

Dr Jitendra inaugurates landmark ‘In- SPACe’ centre to facilitate private investments, StartUps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AHMEDABAD: In a historic ceremony here on Tuesday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the landmark first-of-its-kind "In-SPACE" Technical Centre to facilitate private investments and StartUps in the Space sector. He was accompanied by ISRO Chairman, S.Somanath.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra said, India targets a five-fold increase in its share of the global space economy.

"India's Space economy today stands at a modest \$8 billion, but our own projection is that by 2040 it will multiply manifold. But more interesting is that according to some international observers, for example the recent ADL (Arthur D Little) Report mentions that we could have the potential of \$100 Billion by 2040," he said.

Dr Singh said India's quantum leap in the Space sector has only been possible after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the courageous decision to "unlock" this sector from the "veil of secrecy".

"Prime Minister Narendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, flanked by ISRO Chairman S.Somanath, inaugurating the first-of-its-kind "IN-SPACE" Technical Centre at Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Modi has broken taboos of the past by opening the Space sector to public-private-participation," he said.

"Even though talent was missing link of enabling milieu was created under the leadership of PM Modi. With the opening up of the Space sector, the common masses have been able to witness the launch of the mega Space events like Chandrayaan-3 or Aditya," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, four-five years back, we had just one digit Startups in the Space sector; today we have nearly 200 private Space Startups after opening up of the sector while the earlier ones of them have even turned entrepre-

neurs. There has been an investment of over Rs.1,000 crore by private Space Startups in the current financial year from April to December 2023, he said.

Dr Jitendra said, even though our Space Research programme started in the year 1969, the year when the US landed first man on the moon, we caught up fast with the Space faring nations and last year Chandrayaan-3 made a historic touchdown on the virgin lunar south polar region where nobody has landed before.

The Minister said PM Modi hiked the Space budget manifold and opened up the Space sector.

"If you see the Space

Budget alone, there is a 142% increase in the last nine years," he said, pointing out that there has been a three-fold or more hike in related budgets like Dept. of Science & Technology and Dept. Atomic Energy.

Dr Jitendra said this is possibly the best time for Innovators, R&D and Startups. PM Modi has delivered the right ecosystem that supports and augments Innovation, promotes entrepreneurship and fosters a thriving industry.

"And this is what has given the outcomes, - a multiple, manifold investment; so there is a huge synergy now between Research, Academia, Startups and

Industry," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, out of the 424 foreign satellites launched by ISRO since 1990s, more than 90% - 389 were launched in the last nine years.

Dr Jitendra said, the government has announced the Indian Space Policy 2023, which enables end-to-end participation of Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) in all domain of Space activities.

"The role of the private sector in advancing India's space technology and exploration efforts is undeniable. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre or IN-SPACe was created to support private sector participation in space activities. 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 utilisation support, Technology Transfer to NGEs," he said.



AIIMS Vijaypur hosts Research Methodology Workshops in collaboration with ICMR, NIE



Prof (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu and Dr. Manoj Murhekar, Director of NIE Chennai with others at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: AIIMS Vijaypur in a significant stride towards enhancing research excellence is organizing Research Methodology Workshops in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, and the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai from 4th to 8th March 2024 & 11th to 15th March 2024 at the main campus of AIIMS Vijaypur.

The Workshops were inaugurated by the Patrons, Prof (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu and Dr. Manoj Murhekar, Director of NIE Chennai.

The workshops stand as a testament to AIIMS Jammu's ongoing commitment to fostering excellence in research and development within the institution.

Dr. Shakti Gupta underscored the institution's dedication by highlighting that the faculty had already submitted more than 60 research proposals.

He expressed his belief that

the workshops would serve as a catalyst for enhancing the quality of research endeavors within the Institute.

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Sunil Kant, Dean (Research) and Organizing Chairman, expressed gratitude towards Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General of ICMR, and Dr. Manoj Murhekar for their collaborative efforts. He urged the faculty to seize the opportunity to learn from the expertise shared by instructors from NIE, aligning with AIIMS Jammu's trinity mission of Education, Research, and Patient Care.

