Chandrayaan, similar success stories trigger children's imagination, aptitude: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chandrayaan and similar science success stories in recent times have triggered children's imagination and aptitude, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

Curiosity in young minds will drive the nation's future growth with Science & Technology and Innovation, leading to an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat @ 2047, he said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a scientific temperament and keenly promotes Science & Technology (S&T) based initiatives and projects," he said.

Dr Jitendra was speaking after presenting the CSIR Young Scientist Awards & GN Ramachandran Medal for the year 2022.

"Since we are now following the world parameters and strategies and living



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after presenting the CSIR Young Scientist Awards & GN Ramachandran Medal for the year 2022, at New Delhi

up to world benchmarks, we will also have to be in the same league as they

Dr Jitendra said women have

assumed a leadership role in an increasing number of S&T projects. "Increasingly, we have seen in these award functions, the number of women

is increasing. And in many instances the women outnumber the men," he said, citing women in key Space projects. The Minister expressed the hope that in the coming years, Innovation in India will play a vital role in achieving the goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy. Dr Jitendra said, these young innovators will play a crucial role in the Amrit Kaal to contribute to make Viksit Bharat@2047 when India will celebrate Hundred years of Independence.

"This 3rd Generation of post-Independence Bharat is the most fortunate as they are no longer 'Prisoners of their Aspirations," said Dr Jitendra, adding, "These are one of the best times with India in the forefront, witnessing innovation under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi".



ACB arrests **RO** Kuhihama Forest Div for accepting bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a Range Officer (RO) of Kuhihama Forest Division in Bandipora red handed while demanding and receiving a bribe of Rs 10,000 to process a complainant's bill.

The ACB received a written complaint from a complainant against Mushtaq Ahmad Range Kuhihama, Officer, Bandipora, alleging that the officer concerned was demanding a bribe as commission of Rs 10,000 to process his Bill for release of dues, a spokesperson said in a statement.

"The complainant further alleged that he is a contractor and had completed the allotted work for an amount of Rs 3,21,000 and after completing the the Forest Department had already favour," the statement

"However, the final bill to the tune of about Rs 1 lakh is pending with the said department from last one and half month for which concerned Range Officer Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi put a demand of bribe as his commission of Rs 15,000 for all three bills including already two released bills", the statement said.

"The aforesaid amount after negotiations with accused Range Officer, was settled on Rs 10,000, the complainant arranged Rs 10,000 and approached ACB with complaint requesting action."

"On receipt of complaint which prima facie disclosed the commission of offence punishable under Section 7 of the PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018), accordingly case FIR No. 13/2023 was registered at PS ACB Baramulla and

investigation was taken up," the spokesman said.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted under a DySP rank officer. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant, namely Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, son of Late Assadullah Sofi, resident of Onagam, Bandipora, posted as Range Officer, Kuhihama Forest Range, Bandipora demanding and while accepting the bribe money of Rs 10,000. The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of accused in presence of independent witnesses,' the statement said.

The spokesman said that after taking appropriate action as per the law, the accused was immediately taken into custody and searches were conducted at his residence, adding further the investigation of

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistan has never respected the sincere efforts of India and the dialogues held in between the two nations. On the contrary, Pakistan has always backstabbed every time, any effort was made to build faith and ensure peace, stated Sham Lal Sharma, Former Minister & J&K BJP Vice-President, while responding to a statement of former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Farooq Abdullah.

Sham Lal added that Pakistan now has to show willingness with concrete actions and not just the treacherous words by containing and eliminating the sheltered terrorists in its soil and immediately stopping all hostile activities.

Sham Sharma said that India has never attacked Pakistan and Pakistan has attacked India four times directly and many times via

proxy terrorists.

He also reminded the former Chief Minister that every time India took liberty to initiate peace talks with Pakistan who has adopted 'Terrorism as State Policy', Pakistan has responded with Bomb Blasts, insurgencies.

