

# Brazilian S&T Minister compliments Dr Jitendra for successful Amazonia launch by ISRO

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Monday that India's ascent in the world community of nations will happen via Space Technology. In a virtual interaction with the visiting Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Marcos Pontes and the heads of the Brazilian Space Agency complimenting the successful launch of Amazonia-1 satellite of Brazil by ISRO yesterday, Dr. Jitendra said that collaboration between the two countries marks a beginning of robust bonding and is a role model for other countries to follow.

He said, the launch also marked the first dedicated mission of ISRO's commercial arm New Space India Ltd. (NSIL). Dr. Jitendra said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided a special impetus in the last 5-6 years to all the scientific pursuits including Space



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh discussing collaboration in Space Sector with his Brazilian counterpart Marcos Pontes and his team through video conferencing.

Technology and added that the extension of applications of Space Technology to different sectors and areas brought 'ease of living' for the common man.

He said, whether it is railways or smart cities, agriculture or disaster management, highways or defence, Space technology is contributing in a big way.

Referring to the Prime Minister's revolutionary decision to "unlock" India's Space Technology to private players for the first time after independence, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that this will bring 'ease of living', 'ease of environment' and 'ease of humanity'. The Minister said, while India began its Space journey much after several other countries, but today we are in a position to provide inputs from Mangalyaan and Chandrayaan to the premier institutions of the world like the NASA of the USA.

In his address, Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Marcos Pontes said that India- Brazil joint venture in Space Technology will offer new opportunities for companies and will help create new jobs.

He said that Amazonia-1 is an optical earth observation satellite and is intended to provide remote sensing images to observe and monitor deforestation, to improve the real-time detection system of deforestation in Brazil, especially in

the Amazonia region, and to monitor the diversified agriculture throughout the country. The Minister said that new satellite would open the door for multiple business, trade and governmental opportunities. Brazil has also requested India's support in procurement of material and systems for its launch vehicle programme.

MoUs and Joint Working Group (JWG) : Since early 2000s, India and Brazil have signed cooperative instruments for exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, both at the government level (2004) and space agency level (between ISRO and Brazilian Space Agency AEB in 2002). In line with the provisions of the agency level MoU, JWG was formed in 2007. The JWG (reconstituted with new members) had a meeting in January 2020. Cooperation possibilities in future space science missions, utilizing ISRO's PS4 orbital platform, space weather studies, etc. were discussed.



## J&K Bank conducts DLRCC meet

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bank conducted District Level Review Cum Consultative Committee (DLRCC) meeting last week at Anantnag to review the performance of banks and line departments for the 3rd quarter ended December 2020 under District Credit Action Plan 2020-21.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag Anshul Garg (IAS) chaired the meeting which was attended by LDM Anantnag Mohammad Afaq besides various officers from different banks and line departments of the district.

The LDM, while giving summary of the performance of the banks, stated that an amount of Rs. 1556.84 Cr has been disbursed against the target of Rs. 3580.52 Cr with Rs.1063.32 amounting for priority sector lending, benefiting 49613 borrowers. With a CD ratio of 67.22 %, the total deposits and advances for all banks in the district stood at Rs. 6244.93 Cr and Rs 4197.90 Cr respectively.



DDC Anantnag, Anshul Garg chairing DLRCC meeting.

District Development Commissioner stressed upon the need for all banks and sponsoring agencies to work hand in hand to dispose of all the pending cases by mid-March 2021. He urged the bankers to focus on agriculture and allied sectors to involve unemployed youth under dairy, sheep farming, fish farming so that they can avail the subsidy benefits under various welfare schemes.

The DDC stressed for establishment of Agriculture-processing units in agriculture and allied sectors particularly in animal, sheep husbandry and fisheries for which district administration would provide every possible support.

He also directed the Sheep Husbandry Department for hand holding of beneficiaries and to impart training to them for establishment of their own income generating units.

The RSETI Anantnag was directed to provide training to the entrepreneurs sponsored by Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department for the purpose.

## Dr Jitendra Udhampuri to get Sohard Samman award

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The renowned Dogri, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi poet, writer and critic from Jammu Padmashri Dr. Jitendra Udhampuri has been selected by Uttarpradesh Hindi Sansthan Samiti headed by Dr. Sadanand Gupta for the award of "Sohard Samman" for the year 2019 during its meeting recently held at Lucknow.



Dr. Udhampuri is an erudite Scholar, a distinguished writer and enterprising broadcaster and one of the pioneers of the Dogra Cultural movement.

