

India, USA break new ground in 'Space': Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: "In a nutshell, it should suffice to say that India and the USA are to break new ground in the "Space". And, the credit goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, during the last 9 years, took a series of unorthodox and path-breaking decisions, which enabled India to achieve a quantum jump in our Space sector capabilities, as a result of which the USA which had begun its space journey several years before us is today seeking collaboration with us as an equal partner.

This was stated here today by Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, while briefing the media about several significant decisions and agreements accomplished during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing USA visit, especially with relation to signing of "Artemis Accord" and Joint Indo-US mission to the International Space Station in 2024.

Dr Jitendra said, could anything give us greater pride than to realise that the country like USA which landed the first human benign on the surface of Moon when we were singing nursery rhymes about Moon is today seeking our inputs and our expertise on Moon mission.

Explaining to the media, the Minister said, the purpose of the Artemis Accord is a common vision with USA and other countries via principles, guidelines and best practices so that we could supplement each other's activities for peaceful purposes with transparency and also work together for avoiding harmful activities.

On the other hand, the joint mission to the



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media about important decisions taken during PM Narendra Modi's ongoing USA visit, at New Delhi.

International Space Station, said Dr Jitendra Singh, which is separate of signing of Artemis Accord will develop a framework for joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024, which the USA envisages as the possibilities of closer cooperation between the space agencies of the two countries to get closer to the realities of Moon and subsequent to Mars and other planets.

As for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra informed that on Semiconductors, Micon will

invest 800 Million Dollars with additional financial support from the Indian government. Similarly, the US Quantum Consortium has welcomed and invited the Indian Quantum industry as its members.

The agreement signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic US visit between India and the US on cooperation in Space Research will take our bilateral relations to a new high, Dr Jitendra Singh said today.

"As PM Modi said, 'Even sky is not the limit for cooperation with the US', the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra said, India will contribute to the International Space Station next year as part of the India-US collaboration in the Space Science field. US President Joe Biden has already confirmed this in the White House after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Dr Jitendra Singh said ISRO is likely to team up with NASA as it plans to return to the moon with a manned mission by 2025.

The joint statement by India and the United States during PM Modi's ongoing visit said NASA would provide "advanced training" to Indian astronauts at one of its facilities.

ISRO and NASA are realizing a joint satellite mission called NISAR (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) for earth science studies. As part of ISRO's prestigious Gaganyaan programme, the cooperation opportunities with countries and space agencies having expertise in human space flight are being explored.



J&K Bank MD & CEO meets representatives of BBIA

We will continue to extend maximum possible support to MSMEs: Baldev Prakash



BBIA members calling on J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: With a view to obtain feedback from clients representing an industrial section of the economy, J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash on Friday met a delegation of Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), who called upon him at the Bank's Zonal Office Jammu.

Joined by the Bank's General Manager (GM) Ashutosh Sareen and DGM Nishikant Sharma through VC, MD & CEO was accompanied by GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar and In-charge Advances (Jammu) Rohit Kumar. President Lalit Mahajan led the BBIA delegation comprising of Sr. Vice President Tarun Singla, Vice President Ajay Langer, Gen. Secy. Viraj Malhotra and other office bearers.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash reinforced the fact that J&K Bank remains eager to serve business community especially the MSME sector. He said, "In light of the UT Government's generous industrial development scheme coupled with investment proposals worth crores received by the government, we see a huge prospect of industrial growth in near future."

"And as always we will continue to extend maximum possible support to

MSMEs and other businesses in J&K because our future progress is closely interlinked with the industrial development of the UT. In this regard, the bank is working closely with its stakeholders because we believe institutions require feedback on its services as much as the appreciation for its performance and commitment", he added.

Regarding the issues and suggestions put forth by the members of delegation during the meeting, MD & CEO assured the association that their concerns would be deliberated upon as per their merit and addressed on priority.

Earlier, Bank's GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) briefed the delegation about the recent measures that the Bank has taken for the welfare of its various stakeholders especially customers. "Our good performance always speaks of the progress of the local business of which industry is the key segment in terms of contribution. And with major focus on quality growth, the Bank's current leadership is keenly aware of the special relationship between the businesses and the Bank", said Sunit Kumar on the occasion.

While thanking the Bank's MD & CEO for the meeting, the members of the delegation also lauded him for the Bank's trans-

formation and progress as reflected in the historic annual profits and other markedly improved parameters during the last year's financial results.

