the region's vibrant culture and the strong bond between the people and the natural beauty of Kashmir.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 60 boats, competing fiercely for the coveted prizes. The winner of the race was awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000 along with a prestigious Trophy. The second and third positions were awarded Rs 7,500 and Rs 5,000 respectively. Additionally, consolation prizes were distributed to the top 20 participants, recognizing their efforts and participation in the event.

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