

Modi's socio-economic reforms aroused aspiration in common citizen: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Prime Minister Modi's socio-economic reforms have aroused aspiration in the common citizen. For example every citizen now feels that he is entitled to a "pucca house" and a decent toilet like any other citizen and that is the true spirit of democracy", said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh here on Wednesday.

"The citizens no longer resign to their fate and that is the true essence of democracy", he said while speaking at the launch of Pradhan Mantri Samajik Uththan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) National Portal for Credit Support to Disadvantaged sections of society by Prime Minister Modi via videoconferencing. The Minister said, Modi's reforms have introduced a new work culture as well as a change of the mindset.

Dr Jitendra stated that every



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the launch of Pradhan Mantri Samajik Uththan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) National Portal via video conferencing at Convention Centre, Jammu on Wednesday.

citizen is now feeling confident enough to have every facility available to another person and the confidence to reach the highest position by dint of his or her effort. "Prime Minister, Narendra Modi-led NDA Government unveiled scheme after scheme in the last ten years, with the sole motto of reaching the last person in the queue, rising above the narrow considerations of caste, religion

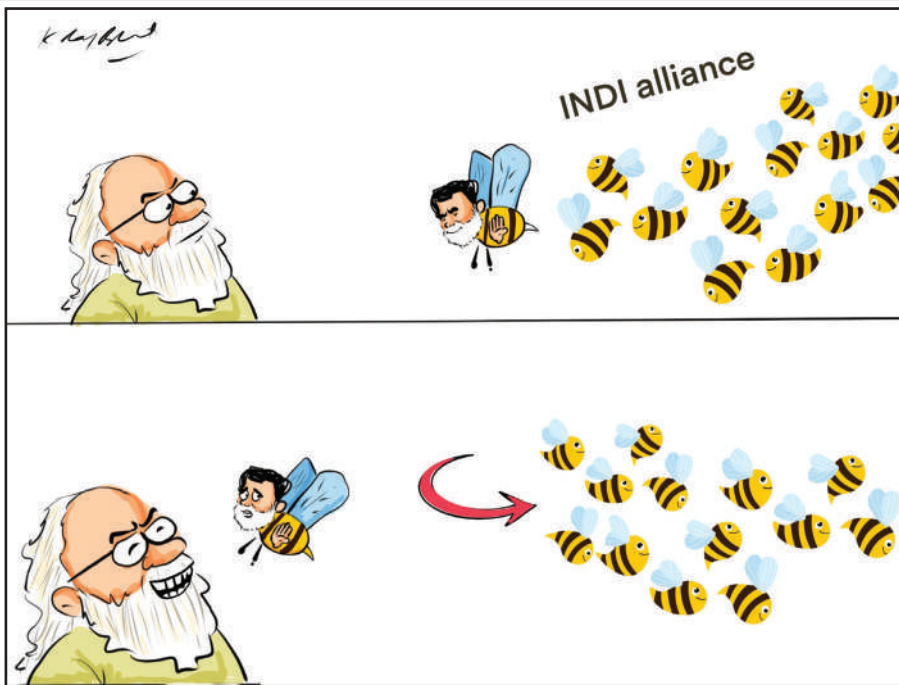
or region", the Minister said, adding that the government was driven by the spirit that each section of society should get what it deserves and feel that they have the right to seek opportunities alike.

The Union Minister described PM-SURAJ as a transformative initiative which aims at uplifting the most marginalised segments of society. "Earlier, our sisters in rural areas were

forced to commit injustice unto themselves because they were constrained to answer for the nature's call in the twilight or at the first sight of dawn", the Minister said. Dr. Jitendra stated that the government had not only ended the all-pervasive cynicism and doom and gloom of the past, but has also transformed the people's mindset. "The government has walked the talk in the past 10 years", Dr Singh said, and stressed the need for generating awareness about the government's welfare schemes and initiatives for the poor, farmers, women and the youth. "By doing away with the colonial practice of attestation, the government sent the message across that it has trust in its citizens who can now self-attest their documents", Dr Jitendra highlighted, adding that this decision was carried forward by abolishing interviews for certain government

posts. "With its countless people-centric programmes and schemes, particularly for the upliftment of disadvantaged and neglected sections of society, the Modi government has shown what real democracy is", the Minister underlined. He pledged that the journey of development for all would continue in the next term of the government. Earlier, during the programme, Dr Jitendra Singh distributed Ayushman Health Cards, sanction letters for credit support, and PPE kits to sanitation workers to Safai Mitras (Sewer and Septic tank workers) hailing from several districts of J&K under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

The initiative represents yet another step towards safeguarding the health and safety of frontline workers who serve in challenging conditions.



