

India's first gene therapy trial in Haemophilia conducted at CMC Vellore: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has conducted the first human clinical trial of gene therapy in Haemophilia A (FVIII deficiency) at Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore.

This was disclosed here on Wednesday by Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh while addressing the "National Science Day 2024" programme in Vigyan Bhavan.

Dr Jitendra further informed that the programme is supported by the Department of Biotechnology, the Centre for Stem Cell Research - a unit of InStem Bengaluru, in collaboration with Emory University, USA at Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The trials involved deploying a novel technology of using a lentiviral vector to express a FVIII transgene in the patient's own haematopoietic stem cell which will then express FVIII from specific differentiated blood cells.

The Minister expressed the hope that manufacturing of this vector will commence soon in India and proceed with further clinical trials. Stating that the



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "National Science Day 2024" programme at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

National Science Day commemorates the discovery of "Raman Effect" by Nobel Laureate Sir CV Raman, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled C.V. Raman's words that India could progress only through science, more science and still more science, and said that after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took over, India is truly under the "Raman Effect" as PM Modi accords very high priority to science and keeps reiterating that science and technology are imperative to

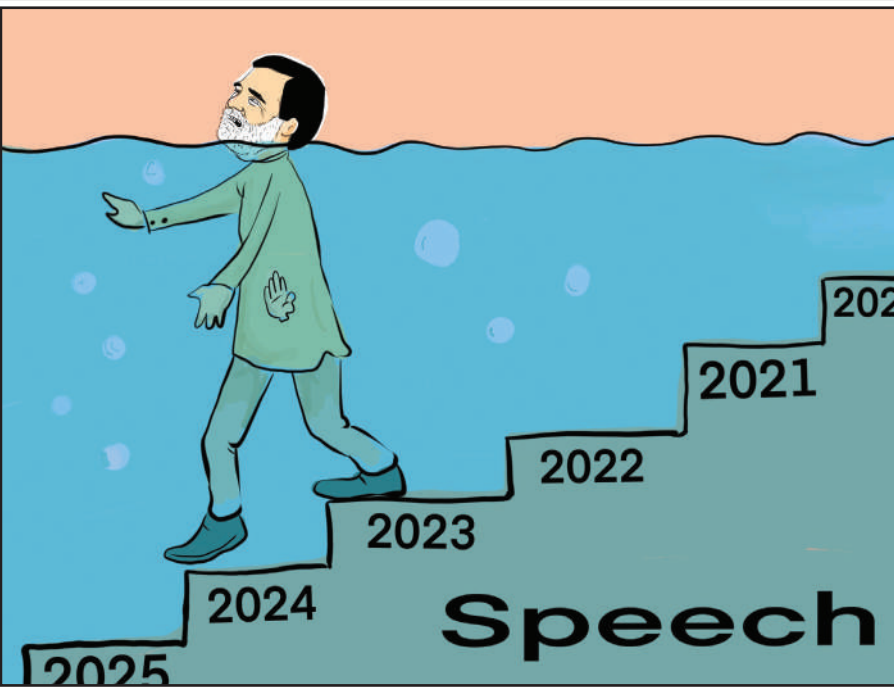
achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. On the increasing role of women scientists due to equal opportunity in S&T, Dr Jitendra categorically mentioned that the women scientific community has been empowered under PM Modi as many of the Scientific Institutions and programmes, including Space Missions, are women-led. Dr. Jitendra said that in the wake of recent scientific achievements, it may be underscored that the rising trajectory of India over the past

10 years is being witnessed globally.

"We are globally among the top five countries in scientific research publications, 40th in Global Innovation Index (GII) showcasing remarkable climb from 81st rank in 2015 and our patent filing has crossed 90,000 which is highest in two decades," he said.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled a compendium of SATHI Clusters by felicitating heads of IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, ICT Mumbai etc. He also released a White paper on 'Evolution: Catalysing technology led ecosystem for Bharat e-Mobility.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. VK Saraswat, Member Niti Aayog shared that currently 15 companies are producing Bullet proof vests for our soldiers using indigenous technology as PM Modi has said no soldier should martyr due to lack of Bullet proof vest. In his address, Prof. A.K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India shared that RUTA i.e. Rural Technology Action Group - recognises potential in rural India to foster innovation at ground level in rural areas.



Shining star Faheem Zahoor; inspiring excellence in Martial Arts

■ MASROOR AHMAD

GANDERBAL: Faheem's journey to success reached new heights when he participated in the All India Selection Trial held at Sheri Kashmir Indoor Stadium, Srinagar, on February 7, 2024.

His stellar performance secured him a spot in the 1st All India National level competition held in Maharashtra at District Sports Complex Shri Guru Govind Sing Ji Stadium Nanded on February 18 and 19, 2024, where he once again showcased his remarkable skills and clinched the gold medal.

