

Dr Jitendra announces launching of European Union Space Satellite by India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced here today that India is set to launch the European Union's Proba-3 Space Satellite by India in the first week of December, marking another milestone in its burgeoning role as a global space leader.

Disclosing this while speaking at the "India Space Conclave 3.0", Dr Jitendra said, this underscores the deepening partnership between India and the EU in space research and exploration. This mission, aimed at observing the Sun, signifies both nations' commitment to advancing scientific knowledge while reinforcing the reputation of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as a trusted partner in international space missions. The Proba-3 satellite, which arrived this morning at Sriharikota, is aimed at observing the Sun and reflects a new level of equal collaboration between India and other major space powers.

The Proba-3 satellite will be India's third such launch for the EU, with previous missions supporting the Proba-1 and Proba-2 satellites. However, this mission



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the "India Space Conclave 3.0" at New Delhi on Tuesday.

is unique in its focus on solar observation. Dr. Jitendra Singh explained that Proba-3 will provide valuable insights into solar corona dynamics, adding to ISRO's portfolio of ambitious scientific ventures, which recently included the groundbreaking Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission. "India and Europe are together reaching out to the Sun," said Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighting the symbolism and science of this mission.

The Conclave also provided a platform for recognizing India's startup ecosystem in space technology. "Only a few years ago, we had just a handful of space-focused startups," Dr. Jitendra Singh remarked. "Today, there are over 300, fuelling an entire industry and creating jobs across the country." This surge in

startups has not only curbed the historic brain drain but has also attracted Indian talent back from abroad, particularly from agencies like NASA, which previously drew many of India's brightest space scientists.

In his address, EU Ambassador to India and Bhutan, Herve Delphin, emphasized the significance of the Indo-European partnership in space, describing India as a "cost-effective, dynamic space power of the first order." Commending India's achievements, including the recent success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, Mr. Delphin stated that the European Union views India as a natural ally in the realm of space exploration and innovation. He highlighted that both the EU and India are consolidating their roles as influential space powers, sharing a mutual

interest in the peaceful use of space and a commitment to tackling pressing global issues, such as climate change and cyber security, through space-based solutions.

Ambassador Delphin also outlined the EU's ambition to further strengthen this collaboration, proposing joint initiatives in Earth observation, training, and space security, areas where both regions have complementary strengths. He pointed to existing partnerships, like India's collaboration with the EU's Copernicus Earth observation program, as a foundation for deeper integration. With plans underway to expand cooperation in space security, Mr. Delphin expressed optimism for advancing space governance and responsible practices on a global scale, adding that the upcoming 2025 EU-

India Summit in Delhi will serve as a pivotal opportunity to build upon this shared vision.

Looking ahead, India's space program has ambitious goals. The upcoming human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, and plans for a future lunar landing by 2040 reflect India's determination to be at the forefront of space innovation. The nation is also exploring future missions to establish its own space station by 2035, which would further assert India's place in the global space landscape. Additionally, with a vision for space tourism by 2040, India's strategy is now as forward-looking as it is inclusive, with plans to engage private companies and international entities at every stage of its space exploration journey.

During the event, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled SPADE, an innovative product developed by Suhora Technologies, and presented the prestigious ISpA Space Industry Awards. Following the inaugural session, he toured exhibition stalls featuring cutting-edge space products, engaging with dignitaries and showcasing India's advancements in space technology.



Vice President presents Paul H. Appleby Award to J A Khan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: At the 70th Annual Meeting of the General Body of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the prestigious Paul H. Appleby Award for the year 2024 to J A Khan, well-known former senior IAS officer of J&K, for his exceptional contributions to public administration and his dedicated service to the IIPA. The Vice President is also the President of the IIPA.

J A Khan is the eighth retired senior civil servant of Jammu & Kashmir and member of the Regional Branch of IIPA to receive this coveted award, which is a rare distinction.

J A Khan, a distinguished IAS officer of the 1967 batch of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, has been an outstanding civil servant of the state's administration who during his chequered public service spreading over 44 years, has to his credit several administrative achievements and earned all round respect for his integrity, administrative acumen and brilliance. He was an authority on J&K's financial management and headed the Finance Deptt, for more than a decade.

Following his superannuation, he served as Economic Advisor to the J&K Government from 2009 to 2013, utilizing his expertise to shape the state's economic policies. The key positions he held included Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir & Jammu, Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir and Additional Chief Secretary of the



The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar presenting the Paul H Appleby Award 2024 to J A Khan for distinguished services to IIPA and to the field of Public Administration.

Industries & Commerce and Finance Departments. Khan's significant contributions to public service were recognized with a Gold Medal from the State Government in 1997.

