

## 'Agniban' another milestone in India's Space StartUp journey: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that "Agniban" marks another milestone in India's Space StartUp journey which took off in a big way only few years ago with the opening of India's space sector for private participation after a revolutionary decision to this effect was taken at the highest level with the indulgence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Speaking after the successful launch, Dr Jitendra Singh also congratulated Team "Agnikul", the private StartUp which had worked with the ISRO to achieve today's feat. On the



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after launch of "Agniban" Rocket from Sriharikota on Thursday.

occasion, he also recalled an earlier launch by a private StartUp by "Skyroute" in 2022.

Hailing the successful launch of Agniban Rocket with the world's first Single Piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine,

Dr Jitendra Singh, in a congratulatory message to ISRO posted by him on 'X' (formerly Twitter), described it as the "showcasing of 'India Space Ingenuity'".

Pertinent to mention,

Agnibaan SORTeD (Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator) lifted off at 7.15 am on Thursday in a mission of many firsts. While it is the second launch by a private StartUp in India, it is the first to use a private launch pad that the company has set up at the country's only operational spaceport at Sriharikota. "Agnikul" Cosmos Private Limited is an Indian aerospace manufacturer, a StartUp, based in National Center for Combustion R&D of IIT Madras, Chennai.

With the opening of India's space sector for wider participation for both public as well as private sectors, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has demon-

strated its ability to be a world leader in the space sector. Today's achievement also showcases the brilliance of our young innovators, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that the mission was about to reach a height of 8 Kms before splashing it into the sea.

Meanwhile, the Team 'Agnikul' hopes to conduct its first orbital launch which will be able to carry satellites into the orbit of the earth. They hope to provide this launch by next year. The other private launch StartUp by Skyroute which provided its first orbital launch in 2022 will also likely undertake an orbital launch in the months to come.



## Bhalla, Sharma visit hospital, meet injured

### Seek air lifting of seriously injured for specialized treatment, adequate compensation



JKPCC leaders Raman Bhalla and Ravinder Sharma enquiring the condition of injured in GMC Jammu.

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JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla along with Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma visited hospital on Thursday on hearing about the bus tragedy and enquired about the condition of injured in the accident admitted in GMC hospital. They enquired from the doctors about the treatment and offered to render all possible help to the hospital authorities and requested for special-

ized treatment to the seriously injured by airlifting to outside hospitals, as required.

The authorities sought help of the society for arranging blood for which the leaders also issued an appeal to the people.

They expressed sympathies with the injured and assured all help to the pilgrims. Some of the passengers told them that the bus was heavily overloaded which is one of the cause of accident. Later talking to reporters, Bhalla expressed

deep shock over the huge loss of precious lives and demanded a time bound exemplary punishment to the culprits including the contractor and owner of the bus including suspension of permit after preliminary enquiry.

The party demanded adequate compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the families of the deceased and Rs 10 lakh to seriously injured. They also appealed for blood donation by the youth to save precious lives.

## CS reviews progress on implementation of new criminal laws in J&K

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high level meeting of senior functionaries in Home, Police and Law Departments to assess preparations being made for implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K recently passed by the Parliament. Principal Secretary, Home, Director General Prisons, ADGP, Headquarters, Director Prosecution, Secretary Law, Director FSL and other concerned officers attended the meeting while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the capacity building and training of concerned staff, conducted so far. He emphasised the need for collaborative efforts of all stakeholders for effective implementation of these laws in the UT. Dulloo asked about the



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting of senior functionaries.

status of dissemination of relevant informative material regarding the new laws being among the police officers and different sections of the society including women and students for their awareness. He also asked about different logistic measures and technological upgradations to be made for better implementation of these laws on ground. He took stock of the necessary amendments to be incorporated in Police Manual. He asked about the status of issuing differ-

ent Statutory Orders (SOs) in this regard. He enquired about the changes to be made in rationalization or creation of posts, seeking of clarifications from the Law Department and integration of different portals with the rechristened apparatus of law enforcement agencies.

In its presentation, the Police Department threw light on different initiatives being taken for smooth implementation of these laws. It was revealed that capacity building and

training of staff, deployment of additional manpower and upgradation of hardware and technological interventions are being planned as part of implementation strategy for these new laws.