FSD Anantnag conducts spot testing for artificial colours in watermelons

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Food Safety team of Anantnag on Wednesday tested more than 30 samples of watermelon on-the-spot for artificial colours through Mobile Food Testing Van (MFTV) during intensive market inspection in view of the apprehensions surrounding on social media regarding availability of artificially ripened watermelon in markets during the holy month of Ramadan.

However, during on-the-spot analysis none of the samples showed positive test for artificial colours.

During the drive, all the Food Business Operators, dealing with fresh fruits and vegetables at Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Ashajipora and Batengoo Anantnag were inspected and warned regarding any kind of malpractice in the trade.

Moreover, the team procured 25 samples of fresh fruits and vegetables for detailed analysis in the Public Health Laboratory, J&K. In addition, mass awareness was generated among consumers for detection of artificial colours through rapid testing at home.

The Food Safety authorities of the district have cautioned that regular inspections will continue in the district to maintain highest standards of food safety and quality, and FBOs were sternly warned to comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations there under.

Notably, there were reports going on in social media that artificially ripened watermelons have flooded the Kashmir markets ahead of holy month Ramazan.

"This is no watermelon season, say NO to arti-

ficially ripened watermelon this Ramadan. Save yourself from chemicals and later on chemotherapy," posted Dr Wajahat, a clinical Oncologist on 'X'.

During the holy month, the consumption of fruits, especially watermelon, sees a significant surge in the valley. However, there has been a concern always regarding the artificially ripened fruits into the market.

Deputy Commissioner, J&K Drug and Food Control Organisation said that they are routinely carrying-out the market checking in all the districts of Kashmir to check whether any fruit or vegetable has been adulterated or contaminated, ensuring the safety of consumers.

"The people need not to panic. We are conducting the market checking and surveillance sampling, every third week of the month," she said, adding: "As of now we did not have any reports of fruit being adulterated". Another official from the department said that watermelons ripen in various states across the country during different seasons."So, if the watermelon has arrived this time, it can't be unseasonal. It must have been grown in the state where its season has begun or the fruit might be in the Controlled Atmosphere (CA) stores" he said. "We checked pesticides and other chemicals in the items but the reports came negative," he added.

He said that they carry out the drive according to commodities and seasonal fruits. Notably, from the last three years, J&K has topped the Food Safety Index, maintaining its top slot in the Union Territory category. The index assesses the performance of states and Union Territories (UTs) based on various food safety parameters, he added.

I&C Deptt overshoots financial targets set by DPIIT for 2023-24

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector is witnessing a remarkable transformation, catalysed by the success of New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS). These initiatives, implemented by the Government of India and the UT Government, are providing impetus to investment, job creation and overall economic growth in the region.

Launched in February 2021 with a substantial outlay of Rs. 28,400 crore, NCSS offers a comprehensive package of incentives to attract businesses to Jammu & Kashmir. These incentives included capital investment subsidy, interest subvention and GST-linked benefits, making the UT a sought after destination for entrepreneurs.

The scheme has gained impressive momentum in just three years, with a total



Comm Secy I&C, Vikramjeet Singh chairing a meeting.

of 838 units registered under NCSS, a testament to its impact.

In FY 2023-24, a total of ten Secretary Level Committee (SLC) meetings were held, under the chairmanship of Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce and facilitated by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, and Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce, Kashmir as its member secretaries. These meetings, till date, have approved the registration of 372 units, with 240 from Jammu division and 132

from Kashmir division. These units represent a diverse range of sectors, including manufacturing and services, indicating the scheme's broad reach and impact.

Furthermore, the Department of Industries and commerce has approved substantial incentives during the current financial year. In FY 2023-24, Rs. 85.15 crore stands approved under Capital Investment Incentive (CII), Rs. 27.45 crore under Working Capital Interest Subvention (WCIS), and Rs.7.48 crore through Capital Interest Subvention (CIS).

