

Dr Jitendra launches national 'Hackathon', underlines Indian StartUp economy

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Launching the first of its kind national "Geospatial Hackathon" here on Saturday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh underlined Indian StartUp economy and said, StartUps in new emerging technologies are key to India's future economy.

Dr Jitendra said, the Hackathon will promote Innovation and StartUps in India's Geospatial ecosystem. He invited the nation's youth to participate and contribute towards the building of the nation's geospatial economy.

The Minister said, half of our population is under 40 years of age and are very aspi-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Surveyor General of India Sunil Kumar, launching the first of its kind national 'Geospatial Hackathon' on Saturday.

rational and that is evident that the Indian StartUp economy crossed a major milestone as it added the 100th Indian StartUp to the unicorn club in 2022. Dr Singh said, in line

Scientific Community will tremendously boost up economic output and would help India becoming a 10 Trillion Dollar Economy by 2030.

Dr Jitendra said, the aim of this hackathon is to promote partnerships not only among the public and private geospatial sectors but also to strengthen our country's geospatial Start-Up ecosystem. He added that for achieving the Sustainable development goals 2030, there is an urgency for our country to have reliable geospatial information for effective policy development, programming, and project operation. Survey of India is proposing a

Geospatial Data Processing, Solution development, and Servicing Challenge inviting solutions for select problem statement from these used cases and to foster the adoption of modern geospatial technologies such as cloud, open APIs, Drone based mapping, Sharing and integration of a wide range of data. "Geospatial Hackathon" will end on 10th March, 2023 and there will be Two Sets of Challenges- Research Challenge and StartUp Challenge to find out 4 winners for the Best Solutions to the Geospatial Select Problem Statements.



Haphazard implementation of Smart City projects leading to traffic jams, muddy roads in Valley

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**
SRINAGAR: As Srinagar received first snowfall of season on January 13, the residents and traders have expressed strong resentment against simultaneous execution works including Smart City projects across the summer capital saying haphazard implementation leads to traffic jams with muddy and slippery roads during inclement weather situation. They said that various projects like drainage, roads, and other development projects have forced partial closure of roads and traffic diversions across the city. The business community said that although they are for the development, the haphazard way these works are executed have hit their business and cause gridlocks. "While Srinagar has been defaced by these mega construction projects," said a trader.

Simultaneous construction projects in Srinagar areas like Residency Road, M A Road, Polo View, Jhelum Bund, Downtown, Eidgah, Foreshore, Shalimar, have crippled the city. The business community and transporters in Srinagar said that they were hoping that they would be taken on board so that they could cooperate with authorities. "We are important stakeholders, and we want a developed city. It should have been done in coordination with us

so that we could have done our business accordingly. Our business is badly hit as roads are partially closed. Whole city is in a mess. We could have even closed our shops according to a timetable to make way for construction. We hope authorities will look into it," they said. The commuters, office goers, and students are also bearing the brunt of these haphazard projects. "The haphazard manner in which these projects are carried out is making the situation worse. We already have an issue with traffic jams, now when there are multiple construction projects after every kilometer, the situation is difficult and many two wheelers injured due to muddy and slippery roads. These projects have forced closure of roads at various places and resulted in traffic jams. Commuters are suffering. The work should have been carried out so that minimum inconvenience is caused. We are all for the development of roads and drains, but there should be a well-thought-out plan to do so," said a daily-wager.

Various experts and planners said about the ongoing project, including Smart City projects. They said that all the projects have to be done in a coordinated way so that the least inconvenience is caused and normal life does not come to a standstill. The experts also

believe that coordination under one umbrella, having a city development council, and expert opinions are important aspects of Smart City creation. Experts said that whenever such projects are executed, there is an alternative plan to keep normal life going. He also said that taking transporters business community on board is an important thing because they are important stakeholders. "We cannot let Traffic police handle everything. We must take help from experts while executing projects and managing how the fallout will affect important things like traffic. And all the things have to be done keeping the Master Plan in consideration. I am not sure if that is being done. Instead of concretization, we should focus on increasing green cover and do things in a coordinated way," he said. An official informed that many projects executed under the Smart City are not in tune with the Srinagar Master Plan. While as Srinagar Traffic police said that multiple projects are going on simultaneously, which have created bottlenecks and triggered traffic jams. "These projects are carried out by multiple agencies but we are trying to regulate traffic in the best possible way and we hope soon some of the projects will be completed and we will get a respite," said an official.

Lord Vishnu's idol unveiled at Navgreh Temple on 1st death anniversary of Yashpal Sharma

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: To commemorate the first year death anniversary of Yashpal Sharma, a community tribute was organized at the Navgreh temple, followed by Prasad.

The task undertaken by Yashpal Sharma in his lifetime was brought to its finality with the unveiling of an idol of Lord Vishnu mounted on the serpent God.

Giving due importance to the beliefs of the people of Poonch who believed that the sacred site has always been a part of the spiritual heritage of Poonch and that the Serpent king has always watched over this land protectively, Yashpal undertook this initiative at their behest.