At just 13 years, Faheem Zahoor from Wanipora Saloora, Ganderbal, has become a beacon of dedication, resilience, and passion in the world of martial arts. His recent accomplishments highlight not only his talent but also his unwavering commitment to excellence.



In reflecting on his achievements, Faheem expresses deep gratitude to his coach, Murtaza Bhat, and his parents for their unwavering support and encouragement. Their belief in his abilities has been instrumental in his success.

Beyond his athletic feats, Faheem shares a powerful message with the community. He advocates for the importance of sports in leading a healthy lifestyle and urges individuals to steer clear of drugs while limiting excessive

mobile phone use. Through his own example, Faheem emphasizes the holistic benefits of regular exercise for both physical and mental well-being.

Faheem Zahoor stands as a shining example for aspiring athletes everywhere, proving that with determination and a supportive community, one can overcome obstacles and reach extraordinary heights in the world of sports. His journey serves as a testament to the power of perseverance and the limitless potential within each of us.

Inspirational figures like Faheem remind us that greatness knows no age and that with passion, dedication, and the right mindset, anything is possible. Faheem Zahoor, is in class 7 and is just 13 years old, has already left an indelible mark on the world of martial arts, and his journey is only just beginning.

Former DGP Sabharwal calls on DGP J&K Swain



Former DGP M.N. Sabharwal calling on DGP J&K R.R. Swain at Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: M.N. Sabharwal (Retired Director General of Police) on Wednesday paid a visit to the Police Headquarters here, where he shared his valuable experience in dealing with various challenges faced during his tenure as DGP from 1993 to 1997 in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting with the current DGP J&K,

Sabharwal shared anecdotes offering insights into how Jammu and Kashmir Police tackled numerous situations bravely.

He spoke about his experience of J&K Police being one of the few entities that often ploughed a lonely furrow and stood behind the Tricolour and the nationalist spirit it represented over separatist thoughts in extremely trying circumstances.

The DGP J&K, R.R. Swain expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sabharwal for his visit and for sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience as a police officer. The interactive session proved to be quite thought-provoking.

ANTF apprehends drug peddler

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To wipe put the menace of drug abuse from society under the program Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), a specialized unit of Jammu and Kashmir Police, apprehended drug peddlers and recovered Cannabis in commercial quantity alongwith Ganja from his possession.

On a specific input, ANTF Jammu team apprehended Avinash Kumar, resident of Khanpur, Pakri, Vaishali, Bihar. The team recovered Cannabis in commercial quantity alongwith Ganja from his possession near JDA Park, Railway Station Jammu.

As per ATNF official, the trap was laid by Inspector Vikas Hans along with team of ANTF Jammu under the guidance of Tanweer Ahmad, DySP, SHO Police Station ANTF Jammu and overall supervision of SSP ANTF J&K, Raj Kumar. In this regard, case FIR No 04/24 under Sections 8/20 NDPS Act was registered at P/S ANTF Jammu and investigation set into motion, official said. I.O shall work on forward/backward linkage and shall conduct financial investigation into the matter. ANTF Jammu has appealed the general public particularly the youth to stay away from drugs and to share any kind of information regard drug related activities with ANTF so that strict legal actions are taken against such drug dealers. The identity of the informant as well as whistleblower shall be kept confidential, official said.

Congress is dedicated to serving people and addressing their grievances: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with party workers at Bathindi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to boost Congress Party's political activities and public outreach campaign, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Wednesday addressed party workers at Bathindi area of Bahu constituency.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sarpanch Hafeez Uhallah, Sarpanch Fazal Hussain Shukar Din, Fareed Ali, Badhur Ali, Abdul Majeed Malik, Noor Hussain, Nek Mohd, Naseem Ali, Gulzar Hussain, Kala Din, Mir Alam, Kaki Hussain and others. While addressing workers, Bhalla urged people to support Congress Party so that it can implement its pro-people agenda to ensure a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "Congress

Party's primary agenda is to ensure a permanent peace, enduring prosperity, and equivalent development in Jammu and Kashmir, and economic and political empowerment of its people. We have seasoned politicians in this party and these leaders have the vision, determination, and potential to bring about positive change in the region." "We are committed to elevating J&K to new heights of prosperity and economic well-being," he said. Affirming party's unwavering dedication to elevating Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of peace, prosperity, and development, Bhalla stated that their commitment lies in fostering the economic and political empowerment of the region, aiming to lift the populace out of the prevailing uncertainty and challenging conditions.

National Science Day Celebrations at CSIR-IIIM Receives applause from Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu hosted National Science Day celebrations on Wednesday, commemorating the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Sir C. V. Raman. During the event, more than 350 students from various academic institutions in the region took part.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister and Vice President CSIR, in a special video message, appreciated the Director, CSIR-IIIM and his team for organizing a vibrant open day on the occasion of National Science Day 2024.