His dedication and continuous service to the cause of Dogri, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi literature is a source of inspiration to younger poets, writers and artists. His progressive outlook influenced the whole course of Dogri literary movement. He has done commendable work towards the development and advancement of Dogri, and Hindi languages and literature. His work is a kaleidoscope of vignettes from contemporary life.

His yeoman service to the cause of Dogri literature and culture has been recognized by numerous honours and awards conferred on him at the state, national and international levels.

These include prestigious Padma Shri award, Sahitya Akademi award 1981, Sahitya Akademi's National Award for Translation in 2011; and other national award by the Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of Education, New Delhi in 1990; prestigious Senior Fellowship by Union Ministry of Culture in 2007; Robe of Honour by the Governor J&K State in 1987; Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit by J&K Government in 1993; State Govt Republic Day award 2005 for his outstanding achievements in the field of literature and culture; Man of the Year in 1998, 2003 and prestigious 'World Medal of Honour' 2004 by the Americal Biographical Institute, USA besides having been decorated five times in 1985, 1986, 1990, 2004 and 2011 by the J&K

State Academy of Art, Culture and Language for his best creative literary works in addition to Life Time Achievement award in 2008.

He has again been honoured by the State Academy by organizing the programme "Meet the Eminent Contemporary" on August 8, 2010. He is recipient of Duggar Sahitya Ratan Samman from Sonia Gandhi in 2004 and Dogra Ratan Samman from the Governor of J&K in 2007. He is also recipient of Subhadra Kumari Choulhan and Rashtra Kavi Sohan Lal Diwedi Samman in addition to the Varshit Hindi-Sevi samman by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University) Jammu in 2003 and 2009. He has also been honoured by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in 2010 and by the University of Jammu in 2011 and also by Benaras Hindu University in 2012 and the most prestigious national award for literature-2015 by the President of India on October 1, 2015 besides Life Time Achievement award by J&K 2019 and prestigious Tagore Award-2012.

## 3.81 lakh vaccinated for COVID-19 in J&K so far, no serious adversity reported

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's Health and Medical Education department on Monday said 3.81 lakh beneficiaries have been vaccinated against COVID-19 so far in the union territory, and no case of any serious adversity has been reported. The next round of vaccination to cover nearly 15 lakh people in the age group of 60 and above and those aged 45 and above but have co-morbidities began on Monday, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo said. "In the initial phases of COVID vaccination, 70 per cent of health workers and 57 per cent of frontline workers, totalling 3,81,200 people, have been vaccinated in Jammu and Kashmir; with no

case of any serious adversity being reported," he said.

Chairing a meeting with deputy commissioners (DCs) of the UT, Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam asked for close monitoring of the trajectory of COVID-19 infections to prevent a surge in cases.

He asked them to expedite the inoculation of priority groups in accordance with the schedule of vaccination drives.

Dulloo said the DCs were asked to supervise and monitor the inoculation drive across COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs) in their jurisdiction and ensure that prices of vaccines at private establishments do not cross the prescribed limit of Rs 250 per dose. "Vaccines will be administered free of cost at all government CVCs", he said.

## Crime Branch presents charge-sheet against three for forgery, cheating

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch Jammu has presented a charge-sheet against three accused persons for criminal conspiracy, forgery and cheating to misappropriate commercial shops.

As per an official spokesperson of the investigating agency, Crime Branch Jammu produced charge-sheet against accused namely Sardar Harjeet Singh Baghi son of Kirath Singh resident of House No 195 Krishna Vihar Housing Colony Janipur, Surjeet Singh son of Kashmira Singh resident of 500 Janipur Colony Jammu and Gopal Dass Sharma resident of 3/A Daily Excelsior Lane Janipur Jammu (now expired) in a case registered vide FIR No. 09/2019, under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 506 and 120-B of RPC at Police Station Crime Branch Jammu for conspiring to usurp commercial shops of complainant in Jammu.

He further said that a written complaint was lodged by Anjana Gupta, wife of Late Kulbushan Gupta, resident of H No.93 Lane No.03, Mohallah Radha Krishan Mandir,



Housing Colony Janipur in Crime Branch Jammu, alleging that accused Harjeet Singh Baghi had taken her shops situated at Plot No.92, Lane No.03, Mohalla Radha Krishan Mandir, Housing Colony, Janipur on rent and rent deed was executed between accused and husband of complainant namely Kulbushan Gupta on July 1,1998 for running a business of drugs and medicine under name and style of M/s Bhagi Medical Agency but accused later started running different business under name and style of Muskan Medical Agency and M/s Bhagi Property dealer in two shops of complainant, without getting any permission from complainant. Further, licenses of both agencies had expired way back in 2007. The accused also harassed and threatened to eliminate complainant and continued illegal possession of shops. When a legal notice was served upon him to vacate

shops, the accused claimed that he had already purchased both shops from her husband way back in 2008 without showing any document, he added.

