

Slovenia Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, 5-year collaboration plan finalised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "We are happy to deepen our ties with Slovenia as we finalize the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) for five years, that is, 2024-2029. This initiative will open avenues for research and foster networks among scientists of both nations," said Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh during his meeting with Slovenian Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr. Igor Papi? here on Thursday.

The dialogue underscored both nations' commitment to strengthening their scientific and technological collaboration.

India and Slovenia are set to embark on an ambitious new phase of scientific collaboration, as Union Minister



Slovenia Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr. Igor Papi? calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Thursday.

Dr. Jitendra Singh and Slovenian Minister Dr. Igor Papi? met today at Parliament House to finalize the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) for 2024-2029. The meeting emphasized expanding joint research in transformative areas, including hydrogen

technologies and sustainable innovation.

Dr. Jitendra highlighted the success of existing collaborations, noting that over 20 joint projects have already been implemented in fields such as health, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and smart cities. "This partnership has consistently delivered impactful results, and the new PoC will enhance cooperation across emerging research domains," he said.

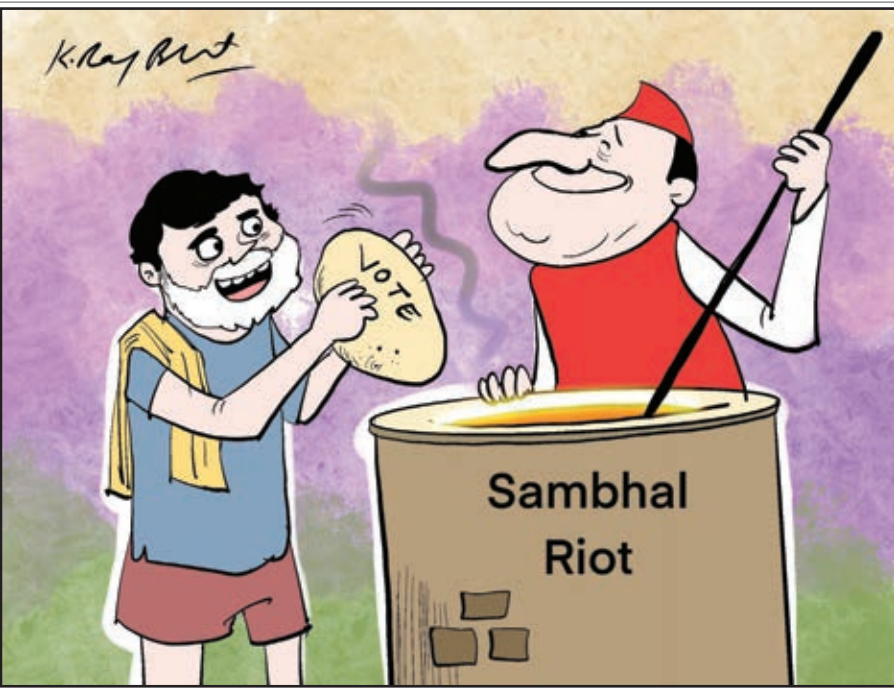
Dr. Papi?, accompanied by Slovenian Ambassador Mateja Vodeb Ghosh and Economic Counsellor Tea Pirih, welcomed the opportunity to work closely on hydrogen technologies, a focus area critical to achieving global energy sustainability.

The India-Slovenia partnership, rooted in a 1995 agree-

ment, has grown through programs such as the Joint Working Group on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. As both countries prepare for a Joint Committee meeting in Slovenia early next year, the new PoC promises to pave the way for further collaborative breakthroughs.

The Ministers also discussed plans for a new joint call for research projects, which will focus on mutually agreed areas to drive innovation and deepen academic and industrial connections between the two nations.

With this renewed commitment, India and Slovenia are poised to set a benchmark for international cooperation in science and technology, contributing to global progress in critical fields.



Dy CM, BJP leaders meet Kishtwar accident victims at GMC Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and two senior BJP leaders on Thursday visited the Government Medical College in Jammu to check on the patients who suffered injuries in a fatal road accident in Kishtwar district.



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary enquiring condition of accident victims at GMC Jammu.

Two persons were killed and 14 others were injured when a vehicle carrying workers of a private company skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near an under-construction power project at Dangdura in Kishtwar on Wednesday evening, officials said.