It was informed that till date nearly 6984 police personnel have been trained in the training institutions in addition to orientation of 106 prosecutors. Besides, it was apprised that 72 officers are going to attend the batch-wise training pro-

gram at CAPT, Bhopal along with 30 officers from the Judicial Academy.

The meeting further deliberated on the plan for establishment of district mobile forensic units as per provisions of the act. It also had discourse over the changes to be made in Prisons, Prosecution and other allied Departments. It was revealed that the committees and study groups have been constituted for having insights into these laws and framing a roadmap to implement these in the UT.

Pertinently, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam had been recently notified by the MHA for implementation from July, 2024. These would replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.

## Secy Health reviews implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in J&K

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SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Thursday reviewed implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat.

The Secretary emphasized creation of a Project Management Unit under ABDM in the UT. He directed all officers and officials to work hard in order to guarantee that ABDM is fully implemented across the J&K. He directed the authorities to expedite the process of establishment of Project Management Unit under ABDM on schedule in order to avoid any delay in implementation of ABDM ecosystem in public and private



Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah chairing a meeting.

health facilities throughout the UT.

Highlighting the importance of digital interventions in healthcare delivery, Dr. Abid Rasheed stressed on utilization of technology to expedite and enhance the quality of healthcare services for patients in need. He directed the officers to identify the stakeholders and challenges that impede effective

adoption of digital health ecosystem. He also asked for outlining a roadmap to achieve this vision for all the stakeholders in the ABDM ecosystem.

The Secretary emphasized the necessity for all officers to work in coordination to improve the process of digitalization in the healthcare system besides elevating the quality of facilities being

given to patients in hospitals through this technological revolution in medicare across the UT.

Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan delivered a detailed presentation highlighting various aspects of the Mission, encompassing status of ABDM in the UT, manpower in Project Management Unit under ABDM, upcoming infra-

structure, targets achieved and operational status of HMIS (JK e-Sahaj) in Public Health Facilities across J&K.

Mission Director also highlighted the achievements of ABDM in terms of Health Professional Registry of Doctors and Nurses, Health Facility Registry, Digital Health Incentive Scheme, Scan & Share (QR code-based OPD registration Service), overview on Microsite project under ABDM in J&K, ongoing Capacity Building trainings and IEC in all districts of the UT.

Among others the meeting was attended by various senior officers including the Additional Mission Director, ABDM, FA/CAO, ABDM, Consultants ABDM and other officers of ABDM, J&K.

## Agri Dept celebrates first Int'l Day of Potato

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JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmer Welfare, Jammu on Thursday celebrated the first-ever International Day of Potato, recognizing the importance of this versatile crop consumed by over one billion people globally. In December 2023, the UN General Assembly proclaimed May 30 as the International Day of Potato, acknowledging its status as a vital food source. Potatoes are eaten by more than one billion people around the world.

The UN had declared "In 2024, we mark the first International Day of Potato by focusing on the contribution of the potato to the lives of producers and consumers with the timely theme: 'Harvesting diversi-

ty, feeding hope."

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. A.S Reen, in his address, underscored the pivotal role of potatoes in the region's agricultural landscape, praising the efforts of farmers in cultivating this vital crop. He emphasized the significance of harnessing agricultural diversity to address global food security challenges.

Highlighting the significance of potato cultivation in the region, the Director delineated the distinctive sowing seasons. In the hilly terrains of Jammu, potato planting spans from April to May covering approximately 900 hectares. Conversely, in the plain areas, the sowing window extends from September to October, encompassing around 2000 hectares of land. The Director elabo-

rated on the prevalent varieties cultivated, including Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Himalini, Kufri Surya, Kufri Badshah, and the newly introduced variety, Lady Rosetta. He emphasized the adoption of modern mechanized techniques for both cultivation and harvesting processes, highlighting the potential for enhanced production.

He further highlighted the array of projects initiated by the Department of Agriculture Jammu to bolster agricultural practices and augment the welfare of local farmers.

Small-scale and family farming production of the potato, particularly by rural farmers, including women farmers, supports efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and achieve food security.

## Facilities, security scenario at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine reviewed

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REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, who is also the Vice Chairman of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), on Thursday convened a comprehensive meeting to review the facilities and security enroute the shrine. The meeting also assessed the facilities for pilgrims especially in view of increased rush.

