

75 Start-Ups registered, ISRO encouraging private players: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that 75 StartUps have registered under space technology category in the StartUp India portal and after the Modi Government's recent path breaking decision to, for the first time since independence, open up the Space sector to private sector, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) has been encouraging private players to participate in Space activities.

In a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra said that there are many more StartUps registered under other categories that are also involved in the space domain.

The Minister said, to facilitate private sector participation in Space activities, ISRO and Department of Space (DoS) are revising the existing policies in Space domain and new policy framework is being drafted to address various space sectors such as SpaceCom, Remote Sensing, Technology Transfer; Navigation, Space Transportation, Space exploration and Space Situational Awareness.

Provisions are being factored in the above policy framework for the development of the private sector including MSMEs and startups in space sector.

In a related reply to another question in the Lok sabha on the steps taken by the Government to bring private players on

board to get their participation in the Space activities of ISRO, Dr Jitendra informed the House that Government of India announced reforms in June, 2020, in the Space sector towards enabling the private players to provide end to end services and subsequently the following steps were taken.

A national level autonomous Nodal Agency namely Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) under DOS has been created for promoting, handholding, authorising and licensing private players to carry out Space Activities. Access to ISRO facilities and expertise are extended to private entities to support their space activities. Apart from this ISRO will also nurture Indian space industries by sharing its experiences on quality and reliability protocols, documentation, testing procedures etc. Announcement of Opportunities are being done offering challenges in new domains of space technology. New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the CPSE under DOS will transfer the matured technologies developed by ISRO to Indian industries. To facilitate private sector participation in Space activities, the existing policies in the Space domain are being revised and new policies are being drafted to address policy frameworks for various areas such as SpaceCom, Remote Sensing, Technology Transfer, Navigation, Space

Transportation, Space exploration and Space Situational Awareness. In order to address the necessary legal framework, the department is also in the process of enacting a National legislation. The draft Space Activities Bill has completed Public and Legal consultations and will be processed for further approvals for inter-ministerial consultations.

The Minister also said that the Government plans to allow FDI to boost the investment in the space sector by the foreign players.

In response to yet another question, Dr. Jitendra said, a number of initiatives are taken to make India the global leader in space science and technology.

The Minister said, initiatives have been taken for the exploration of space weather, the sun, the moon and the other planets as well as astronomical sources. He said, a decadal plan is under preparation covering scientific and technological development for future space missions.

On the issue of ISRO's plan to develop an Indian Space Telescope, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that ISRO has already realised X-ray and Visible/ Ultraviolet telescopes. In the coming years ISRO has plans to develop space telescopes dedicated for UV and visible/IR astronomy. The planned UV telescope will be made up of a 1 metre mirror and will provide the deepest images in UV.

Youth Congress stages protest against cancellation of advertised PSC, SSB posts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the direction of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib, District Youth Congress Jammu Urban staged a strong protest against the decision of Jammu and Kashmir Govt for cancelling all the posts advertised by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Services Selection Board (SSB) prior to October 31, 2019.

Led by Happy Randhawa, the Youth Congress activists assembled near front of Bagh-e-Bahu, Park Gate in Bahu Fort area and raised vociferous slogans against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for discriminating against the youth of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Talking to reporters here, Happy Randhawa said that prior to abrogation of Art



Youth Congress activists raising slogans during a protest.

370 only J&K youth were eligible for State and Central government jobs in the erstwhile state but now the non-state subjects are also eligible for government job thus shrinking the space for the local youths. He accused the BJP of bringing miseries to the people due to their wrong policies and particularly the people of J&K are the worst sufferers.

He accused the BJP of insulting Maharaja Hari Singh who introduced

State Subject law to keep land and jobs reserved for local youth and after promising the moon the saffron party ditched the people of J&K especially the youth.

