

# Dr Jitendra launches first-ever ‘Science Experience Centre’ at Hyderabad, dedicates it to StartUps

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
HYDERABAD: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the first-ever "Science Experience Centre" would contribute to realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat. He dedicated it to young minds and potential StartUps of India.

The Minister was addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of the first-ever "Science Experience Centre" and an exclusive "Biofuel Centre" in the premises of CSIR-IICT Hyderabad.

Dr. Jitendra said that the Science Experience Centre will definitely inspire the young minds of our nation and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas for StartUps. He further said that the culture will not move without science and science will not be fully accomplished without culture.

CSIR and NCSM with their proven expertise in



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after laying foundation stone of first-ever "Science Experience Centre" at CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad on Monday.

their respective areas and having overlapping objectives to promote science as a culture, and joining hands to setup Science Experience Center at CSIR-IICT's premises at Hyderabad, is an immense need of the country, he added.

The Minister said that CSIR addresses national needs through its innovative research, strong fundamental science, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, translation research, capacity building, and policy making. Dr. Jitendra said that the Government has been taking all the initiatives for

the development of a culture of science in the country. Events like the pandemic have only stressed the need to be equipped with science and technology and create awareness of society for science and scientific thinking, he said.

In this regard CSIR had played a crucial role in fighting against covid, particularly CSIR-IICT's role in developing adjuvant for Covid vaccine is highly appreciated. India is promoting experience-based learning and CSIR is one of the fore-runners, he added.

Saying Hyderabad

Pharma City (HPC) under making is the world's largest integrated cluster in Hyderabad, Dr. Jitendra said that for pharmaceutical industries with thrust on R&D and manufacturing

and the cluster has been recognized as National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) by Government of India, given its national and international importance. Developed at international standards, Hyderabad Pharma City will harness the true value of symbiotic co-existence across the pharmaceutical value chain, he added.

In this endeavor, creation of Science Centers and Science Cities in the country will also form the basis in nurturing future scientists of the country.

## Empyrean 2024: A ‘Magnificent Celebration of Artistic Brilliance, Inspiration’ concludes at IIM Jammu

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, conducted its annual cultural and management extravaganza, "Empyrean 2024" from March 1st to 3rd, 2024.

The event was formally inaugurated by Chief Guest R.R. Swain, Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, on 1st March 2024.

As IIM Jammu unfolded three action-packed days fest during Empyrean 2024, its annual cultural extravaganza, attendees experienced a diverse range of events and performances.

The second and third days of the cultural fest showcased captivating acts, leaving an indelible mark on all attendees.

The second day of Empyrean 2024 featured a dynamic lineup of events designed to engage and entertain participants. The



Bollywood sensation Ankit Tiwari performing at IIM Jammu.

day kicked off with IPL Auction 2.0, followed by the thrilling Leadership Challenge, where students showcased their oratory skills combined with leadership skills and problem-solving abilities and judged by an esteemed panel of media experts featuring Pardeep Datta, Senior Editor at Times Now, and Sominder Koul, Senior Journalist, ANI, Jammu along with Dr. Apurva Yadav, Co-Chairperson, Student

Affairs, and Dr. Gaana.J, Faculty, IIM Jammu.

The day further continued with the Solo Singing Competition, where talented vocalists mesmerized the audience with their melodious renditions. The highlight of the evening was the Envie Fashion Show, where students strutted the runway in stunning ensembles, showcasing their creativity and flair for fashion.

On this momentous occasion of Empyrean 2024, the

## XXVIII Biennial Workshop of AICRPDA, 11th Annual Review Meeting commences at SKUAST Jammu



Dr. S. K. Chaudhuri, DDG (NRM), ICAR and Dr. B. N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and other releasing annual report of AICRPDA, NICRA.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST-J) hosted the XXVIII Biennial Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) and 11th Annual Review Meeting of AICRPDA-NICRA.

Dr. S. K. Chaudhuri, DDG (NRM), ICAR was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Dr. B. N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu presided over the function.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Chaudhuri highlighted the pivotal role of irrigation and cultivation in shaping the ecosystem and emphasized the need for diversifying agriculture income through non-farm sources.

He also advocated for increased use of renewable energy sources and water harvesting to mitigate the

impact of deficit rainfall.

