

# Dr Jitendra asks State, UT Ministers to adopt Centre's best technology practices

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
FARIDABAD: Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has asked the State and Union Territory Science Ministers to adopt the Centre's best technology practices in governance and infrastructure development.

Addressing in an interactive session of Science Ministers from different States and Union Territories during the ongoing 4-day "India International Science Festival", Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the last ten years, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government has extensively used technology in good governance practices, flagship programmes such as infrastructure development, digital healthcare, digital education, PM Gat Shakti, DBT & SVAMITVA.

"While some States are



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by State Science Ministers and Secretaries, holding an interactive session during the ongoing 4-day "India International Science Festival" (IISF) at Faridabad, Haryana.

proactively emulating the Center's integrated approach, other States are lagging behind or slow in adopting the Best Practices," he said.

The Minister called upon the State Science Ministers to appoint a nodal officer to keep close liaison with the CSIR and other Central Government supported R&D institutions.

"States and UTs can hold frequent interactions with the 37 CSIR laboratories spread across the country and 14 Institutions under the DBT to determine areas where the research projects can be used at various locations in the States and in promoting more Startups," said Dr Jitendra, noting that most states are not able to keep liaison with these institutes.

Dr Jitendra said, the success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in J&K has resulted in over 3,000 StartUps engaged in Lavender cultivation alone. ArnoaMission is now being

emulated in the North-Eastern Region while Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have sent delegations to J&K to study the Lavender cultivation model and have evinced interest in emulating the Aroma Mission, he said.

"It is very important to take a leaf out of best practices like the Aroma Mission which has spread from J&K to North East, the cleanliness drive across the coastal region, lake cleaning learnt from J&K & implemented in Manipur Loktak lake and connect similar missing links," he said.



## LG releases Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan's Tithi Patra Panchang 2024



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust's Tithi Patra Panchang Calendar for the year 2024, at Raj Bhawan.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday released Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust's Tithi Patra Panchang Calendar for the year 2024, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated the editorial team and members of the Trust on the occasion.

The Panchang Calendar, prepared by Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, will provide useful information about local fairs, auspicious occasions, and date and timing of festivals and events like eclipses.

Members of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust including R K Chibber; Prof Sharat Chander Sharma, Nigam Gupta and Dr Sanjay Sharma were also present.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The two days State Conference NAMSCON and workshop on scientific paper writing in Medical Journal commenced at Government Medical College (GMC) here on Friday.

The conference was organised by National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) in collaboration with GMC Jammu.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering of doctors, medical researchers, medical professionals, Dr. Abid said that the medical fraternity represent most intelligent minds of the society, who need to be given due respect and we all should maintain their respect, honour and pride. He added that there is a dire need to reform the medical curriculum.

The Secretary remarked



Secretary H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah being felicitated at a conference in GMC Jammu.

that both the undergraduate and post graduate students should focus more on skill learning and should change the format of their study. He added that the teachers should focus mainly on training curriculum.

Executive Director & CEO AIIMS, Jammu, Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, who was guest of honour on the occasion, in his address remarked that both AIIMS and GMC need to work collectively to attain excellence in the medical field in this region and such scientific events should be collectively hosted more frequently for the faculty development of both Institutions.

Principal and Dean, GMC, Jammu and organizing Chairman, JK Ladakh NAMSCON, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta said that many innovative steps have been taken

for uplifting the GMC, Jammu like start of State Cancer Institute, Bone and Joint Hospital, evening rounds of senior doctors, green corridors of institution, PET scan and other patients welfare measures.

Director and Principal ASCOMS, Jammu, Dr. Pavan Malhotra in his address, stressed on the organizing team of event to hold such scientific events more frequently as it helps in improving the overall healthcare system of region.

Sub-Dean, Research SKIMS and Convener, JK Ladakh, NAMS Chapter, Dr. M Ashraf Ganie spoke in length about the establishment of NAMS and how it is supporting and promoting science, academics, and research across the medical fraternity in India.