Accompanied by senior National Conference leader and District Development Council (DDC) chairperson Pooja Thakur, Choudhary visited GMC Jammu where he inquired about the health

of six seriously injured persons who were referred there for specialised treatment.

"We have come to see the injured. We will soon talk to the deputy commissioner and implement the orders of the chief minister for the welfare of the accident victims," Choudhary said, as he prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

There has been a lot of improvement in the functioning of the hospital since his last visit to the facility in November, the deputy chief minister said.

BJP's Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar MLA Shagun Parihar also visited the hospital and met the injured persons, assuring them all possible help.

Sham Lal lays foundation stone for Rs 377.90 Lakh Tubewell Project in Raipur Domana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move towards improving water infrastructure and fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North and former Minister, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a tubewell project in Kot, Raipur Domana.

The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 377.90 lakh, aims to ensure a sustainable and reliable water supply for the residents of the region.

Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal Sharma stated, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma laying foundation of tubewell in Kot, Raipur Domana.

Narendra Modi, we are committed to ensuring safe drinking water for every household.

This project is a significant step towards achieving that promise, and it reflects our unwavering dedication to

public welfare.

He also directed the officials to ensure the proper laying of new pipelines and the maintenance of existing water projects to guarantee a hassle-free and uninterrupted water supply, even from the current infrastructure.

Sham Lal further emphasized the broader development agenda for Jammu North, highlighting ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of its people.

"From addressing water scarcity to improving infrastructure, our focus remains on fostering a better livelihood for every resident and building a thriving constituency for the future," he added.

The event also served as a platform to bring together local stakeholders and administrative officials to ensure the seamless execution of the project.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included District Development Council (DDC) Jammu Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan, SDM Jammu North Nitish Rajora, BDO Bhalwal Khalil Ahmed, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Rocky Mahajan, Mandal President Rakesh Singh, former Sarpanch Kot Kala Khan, and Former Sarpanch Bhalwal Rajdev Singh, among others.

Pipping ceremony of newly promoted DySP held



IGP Traffic J&K, M. Suleman Choudhary pinning rank to DySP Vimla Raina.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A pipping ceremony was held on Thursday at the Traffic Police Headquarters in Jammu to honor the promotion of Vimla Raina, who was recently elevated to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP)

(S).

The ceremony, which marked a significant milestone in her career, was officiated by M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K.

During the event, Raina was officially pinned with her new rank insignia, symbolizing her new role and responsibilities. The ceremony was attended by Girdhari Lal Sharma, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, Sunil Sawhney, DySP, Private Secretary to IGP Traffic J&K, and Rakesh Raina, PA to IGP Traffic J&K.

In his address, IGP M. Suleman Choudhary congratulated Vimla Raina and her family on her well-deserved promotion. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication that led to her advancement and emphasized that with promotion comes an increase in responsibilities.

He encouraged the newly promoted officer to continue her service with the same dedication and enthusiasm, further contributing to the effective functioning of the Traffic Police Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

World Soil Day-2024 celebrated at Krishi Bhawan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, on Thursday celebrated World Soil Day 2024 with great enthusiasm at the Conference Hall of Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo.

The program was graced by Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, who, in his inaugural address, highlighted the theme of World Soil Day 2024 "Measure, Monitor and Manage" and the significance of healthy soil as the foundation for a robust agricultural system. He stressed the importance of adopting modern soil health management practices to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability and food security.

He reiterated the depart-



Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen speaking during a meeting.

ment's commitment to empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge required for sustainable soil management and urged everyone to take proactive steps toward protecting this invaluable resource.

Joint Director Agriculture Extension and SLUB Jammu, Satish Sharma, in his keynote address, emphasized the need for raising awareness

among farmers about soil health management techniques. He also shared insights on the implementation of government schemes aimed at enhancing soil fertility and youth as entrepreneurs.

The event witnessed active participation from a diverse group of stakeholders, including Divisional Soil Survey Officer, Jammu; Agriculture

Divisional Soil Survey Scheme, Jammu.