During his presidential address, Dr. Tripathi drew attention to the pressing issues of population growth, limited resources, climate change, and deforestation.

He stressed the importance of sustainable measures and discussed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on crop diversity and conservation.

Dr. Tripathi underscored the need to educate farmers on sustainable agricultural practices and soils and water conservation modules for Natural resource management.

He encouraged collaboration between the government, ICAR, and the scientific community to overcome challenges and promote sustainable agriculture. Dr. V. K. Singh, Director, CRIDA-ICAR put forth his remarks on the natural resource management and climate resilient agriculture.

Dr. Singh elaborated the extensive work done by CRIDA in the country. He advocated the use of proven technologies in rainfed conditions. Earlier, Dr. JVN Prasad, Project Coordinator, AICRPDA welcomed all the guests and also read out the project coordinator's report.

During the workshop annual report of AICRPDA, NICRA and success stories of Rakh Dhinsar and CRIDA-Hyderabad were released.

A farmer namely Gurdip Ram R/o Hoshiarpur, Punjab was also awarded for adoption and popularization of rain water harvesting and INM modules.

Dr. A.P. Singh, Chief Scientist, and Organizing Secretary presented the vote of thanks and Dr. Vivak Manohar Arya, Associate Professor, Soil Science conducted the proceedings of the programme.

## IEI Jammu celebrates World Engineering Day for sustainable development

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre on Monday celebrated the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on theme-"Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World".

The event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and corporate members along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

The day is celebrated worldwide on 4th March every year since 2020 as a UNESCO international day of celebration of Engineers and Engineering.



Er. Arun Aggarwal, ITS, Chief Guest on the occasion along with Prof. Dr. Bhawna Sharma, Chairman & Er. Sachin Tickoo, Honorary Secretary on the dais.

On this occasion, Arun Aggarwal, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunication, Jammu J&K (Ministry of Communications) was the Chief Guest, whereas Prof. (Dr.) Bhawna Sharma,

Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre presided over the function.

Prof. (Dr.) Bhawna Sharma said that the rapid technological progress including advancements in Artificial intelligence, internet of things

and renewable energy, empowers engineers to devise innovative and eco friendly solutions.

These emerging technologies are being leveraged to optimize resource use, improve environmental monitoring, and enable data driven decision making for sustainable development, she added.

Arun Aggarwal highlighted the role of engineers in achieving the goal in sustainable development through development of holistic solutions to the problems being faced by the mankind.

During the seminar, Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE, Er. Ajay Sharma, FIE; Er. B. L. Rawal, MIE; Er. Ranjeev

Sawheny, MIE; Er. Sumil Goyal, MIE Er. Joy Ganjoo, AM Technologist, Er. Lovneesh Talwar, HOD, YCET and Er. Rajnish Magotra, HOD, YCET Jammu presented their papers.

Er. Sachin Tickoo, MIE, Honorary Secretary conducted the proceedings of the event. He said this day offers an opportunity to highlight engineers and engineering's achievements in our modern world and improve public understanding of how engineering and technology are central to modern life and for sustainable development. He further presented the vote of thanks.

## BJP will win all 5 LS seats in J&K, no pre or post poll alliance: Raina

**■ MASROOR AHMAD**  
SRINAGAR: Ruling out any pre-poll alliance for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina on Monday said the party would not need even a post-poll alliance as it will sweep the elections in the Union territory.

Ravinder Raina said the party will win the upcoming Parliamentary elections at National level and also win all five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir with a clear majority.

Addressing a press conference at the party office at



BJPJ&K President Ravinder Raina talking to reporters.

Church Lane Srinagar, the BJP J&K president said the party will win all the five Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The BJP is fully prepared for any election, be it parliamentary or assem-

bly.

"Because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's peace and development efforts, we hope that Kashmiri's will respond with an open heart to the BJP's efforts in the upcoming elec-

tions", he said adding that the BJP will fight elections on its own, and will win because of the love and support of the people.

He extended open invitation for March 7 rally and appealed people to attend rally and welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi with open heart. He appealed Kashmiri's to come forward and participate in March 7 mega rally to be held at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address huge crowd of people. "Over 2 lac people are expected to participate in

the rally and I humbly appeal to people of Kashmir to come and participate in the rally as whole world is watching PM Modi's Kashmir visit," he said.