State Nodal officer NAMS, Dr. Vishal Tandon, said that the galaxy of more than 85 eminent speakers from various specialties will be delivering guest lectures in the conference. He added that more than 600 delegates, both offline and online within the UT of J&K and Ladakh and across the country are participating in the conference.

He highlighted that more than 150 original research papers will be deliberated during the event. He also added that a workshop on scientific paper writing will be held for postgraduates and undergraduates which will be convened by leading top editors of medical journals of the country.

Director Coordination, New GMCs, Dr. Yash Pal; Principal, GMC, Rajouri, Dr. A.S. Bhatia; Principal, GMC, Udhampur, Dr. Mrityunjay, other esteemed faculty members, doctors, residents, PG and UG students and other senior officers attended the conference.

## LIC of India introduces new plan Jeevan Dhara II

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: Chairperson, Siddhartha Mohanty, Life Insurance Corporation of India, on Friday launched a new plan 'LIC's Jeevan Dhara II' which will be available for sale from January 22, 2024.

"LIC's Jeevan Dhara-II is an Individual, Savings, Deferred Annuity Plan and the Unique Identification Number (UIN) for LIC's Jeevan Dhara-II is UIN: 512N364V01," Mohanty said adding that minimum age at entry is 20 years (last birthday) for Annuitant/Primary/Secondary Annuitant and Maximum Age at entry is 80, 70, 65 years minus deferment period depending upon the annuity



Chairperson LIC of India, Siddhartha Mohanty launching a new plan 'LIC's Jeevan Dhara II' on Friday.

option chosen.

"The annuity is guaranteed from inception and 11 annuity options are available to prospective policyholders and there is higher annuity rates at higher ages," he said adding that under the plan, life cover is available during deferment period.

"There is flexibility to choose from Regular Premium and Single Premium; Single Life Annuity and Joint Life Annuity and Available Deferment Period [from 5 years to 15 years (in case of Regular Premium) and from 1 year to 15 years (in case of Single Premium)] i.e. when to start annuity payments as per your requirements," he said adding that mode of Annuity payments (yearly, half-yearly, quarterly and monthly).

Annuity Option once chosen cannot be altered, he said.

"There is incentive for High Premium /Purchase price/ for Online Sale by way of increase in the annuity rate/ for existing Policyholders/Nominee/Beneficiary of the Corporation," he said adding that there is an option to increase the Annuity (Top-up annuity) under the policy by paying additional premium as a Single Premium and at any time during the deferment period only and while the policy is in force. Option to take death claim proceeds as Lump-sum, in the form of Annuitisation or in instalments, he said adding that there is option to receive a lump-sum amount in return of reduction in annuity payments and other benefits available under annuity options with Return of Premium/ Purchase Price.

"Loan facility shall be available during or after the deferment period under annuity options with Return of Premium/ Purchase Price," he said adding that the Plan is a Non-Linked, Non-Participating Plan.

Benefits are payable under an in-force policy on Survival/Death of the Annuitant(s) under applicable Annuity Options selected, he said.

This Plan can be purchased Offline through agents / other intermediaries as well as Online directly through website www.licindia.in.

## Khelo India Winter Games may be deferred

Uncertain weather conditions threatens tourism sector



■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: With Kashmir Valley facing persistent dry spell and experiencing less or no snowfall, the fate of 4th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games 2024, scheduled to be held in the world famous ski resort of Gulmarg from February 2 hangs in balance.

It is likely that the event may be postponed till the third week of February.

As per Sports Authority of India (SAI), the 4th Khelo India Winter Games 2024 would be held in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UT from February 2-6.

The ski resort of Gulmarg would host competitions in Skiing and Snowboarding, while Ladakh will have Ice Skating and Ice Hockey events.

During the winters, tourism in Gulmarg gets boost due to the national winter games. If the situation remains same in the coming days, the games may be cancelled this year or deferred, says President Traders Association.

People associated with tourism are sitting outside their shops and hoping for snowfall as an unusually dry winter disrupts tourism and threatens livelihoods in the Himalayan region.

Ski trainers said that usually they are booked almost every day between December and February, as millions of tourists visit Gulmarg, skiing on its white slopes and sightseeing around the snow-capped mountains and dales. But unfortunately this year trainers and guides are out of work.