He added that the senior NC leader should rather try to stop betraying the people with misleading statements and instead work for the welfare of the people of Jammu

& Kashmir.

Sharma added that India has always advocated peace in the sub-continent and believes in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family) and prays for 'Pranivo Me Saddhbhawna Ho, Vishav Ka Kalyan Ho' (goodwill among living beings, welfare of whole world).

Former Minister & Vice President J&K BJP Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

dialogues; backstabbed every time: Sham Lal

Former Minister & J&K BJP Vice-President Sham

by party Incharge of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal were listening to the grievances put forth by visiting individuals and deputations at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sham Lal Sharma, said that while believing and preaching the same principles of welfare of all, BJP has remained proactive in solving the issues of the

Crackdown against hooking system, power

have provided a medium to the people to get their issues resolved.

Individuals and deputaof people from Domana, Katli (Samba), Udhampur. Kishtwar. Bhaderwah. Ramban. Dansal, Batote, Thathri, Nagar, Poonch, Nanak Gulmarg, Doda, Bishnah, Rehal. Maribel Market, Janipur, Rajouri, Subhash Nagar, Bhour Camp and other places had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances.

Dil Bahadur Jamwal, while conducting the proceedings of the grievance camp said that BJP has adopted the principle of service to people and through this camp, the party leaders regularly listen to the issues of people on a daily basis and take immediate measures to provide them the relief in a time bound

Dense fog continues in Kashmir; Srinagar shivers at minus 3.3 degree Celsius Pahalgam coldest place at minus 5.4 degree Celsius

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Dense fog continued to blanket most parts of the Kashmir Valley on Thursday while the night chill has further intensified across the

With no forecast of any weather activity till December 31, Director Meteorological Department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the foggy mornings would continue to be witnessed till end of this

below freezing point across perature of minus 2.0 ther updates.'

the Valley on Thursday while Pahalgam was the coldest place at minus 5.4 degree Celsius.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, shivered at minus 3.3 degree Celsius while Qazigund $_{
m in}$ South Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 3.8 degree Celsius. Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a low of minus 2.6 degree Celsius. Kupwara in north Kashmir has recorded a low of minus 4.3 degree Besides, the night tem- Celsius while Kokernag perature continues to settle recorded a minimum tem-

degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, a Jammu Vistara flight bound returned to Srinagar on Thursday afternoon due to bad weather condition in Jammu, the airline said.

The flight UK611 from Srinagar to Jammu returned to Srinagar due to poor weather at Jammu airport in a social media post Vistara Airlines posted on X, "A flight from Srinagar to Jammu has returned to Srinagar and Srinagar at 1630 hrs .Please stay with us for fur-

DM bans transportation of bovine from Jammu Dist

STATE TIMES NEWS

District Magistrate Jammu, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 Cr. P.C., on Thursday ordered that no Bovine animals such as Cow, Buffalo, Oxen, Bulls, Calves etc be transported from District Jammu to other Districts, except with written permission from District Magistrate or Addl. District Magistrate, Jammu under certain conditions imposed by this office, from time to

This order shall come into force with an immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever be earlier.

theft benefits consumers: KPDCL SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has taken a significant step towards providing uninterrupted power supply by adding 11 new feeders to its round-theclock power supply initia-

This move comes as a reward for areas that have successfully reduced Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses through the implementation of smart metering technolo-

The newly included feeders that would now ensure continuous power supply are

Ashumuqam B, Sarnal , Anchidora of Anantnag district Qazibagh, Pulwama D, Hanji Bandh, S K Colony, Upper Soura, Kanitaar of Srinagar District Shalina, and Samarbugh of Pulwama

This expansion follows the earlier selection of 22 feeders in the initial phase, where the use of smart metering technology led to a significant reduction in power losses.

The total count of feeders providing round-the-clock power supply in Kashmir has now reached 33, showcasing the success of the initiative in targeted areas.