He said that it is an irony that the UT administration has been taking erroneous and arbitrary decisions. Even in case of border battalion aspirants, by re-advertising the posts the government has rendered the aspirants ineligible for recruitment. Now when they staged a protest

against the decision these aspirants were mercilessly lathi-charged by the police. Condemning the lathi-charge, he said that BJP Govt instead of creating jobs for the youth has been snatching jobs from them.

Happy Randhawa lambasted PM Modi for failure to generate two crore jobs per year and warned the BJP led Government at the Centre against playing with the sentiments of youth of the nation. He said that youth will definitely teach BJP a lesson in five states in the upcoming elections.

Among those who joined the protest include Diwan Chand, Sahil, Balram Langeh, Durga Deep Singh, Rahul Manni, Akshay Kumar, Padam Deep Singh, Ashwani Nagotra, Pankaj Mehra, Narotom Deep Singh, Jony Randhawa, Diljeet Singh, Ravi Jatt and Tony Sarmal.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Choudhary Lane, Shivalik Puram, Chinore, Bantalab, CRPF Camp and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Nanak Nagar and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Marnat, Goha, Mangota, Humble Prable and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 10 and 11 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Gool, Dharam and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Pathi, Panchary, Mansar, Mongri and Benag shall remain affected on February

12, 14 and 17 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Billawar, Parnala and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 12, 14, 16 and 18 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer O&M Circle, Jammu JPDCL has informed that the power supply to Bathera and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 11 and 13 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ward No. 12, 13 and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 13 and 15 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Old Sarore and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 11 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Pandoriya Rehal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 10 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Shiv Sena demands unemployment allowance, completing pending recruitments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit on Wednesday staged strong protest against rising unemployment and seeks for unemployment allowance, 4 year of age relaxation in Govt jobs and immediate execution on pending recruitments along with to withdraw the decision of cancellation of post advertised by the PCS and SSB prior to October 31, 2019.

Led by Manish Sahni, President J&K Shiv Sena unit, the activists assembled in front of Party's Central Office in Jammu

Talking to reporters, Manish Sahni said that the graph of unemployment is rising day by day. The present government is proving to be a complete failure in providing employment to the youth as the Union Territory ranks fourth in the country



Shiv Sena activists raising slogans during a protest.

in terms of unemployment, he added.

Sahni said the government's claim for fast-track recruitment seems to be a Jumla. The recruitment process of the posts referred to SSB in the year 2020 is also uncompleted.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board had issued an online notification pertaining to 8575 vacancies, which have to be filled for class IV posts in the year 2020. Even after the passage of several months, the process remains to be

completed," he said, adding that the same is the case with the posts of Junior Assistant, Junior Scale Stenographer, B Keeper/Field Assistant, Election Assistant, Junior Statistical Assistant Junior Engineer, Junior Engineer and many others.

Sahni appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha to extend a hand of relief to the youth of the state with minimum Rs. 5000 monthly unemployment allowance,

JKAHUC condemns false, frivolous statement of Prop Al Haram

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking a strong note of a false statement issues by owner of Al Haram before one of the local media portals that only his agency is a registered Hajj and Umrah operator, Jammu Kashmir Association of Haj & Umrah Companies (JKAHUC) has asked people not to get misled by false and frivolous statement of proprietor of Al Haram.

In a press statement issued here on Wednesday, Secretary JKAHUC, Asif Iqbal categorically condemned the statement of Al Haram owner, Sheikh Javid. He further said that when association was informed regarding such a misleading statement of Sheikh Javid, they got shocked. "It is quite intriguing and baffling as under which capacity Al Haram owner claimed that only he is the registered operator despite fact that there are several other operators, across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, who are too registered for the same," said Iqbal, adding that it is a brazen attempt on part of Al Haram owner Sheikh Javid to deceive gullible people who are aspiring to undertake the arduous journey.

Elaborating further, Iqbal said that earlier also Sheikh Javid used to issue such false and frivolous statements in order to lure people, desirous of performing Hajj and Umrah. Other members of the association namely Mohd Ashraf Mughal and Mohd Razaq Khan have also condemned such a cheap effort of owner of Al Haram just to mint money. "I request people, especially Muslim fraternity not to believe the false statement issued by owner of Al Haram owner as it is nothing but an attempt to hoodwink innocent people," Iqbal added.