The DDC emphasized the importance of registering every pilgrim with their Aadhaar card at all registration counters. He announced the opening of two additional registration counters, one at the Bus Stand and another at the TRC building.

Executive Officer SSKSB, Pardeep Kumar was instructed to submit a proposal for the installation of exhaust fans within the shrine and beautification of the track. He asked to explore the possibility of installing fans from the checkpoint to the shrine and the identification of land for a pony stand. He also called for regular cleanliness of the track, drains and toilets, besides replacement and repair of defective CCTV cameras to enhance security.

The Executive Engineer PHE was asked to ensure uninterrupted water supply along the track and near the shrine. The concerned executive agency was directed to expedite the completion of the Yatri Niwas and bathing Ghat.



DDC Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan visiting Shiv Khori shrine.

Additionally, BMO Pouni was tasked with providing adequate health facilities near the shrine and establishing a community health center at the taxi stand.

The PDD was asked to prepare estimates for installation of a solar power system to facilitate uninterrupted electricity supply to the shrine and along the track. To regulate the movement on the track, the DDC directed to allow only registered horse owners to operate and cancel licenses of violators.

During the visit to the shrine, he also reviewed the security requirements with the Shrine Board, Police and CRPF officers. After thorough discussion, the meeting decided to introduce technological interventions like facial recognition cameras and use of RFID for the yatris and stakeholders.

Later, the DDC conducted a comprehensive inspection of the under construction Government Degree College campus building at Pouni. He asked the College management to shift the classes to the new premises from July onwards.

During the inspection, the

DDC directed the executive agency to expedite the completion of all pending works, including water supply, electricity and other essential amenities.

Assistant Commandant CRPF Sanjay Kr. Singh, Tehsildar Pouni Sahil Randhawa, Principal GDC Pouni, XEN PHE and PDD, BMO, SHO Ramsos, BDO and other concerned officers were present.

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## Opposition must get ready for 'shock' on June 4 as BJP's victory becomes inevitable: Kavinder

### Expresses shock over loss of lives in Kalidhar Bus Accident

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday asserted that all the opposition parties should get ready for a big shock on June 4 as the Saffron Party's resounding victory has become inevitable with people transforming their support into votes for the party. The BJP stalwart leader was addressing a public meeting at Qadian Assembly Constituency in district Gurdaspur and later held door to door campaigning for party candidate Dinesh Singh Bablu contesting election from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat. Kavinder declared that the opposition, especially the INDIA Bloc, will receive a decisive reply on June 4, the day of



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta and other at election meeting in Gurdaspur.

counting, as a thumping majority for the BJP has become foreseeable after considering the overwhelming response of the electorate starting from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. "Modi government has implemented numerous development initiatives that have brought unprecedented progress and stability across the country. From infrastructure projects to

social welfare schemes, the impact of BJP government's policies is visible in every corner of the country", he said, adding that people are prudent and therefore supporting BJP in all parts of the country to ensure that the development and stability continue to add goodness into their lives unlike the regimes steered by opposition parties in the past, leading to

misery and morass for all. Later, the senior BJP functionary from J&K interacted with traders and representatives of various market associations seeking support for the party to pace-up progress of the country by propelling things in a positive direction. He said

that Gurdaspur is BJP's bastion and therefore the people here should ensure that security deposits of the opposition candidates must be forfeited.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta expressed profound grief and shock over the tragic bus accident near Kalidhar area of Akhnour. He conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families, expressing the profound sorrow that has gripped the community in the wake of this devastating loss. He offered his heartfelt prayers for the eternal peace of the departed souls and extended his sympathy to those who have been left behind to grapple with this immense tragedy.

## Power shutdown

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JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Banihal, Ramsos, Neel, Ukhrul, Thathar and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 02 from 9 am to 5 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Industrial Estate Digiana, Jeevan Nagar, Babiliana, Gangwal and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 03 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Ghagwal, Jatwal, Naran, Randhwal and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 01 from 5 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Bainglad, Basantar, Raipur and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 31 from 5 am to 9 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Kangwala and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 01 and 03 from 5 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Raipur and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 02 and 05 from 5 am to 9 am.

Likewise, the power supply to BB Town, Kahehach, Old Complex Industry, Sarore Local, Sarore Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 02 from 5 am to 10 am.