It is pertinent to mention here that Goods and Services Tax Linked incentive (GSTLI) is the most important incentive under the New Central sector Scheme and in the current Financial year the approval for Rs 40.80 crore under GSTLI stands given. The disbursements are directly empowering businesses, enabling them to expand their operations and create new employment opportunities.

J&K has surpassed the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) target of Rs. 150 crore in incentive approval. This achievement is a significant milestone in the UT's industrial journey.

While NCSS marks a new chapter in J&K's industrial development, the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 continues to play a crucial role. Launched as a precursor to NCSS, IDS offers its own set of incen-

tives, including central capital investment support, interest subsidy, and GST reimbursement.

In FY 2023-24, IDS SLCs approved incentives worth Rs. 22.44 crore for Jammu division and Rs. 3.92 crore for Kashmir division. These additional incentives complement the support provided by NCSS, further strengthening the industrial ecosystem in the UT.

The combined efforts of NCSS and IDS are paving the way for a vibrant and robust industrial landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. With a focus on attracting investment, fostering innovation, and creating a conducive business environment, the UT is poised for sustained industrial growth in the years to come. This transformation will not only generate employment opportunities but also contribute significantly to J&K's overall economic development and prosperity.

3 Days Training programme on OECD Principles in GLP concludes at IIIM



Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM with others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A three days Skill Development Program on OECD Principles in GLP organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu which saw participation of more than 70 Scientists, faculty members, technocrats and researchers from Pharmacology background concluded here on Wednesday.

Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM was the Chief Guest at the event while as Dr SG Ramachandran, Chief Research Scientist, IISC Bangalore and Dr PV Mohanan, Scientist G & Head, Toxicology SCTIMST Kerala were the key resource persons.

Dr Zabeer said that CSIR-IIIM remains dedicated to advancing scientific excellence and promoting best practices in laboratory operations.

He said that the successful conclusion of the Skill Development Program on OECD Principles in Good Laboratory Practice underscores the institute's unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of quality, integrity, and professionalism in scientific research and development.

Dr Ahmed during his address said that GLP principles serve as a cornerstone for ensuring the quality, integrity, and reliability of data generated from laboratory studies, thereby contributing to global harmonization in regulatory compliance and facilitating international trade.

He underscored the importance of continuous

learning and adherence to internationally recognized standards in advancing scientific research and innovation.

During the three days program, participants underwent training sessions and practical exercises meticulously designed to enhance their understanding and application of OECD principles in GLP. On Day one, participants were given an overview of OECD principles of GLP Terminology and also Test facility requirements were discussed in detail. The participants were also given insights on Test facility management and standard operating procedures in GLP.

On day two, apart from technical sessions, participants were given lectures in GLP Data integrity and Management, characterization of Test and Reference items. The participants were also given practical sessions for study plan/study report.

On day three, participants were given hands training in various facets of GLP.

The workshop was conducted under overall supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head, RMBD & IST Division.

Earlier Dr Ramajayan Pandiyan, Scientist presented a brief report of the training program and its outcomes.

Dr Gurleen Kour, Scientist conducted proceedings of valedictory function while as Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist presented formal vote of thanks.

Police-Public meet held at Janipur



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a part of public outreach programme, a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting was conducted by police in Police Station Janipur.

The meeting was chaired by SDPO City west Jammu accompanied by SHO Police Station Janipur inspector Sudesh Kumar.

The prime objective of meeting was to bridge the gap

between public and police.

The meeting was attended by large number of respectable prominent citizens of Janipur.

During the meeting, the participants raised various issues of public importance including drug menace.

The chairing officer assured the participants that their genuine grievances pertaining to police would be resolved on priority and the issues pertaining to civil administration would be taken up with concerned authorities for their early redressal.

Channi Himmat residents demand pillars based flyover from Greater Kailash to Narwal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of Channi Himmat Residents Association (Regd) led by its President Advocate V.K. Grover on Wednesday called on Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Org) J&K Wing of Bharatiya Janata Party and apprised him of the resentment prevailing amongst the entire population of Greater Jammu vis-a-vis construction of walls mounted, instead of pillars based express highway flyover right from Greater Kailash Railway bridge up to Narwal Jammu.