During the meeting, members of BBIA Association appreciated the management's willingness to listen and receive direct, instant feedback from its clients belonging to business community. "We are very thankful to the Bank's leadership for being pro-active in lending support to the business community especially in tough pandemic times. However, having a long and lasting relationship with J&K Bank we have put forth some requests and expect early response in return", said President BBIA Lalit Mahajan.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Batote, Boonwari and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 25 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Village Dadoli, Muthi, Padyari and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 24, 25 and 26 from 6 am to 10 am.

Income Tax Department organises Outreach Programme cum Interactive Session with DDOs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Income Tax Department on Friday organised an outreach programme/interactive session with Drawing and Disbursing Officers of Kathua district here in the Conference Hall of DC office complex.

The interactive session was held under the overall supervision of Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar M.P Singh and under the guidance of Joint commissioner of Income Tax, Range-1 Jammu Rajeev Gubgotra.

DC State Taxes, Ranjit Singh; ADC Kathua, Deepika Rana; Chief Education Officer Kathua, P.L Thapa, Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Uttam Singh and other DDOs of district Kathua attended the session in person and through virtual mode.

The primary aim of this outreach programme was to address the various issues faced by the income tax department, specifically focusing on fraudulent/fake deduction and claimed TDS refund made by income tax payers in their returns of income.

Income Tax Officer, Kathua M.B Raizada briefed the officers about the fraudulent availing of deductions and refunds by numbers of Officers/Officials while filing their returns which is not only a serious offence but also has resulted in huge loss



Pr. Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar M.P Singh and other dignitaries at meeting.

of exchequer to the government.

During the interactive session, the Income Tax Officer Kathua emphasized the seriousness of the complications arising from false and fabricated claims made by large numbers of employees. "Such actions qualify for severe action under Income Tax Act, 1961 & IPC in the form of heavy fines, it is therefore essential for all fraudulent claimants to file the ITR -U (updated return) to avoid any legal actions from the income tax department", he added. Furthermore, it is also advised by ITO Kathua in the interactive session that all taxpayers should submit their annual returns well in advance of the closing date, i.e., 31st July 2023. They were advised to file the return themselves through the income tax portal or to approach authorized income tax practitioners and not to fall prey to the fraudulent self-styled

touts. They can also approach the Income Tax department Kathua for any type of guidance. This will help in ensuring compliance with the income tax regulations and avoid any unnecessary penalties or actions and urge all the

quences. DDOs were also advised to issue advisories in their own department following the directions of Chief Secretary UT J&K.

A Question Answer session was also held to enable DDOs and their employees to raise queries which were addressed by ITO, M B Raizada. He apprised them of their duties and responsibilities towards nation building. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deepika Rana also urged the DDOs to follow the income tax rules and regulations and adopt due diligence while assessing income and deduction details of all the employees under their respective offices.

JAKFAS felicitates new Principal Secretary Finance



JAKFAS members felicitating Santosh D. Vaidya, an assuming charge as new Principal Secretary Finance for the UT of J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance and Accounts Society (JAKFAS) on Friday felicitated Santosh D. Vaidya, on his assuming the charge as new Principal Secretary Finance for the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir.

The JAKFAS hoped that Vaidya's dedication towards public service and his steadfast

commitment towards the financial well-being of the UT would greatly help in further streamlining the existing system.

While welcoming the Principal Secretary Finance, Iftikhar Hussain Chauhan, President JAKFAS, along with other Executive members, highlighted Santosh D. Vaidya's reputation for professionalism, integrity and visionary thinking.

Tourism Deptt, Poonch Admn organise Jabbi Virsa Folk Festival



DDC Chairperson, Tazim Akhter flagging off Jabbi Virsa Folk Festival.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The Department of Tourism (J&K) and District Administration Poonch organized the Jabbi Virsa Folk Festival to promote tourism in the Peer Panjal region.

The festival was flagged off from Jabbi Base Camp by DDC Chairperson, Tazim Akhter, Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary, DDC Chairperson Mandi, Shamim Gnai, Senior Superintendent of Police Vinay Sharma in the presence of CEO Poonch Dev. Authority, Dr. Mohd Tanveer Culture Officer, Dr. Alamdar Adam and all district officers.