As a founding member of the J&K Regional Branch of IIPA, established in the late 1970s, Khan played a vital role in its growth and development. His leadership as Chairman from 1995 to 2003 revitalized the branch during challenging times, particularly following the disturbances in the region. His efforts were instrumental in securing Government support, including Grant-in-Aid for organizing vital programs that addressed pressing public issues in Jammu and Kashmir.

In collaboration with Dr. S.S. Bloeria, Khan co-authored "The Dying Terrorism: Ballot Defeated Bullet in Jammu and Kashmir," reflecting his deep understanding of the state's socio-political landscape.

The Paul H. Appleby Award, named after the esteemed Dean whose recommendations led to the establishment of IIPA in 1954,

recognizes individuals for their outstanding service to public administration. Previous recipients from Jammu and Kashmir include notable figures such as N. N. Vohra, former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir; Dr. Karan Singh, Member Parliament; Veeranna Aivalli, former DG J&K Police; Dr. Ashok Bhan IPS (Retd) former DG Police and Patron of IIPA J&K Regional Branch; Dr. S. S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd) Former Chief Secretary J&K Govt and Former Chairman and Patron of IIPA J&K Regional Branch and Er. J B S Johar, Vice-Chairman, IIPA JKRB and A.M.Watali, IPS (Retd) Former Member J&K Public Service Commission.

The award ceremony was attended by several distinguished members of the IIPA J&K Regional Branch, including Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd), Patron; B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd), Chairman; Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary; Prof. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary; and Jatin Chanjotra, Programme Coordinator.

EPFO Jammu issues 32 New PPOs in October 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move to ensure social security for employees and their families, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office, Jammu has initiated the process of settling pension claims directly from the Jammu & Kashmir offices.

This initiative is aimed at streamlining the pension disbursement process, particularly for the families of deceased employees, ensuring that they receive their entitled benefits in a timely manner.

On this occasion, Rizwan Uddin, Regional P.F. Commissioner (RPF-C-I), personally distributed 32 Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) to pensioners who visited the EPFO Regional Office, Jammu.

The distribution ceremony saw several pensioners, including widows and family members of deceased employees, receive their due pension benefits.



Rizwan Uddin, Regional P.F. Commissioner (RPF-C-I), handing over Pension Payment Order.

Some family members were even able to receive pension disbursements based on as little as one month's pension contribution made by the employee.

The process was led by Rizwan Uddin, with support from a dedicated team of officials from the EPFO Jammu office, including Ajit Kumar Mishra, RPF-C-II; Devinder Singh, EO/AO; and Dr. Paramjeet Singh, Senior SSA.

The team is working diligently to ensure the timely settlement of pension claims, which is particularly crucial for those who

are dependent on these funds for financial security.

A special focus has been placed on the settlement of death claims, with a number of such claims successfully processed and benefits provided to the claimants. This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts to provide reasonable pension benefits to the women and family members of deceased employees across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These efforts are essential in offering financial assistance to the families during difficult times.

Among the pensioners who received their benefits at the ceremony were Surinder Kumar, who received Rs 69,774; Anita Devi, who received Rs 56,900; Laxmi Devi, who received Rs 40,300; and Ruhi Gupta, who received Rs 62,831.

These payments are part of the monthly pension that is available to members who have completed ten or more years of service under the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995.

Eligible members who have reached the age of 58 years can apply for Superannuation Pension through their UAN (Universal Account Number) login on the EPFO portal.

In the unfortunate event of the member's demise while still in service, family members can apply for a family pension by submitting an offline claim through the employer of the deceased member.

The pensioners who visit the EPFO Jammu

office expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of the EPFO team in processing and disbursing their monthly pensions and arrears promptly.

They were pleased to receive their due benefits before the close of October 2024, a gesture that reflects the commitment of the EPFO office towards timely and efficient service. The EPFO Jammu team remains committed to ensuring the timely settlement of pension claims and continuing to provide financial security to employees and their families. This initiative underscores the importance of pension schemes in providing a safety net for individuals in their later years, particularly in times of need or unforeseen events.

For further assistance or inquiries regarding pension claims, members are encouraged to visit the EPFO Regional Office, Jammu, or contact the office directly for support.

ADGP Jammu Zone accords farewell to outgoing GOC Delta Force



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, along with senior officers of Jammu Zone, accorded farewell and extended his best wishes to the outgoing General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Delta Force, Major General Upkar Chander, at Zonal Police Headquarters Jammu on Tuesday.

ADGP Jammu Zone commended Maj. Gen. Upkar Chander for his exemplary leadership, unwavering commitment, and the vital role he has played in maintaining peace and security in the Jammu region, especially amidst the various challenges presented by terrorism.