It was emphasized upon Koul that with the existence of wall based flyover the entire beautification, marvelous and metro like view of Jammu city shall vanish and diminish the amazing, photographic and spectacular view of Greater Jammu and a



Channi Himmat Residents Association deputation led by President Advocate V.K. Grover calling on Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Org) BJP J&K.

rural like view shall prevail.

It was further highlighted that existing shopping malls, hotels, beautiful restaurants and public parks located in this entire area shall lose their charm and give rustic and pastoral view of this beautiful city.

During this meeting, Advocate Grover stressed and underlined that if the National Highway Authority

of India is allowed to pursue their plan of proposed mass and wall-based flyover the residents of Sainik Colony, Channi Himmat, Channi Rama, Sunjwan & Bathindi shall suffer irreparable loss by way of acute congestion of traffic rush and frequent jams from Railway Station to Channi Himmat due to which they have to take the path of Bye-Pass to reach their desti-

nations.

If the proposed Highway as planned is constructed, then for these specified areas the things would worsen and would expose the inhabitants to unforeseen situations like road accidents and other social risks as it would narrow down the Highway with no parking space anywhere.

It was also brought to the notice of Koul that despite

meeting with the Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and his specific instructions to the concerned officials of NHAI for change in their flyover plan for mitigating the sufferings of Jammu people the things stood as such even today and the work is going on evading requests and resentments of public on one pretext or the other.

Ashok Koul listened to the averments and contentions of the deputation and assured to take up this matter with the authorities concerned and resolve the issue at his earliest.

The delegation consisted of V.K. Trikha; Anoop Anand; Rajesh Pandoh; Vivek Kohli; V.K. Grover; B.M. Gandotra; P.K. Talwar; Verinder Ahluwalia and B.D. Chagotra.

BJP Spokesperson Jasrotia calls on LG



BJP Spokesperson, Abhijeet Jasrotia calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Abhijeet Jasrotia, BJP Spokesperson called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

He apprised the Lt Governor of various issues of public importance including upgradation of road from the main gate of Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary to Kul Dev Mandir Baba Kaliver. Meanwhile, Prateek Singh, Director Postal Services (HQ), J&K Circle called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and briefed him about the functioning of the Department of Posts and presented a Souvenir of the Postal Stamp on Shri Ram Jambhoomi Temple.

The Lt Governor emphasized on taking all requisite measures to further improve the Postal Services in J&K with special focus on far-flung and remote areas.

Later, Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson District Development Council Ganderbal also called on Lieutenant Governor. She was accompanied by Ishfaq Jabbar, former Legislator.

CME on 'Retinopathy Of Prematurity' held at ASCOMS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The scientific lecture on Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) was organized by the Department of Ophthalmology at Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital (ASCOMS) to create awareness about the disease which is gaining significance in presentation among the new born(s) in a great way.

Among the speakers was Retina Specialist of the country and Director (Quality Assurance) LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

The others who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Eshita Gupta, Dr. Yugindu Raizada who gave an overview of the disease and its prevalence. Dr. Jalali gave an insight on Retinopathy of Prematurity, the incidence of which is on an increase due to lack of awareness leading to blindness among children. She laid emphasis on a joint and collaborative project involving the Ophthalmologists and Pediatricians of the Hospital



Retina Specialists along with Principal ASCOMS at an event.

to work together to overcome this fast growing disease and thereby preventing blindness in children.

Dr. Ashok Sharma Prof. & Head Ophthalmology Govt. Medical College, Jammu described the ever increasing incidence of ROP in population of Jammu and Kashmir as a morbidities hazard in years to come.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, the Chief Guest on the occasion described Dr. Subhadra Jalali as the pioneer in the field of Retinopathy of Prematurity and appreciated her efforts for creating awareness among the rural

folklore and preventing blindness in infants.

Dr. Jalali, the daughter of the soil was felicitated on the occasion by the Chief Guest in presence of the Organizing Secretary and Head of the Department Ophthalmology Dr. Renu Hashia and Dr. Ashok Sharma.

Others who attended in addition to the faculty of staff and ASCOMS were Dr. Manisha Sethi Prof. & Head Ophthalmology, Govt. Medical College, Kathua, Dr. Bhavani Raina Additional Prof. Ophthalmology All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu.