High-level US delegation meets Dr Jitendra, seeks deeper bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI: A high level US delegation, led by US Senator Todd Young, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Technology; Science & State Minister (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; PMO, Personnel, Public Pensions, Grievances. Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh and sought deeper bilateral cooperation with India in wide range of areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum, Cyber Semiconductor. Clean Energy, Advanced Wireless, Biotechnology, Geosciences, Astrophysics and Defence,

Dr Jitendra told the US Delegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the last 9 years, took personal interest in Science, Technology and Innovation, and tried pro-actively to implement social sector schemes through science based solutions to bring Ease of Living for the common

The Minister said, the patronage received from Modi has opened new opportunities and possibilities in all areas of scientific endeav-



A high-level US delegation, led by US Senator Todd Young, calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block, New Delhi

ours, but more so in areas of Space, Biotech, Geospatial and Sustainable StartUps. He pointed out that since 2014, in every Independence Day speech, PM Modi has flagged key scientific challenges and projects like Hydrogen Cleanliness, Mission, Digital Health Care system, Deep Ocean Mission, Clean Energy and StartUps.

Senator Todd Young suggested scaling up collaboration and exploring opportunities to partner in quantum technology, ocean science, nuclear energy, semiconductors, supercomputing and other latest emerging technologies

An official from the Department of Science and Technology informed the Minister that a total of 35 joint projects have been identified which will be implemented by the Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) and research institutions from the USA. Six TIHs under NM-ICPS have been identifor collaborative research and development with NSF-supported institutions. The Hubs are part of a five-year, nearly \$430 million investment by DST under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems and comprise academic researchers

and industry partners. Additionally, the Indo-U.S. joint clean Energy R&D programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of and the U.S. India Department of Energy which has been ongoing.

Senator Todd Young

additional manpower and

machineries. He instructed the

officers to carryout site clean-

ing, plantation, greening,

enrichment and beautification

in the U.S. LIGO-India will work in tandem with them.

The Minister and the Senator were also informed about five potential areas of collaboration between Geological Survey of India United and States Geological Survey for setting in place an MoU.

Dr Jitendra Singh also promised complete support from the Science and Technology Ministry for Indo-US collaboration in budding and promising StartUps in Bio-tech, Dairy and Agri-tech sectors.

Dr Jitendra said, these are the best of the times for both India and America to forge a durable and strong bond for global leadership in fighting global challenges. He said, there is much of ease in the relationships and a clear sign of willingness and optimism to achieve the desirable goals. The Minister hoped that the US will come to the aid of its natural ally (the oldest and largest democracies of the world) when it comes for technology transfer in critical areas, as there is no other option but to collaborate.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and other senior functionaries of the Department of S&T and Department of Atomic Energy joined the



Glowing tributes paid to Dr B R Ambedkar

Making India Vishwa Guru best tribute to Babasaheb: Rana



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and others taking out a rally at Nagrota.

Deeraj Gupta inspects dev works at Jambu Zoo



Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Deeraj Gupta inspecting development works at Jambu Zoo.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Ecology Environment, Deeraj Gupta, on Friday inspected development works being executed in Jambu Zoo which is expected to be dedicated to the general

Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, briefed about various ongoing works in the

He apprised the Principal Secretary of the status of critical Zoo infrastructures such as animal enclosures, power supactivities simultaneously, in and around whole zoo infra-Principal Secretary asked the

officers to detail the "in-house" animal shifting plan of Manda Mini Zoo animals to the New Jambu Zoo based on the evaluation carried out by Central Zoo Authority (CZA) experts. He asked for expediting clearances' from CZA and Ministry of Defense respectively for water supply right of way passing through defense area.

Deeraj Gupta asked the department's officials, engineers, contractors and service providers to put in their best effort to make zoo operationally ready by last week of April for trial run. Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Wildlife Warden, Jambu Zoo and other senior officers of department of wildlife protection and representatives of executing agencies were present on the occa-

Louisiana and Washington Pargal lauds, felicitates STATE TIMES correspondent



Sanjeev Pargal President PCJ honouring STATE TIMES correspondent Pardeep Bakshi on being elected as President Press Club Udhampur.

STATE TIMES NEWS

informed that the US looks

forward to a greater synergy

and collaboration between

Hubs and National Science

Foundation as NSF has a

foundation of academic

expertise and core commer-

Talking about another area

Jitendra Singh said that he

was happy to inform that

the Union Cabinet has

approved the LIGO-India

project to build an advanced

gravitational-wave detector

in Maharashtra at an esti-

mated cost of Rs 2,600

crore. The facility's con-

struction is expected to be

completed by 2030. The

observatory will be the third

of its kind, made to the exact

specifications of the twin

Laser Inter ferometer

Gravitational-wave

Observatories (LIGO), in

collaboration, Dr

Technology

cial competencies.

launched

Innovation

JAMMU: President Press Club Jammu Sanjeev Pargal on Friday honoured STATE TIMES correspondent Pardeep Bakshi, newly elected President Press Club Udhampur.

Pargal expressed his satisfaction on selection of Pradeep Bakshi as President of Press Udhampur. He assured full support to Bakshi to

nalists for the betterment fraternity

Appreciating Pradeep Bakshi as senior correspondent of STATETIMES, Pargal said, "Pardeep is performing his duty well in professional ethical manners and his selection as President Press Club Udhampur is

JAMMU: Describing Dr B R

STATE TIMES NEWS

Ambedkar as Yugpurash and a great reformer, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday called for working towards strengthening the unity, harmony and brotherhood to steer India to become the Vishwa Guru.

Leading a 15 kms rally from Domail Chowk to Kapotha in Nagrota constituency in paying homage to the architect of the Constitution of India after the culmination of a grand rally, Rana said the unity in diversity is India's greatest strength.

He also addressed a largely attended gathering at All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha at Dogra Hall, Jammu organized to pay homage to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Kali Dass Ambedkar. Panotra, President All J&K Mahasha Sadar Sabha, Narsing Dass Rajwal, Darshan Lal Vice President BJP SC Morcha, J&K and

Rana said the great legal luminary, visionary and statesman has left an indelible mark by his remarkable service to the nation while working towards creating a society based on social justice and ameliorating the lot of down trodden and weaker

He said the Messiah of the poor and downtrodden is also being remembered for laying a sound and stable base of democracy in the country. The ideology of the legendary leader is humane, which needs to be emulated and carried forward by working for fulfillment of his ideals, he Rana said that Babasahab

had an unflinching commitment towards national pride and his tireless contribution brought about a revolutionary transformation in Indian social order and helped in carving out a society based on equality, justice with opportunities to prosper and progress for all. His contribution in the evolution of democracy and framing up of the Indian Constitution helped hugely in creating opportunities in every sphere of activity for the poor people in general and weaker sections in particular, which made a big turnaround in the politico-social landscape of India.

"Let's resolve to carry forward the mission of Babasaheb and imbibe the spirit of oneness which alone can lead the nation towards peace, progress and prosperity. He said Babasaheb belonged to India, who lived for India and envisioned a great future for the nation.

for a harmonious society and shun the tendencies of discriminating the people on the basis of religion or caste. "We should not forget that we are humans", he said and referred to the glorious civilization of India that remained a torch bearer of human values and inclusiveness in the true spirit of Vasudeva Kutumbakam.

Later, Devender Rana also participated in Baisakhi Parv at Aap Shambu Temple at Malpur in Nagrota constituency and greeted the people on the auspicious occasion and prayed for peace, progress and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir. Among others who were

present on these occasion included Rameshwar Dutt. Co-Convener Panchayati Raj Cell, J&K, Dilbahadur Singh Jamwal, Incharge BJP's Swach Bharat Abhiyan, Kulbushan Singh, Kuldeep Sharma, Mohd Sadiq, Kuldeep Sharma (Sukha), Sohan Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Deepu, Balwant Singh, Shiv Ram, Pritam Singh, Arjun Raiwal Birbal, Chaman Lal Manyal, Som Nath, Tarsem Chand, Capt Romesh , Kamal Kishore, Tilak Raj, Vijay Mangotra, Shammi Naryal, Keshav, Narayan, Vashno Dutt and

Div Com reviews Machail Yatra arrangements, holds grievance redressal camp at Padder

ply, amphitheatre, animal

kitchen, animal hospital, staff

quarters, main entrance gate,

orientation centre, ticketing

counters. Souvenir shop, kiosk,

cafeteria, view points, Jammu

Di Dhakki, toilets and other

Deeraj Gupta, while noticing

significant progress achieved,

directed the department to

expedite balance work on park-

ing area, roads, Sulabh

Interpretation Centre, shelter

sheds, herbivore pathway and

related works by deploying

Nature

public amenities.

shauchalava.



with officials in Padder

STATE TIMES NEWS

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Friday reviewed the arrangements for Shree Machail Mata Yatra and also held a public grievances redressal camp at

Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav also participated in the door opening ceremony of Shree Machail Mata ji Temple, Paddar on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi Festival.

The ceremony also marked the shifting of the Murti of Goddess Machail Mata (Durga) from the house of local devotees Pehalwan Singh to the temple amid necessary rituals and a grand fair.

Div Com and Deputy Commissioner, along with other attendees including SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal; ADC Inderject Singh Parihar; ASP Rajinder Singh; SDM Paddar Rishi Kumar Sharma, officials of Shree Machail Mata ji Yatra Cell, civil administration and police besides the pries and locals paid obeisance and offering at the shrine on the occasion.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra begins on July 25 every year but owing to the significant rush of devotees, the Yatra may begin earlier this year.

During the visit, the Div Com Jammu and Deputy Kishtwar Commissioner assessed the infrastructure gaps at Machail Bhawan and issued necessary directions to concerned departments/ authorities, including PHE, JPDCL, R&B, and PMGSY, to address the same before the upcoming Yatra.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also listened to the demands of locals who among others demanded repair of Kundhail Bridge and upgradation of infrastructure.