The theme of this year's workshops, "Innovate, Investigate, and Inspire," was elaborated upon by Dr. Shabab L Angurana, Associate Dean (Research) and Co-organizing Chairman. Dr. Angurana commended the Research Section of AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu, for their dedication in organizing the workshops.

Dr. Shaurya Darbari, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and the Organizing Secretary of the

workshops extended a warm welcome to the faculty from NIE, emphasizing the importance of collaborative learning and exchange of expertise.

The workshops are designed to equip participants with essential research methodologies and include hands-on sessions & interactive discussions. It is structured to run in two batches from 4th to 8th March 2024 & 11th to 15th March 2024, allowing faculty members to balance their academic and patient care commitments effectively.

With the collaboration of esteemed Institutions like ICMR and NIE, the Research Methodology Workshops at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu serves as a pivotal platform for fostering a culture of research excellence and innovation. Participants are poised to gain invaluable insights and skills that will undoubtedly contribute towards advancing medical research and healthcare delivery in the region and beyond.

BJP led NDA to cross 400 mark & Congress to be below 40: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday exuded confidence that the National Democratic Alliance under the visionary leadership of Yashasvi Prime Minister Narendra Modi will secure a historic victory and surpass the 400-seat mark in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"While ensuring overwhelming mandate for the BJP with 370 seats, the nation has made up its mind to cut the obstructive and disruptive Congress to its size by reducing its tally in the Lok Sabha at all time low under 40 seats", Devender Rana said while addressing Karyakartas, including Mandal Presidents, Moreha Presidents, members of the election management committee of the Jammu North Assembly Constituency which was addressed among others by Omi



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana speaking at a party workers meeting.

Khajuria District President Jammu North, Shamsher Singh Manhas Former MP, Bodh Raj, Chairman DDC, Shiv Dev Singh Ex MLA and Sanjay Baru.

Devender Rana said that with a track record of transformative, transparent and accountable governance and commitment to progress of the country, the BJP is all set to gain once again the trust of the people. The BJP's vision for a strong, prosperous, and inclusive Bharat resonates deeply with the aspirations of millions of Indians across the country. From vibrant global reputation,

robust economic reforms to decisive actions on national security, the BJP's agenda reflects its unflinching commitment to serve every segment of Indian society as per cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. This mantra has already galvanized the people, with whose blessings, the nation has ushered in a new age of peace, progress and prosperity for the people. The BJP's vision for a strong, prosperous, and inclusive Bharat resonates deeply with the aspirations of millions of Indians across the country. From vibrant global reputation,

Vishwa Guru under Prime Minister Modi. Having graduated as fifth economy of the world, Yashasvi Modi's third term will make the compatriots proud of being the third economy in the next five years and Viksit Bharat by 2047. The comity of nations is watching India's growth story under Modi with interest, he maintained.

"While remaining focused on delivering the promises like abrogation of Article 370, abolition of triple talaq, empowerment of women, economic emancipation of under privileged and inclusive development across the regions, the BJP

is treading the path of building a strong and vibrant Bharat for generations to come", Rana said, adding that the BJP has been tirelessly working for the welfare of every citizen, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or region. He said the BJP is dedicated to upholding the values of unity and diversity that forms the bedrock of the unique identity of the nation, called Bharat.

Among others who were present occasion included Ashok Singh Manhas, Ajay Sharma, District General Secretary, Suresh Khajuria Mandal Pradhan Muthi-Paloura, Raveesh Mengi, Mandal Pradhan Janipur, Rakesh Singh, Mandal Pradhan Raipur-Domana, Vaishno Devi, State Vice President Mahila Moreha, Karan Singh, State Executive Member, Kamini Chopra, Prabhari Nagrota, Dilbadur Singh Jamwal, K.D Singh, Ex Corporators and Ex Sarpanchs.

HC rejects pre-arrest bail application of Asst Manager, J&K Bank in Rs 1.26 crore fraud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Justice Javed Iqbal Wani of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court rejected the pre-arrest bail application of Ishvinder Singh Ranyal, the then Assistant Manager J&K Bank Branch Pouni who was allegedly involved in fraud lent withdrawal of Rs 1.26 crores from the dormant bank accounts.

Facts emanating from the record would reveal that the Branch Manager of J&K Bank Branch Pouni District Reasi filed a written application in Police Station Pouni District Reasi addressed to the respondent 2 herein requesting for registration of an FIR against the petitioner herein being Assistant Manager (under suspension) Code-013698 on the premise that during a surprise visit by the Vigilance Officer of the Bank on November 22, 2023 in Branch Pouni, unauthorized debit entries from the deceased/inactive/unclaimed accounts were found and upon in depth investigation, it was observed that the petitioner herein while working as Assistant Manager in the Branch Pouni have had made fraudulent debits in various deceased, unclaimed and inactive accounts existing in the said branch and transferred the credit proceeds in his own account.

No. 0612020990013698 (Employees' CC Limit) and in Account No. 0544040100005912 of his wife, namely, Mrs. Satvinder Kour either directly or routed through Account No. 0845040100001476 of one Sher Mohd. and Account No. 0672040900006831 of one Narinder Kumar and some other accounts with total surfaced amount of Rs. 126.34

laes, having withdrawn the said amount for his personal gains causing wrongful loss to the bank and its customers thereby having committed various offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani after hearing both the sides observed that prima facie there is a material on record connecting the petitioner herein with the commission of the alleged offence, which cannot be overlooked or ignored by this Court while dealing with the instant application and a general contention of the petitioner that the case foisted against him is false, frivolous and vexatious cannot per se discredit the case set up against the petitioner by the respondents herein. The role of the petitioner in the commission of the alleged offence in the facts and circumstances is required to be left open to be investigated by the investigating agency which is required to be given a free hand to investigate the case from all angles. It is significant to mention here that the provisions of Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provide for discretion for grant of bail to a person apprehending arrest is an extraordinary power vested in this Court and has to be exercised only in exceptional cases where it appears that the person may be falsely implicated or there are reasonable grounds for holding that a person accused of an offence is not likely otherwise to misuse his liberty. For the aforesaid reasons, this court is of the considered opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to the concession of bail in anticipation of his arrest for the alleged offence punishable under Section 409 of the Indian Penal Code at this stage.

J&K Bank rolls out new digital offerings, enhances services in mPay Delight+ Today's roll-out is significant push towards accelerating our digital journey for enhanced customer convenience: Baldev

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Going ahead with its digital transformation for greater customer convenience, J&K Bank today rolled out the enhanced features of its mobile banking application along with Sound Box for QR Code, UPI Add-on Features, Doorstep Banking App for Business Correspondents and Online Car-loan Journey.

MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash launched the new digital offerings in presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers, DGMs and other senior officers here at the Bank's corporate headquarters. He also launched eOffice Mobile app - an internal application designed for digital movement of office notes.

Expressing satisfaction over the roll-out of much needed digital services for the Bank's customers, MD & CEO said, "This is the year of digital trans-



MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash launching new digital offerings.

formation for us. We see technology as a medium to give customers a real feel of how digitally empowered they are. With these enhancements in our flagship mobile app Mpay Delight+, we can give customers a proper 'Bank in Pocket' feel." "Today's roll-out is a significant push towards accelerating our

digital journey for enhanced customer convenience while making services swifter, safer and more inclusive. I feel particularly happy for rolling out Sound Box because it will further simplify payment acceptance for small vendors as well as big merchants across our core operational geography", he added.

Regarding the Doorstep Banking App for Business Correspondents (BC), he said that the introduction of robust digital intervention through this app will increase the number of facilities provided to the customers by the Bank's BCs, who have been playing a positive role in the mission of active financial inclusion in J&K and Ladakh. "As banking continues to evolve with the advent of new technologies, we remain ready to adapt the new digital innovations to ensure convenient, secure and efficient services for our customers", MD & CEO said.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, GM (Strategy) & IT Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat said, "It is a big day for Bank as far as digital journey is concerned. Through a battery of products we will be making our digital ecosystem more robust for our customers." "Sound Box is something our business community has been demanding for a long time. Our sound box is integrated with core banking solution instead of limiting it to UPI transactions only. This is where ours is unique in many ways. And with added features, UPI global can be used at international destinations having UPI services availability", he said. DGM (IT & Business Process Re-engineering) M. Muzzafar Wani highlighted the features of rolled out digital services. He said, "MPay Delight+ continues to evolve and customers can now register nomination as well as for SMS Service. To save their time along with hassles of processing, the app will

now showcase pre-approved loans for the eligible customers. Moreover, GST and income tax portals can also be accessed through the app."