Technical sessions were conducted by Agriculture Chemist Aman Jyoti Sharma, ASSO Dr Aadil Rashid, Agriculture Soil Chemist Dr Neeraj Rajwal where experts discussed topics such as soil testing, the use of organic inputs, balanced fertilization, and sustainable agricultural practices. The interactive sessions allowed farmers to voice their concerns and share their on-ground experiences regarding soil health management.

Rajeev Katoch, Programme Officer from Office of the Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu, conducted the proceedings of the programme. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Neetu Gurmeet Singh.

Chemist, Jammu; sectoral heads from various departments and most importantly farmers, who are the primary custodians of soil health and concerned literature was also distributed on the occasion.

Divisional Soil Survey Officer, Jammu Suresh Kumar Khajuria gave a detailed presentation on capacity building programmes for farmers being executed in all the 10 districts of Jammu Division by

AAP leader among 3 booked in Jammu over protest against Sambhal killings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Police have booked three persons, including a prominent Aam Aadmi Party leader, for staging a protest against the recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal during a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque that left four persons dead, officials said on Thursday.

The case against AAP leader Safer Choudhary and two others -- Mudasser Raza Jalali and Rajinder Prasad Thaapa -- was registered at the Bahu Fort police station under Sections 126(2) and 191(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) related to wrongful restraint and rioting, respectively, officials said quoting the FIR.

The FIR, which was registered against the trio on the same day, said they were accused of staging protest without permission and blocking the main road, thus causing inconvenience to the commuters.

Choudhary led the protest in the Bhatindi area of Jammu on November 30, denouncing the violence in Sambhal.

Yasha reviews functioning of Tourism Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Thursday chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the functioning of Tourism Department besides assessing ongoing developmental activities of Tourism Development Authorities and other key projects of the department at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues and their present status including Master Plan of Developmental Authorities, bloggers meet, grievances redressal status, Security SOP for tourism destinations, revival of Sukrala Mata Board, website launch, Trade Rule finalisation, Adventure/Pilgrimage Fam Tour



Comm Secy Tourism Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

and status of DPCs.

The meeting also discussed other issues including status of Committee report for verification of BRO works, Jammu Marathon/ Adventure Race, recruitment rules for Gazetted, Non-Gazetted and Gold course, Tourist

Police, Tourism Logo, Adventure brochure and formulation of Home Stay Policy besides other issues were also discussed.

While addressing the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary stressed upon the senior officers to speed up

the process of all ongoing development activities so that the same could be completed within time frame. Physical and financial status of these works were also discussed.

Director, Tourism Kashmir, Director Planning (Tourism) and other senior officers briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the pace of progress in each aspects for early completion of all ongoing development activities for holistic promotion of tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The CEOs of all Tourism Development Authorities also briefed the chair about their respective ongoing development activities. Managing Director JKTDC, Director Finance Tourism department also briefed about their activities.

ADGP Jammu zone reviews operational preparedness of Kathua Police

Asks cops to remain vigilant to prevent crime, terrorism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, accompanied by R Gopala Krishna Rao, Inspector General (IG) CRPF, Jammu Sector, and Shobhit Saxena, SSP Kathua visited the Special Operations Group (SOG) camps in the Bani-Machedi axis in Kathua district to review the operational preparedness in the district.

During the visit, the ADGP inspected the infrastructure, equip-



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain during visit to SOG camp at Kathua.

ment, and training facilities at the SOG camps in Lowang and Duggaini.

He interacted with the

SOG personnel and reviewed the security arrangements, counter-insurgency strategies,

and preparedness for addressing emerging challenges in the border district.

DC Jammu reviews progress of development works under CAPEX



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Thursday convened a meeting to evaluate the progress of development projects under the District Capex 2024-25, with components such as APDP, Accelerated Border Development Programme, SSY, DDC, BDC, others.

A detailed discussion was held regarding ongoing works across rural development, border area development and other sectors. Officers reported that significant progress has been achieved, with a majority of the works nearing completion.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to expedite tendering

processes for remaining works and stressed the importance of meeting deadlines without compromising quality. He emphasised the need for effective inter-departmental coordination and urged officers to mobilise resources to address bottlenecks swiftly.

Additional District Development Dr Vikas Sharma, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and Block Development Officers, among others were present at the meeting.

The meeting concluded with a directive for regular monitoring to ensure timely completion of projects.