The Union Minister is his address in this video message said that this is the best time for science and scientists, where young innovators are getting suitable opportunities due to the supportive policies of the current government.



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu addressing the audience during National Science Day Celebrations.

ment.

This has led to an increase in the number of startups from 350-400 about a decade ago to more than 1.5 Lakh startups in the present time, Dr Singh said.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM underscored the significance of cultivating a scientific mindset. He delved into the illustrious history of CSIR-IIIM and shed light on the institute's cutting-edge research endeavour, societal programs as well as startup incubators, which have provided fertile

ground to young startups through scientific support and incubation assistance.

Dr. Ahmed also recounted the inspiring story behind National Science Day, commemorating the revolutionary discovery of the Raman Effect by the eminent Indian physicist, Dr. CV Raman.

Encouraging the audience to embrace this mindset, he highlighted the institute's role in challenging assumptions, fostering innovation, and driving societal progress. "Nowadays, Science is not a subject but it is way of think-

ing" Said Dr. Ahmed and urged everyone to celebrate National Science Day by nurturing a scientific outlook, paving the way for a more rational and enlightened future.

In a statement, it was informed that students from various institutions from Jammu city including Government Girls High School, Gandhinagar, RRL High School, Govt. College for Women, Parade Ground, Central University of Jammu, and Jammu Institute of Ayurveda &

Research visited the Institute and explored CSIR-IIIM's laboratories and engaged directly with scientists and research scholars.

Another standout feature of the event was the lecture titled "Modern Drug Discovery: A Rational Approach," delivered by Dr. Naveed Qazi, Head of the Natural Product and Medicinal Chemistry Division. Dr. Qazi provided a clear overview of the intricate process of drug discovery and its evolution from serendipitous and brute-force screening methods to a more systematic and targeted approach, emphasizing recent advancements in artificial intelligence's role in the field.

The program was organized under the patronage and supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, with assistance from Er Abdul Rahim, Head, RMBD&IST and other Heads of Divisions.

Div Com, ADGP discuss measures for smooth traffic movement on Dalwas-Ramban stretch of NH

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu Anand Jain on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the measures taken by the stakeholder agencies for smooth traffic movement on the Dalwas-Ramban stretch of Srinagar -Jammu National Highway stretch.



Deputy Commissioners and SSP of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and

Ramban, SSP Traffic National Highway, officials of NHAI attended the meeting.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held to ensure smooth traffic movement on the Dalwas-Ramban stretch.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the NHAI authorities to put in extra efforts for proper maintenance of the stretch so

that people do not face any problem while traveling on the National Highway.

The Div Com asked the traffic officers to strictly enforce adherence to cut off timings for LMVs and HMVs and other traffic regulations.

The Deputy Commissioners were asked to install sign boards for facilitating the drivers.



Anu Gupta, senior BJP Leader and Sanjay Gandotra, President, Sarv Shakti Chandhi Mata Mandir Jammu calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Wednesday at Raj Bhawan.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the physical as well as financial progress of various ongoing schemes of Skill Development Department (SDD) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Director SDD, Sudershan Kumar; Mission Director, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Director Finance SDD, Principals and Superintendents of Polytechnic colleges and ITIs, executive engineers and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Advisor took a detailed analysis of schemes like PM Vishwakarma Yojana, PMKVY, SANKALP, STRIVE and others besides he also took assessment of CAPEX 2023-24 of the depart-



Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar chairing a meeting.

ment.

During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized on the importance of effectively utilizing the allocated resources to ensure successful implementation of each scheme. He called upon the officers to monitor these schemes on regular basis so that the desired objectives are met.

The Advisor further remarked that the Skill Development institutes have main role in creating employability chances for youth. He called upon the officers to create awareness among the youth

regarding the courses and trades available in technical institutions so that they get employment avenues in current growing technological world.

While reviewing the performance of Polytechnic colleges and ITIs, the Advisor emphasized on the officers to organise awareness programmes and other initiatives in higher secondary schools and colleges so that the admissions can be augmented. He also asked them to familiar the students with emerging trades and courses offered by the technical institutions so

that they are attracted towards it.

While reviewing other issues of the department, the Advisor asked the officers to utilise the services of faculty effectively. He advised the department to look for synergy with the school education and higher education departments to ensure that services of their teachers in utilized in technical institutions of SDD.

He also asked the director SDD to make the faculty accountable and make them responsible for subject wise results.

The Advisor reiterated the department's unwavering dedication to optimizing resources and leveraging partnerships to maximize the impact of skill development initiatives across the Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, Director SDD gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved in different sectors as well as performance of the department.