On receipt of complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated in Crime Branch Jammu and during course of verification, the allegations were prima facie established. Accordingly a formal criminal case was registered against all accused under the relevant sections of law for in-depth investigation. During investigation both documentary and oral evidences were collected which established that accused Harjeet Singh, taking advantage of the death of Kulbushan Gupta in order to grab shops of the complainant, hatched a criminal conspiracy with Gopal Dass Sharma (now expired) and Surjeet Singh and in furtherance of criminal intention got prepared a fake and forged document for purpose of cheating and is using the same as genuine to grab shops of the complainant.

The charge-sheet has been produced in the Court of Sub-Judge, Jammu for judicial determination, he told.

## President J&K Brahman Sabha joins Apni Party



Apni Party leaders at joining programme in Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President, Jammu and Kashmir Brahman Sabha, Atul Sharma alongwith many youth on Monday joined Apni Party in presence of senior leaders at Gandhi Nagar Party Headquarters.

In a statement to the press, the joining programme was organized by Adv Tajinder Singh at the party office.

In this programme, Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, former Minister and senior leader Dilawar Mir, General Secretary Vijay Bakaya, General Secretary Vikram Malhotra, Provincial President, Jammu, Manjit Singh, State Coordinator OBC Madan Lal Chalotra, State Coordinator SC Bodh Raj Bhagat, Jammu Central Coordinator Pranav Shagotra, Vice President Youth Wing J&K Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, General Secretary Youth Wing, Abhay Bakaya, Provincial President Jammu Youth Wing, Gourav Kapoor,

Ex-MLA Bishnah Kamal Arora, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath among others participated.

Led by President J&K Brahman Sabha, Atul Sharma, over a dozen youth namely Varun Sharma, Akash Sharma, Rocky, Sahil, Pritpal, Aru, Abhinandan, Ashok, Narinder, Parvesh, Vicky and others joined Apni Party in presence of senior leaders of the Party.

Welcoming them into the party folds, Mir said that "Jammu people are joining Apni Party as they are impressed with the political ideology of the Party which is based on truth."

Mir said that the Apni Party promotes brotherhood and unity among the two regions.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Ajaz Kazmi, Saleem Choudhary, Vipul Bali, Shubam, Janmeet Singh Bali, Gohar Rasheed Wani, Rinku Arora, JP Singh, and others.

## President Dharmarth Trust visits Shankaracharya Temple; reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri



DT President Ajay Gandotra paying obeisance at Shankaraya Temple

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing with its age old tradition of providing hassle-free facilities to devotees visiting Shankaracharya Temple on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, Ajay Gandotra, President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, finalized necessary arrangements for the devotees visiting the ancient Temple.

Accompanied by Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma, Secretary, the Trust President reviewed necessary arrangements in view of forthcoming Shivratri Festival. He also discussed security and other arrangements being made for the convenience of the public.

He also issued necessary directions with regard to the repairs of the temples.

Giving a detailed account of the preparations made by the Dharmarth Trust, Gandotra said that all the necessary facilities including potable water supply, round the clock electricity, public conveniences, medical aid, etc. shall be made available to the visiting devotees on the festival day. He said that Dharmarth Trust through its coordinated efforts and cooperation of UT administration has ensured that no devotee faces any kind of difficulty during the period of festivity.

"We have taken up the matter with the officials of District Administration Srinagar in advance to ensure that the festivities become memorable for the devotees visiting Shankaracharya Temple to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva," he said and appealed to the district administration to facilitate smooth conduct of the festival. He offered prayers at the ancient Shankaracharya Temple and also interacted with the devotees who had come from various states.

President also met employees of the Trust and praised them for performing their duties with full dedication despite hostile weather conditions. He also directed Sandeep Khusoo, Additional Secretary of the Trust, Srinagar, to ensure proper illumination of the temple and displaying of the Trust's banners at conspicuous locations.

## Spirit of humanism alone can guide society to overcome hate, bitterness: Rana

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MATHWAR: Hoping that the people would preach and practice the divine philosophy of love bestowed upon the humanity by saints and sages from time to time, Provincial President National Conference Devender Singh Rana on Monday observed that harmony in the society can be brought about by dealing with fellow human beings with compassion and dignity.