The Div Com said that work on Kundail bridge has already been tendered out and will be completed in a month's time. He also assured the public that the will be completed in a stipulated time.

Pertinent to mention that earlier the other day, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, along with other district & sectoral officers, concerned executing officers, and Machail Mata Yatra Cell officials trekked about 26 Kms from Kundhail by foot to reach Shree Machail Mata Bhawan to personally assess all developmental projects and infrastructure needs that would ensure the convenience and safety of pilgrims en-route during the Yatra time.

Apart from this, Div Com Jammu attended Baisakhi Festival celebration organized by the District Administration Kishtwar in collaboration with JK Tourism, Indian Army, and BRO here at Gosi riverside of Atholi Paddar.

Div Com along with DC, SSP,ADDC and local PRIs inspected the stalls exhibiting local products and cuisines and other recreational activities like river rafting, beach volleyball, rapling, zip-line, traditional wrestling (Dangal), Tug of War, and day-night cricket matches which were organised as part of the Utsav.

Earlier, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal along with ADDC Kishtwar Sham Lal, DDC councilor Paddar, Hari Krishan Chouhan and other officers, flagged off the Bullet Bike Rally comprising the bikers of CRPF and Bike Club group Jammu from the Cliffhanger on the Paddar Sansari Road (Asia's second most dangerous road).

The Vibrant Baisakhi Utsav was aimed to promote the local tradition and natural beauty of Paddar areas. The people of Paddar hope that the administration would conduct more such events in the future for the uplift and highlight the local culture and tourism potential of Paddar.

Udhampur.

Club

appreciable for the upliftment of journalism in the

Baisakhi celebrated with fervour at Kanshi Dam Gadigarh

Baisakhi symbol of unity inherent in cultural diversity of India: Bhalla

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shri Shri 1008 Saguru Baba Kanshi Dev Ji Trust, Gadigarh on celebrated Baisakhi festival with religious fervour and gaiety at Kanshi Dam, Gadigarh.

Hundreds of devotees gathered at Kanshi Dham. Mahant Rakesh Bali on the occasion delivered religious sermons. JKPCCWorking President Raman Bhalla also participated in celebration as Chief Guest. President Saguru Baba Kanshi Dev Ji Trust, Gadigarh Dr Padam Dev Raina welcomed all the guests. Swami Umesha Nand Ji Maharaj, Swami Balbir Shastri Ji and others mesmerized devotees with Bhajans Satsang.

Mahant Rakesh Bali addressing devotees said that to become divine or great, one must give up

He said that purity, patience and perseverance overcome all obstacles. Having moral values and

suspicion, jealousy, conceit and learn to work unitedly for the common good. Courage, faith in oneself and in God, patience and steady work are the way to success.

learning is just building having a strong root; for the body, having a healthy

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and Mahant Rakesh Bali addressing gathering. root will help in having

healthy leaves branches, he said. Mahant observed that students today are so much into studies and games but somewhere moral teachings becomes compulsory as it gives them a proper shape and direction as how to act or react during various diffi-

cult situations. Moral values need to be inculcated in all age groups especially in young children as it is said young minds are empty just as a plain white sheet so whatever mark we leave the impression remains for years.

Education is not aimed at obtaining only a degree, it includes necessary value based teachings which result in character and building social

improvement too, added Mahant.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that Baisakhi is a symbol of unity inherent in the cultural diversity of India and are also an occasion to celebrate our farmers.

Our farmers should always be at the centre of our gratitude as they not only produce food grains for us but also bring us food security and prosperity through their tireless

He prayed this festival furthers the spirit of joy and well-being in our lives. He wished everyone be blessed with success and prosperity and this New Year be filled with an abundance of happiness and spirit of brotherhood in our society be furthered and may everyone be in

the best health.

Bhalla said that festivals are an integral part of our diverse culture and traditions, symbolizing the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood.

festivals Celebrating from diverse religions also promotes communal harmony and also leads to effective socialization. It is very important to know about your culture and past, festivals in one way or the other help to teach us about our past and civilization.

Bhalla said that as we celebrate the abundance of nature and the blessings of a bountiful harvest, we must take a moment to reflect on our relationship with Mother Nature and our responsibility to preserve and protect the natural resources

We must also acknowl-

edge, with deepest respect and gratitude, the dedication of our farmers who work tirelessly to provide us with food and nourishment.

On this auspicious occasion, let us strengthen our commitment to the values of unity, diversity, and inclusivity that define our great nation. Let us celebrate our differences and embrace our shared humanity, added Bhalla.

Greeting Sikh community on the occasion of Baisakhi, Bhalla called upon the devotees to follow the teachings of Guru Granth Sahib which stands for national integration, communal harmony, brotherhood and peace to the whole human-

Each festival that is celebrated in our country is also associated with a story from the Puranas that gives an insight into the deeper spiritual significance of every festival as well as the underlying the celebration. The festivals are not really for just

holidays. Every festival has its own meaning and related beautifully to life and brings in lots of happiness, colour and prosperity to our lives, added Bhalla.