

# Dr Jitendra shares with Rajya Sabha Govt initiatives to boost Space StartUps

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh shared with Rajya Sabha on Thursday several government initiatives to boost Space StartUps.

The Minister said, Indian Space Policy 2023 has been released by the Government of India, where roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders contributing to the overall Indian space ecosystems are defined.

In reply to a question, Dr Jitendra enumerated various schemes to encourage and hand hold private sector also announced and implemented by IN-SPACE, i.e., Seed Fund Scheme, Pricing Support Policy, Mentorship support, Design Lab for NGEs, Skill Development in Space Sector, ISRO facility utilization support, Technology Transfer to NGEs and Frequent meet/roundtable with the national and international industries for potential business opportunities.

IN-SPACE has signed around 51 MoUs with Non-

Government Entities (NGEs) to provide necessary support for realization of space systems and applications envisaged by such NGEs, which is expected to increase the industry participation in manufacturing of launch vehicles and satellites.

Total number of registered start-ups on Digital Platform are approximately 189, he informed. As of now, ISRO has no plans for Deep Space Probes, stated Dr Jitendra Singh. However, conceptualization studies are underway for advanced space exploration missions, such as continuation of human spaceflight program, further follow-up missions to the Moon and the Bhartiya Antriksh Station, he added.

The "Make in India" initiative in space technology is a strategic approach to boost domestic manufacturing, innovation, and self-reliance in the space sector. The self-reliance in space technology caters to both the upstream and downstream sector.

The Indian space program,



with substantial contribution from domestic industries, has touched several new highs over the past 5 years, showcasing indigenous capabilities across all segments of space activities. Key achievements include commercial launches of LVMS & PSLV, development of SSLV, earth observation satellites, navigation satellite, soft landing & roving on the Moon, mission to study the Sun (Aditya-L1) and major strides towards demonstration of human space flight. Dr Jitendra informed

that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is already working with the space agency of USA (NASA) for realising a joint satellite mission, named 'NISAR (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)' which is in the advanced stages of realisation.

ISRO is working with CNES (French National Space Agency) for realising a joint satellite mission named 'TRISHNA (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High Resolution Natural

Resource Assessment)', which is in the initial stages. ISRO and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) have carried out a feasibility study to realise a joint lunar polar exploration mission.

ISRO pursues international collaboration with the objectives of enhancing the capacity of the Indian space programme for advancing programmatic priorities, augmenting space science and earth observation data base, widening ground station networks, bettering products and services through joint experiments and creating platforms for inflow of expertise.



## Shab-e-Me'raj observed with religious fervour across J&K

**MASROOR AHMAD**  
SRINAGAR: Muslims across Jammu and Kashmir observed Shab-e-Mehraj (night of ascension) on Wednesday night.

To mark the occasion, special religious gatherings and prayers were held at shrines and mosques across the Valley reverberated with Darood-o-Azkaar.

In various parts of Kashmir, late-night prayers were held at prominent mosques and shrines while even smaller places of worship hosted ceremonies to mark the occasion.

"This holy night symbolises the esteemed life of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and highlights his significance to our faith. This offers an unprecedented opportunity to reflect on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and follow them sincerely," religious scholars said.

During the entire night, mosques and shrines reverberated with Darood-o-Azkaar and recitations of the holy Quran. People fervently



prayed for the well-being of their loved ones and the enduring peace and prosperity of entire world especially the Kashmir Valley.

Each year the 26th night of the Rajab month of the Islamic calendar marks Shab-e-Me'raj, during which Prophet Muhammad (SAW) embarked on a transcendent journey to meet Allah.

To mark the occasion of Shab-e-Me'raj, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board announced the prayer schedule at the Hazratbal shrine.

The Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) would be exhibited after each prayer on the first and second days, and notably on the Friday

following Mehraj-ul-Alam.

The largest congregation at the Dargah Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar was held where thousands joined in night-long prayers.

The religious proceedings at Dargah commenced immediately after Maghrib prayers, featuring Naat and Darood Khawani.

Additionally, Islamic and socio-cultural organisations held traditional special prayers and Mehfil-e-Naat in mosques and other venues, fostering collective supplication for divine blessings. Similar reports have been received from other parts of the Valley.

Special arrangements were

made by the district administration on the occasion of Shab-e-Me'raj, with the Power Development Department (PDD), Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), and the Department of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) mobilising their resources to ensure seamless celebrations.

In preparation for the event, Traffic Police Srinagar had implemented a detailed traffic plan, directing transporters and local commuters to adhere strictly to the advisory to facilitate smooth traffic movement.

"With a significant number of devotees converged at Dargah Hazratbal for the Me'raj-ul-Alam celebrations on Wednesday night and the following Friday, Traffic Police orchestrated elaborate traffic arrangements to facilitate the flow of traffic from different districts of Kashmir; transporting devotees to the Hazratbal shrine," the advisory of the Traffic Department said.