In the base camp of Jabbi, the Social Forestry Department, under the supervision of DFO Social Forestry, Naveed Iqbal started a plantation drive, in which chairperson District

Superintendent of Police, Vinay Sharma, CEO Poonch Dev. Authority, Dr. Mohd. Tanveer, and District Culture Officer, Dr. Alamdar Adam, along with various District Administration Officers, took part in the trekking tour.

Deputy Commissioner expressed his great happiness and appealed to the people to maintain this beauty made by nature and keep it clean and assured that the district administration will also contribute fully to develop it.

The festival and trek also featured a cricket match between Rahul Dravid Cricket Academy and Arai Cricket Club in Jabbi Toti Top, where the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the players.

The local trekkers expressed their gratitude to the District Administration Poonch, Poonch Development Authority, and Academy of Art Culture and Languages Rajouri, for making them a part of the camp and highlighting the potential of tourism in the region.

The Jabbi Virsa Folk Festival was an excellent addition to the trekking expedition and helped in promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region to a wider audience.

Bhalla meets Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi

Holds discussion over wide range of issues concerning people of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Thursday met former Party President Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi and apprised her of the political situation in J&K besides had a detailed discussion with the former Party President over the wide range of issues concerning people of J&K.

He apprised Gandhi about political scenario and ongoing organisational activities of the party.

He also discussed the feedback from the workers and people about the functioning of present BJP government and the role being played by the Congress to represent and highlight the issues of people of J&K.

Bhalla also discussed various measures for further strengthening the party in J&K.

He also briefed Sonia Gandhi about the socio-political developments in Jammu and Kashmir; especially rising unemployment, lack of development and other issues of public importance. He also briefed the leadership about the fallout of disconnect between the present dispensation and people in absence of the popular government leading to restlessness amongst the people. Gandhi asked the JKPC Working President to unitedly fight the "anti-people and anti-youth policies" of the ruling BJP and defeat their "divisive agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir; to strengthen the party and gear up their activities keeping an eye on the forthcoming Assembly elections.

She appreciated JKPC Working President and cadres for their struggle and commitment to fight against the communal and divisive forces in Jammu and Kashmir urging them to strengthen the Congress Party at grass roots, as that, it is the Congress Party which has served and shall continue to serve the people. Gandhi asked Bhalla to activate the cadres at various levels in order to highlight issues of people and expose the failures and falsehood of BJP and the failures of the Centre government in J&K to come up to the expectations of the people on various vital commitments.



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla calling on former Party President Sonia Gandhi.

The party should highlight the issues of people in J&K with a view to launch an offensive against BJP for their failures on various fronts besides neglect and failures to fulfill the commitments with the people of J&K.

Bhalla urged upon the Central government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir with job and land security for the locals. He lambasted previous BJP government in the state for exploiting the daily wagers in various departments for not fulfilling their long time pending genuine demands. He said due to callous and non-serious attitude of governments families of daily wagers across J&K are facing a starvation-like situation.

He said that people are now fed up of the BJP lead dictatorial regime. Common man was suffering in the hands of the administration which has adopted an adamant behaviour and is working on the lines which

is completely anti-public.

Bhalla said that unemployment and inflation in Jammu and Kashmir is all time high which has pushed people towards starvation. He said that the financial health of the people is getting worse with every passing day. He said that BJP's unilateral decisions have added to the long prevailing political instability and alienation in the region besides violating the spirit of federalism in the country. The party rank and file in J&K, he said, stands behind people of J&K in its ongoing efforts for the protection of the identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhalla said LG Administration has failed on all fronts and the BJP is insensitive towards the problems of the youth. Law and order, education and health are in very bad shape. There is resentment among people and the youths are angry. This is because the attitude of the BJP towards the problems of the youth is insensitive. "The youth raises its voice, but the police wields a cane to silence his voice. Now, no one believes in the hollow claims made to the youth about providing jobs", he said. The country is reminded again and again of nine failures of the BJP Government including rising inflation, high unemployment, suppression of democracy, failure to safeguard National security, hate politics, historic fall of the Rupee, economic collapse and erosion of social fabric," said Bhalla.

Bhalla said that it was claimed that BJP's decisions will bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. "But even after eight years, we do not see any new development, employment and economy improvement. There is no visage of good governance," he added.

He said they were speaking about massive industrialization but the reality on ground is completely different. "Not a new industry has come here. Our own handicrafts and other small scale industries are on the verge of collapse. The governance is confined to photo-ops and shoddy propaganda," he said adding, "There is no space for any voice, critical of the government's action. Silence has been achieved on all dissent."