Sharnarathi Intellectual Forum urges Delimitation Commission to reconsider its report

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing concern over the draft report submitted by Delimitation Commission to its associate member and suggestion made therein, All J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnarathi Intellectual Forum has urged the commission to reconsider their draft report and redraw sketch in respect of constituencies of Jammu besides retaining Suchetgarh constituency.

Speaking during a meeting of core-committed of forum, held on Wednesday under the leadership of its President Adv Amrik Singh and Surjit Singh, Secretary expressed resentment over the draft report of J&K Delimitation Commission. "According to reports carried by print media, if the suggestions made in the draft report are correct, then forum

feels that it is a murder of democracy and will have adverse reaction on people because after 26 years of waiting, the agriculture hub constituency R S Pura, has been once again kept reserved for SC community, which shows biased attitude towards a particular section of society by Commission," asserted Singh, alleging that it seems that Commission members, without applying their mind, have destroyed demography of Jammu District, which is really intolerable. Moreover, merging of Suchetgarh constituency into R S Pura will be a great injustice to rural voters, he maintained.

The Forum President further said that delimitation commission had also ignored a big section of PoJK 1947 refugees, who is a deciding fac-

tor in 17 constituencies and has played crucial role in electing legislatures during successive elections. The suggestions have sent a wave of resentment amongst refugee brethren, who are feeling isolated in free India, he added. The Forum urged Chairman, J&K Delimitation Commission to reconsider the draft report and redraw sketch of Jammu District besides retaining Suchetgarh constituency along with de-reservation of R S Pura constituency.

Those who attended the meeting included Inder Singh Soodan, Sudesh Sharma, Paramjit Singh, Sucha Singh, Nasib Singh, Parshotam Lal, Suresh Sharma, Jagjit Singh, H S Sudan, Avtar Singh, Khazan Singh, Khem Raj Sharma, Prem Singh, Manjit Singh and Bhupinder Singh.

Office bearers of NC Women Wing District Ramban nominated NC assails police action against unemployed; demands safeguarding jobs for permanent residents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference today assailed the police action against the aspirant of Border Police Battalion particularly the girls on Tavi Bridge, saying that instead of addressing the burgeoning unemployment problem the administration is resorting to suppression.

"The educated girls and boys want jobs and deserve compassion, not the lathis", Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta said while felicitating the new women functionaries of NC District Women Wing Ramban at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here this afternoon.

Provincial President Women Wing Jammu Satwant Kour Dogra announced the names of the functionaries duly approved by Rattan Lal Gupta.

Gupta described the demands of the unemployed

youth as justified on the ground that most of the candidates have become over-aged since the past three years and the withdrawal of posts referred to the recruitment agencies are harsh for the PSC and SSB applicants who had applied, some of them having undergone the preliminary screening as well.

He sought rollback of the order and holding of selections from among the candidates who had applied for the posts in response to various advertisements.

The Provincial President cautioned against the attempts of usurping the rights of the permanent resident youth of Jammu and Kashmir and said that any move to sabotage this will be resisted tooth and nail.

Gupta congratulated the newly nominated functionaries and urged them to further strengthen the party units at

the grass roots level.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial President Women Wing Satwant Kour Dogra described politico-economic empowerment of women as key to harmonious growth of the society.

Referring to the problems being faced by the people, especially the women, Dogra expressed concern over the unprecedented hike in fuel prices and LPG gas cylinders, saying this has hit the masses the most. Inflation is staring at the poor with house wives facing the brunt on account of skyrocketing prices of the essential commodities. She said soaring prices and transportation charges have broken the backbone of the poor.

Those nominated included Aruna Thakur adv has been nominated as District President Ramban.

Shamim Akhter will be

Senior Vice President, Gulshan Parveen, Iram Sabha, Haneefa Begum and Indpreet Kour will be Vice Presidents.