## PM Modi is committed to ideals of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas: Sham Lal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Former minister and BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma held public darbar at BJP headquarters Trikuta Nagar Jammu, along with State Secretary BJP Vikas Choudhary and State Convenor Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Dil Bahadur Singh and said the exercise is aimed to know the problems of the people and addressing them accordingly.

Sham Lal Sharma also had interaction with the people visiting the public darbar and said that the BJP is committed towards mitigating the problems of the people and whatever is brought into the notice of the party leaders is looked into very minutely and every effort is made to ensure that immediate relief is delivered to the suffering ones.

Sharma emphasized that the top priority of Modi government is to ensure that basic facilities and services are delivered to the public in an efficient and timely manner. He assured the attendees that their voices had been heard, and their concerns would not go unnoticed.

"The government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the



Former minister and BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

ideals of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" to build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the same is clear by the programmes and policies of this government, which has taken care of all in its decisions to take the nation on the path of progress and prosperity, he said.

Taking a dig at the regional political parties, particularly the NC, he said that they exploited various sections for decades together for vote bank politics and did nothing in practical for their welfare and now being out of power, its leaders are shedding crocodile tears and playing drama to project them as their messiah but wont succeed in their designs.

Vikas Choudhary said that the rush of people visiting the BJP office daily is going up, which indicates that the public has realized that it is the only party that has pain and concern for their welfare and dignified living.

Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal diarized the proceedings of the day long public darbar and said that the party leaders listened to the grievances of more than one hundred people and every one of them was given a patient hearing. During this public darbar, a large number of people hailing from Ramban, Doda, Kalakot, Greater Kailash, Ram Vihar, Trikuta Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Domana, Billawar, Talab Tillo, Mahanpur, Dilly and other

areas of the UT had reached the party office.

Their grievances were related to outsourcing of employment in Ramban Railway Station, installation of cranes in Raipur Khad at Domana, construction of water tank and sanction of electric poles and wires at Kawansoul Neel in Ramsou Tehsil, transport facility at Sunderbani, upgradation of lane and drain at Ram Vihar, Janipur, desilting of pond at Machhalian Nagbani, construction of road at Mahanpur etc had reached the party office in deputations and as individuals with their day-to-day problems and sought the help of the BJP leaders in mitigating the same.

## J&K BJP to facilitate Ayodhya pilgrimage for Ram devotees from J&K with Special 'Aastha' Trains: Yudhvir Says Ayodhya sacred journey will strengthen bonds of communal harmony and nationalism

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, will facilitate the pilgrimage of Ram devotees from Jammu & Kashmir to Ayodhya. The Northern Railways is running special 'Aastha' trains which will be operated from Katra, Udhampur, and Jammu Railway Stations to facilitate this sacred journey.

This was stated by Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Convenor of Ram Darshan Ayodhya, while addressing a press conference at Party Headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sanjita Dogra, President BJP Mahila Moreha, J&K and Reema Padha, Co-Convenors of Ram Darshan Ayodhya were also present.

Yudhvir Sethi informed that the Special Astha trains are scheduled to run on February 13, 16, 20, and 27, as well as on March 1 and 5, 2024, providing devotees with convenient travel options to visit the holy city of Ayodhya. He said these trains will depart from Katra, Udhampur, and Jammu Railway Stations, ensuring accessibility for devotees from various regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

He informed that the J&K based Member Parliaments will give a rousing reception to the devotees at Ayodhya.

Sethi informed that the District Offices of the



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President talking to reporters.

Bharatiya Janata Party across the Union Territory will extend all possible support to Ram devotees by assisting them in train ticket bookings, arranging accommodations, providing local conveniences, and facilitating their Darshan at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

This initiative comes at a significant time, as it marks the first collective pilgrimage of Ram devotees to Ayodhya since the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22. The inaugural 'Aastha' train, which commenced its journey on February 6, received an overwhelming response from devotees, reflecting the enthusiasm and devotion of the people towards Lord Ram.

Yudhvir Sethi expressed that this sacred journey to Ayodhya will not only deepen spiritual bonds but also reinforce the spirit of nationalism among devotees across the country. Emphasizing the significance of pilgrimage, he highlighted its role in fostering unity and solidari-

ty. Additionally, he extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the dreams of crores of people of the country with the historic construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya after a gap of nearly 500 years.

The senior BJP leader also extended its gratitude to the Northern Railways for their overwhelmed support in making this pilgrimage initiative possible. By facilitating the journey of Ram devotees to Ayodhya, the BJP aims to provide an opportunity for spiritual fulfillment and strengthen the bond of devotion among the people of Jammu & Kashmir, he added.

For further information and assistance regarding the Ayodhya pilgrimage, he urged the Ram Bhakts to contact their respective District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jammu and Kashmir and assured that full support will provide to them in their sacred journey from Katra to Ayodhya.

## Volleyball trials on Feb 13

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: District Rajouri Volleyball Association shall hold selection trials to name the district team for the upcoming 35th J&K UT Junior Volleyball Championship at Udhampur.

The trials shall take place on February 13 from 3 pm onwards at Sports Stadium, Rajouri under the guidance of technical team of the district Association.