He also acknowledged the close coordination between the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Indian Army under the guidance of the outgoing GOC, which led to numerous successes in counter-terrorism operations and efforts to ensure public safety.

Maj. Gen. Upkar Chander thanked all the officers and personnel for their support and cooperation during his tenure, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts between the Army and police forces in tackling security challenges.

He also commended the dedication of the personnel on the ground, who work tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of the region.

As Maj. Gen. Upkar Chander embarks on his new assignment, ADGP Jammu Zone wished him continued success in his future endeavours and expressed confidence that his leadership will continue to inspire and contribute positively to the security forces and the nation.

Shridhar Patil, DIG DKR range; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JKS range; Koushal Kumar Sharma, SSP PCR Jammu; Kulbir Singh, SSP Ramban; Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu; Rajinder Kumar Katoh, SO to DIG JKS range; Brijesh Kumar Sharma, SP Rural Jammu; Kameshwar Puri, SP Ops Jammu; and Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu attended the farewell function.

JKBOSE, JKACS organise Divisional Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) in a commendable partnership with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), orchestrated an intellectually stimulating Divisional Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competitions at Rehari Colony, Jammu and Bemina Srinagar Campuses drawing participation from the brightest young minds across all 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention that school level Red Ribbon Quiz Competition was organized on Tuesday where 50 schools from each district participated and top ten teams were selected to compete at district level which was held on 14th of October, 2024. The winning team at district level from each district participated in the Divisional Level competition.

The competitive spirit of the students illuminated the venues as they contended with resolute determination and showcased exceptional academic prowess. In the Jammu Division, the Alpha Institute of Research and Training, Doda, claimed the first position with a stellar performance, followed by Shaheed SPO Bhushan Lal, GMS Chewar Palmal, Kishtwar, securing the second place, whereas Christ School, Poonch, earned the third position with commendable efforts. The Natures Lap International School Pouni, Reasi got the consolation prize.

IT Department jointly with J&K branch of ICAI organises outreach programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of India's Income Tax (IT) Department, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir branch of ICAI, organized an outreach programme on Third-Party Compliance Management and the E-Verification Scheme 2021.

Sunita Bainsla, IIRS, Principal Director General of Income Tax, I&CI, New Delhi, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

CA Vineet Kohli, Chairman, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the significance of the E-Verification scheme and compliance



Chairman JKBOSE, Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas with other dignitaries and winner students.

In the Kashmir Division, the competition was equally interesting, with GHIS Shanipura, District Budgam, emerging as the Division Level Topers. The second position was secured by BHSS Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, while BHSS Tral secured third place, proving their academic dexterity in the face of strong competition. Consolation prize was given to the team from PM Shri HSS Rammagri, Shopian.

Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Chairman, JKBOSE was the Chief Guest on this occasion. While congratulating the Divisional Level Topers from Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, he underscored the importance of intellectual agility, urging students to embrace adaptability and cultivate the skills to thrive in ever-changing circumstances. "Adaptability and inclusivity are the keys

for sustainability. The ability to adapt to new conditions is a vital skill in an evolving world. In quest of knowledge the students need to include all possible sources of information." Success is not solely defined by outcomes but by resilience and growth through challenges," he added.

Sudershan Kumar, Secretary, JKBOSE, JKAS, presided over the function. He urged the students to participate with the spirit of enthusiasm for the sake of gaining knowledge, and not to win or lose. The presence of Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, who is also UT Project Director appreciated the wholehearted participation of the schools and said that the twin objective of the programme i.e. to grow a healthy and positive competitive spirit and spread and acquire relevant information regarding the



by reporting entities. He mentioned that the compliances have increased manifold and that the nation's economy would grow when the stakeholder

reports the correct financial information to the Department. He also mentioned that the scheme is a revolutionary step of the Income Tax

Department.

Sunita Bainsla addressed the audience on third-party compliance management and invited suggestions from the participants. She also mentioned that the use of AI has transformed the way data is collected and analyzed and emphasized the importance of professionals in bridging the gap between Income Tax department and taxpayers. She also highlighted the crucial role of reporting entities in data collection. CA Priya Seht, Secretary, conducted the proceedings and underscored the importance of the scheme. Dr Anmol Deep Singh, Dy. Director

of Income Tax deliberated on the topic and Anshuman Sharma, IIRS, Director of Income Tax, I&CI, Chandigarh presented the vote of thanks. The event was attended by various dignitaries viz. Sanjay Gupta, Chairman J&K Grameen Bank, Vikas Chopra, President Bar Association, members of J&K Bank, Sub-Registrars, KAS officers, Income Tax officers, members of the Bar Association, CA Sourav Pargal, Vice Chairman, CA Vikas Pundhani and CA Ayush Sawhney, Executive Members and other senior Chartered Accountants.