A statue of Yashpal Sharma was also unveiled in his memory. A heartfelt tribute was given to him by the prominent members of Poonch society including Advocate Sanjay Raina, Prof. Naama Singh, Shehzad Hussain, Naresh Kumar, Bassant Ram, Advocate Ifkar Bazmi, Dr. Vivek Arya, Advocate Bhanu, Bashir Hussain Mir, Advocate Sunil



Idol of Lord Vishnu and statue of Yashpal Sharma unveiled on his death anniversary in Poonch.

Sharma and Dr Sushil Sharma. The speakers paid a tribute to him by recounting his struggle since 1978, that eventually shaped him to become the man who will always be respected and loved by his community.

Meanwhile, Swami Umeshanand Ji Maharaj mesmerized the local populace with the divine enchanting bearing message of the importance of Karma and Bhakti yoga.

National Conference DDC Member Batote joins BJP BJP only hope for people to steer J&K to peace, political stability: Koul

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Saying that the BJP is the only hope for people to steer Jammu and Kashmir to peace, political stability and progress, the Secretary Organization of its Union Territory Unit Ashok Koul on Saturday exuded confidence to achieve the objective of heralding a new era of inclusive development with equal opportunities to all, irrespective of region, religion or caste.

"A massive thrust is already on to ensure overall growth by way of massive investments and implementation of various schemes and programmes, designed as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Naya Jammu and Kashmir", Koul said while welcoming Youth National Conference President of Ramban District and Member District Development Council from Batote Jagbir Dass into the BJP at the party headquarters here this evening.

Koul said that joining of pub-



Senior BJP leaders welcoming NC DDC Member from Batote, Jagbir Dass in party fold.

lie spirited people will further strengthen the world's largest political party-the BJP-to serve the masses with renewed vigour and confidence. A collective effort alone can put Jammu and Kashmir on the faster track of development, he said, adding that the day is not far when this part of the country will join the nation's enviable growth story. Welcoming the new entrant into the party fold, senior leader Devender Singh Rana described the BJP as a force to reckon with, saying the past about nine years in particular have shown how a new dimension could be given to nation building with visionary policies and a sense of devotion and dedication. India's image has grown manifold across the globe under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

Present on the occasion were former MLC Surinder Ambardar, Som Nath Khajuria, Surinder Singh Bunt, Rajeshwar Kumar District President Ramban, Tariq Lone, District President Minority Morecha, Ramban and others.

Dr Ritu Singh performs Mangal Deep Arti of Maa Tawi to celebrate Makar Sankranti

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Dr Ritu Singh, Co-Founder of Maharaja Hari Singh Trust celebrated Makar Sankranti by paying gratitude to Surya Dev and performed a heart-warming and the first of its kind Mangaldeep Arti of Maa Tawi at Panjthirhi to mark the beginning of an initiative towards preserving, conserving and worshipping Maa Tawi and to thank nature for its abundant resources. A large number of people from all walks of life gathered at the banks of Tawi for paying salutations to Surya Dev amidst Shankh Naad, divine Vedic chants, audio-visual messages of blessings from Swami Chidanand Saraswati of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh and Mahamandaleswar Swami Kailashanand, Vidhi Sharma, a famous classical singer from Jammu, lending divine energy to the occasion.

The event started with Gau Poojan as per the Hindu tra-



Co-Founder MHST, Dr Ritu Singh and others performing Mangaldeep Arti of Maa Tawi at Panjthirhi.

ditions, followed by salutations to the Sun God, invoking His blessings for all present. This was accompanied by an awe-inspiring Yoga Surya Namaskar presentation by the children from DPS Jammu and Alexander Memorial School. The students also chanted auspicious Surya Mantras along with the children from Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Birpur who recited Surya Stuti. The atmosphere was charged with the divine aura as the Mangal Arti dedicated to Maa Tawi was released. This Arti was sung by Seema Sehgal, a famous singer of

Esther William, Baldev Khullar, Rajan Singh, Rahul Thakur, Mona Saraf, Pankaj Khajuria, Sandeep Kumar, Seema Murthy, Umesh Kumar, Swati Dadheechi, Manik Slathia and Neha Mahajan.

Special Guests on the occasion were Moksh Priya, who came in to pay her tributes from Haridwar and Rahul Thakur, Entrepreneur, Spiritual Coach and healer, other than the members of Yuva Rajput Sabha and the senior members of business and trade associations of Jammu, prominent citizens of Jammu, large number of women from rural Jammu, priests, media persons and citizens from Jammu, teachers and parents of DPS & Alexander Memorial School, local residents of Panjthirhi, Jammu and Katra who also joined the celebrations, creating History with their collective efforts to initiate the process of preserving, conserving and worshipping Maa Tawi.

Court frames charges against Patwari, other in corruption case

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge, Anti-Corruption Udhampur, Dinesh Gupta framed charges against Mohd Farooq, Patwari Halqa Duddu Basantgarh and Mohd Javed, son of Late Mohd Amin, resident of Duddu Latti, Marothi, booked by ACB in FIR No 3/2016 for making false/fictitious entry of Girdawari into the Revenue Record pertaining to Khasra No 76 (Land measuring 2 Kanals 18 Marlas) in village Duddu in favour of Mohd Javed (beneficiary).