Those eligible players born on or after 01-01-2005 have been advised to report the venue at the given date and time.

The selection panel comprised Khalid Hussain, Sajjad Hussain, Bharat Bushan and Farhat Jahangir.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has appointed one of India's most distinguished Professors in International Relations & Foreign Policy, Professor Amitabh Mattoo, as the new Dean of its prestigious School of International Studies (SIS).

SIS is one of the world's foremost as well as one of the largest and oldest institutions dedicated to the study of foreign policy, diplomacy, security and international relations.

It was inaugurated in 1955 by President S Radhakrishnan and joined JNU as one of its founding Schools in 1969.

It has been often described as the Asian equivalent of the Kennedy School of Harvard University.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Shantishree D Pandit, herself a renowned scholar of IR, has made this significant appointment as SIS begins the celebrations of the 70th year of its founding.

Both External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are alumni of the School.

In October, the School is planning an academic conference of global thought leaders on non-western traditions of International Relations, which will

showcase Bhartiya thinking on IR. The School will produce monthly policy briefs and provide exclusive media backgrounders to showcase its expertise at a time when the NCR has seen a mushrooming of think tanks on foreign policy and security. SIS is reasserting itself and reclaiming its place as

an important role to keep the youngsters away from the use of drugs and also the family support for the affected people could lead them towards normal life.

The DC further said that the objectives of setting up of ATF's include drug preventive education, awareness generation, capacity building, skill development, vocational training, and livelihood support for victims of drug abuse.

After inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF) Centre under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was inaugurated at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences(IMHANS) Govt Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari here on Thursday.

The DC also sought cooperation from the families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes. He said parents have

an important role to keep the youngsters away from the use of drugs and also the family support for the affected people could lead them towards normal life.

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After inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF) and took stock of the facilities available. He also inspected the Department of Clinical Psychology and Tele-MANAS centre providing free tele-mental health services to those in need.

Pertinent to mention that Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, today virtually inaugurated as many as 41 addiction treatment facilities (ATFs) across the country including an ATF at IMHAANS, Srinagar.

## ATF inaugurated at IMHAANS, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: As a part of the ongoing efforts of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to address drug demand through the National Action Plan For Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), an Addiction Treatment Facility(ATF) Centre under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was inaugurated at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences(IMHANS) Govt Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari here on Thursday.

The Addiction Treatment Facility was inaugurated by Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Dr. Virendra Kumar through virtual mode.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat and Principal Government Medical College(GMC), Srinagar Dr. Masood Tanvir Bhat were present at the inaugural ceremony.

While, Administrator, GMC, Srinagar Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Nodal Officer ATF IMHAANS, Dr Arshid, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Dr Yasir, DDMO, Srinagar, Imtiyaz Amin Naik and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

After dedicating ATF to the public, the Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Dr. Virendra Kumar in his address through virtual mode said that these ATF centres will prove beneficial in eradicating the menace of drug abuse from the society and help make the dream of drug free nation a reality. He said public participation will play a crucial role towards



Union Minister Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurating ATF at IMHAANS, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Badamwari.

this cause.

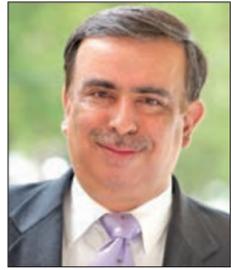
Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar said that the objective of ATF is to bridge the gap between drug abuse victims and the treatment facility dedicated for them.

While interacting with the Staff of ATF, the DC emphasised upon the Doctors and other Paramedical staff to take the job as a noble task and treat the affected people with patience and dedication.

The DC further said elimination of drug menace from society is top priority of the Government and to combat this rising societal problem, multi-pronged rehabilitation, counselling and guidance policy is being implemented on ground to monitor drug abuse and take remedial measures to curb the menace.

The DC also sought cooperation from the families particularly from parents to overcome the menace among the youth which also leads to other social evils and crimes. He said parents have

## Prof. Amitabh Mattoo appointed Dean of SIS, JNU



showcase Bhartiya thinking on IR. The School will produce monthly policy briefs and provide exclusive media backgrounders to showcase its expertise at a time when the NCR has seen a mushrooming of think tanks on foreign policy and security. SIS is reasserting itself and reclaiming its place as

Asia's finest centre of Knowledge Production & Knowledge Transfer on International Relations.

Before being appointed Dean, Prof Amitabh Mattoo was Professor and Chair of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament at SIS.

He was also concurrently a Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne (founder CEO of the Australia Institute) and Deputy Chair of the German Institute of Global & Area Studies. Mattoo is the President of the Indian Association of International Studies.

A former Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, a

cabinet ranked Advisor to J&K, member of the National Security Council's Advisory Board, Prof Amitabh Mattoo is the only Padma Shri awardee currently on the rolls of JNU.

When he was appointed as Vice Chancellor in 2002, he was the youngest person appointed to a public university in the history of independent India.

He earned his PhD from the University of Oxford and is known for his scholarship and publications including the recently co-authored and critically acclaimed: "Strategic Choices & Ethical Dilemmas: Stories from the Mahabharat."