"In a first, we have made our Car-loan journey end-to-end online and will soon extend it for home loans as well. Besides, customer grievance portal has been integrated with the application for efficient disposal of complaints. And more such offerings are in the offing to ensure smooth and seamless mobile banking services for our valuable customers", he added.

Meanwhile, streamlining the processes by reducing the need for physical paper for official work, the newly launched eOffice Mobile App will ensure the movement of office files, documents and notes digitally within the Bank and will go a long way in enhancing efficiency, promoting eco-friendliness in the Bank's day to day operations.

Jammu embarks on spiritual journey with Chetna Yatra ahead of Mahashivratri celebrations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A vibrant procession, the "Chetna Yatra," marked the beginning of religious fervor in Jammu today. This spiritual event serves as a prelude to the grand Mahashivratri Mahotsav at the renowned Panjvaktra Mahadev temple.

Dedicated to the revered Devta Bawa Kaliveer Ji, a figure transcending religious and communal boundaries, the procession drew enthusiastic participation from devotees across all walks of life. Bawa Kaliveer Ji, symbolized by light, a sword, a black horse, and an umbrella, is believed to embody various divine figures throughout history, including Sheshnag, Balarama, and Baba Kaliveer.

The Chetna Yatra was organized by the Panjvaktra Mahadev Temple Committee. Several other social and religious organizations, including



Chetna Yatra being taken out by devotees at Jammu on Tuesday.

representatives from the Sanatan Dharam Sabha, and various bazaar associations, also took active part in the Yatra.

Earlier, Pooja was performed by Ex-Session Judge Suresh Kumar Sharma, Caretaker, Panjvaktra Mahadev temple along with Sanatan Dharam Sabha President Parshotam Dadhichi, National Executive Member and former BJP Minister, Priya Sethi, former

Mayor JMC, Narinder Singh Jamwal (Raju), BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, former Corporator, Sanjay Mahey, BJP OBC Moreha President Sunil Prapajatti, former Chairman, Swachh Bharat Mission, Gopal Gupta, Sr. BJP leader, Anu Gupta and all bazaar associations' presidents and prominent citizens.

Dressed in traditional attire like pajamas, kurtas, purnas, and pagdis, devotees from all

walks of life came together to celebrate their devotion to Devta Bawa Kaliveer Ji.

The procession served as a powerful symbol of unity, bringing together people from various religions, communities, and backgrounds. It was a testament to Jammu's rich cultural tapestry and its welcoming spirit.

The Receiver of Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Suresh Kumar Sharma highlighted the

outpouring of devotion and the sense of unity resonating throughout the procession.

Thousands of devotees, comprising prominent citizens, heads of social and religious organizations participated in the Chetna Yatra. The Jyot Procession was welcomed by all Bazar associations on the route. They showered flowers on the Holy Jyoti.

The procession commenced from the Rupaye-wala Mandir itself, weaving its way through the heart of Jammu. It passed by prominent landmarks like Rajinder Bazaar, Shahidi Chowk, Residency Road, Raghunath Bazaar, City Chowk (Bharat Mata Chowk), and Kanak Mandi before returning to its starting point, the Panjvaktra Mahadev.

More than just signifying the commencement of Mahashivratri festivities, the

Chetna Yatra extended a warm welcome to the public to actively participate in the grand celebrations at the Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir. It served as a powerful symbol of communal joy and spiritual unity, fostering a sense of togetherness among the diverse participants.

The culmination of the Yatra at the Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir marks the official beginning of the much-anticipated Mahashivratri Mahotsav starting from 06th March to 08th March. The coming days promise a vibrant tapestry woven with spiritual fervor; captivating cultural events, and a strong sense of community spirit. An invitation is extended to all devotees and the public to join the festivities. Seek blessings from Devta Bawa Kaliveer Ji and be part of the communal spirit that defines Jammu's Mahashivratri celebration.