A senior official from

AT&C losses. The official said, "KPDCL is committed to providing round-the-clock electricity to areas that demonstrate efficiency in power consumption and loss reduction. highlights the This Corporation's dedication to encouraging responsible

KPDCL reiterated the

Corporation's commitment

to rewarding regions that

exhibit efficiency in power

consumption and reduced

distribution system. Moreover, the senior official hinted at the possibility of further expanding this initiative. He said that more

electricity usage and min-

imiging losses in the nower

metering installations would soon join the list of beneficiaries, enhancing the scope of the continuous power supply programme. A circular issued by Chief

areas with complete smart

Engineer Javid Yusuf Dar outlined the specifics of the incentive programme. The circular reads, "To incentivize consumers with smart metering and feeders with low AT&C losses, there will be no curtailment affected on 11 KV outgoing feeders.' This underlines

Corporation's strategy to encourage the adoption of smart metering technology and reduce losses in the power distribution network.

Directorate of Tourism Jammu unveils New Year Plans, National-Level Competitions



Director Tourism, Vivekand Rai briefing media at Jammu on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of Tourism Jammu conducted a press conference at the Director's Office in Jammu, revealing exciting plans for the new year and national-level competitions launched by the Ministry of Tourism, GOI. Director Tourism, Vivekand Rai, addressed the

media, unveiling upcoming year plans. Inviting all to partake, he highlighted the highly-anticipated winter fest at Patnitop, featuring a diverse range of adventure activities and providing a platform for local artists to showcase their talents. The event will feature a mesmerizing performance by Punjabi sensations Sangram Hajra and Sultana from the

Nooran Sisters combo, Rai said. He also shared details about the ongoing Vibrant Bhaderwah Festival, which commenced yesterday to resounding

Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, while sharing the new year plans of the Directorate, also added that the Central Nodal Agency for Sustainable Tourism (CN-SAT) under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism GOI's

"Travel for Life - Case Study competition and "Tourism for Tomorrow" competition, on sustainable.tourism.gov.in invit-

ing participation from public sector organizations, private stakeholders, and The competition categories include Green Tourism, digitization skills, Tourism MSME, and destination management, aiming to identify national best

practices for the tourism sector. Sunaina said adding that shortlisted case studies will be featured on the Sustainable Tourism Website of the Ministry of Tourism GoI, and selected entries will be included in a national compendium.

Other competitions wherein the participants can participate are on "Best Rural Tourism Village" and "Best Homestay Facilities," with a submission deadline of January 31st on rural.tourism.gov.in.

Further enhancing the festive spirit, it was announced during the press conference that the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, in collaboration with M/s. Atlas Management Company, is set to enchant the audience with the Fulkaari event at Acquaplex Crown on a floating stage

Renowned Punjabi singer Shibjot will grace the stage on the night of December 31st, promising a spectacular start to the new year celebration. Dy. Director Tourism, Dr. Umesh Shan, was also present at the occasion.

Additionally, the second day of the Vibrant Bhaderwah Festival in the picturesque Jai Valley witnessed a significant surge in tourist influx, substantially boosting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir: Against the backdrop of lush green meadows and breathtaking landscapes, the festival featured traditional celebrations, cultural performances, local cuisine showcases, and various outdoor sports activities, contributing to the preservation and promotion of the region's rich heritage and natural beauty.

Bal Krishan, CEO BDA, Dalmir Ch, Deputy Director Tourism, and Abdul Jabbar, actively engaged with tourists, encouraging them to appreciate the pristine beauty while embracing sustainable tourism practices. Also present were Addl SP Bhaderwah, Vinod Shama, and Assistant Director Tourism NHW Batote, Mohd. Arif Lone.

The following two days (29-30 Dec) at Guldanda will feature a range of winter sports, including skiing, snowman-making competition, sledging, snow games, and cultural performances by local artists. The event will culminate on the 31st with performances by artists of art, culture, and languages, along with the renowned celebrity singer "Kaka". Promotion for the event has also been undertaken by first local female auto driver Meenakshi and others who were recently commended by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during his last Awaam ki



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