According to hoteliers and other resort owners, all the booking up-to February have been cancelled.

"Almost 30 percent booking have been cancelled and it is increasing day by day", says a hotel manager in Gulmarg. The famous Gulmarg ski resort located close to the LoC now wears a deserted look.

"This is for the first time in two decades of my skiing career that there is no work. Everybody is sitting without work and that is in the month of Jan", a trainer said.

In Kashmir, the economy broadly depends on tourism, which contributes 7 percent to the regions gross domestic product. But the lack of snowfall this year has again raised fears of another wasted year-- not just for ski trainers, but for hoteliers, guides and other workers.

Experts say, unregulated tourism may have contributed to pollution and climate change in the Himalayan region, increased footfall often leads to resource overuse, waste generation and carbon emissions impacting local ecosystem.

Meanwhile the Met office has predicted dry weather till January 24. The department recorded a 79 percent rainfall deficit in December and a 100 percent deficit in January. The Valley is also experiencing warmer weather, with most stations in Kashmir, recording a 6 to 8 C rise in temperature this winter.

## Speakers suggested to redress challenges faced by reporters

## Kishtwar police, CRPF 52 Bn organise seminar on role of media in disturbed areas

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: As part of a series of events for enhancing press and police coordination in maintain peace in the disturbed areas, the CRPF 52 Bn and Kishtwar police organized a seminar at the CRPF Headquarters PDC Kishtwar on Friday wherein the speakers suggested measures and define the role of media while reporting in disturbed areas.

One-Day workshop on media reporting, was attended by senior CRPF and JKP officers and subordinates staffers.

State Times Bureau Chief, Vivek Sharma, was honoured as the Chief Guest and delivered a compelling keynote address.

In his key note address, Vivek Sharma underscored the paramount importance of media ethics, highlighting the crucial role of unbiased reporting in maintaining public trust. Highlighting the various challenges being faced by the media person operating in the disturbed areas, Vivek Sharma said "It was the role of the media that security forces have achieved success in foiling the nefarious designs of the Pakistan based terror outfits." "Many times the media men have sacrificed their lives while covering the encounters and also have faced the threats from the terror outfits for their nationalist approach in write ups and live reporting," stated Sharma, adding "There is a need to address the issues and challenges of the reporters on ground and they need correct information on right time as they also



State Times Bureau Chief, Vivek Sharma and SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal speaking during a seminar at the CRPF Headquarters PDC Kishtwar on Friday.

have to meet the deadlines."

The newspapers and electronic media control rooms are always in hurry to flash the news and if the public relations officers of the concerned departments are active, lots of fake news and fabricated news can be destroyed at the base, said Vivek Sharma.

Kishtwar Police Chief Khalil Poswal while agreeing to these suggestions, stated that many times we ignore the challenges being faced by the media especially

in conflict and disturbed areas. We will surely organize more interactions with media to address and understand their issues so that they are get right information at the right time. Otherwise in this competitive time, there are lots of pressure on media men also, stated SSP Poswal.

Poswal expressed that the seminar aimed to raise awareness among media professionals, emphasizing ethical considerations and fostering a sense of responsibility in reporting practices. The collaboration between law enforcement and media stakeholders reflects a commitment to promoting responsible and credible journalism in the region, he said.

DySP CID Kishtwar Irshad Ahmed presented a detailed power point presentation depicting history and evolutionary aspect of media and its relevance in current scenario in the society.

In conclusion, CO CRPF 52 Bn, Parma Shivam commended the media's vital role in disseminating information and maintaining transparency. The seminar showcased a remarkable mutual understanding between law enforcement and the media, reinforcing ethical standards for the betterment of society.

CO 52 Bn CRPF Parma Shivam also presented a memento to State Times Bureau Chief Vivek Sharma. Others who were present on the occasion include Addl SP Kishtwar Rajinder Kumar, DySP DAR Sajad Khan, DySP Ops Vishal Sharma and DySP Kishtwar Ishan Gupta.