According to case Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Basantgarh conducted enquiry into the allegations against Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari, Halqa Duddu, Basantgarh, who had made false/fictitious entry of Girdawari into the Revenue Record pertaining to Khasra No 76 (Land measuring 2 Kanals 18 Marlas) in Village Duddu in favour of Mohd

Javed. It was revealed that Mohd Javed (beneficiary) with an intention to grab land of his sister namely Asmat Begum, entered into a criminal conspiracy with Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari, Halqa Duddu Basantgarh and got illegal entries. Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari despite having knowledge that said land belonged to Asmat Begum and was under cultivation, Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari by abuse of his official position made wrong Girdawari entry into the Girdawari Register during the Girdawari (Rabbi) 2005 for 4 Kanals 8 Marlas under Khasra No. 76 Min mentioning that it was a self cultivated piece of land (Khud Kasht) through Mohd Javed (beneficiary) by manipulating records and conferred wrongful gain to the beneficiary and thereby deprived the actual owner of her rightful claim. Consequently, on the outcome of enquiry FIR No. 03/2016 was registered under relevant sections of law and investiga-

tion taken up by the Vigilance Organization, Jammu (now ACB). During the course of investigation conducted by ACB, it revealed that a complaint was submitted by Mohd Javed against the Revenue officials, the then Patwari Halqa Duddu and Girdawar Circle Basantgarh regarding tempering of Revenue record pertaining to Khasra No 76 (land measuring 2 kanlas 18 marlas) of village Duddu (Basantgarh) Tehsil Ramnagar. The matter was taken up with the DVO (ADC), Udhampur who after getting the matter enquired, forwarded the written report to the Vigilance Organization Jammu (now ACB) with recommendations that the allegations were found proved against Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari and Mohd Javed (beneficiary).

The investigation further revealed that during the Girdawari (Rabbi) 2005, the accused Mohd Farooq, the then Patwari had made an entry in the Girdawari

Register for 4 Kanals 8 marlas in khasra No. 76 (Min) mentioning that it was a self-cultivated piece of land (Khud Khast) through Mohd Javed (son) but there was a small word missing from the Girdawari Register which seems to have been rubbed deliberately to hide the factual position. However, this entry was deliberately not entered in the Roznamecha Wakyati Register.

On this, dispute rose between beneficiary Mohd Javed (beneficiary) and his sister Amat Begum. It is only in Khariif 2009 when Girdawar Mohd Rafiq (I/C Circle Basantgarh) conducted spot inspection of the disputed land under Khasra No. 76 (Min) rectified the record by making entry for land measuring 02 kanals 18 Marlas in favour of Asmat Begum who was in possession and cultivation of this disputed piece of land and this has also been reflected by the said Girdawar in the Fard Partal Register of 2009.

Bharat Jodo Yatra has broken spiral of silence in country: Bhalla Calls on Dangri terror attack victims' families

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra is an engagement - among and between various ideas, several streams of thought, numerous aspirations and disparate cultures. It is celebration of diversity as strength instead of leaving it to devices of those who see diversities as divisions. It was stated by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla while convening series of Bharat Jodo Yatra preparatory meeting in Rajouri, organised by former Minister Shabir Ahmad Khan. District President Poonch Choudhary Ghani, DDC Member Sai Rashid, Refugee Cell Congress Chairman Amrit Bali, Madam Parveen Sarwar Khan, Municipality Chairman Thana Mandi Shakeel Mir, Sajad Tariq, Ajaz Choudhary, Bilal



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla during Bharat Jodo Yatra preparatory meeting at Rajouri.

Rashid also accompanied JKPCC Working President. Prominent among others present on the occasion included Anil Chopra, Ajit Singh, Bittu Shah, Pushpinder Gupta, Vijay Guru, Suraj Parkash, Nain Chand Sharma, Zubair Mirza, Narjulla Mirza, Shamsheer Singh, Fayeem Akhtar, Farooq Khan, Zubaida Begum, Qazi Mohd. Sayeed, Madam Zabaidda, Ishar Singh, Babu Mohd. Azam, Rattan Lal Metha, Lalit Mahajan, Gulzar Jatt and Bal Krishan Sharma.

Bhalla further said that Bharat Jodo Yatra isn't just about walking the 3,570 Km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, covering 12 states and not a road-show of a political party. "Bharat Jodo yatra will bring back the Constitution and democracy in the country. Both are under threat under the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre and in J&K. B.J.Y has broken spiral of silence in the country. Yatra has given the people who are

against the divisive politics in the country 'a sense that they are not alone'. We are facing an extraordinary moment where the future of democracy and the constitution are at stake. An extraordinary moment like this requires you to set aside your prejudices and look at the bigger picture. What we need to do to save the country is to bring different energies together," Bhalla added. Shabir Khan said that there is no freedom of speech and freedom of questioning the Government.

"Bharat Jodo Yatra is being held to combat the divisive politics of the BJP-led Centre and to awaken people," he added. District President Poonch Choudhary Ghani also spoke on the occasion. Later, Bhalla led Congress leaders also visited Dangri village to meet terror attack victims' families.