"Selfless messengers of peace have all along strived for creating a society based on universal brotherhood and tranquility", Rana said at a congregation held at Ranjan in Nagrota.

Assembly Constituency, adding that this is core of every religion.

Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj also addressed the congregation and highlighted the need for social justice and equality, as preached by Guru Ravi Dass Ji



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana addressing a gathering.

to bring about harmony in the society.

Rana said the glorious heritage and legacy of inclusiveness has to be sustained, strengthened and bequeathed to the posterity by spreading the divine message of love, compassion and righteousness. The spirit of humanism alone can guide the society to overcome hate, animosity and bitterness that is pivotal for making this world a better place to live in, he added.

The Provincial President said the life and teachings of Guru Ravi Dass Ji have inspired the generations and

helped in transforming the society, making it conducive for various communities, irrespective of cast, creed and colour. He said Guru Ji emerged as a beacon of light at a time when the society was ridden with hate and discrimination on the basis of caste and creed.

Paying tributes to great saint and social reformer Guru Ravi Dass Ji, Rana said that best way of to remember the apostle of peace is to take a pledge to follow his teachings in letter and spirit and work for building a society based on the natural principles of social justice, equality, compassion, love and

togetherness.

Rana said the spiritual land of India has emanated the message of humanity from times immemorial and guided the humanity to peace, prosperity and spiritual bliss. He urged the devotees, present in the congregation, to spread the message of love, peace and compassion, which, he said is imperative for national integration and promoting inclusiveness across the country and in Jammu and Kashmir. He hoped that everyone will play a role towards growth of classless society based on social justice.

## BSNL engineer among others chargesheeted by ACB for setting-up illegal telephone network

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) produced charge-sheet before the Court of Special Judge, Anti Corruption Srinagar Kashmir in a case registered vide FIR No. 30/2007 under Section 5(1)(d) read with 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt 2006 at Police Station ACB against Shamim Ahmad Shah, the then JTO BSNL now Sub Divisional Engineer, Transmission Division BSNL Srinagar; Roshan Lal Bhat (retired) the then Phone Mechanic BSNL and four other beneficiaries.

As per an official spokesperson, the instant case was registered on basis of allegations that two brothers, namely Shabir Ahmad Bhat and Ajaz Ahmad Bhat during their stay in Saudi Arabia in 2003, found that calls at cheaper rates are being made to different coun-

tries from Saudi Arabia. They found that an illegal telephone network exists in Saudi Arabia and explored prospects for this particular illegal telephone network in Kashmir, developed in cognizance with operators of existing network. They managed the access code of BSNL Exchange from them with the condition that they will provide two circuits to them, as royalty, he added.

The official further said that accused beneficiary Ajaz Ahmad Bhat roped in Shamim Ahmad Shah, then JTO BSNL Exchange, Sopore. The accused Shamim Ahmad Shah accessed code successfully and illegal call centres were established at various places in Sopore in 2004. Then, with transfer of accused JTO from Sopore to Kargil in 2005, the call centre was also shifted to Kargil in furtherance of criminal

conspiracy in an organised manner; hatched by some private persons and Junior Telecom Officer. Subsequently, during investigation, the call registries were seized and examined for computation of call duration made to different countries. On basis of seized call registries, it was found that international calls of total 56,89,000 minutes duration were made from five illegal call centres from Kargil. Further, it was found that accused has been operating call centres at Kargil since 2005, as such, the call tariff chargeable on landline telephones in Kargil from August 1, 2005 to May 14, 2007 was sought from BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi. During this period, least call tariff of Rs 6 per minute and highest call tariff of Rs 12 per minute was found applicable. BSNL has been

deprived of pecuniary benefit of more than Rs 3 crore, which is a consequential loss to public exchequer/ BSNL authority for year 2006-2007, he asserted.

The spokesman further said that in view of facts and evidence collected during the course of investigation, charge-sheet in case registered FIR No. 30/2007 was produced before the Court of Special Judge, Anti Corruption, Srinagar against accused public servants namely Shamim Ahmad Shah, then JTO (Now Sub Divisional Engineer), Roshan Lal Bhat now retired, the then Phone Mechanic BSNL and accused beneficiaries namely Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Mohammad Shafi Bhat and Naseer Ahmad Malik, he said, adding that next date of hearing has been fixed on April 10, 2021.