Alveera Rashid will be Secretary District Ramban, Taskeen Fatima, Rashida Begum and Seema Begum will be Joint Secretaries.

Shakila Begum as District Organizer and Rabina Begum as Publicity Secretary.

Zahida Begum, Durgi Devi, Sheetal Devi, Samruti Devi, Nageena Begum, Shama Begum, Jyoti Kumari and Nawreena Akhter shall be Executive Members.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Pardeep Bali, Pranka Dogra, Rita Gupta, Charanjeet Kour, Dr. Sheikh Anina and Ashu Rajput.

Fast Beetle stepped into Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After a recent pre series A funding of \$100K, Srinagar based logistics company, FastBeetle, with Franchisees in different regions of the Valley, inaugurated their new office in Jammu.

The branch was inaugurated by Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary, Industries and commerce along with CCI Jammu President Arun Gupta and many other personalities including the founding team Sheikh Samiullah and Abid Rashid. To celebrate the extension of this footprint, veterans from various spheres were invited to be a part of the ceremony and bless the branch opening of this Kashmiri messenger brand. The benchmark, besides opening up to newer opportunities of employment generation serves as an inspirational blueprint for the youth of the region which is besieged by uncertainties and instabilities. While inaugurating the new office, the CEO of the company, Sheikh Samiullah said, "We are on a journey towards empowerment and this expansion plan after closing our pre series investment round will open up new gates towards employment generation."

Abid Rashid, the co-founder added, "With the aid of technology, we want to bring ease to the



Fast Beetle representative presenting memento to CCI Jammu President Arun Gupta.

doorsteps and bridge the gap between local businesses and the consumers"

"When we started in Srinagar, we were a team of 2 members operating from single hub, now we are operating across with around 100 team members in different cities of Kashmir. This opening will add to the job opportunities in Jammu region as well while setting an example for youth to create such platforms", Sami said.

The young founders seem to be on an active lookout of opportunities for their people in the journey of their empowerment and are set to cover other regions including the country's capital soon.

Surat airport in Gujarat gets CISF security cover

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Wednesday took over the security of the Surat Airport in Gujarat with the induction of about 360 armed personnel for providing a counter-terrorist cover to the facility, officials said.

This is the 65th civil airport under the aviation security group (ASG) of the central force, that functions under the Union home ministry.

Surat, about 300 kms from state capital Gandhinagar, is the biggest diamond cutting and polishing hub of the country and as per officials, the airport handles over 1.25 lakh passengers per month.

The Centre had sanctioned the manpower for the airport in the middle of the year 2020 but the CISF induction at the facility, run by the Airports Authority of



Dignitaries handing over security key of Surat Airport to CISF officials.

India (AAI), kept getting delayed due to logistical issues, officials said.

The induction took place on Wednesday during a ceremonial event attended by officials and representatives of Gujarat government, AAI and the CISF, they said.

During induction ceremony, Harsh Bhai Sanghavi, Home Minister of Gujarat, CR Patil MP Lok Sabha, Zankhanaben H Patel and Sangheetaben Patil, MLAs of Surat, Ajay Kumar Tomar, Police Commissioner of Surat, P S Phalnikar, ADG (APS), officials of AAI &

CISF and representatives of airlines operators and other stakeholders were present.

A deputy commandant rank officer will head the CISF contingent that is about 360 personnel strong, they added.

The airport has regular commercial flights connecting major domestic destinations like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Bangalore among others and was being guarded by personnel of the Gujarat Police and their reserve units till now.

The programme was followed by Band display, Drill

display, Krav-Maga demo, K9 performance and hoisting of the CISF flag.

The CISF, as per its existing protocol at other civil airports, will provide a 24x7 armed cover to the facility, and frisk passengers and their luggage ahead of boarding a flight.

The troops will be armed with assault rifles like the AK series and INSAS, and will man the airport perimeter from watch towers erected at vantage positions apart from having a vehicle-borne quick reaction team, an officer had said earlier.