"On March 7 you will see hundreds of thousands of people at Bakshi Stadium. More than 2 lakh people are expected to attend the rally as PM Modi has written new chapters of peace and development in Jammu & Kashmir. Bollywood celebrities and international cricketers have recently visited the Kashmir valley and this happened due to efforts of Prime Minister Modi. Apart from this, a

meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group was held in Srinagar and mor international summits will be held here in the coming days".

He said that today the youth of new Kashmir are holding the Tricolour and making its name visible all over the world.

"The BJP flag has reached every household in the Kashmir valley. People are joining us in numbers. Our party has emerged as the single largest party in Jammu & Kashmir. Prime Minister Modi has worked for bright future of JK youth," he added.

## Mandeep Kaur assesses progress of works on waste treatment facility



Comm Secy HUDD, Mandeep Kaur inspecting the Waste Disposal site of JMC.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur on Monday inspected the Waste Disposal site of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) at Kot-Bhalwal here to assess the progress of works on under construction waste treatment facility.

During her inspection, the Commissioner Secretary was apprised about site plan and progress made till date on Integrated Solid Waste Management project of 350TPD being developed by NAFED.

The representatives of NAFED also informed the Commissioner Secretary on progress of Material Recovery Facility for handling dry waste and explained plan for upcoming Bio-digester for handling wet waste.

The Commissioner Secretary expressed her displeasure over slow progress of work and directed NAFED representatives to intensify their efforts to meet the project deadlines.

She also visited the waste dump site and assessed the requirement of bio remediation of the waste accumulated.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary also visited Central Jail Kot-Bhalwal to examine the waste management practices in place. She advised the Jail authorities to devise a solid waste management plan that could be sustained internally. Interacting with officers on the occasion, she emphasized on the importance of training inmates in waste management techniques, fostering an environment of self-sufficiency and rehabilitation. Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner JMC North, Health Officer JMC, Executive Engineer, AEE (M), representatives of NAFED and other senior officers also accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit.

## Div Com Jammu felicitates Veer Naris, Veterans

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, felicitated the soldiers and Veer Naris in a programme by Jain Community, here on Monday. The programme was aimed to inculcate Nationalistic feelings, through recital of the stories of the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers.

The programme started with the traditional ritual of lighting the lamp. The concept of programme "Eak Sham Sainik ke Naam" was explained by Brig Harcharan Singh, (National Administrator, NCCH-WO).



Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu felicitating soldiers and Veer Naris.

To associate the society with families of Veer Naris, many NGOs in

J&K have adopted Veer Naris, under Project NAMAN.

Brig Harcharan Singh appreciated efforts by SS Jain Sabha, Talab Tillo (President Giat Jain), IWC Jammu Tawi (President Gurvinder Kaur), IWC Jammu (President Manisha), Rotary Elite (President Jyoti Vaid) and Aditi Foundation (Pankaja). These Presidents were also present in the programme, along with their members.

He mentioned, it is a matter of pride that with a population of less than one percent, the Jain Community is managing significant welfare projects immensely to nation building.

The audience was further addressed by ID Soni, who mentioned about the importance given to the profession of soldiering by Indian Society.

A number of Patriotic songs and skits were presented by members of Jain Mahila Mandal, Talab Tiloo. Thereafter, our brave soldiers, Col VK Sahi, Vrc, Col RK Sharma, Capt Mohd Sadiq, and Capt Ghar Singh were felicitated by, Div Com Jammu.

The Veer Naris were felicitated with pride and thunderous applause to include Savita Devi, Reena Kaur, Rajni Kumari.

Prominent Citizens were felicitated for their commitment, dedication and contribution towards the society to include, ID Soni, Swatantra Agarwal and Er RS Gupta.

Ramesh Kumar appreciated the efforts made by Brig Harcharan Singh and Giat Nandan Jain to organize this unique event.

He explained that the teachings of Lord Mahavir and adoption of the concept of Ahimsa /respect to all living beings can make this world a better place to live. The Vote of Thanks was presented by Anoop Jain. Stage was managed by Anoop Jain, assisted by Chayya Jain.