

Export of defence equipments rose 6 times in 9 years: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, while speaking on the occasion, observed here today that earlier most of the defence equipment was imported from other countries, but after the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, it is now the other way round and the export of defence equipments from India has gone up six times in 9 years.

Addressing the National Security Conclave here today in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who was the chief guest, Dr Jitendra Singh complimented Rajnath Singh, first as the Union Home Minister and later as the Defence Minister, for steps taken to mitigate the sufferings of border villagers from intermittent shelling across the LoC and welfare measures.

"Earlier border villagers used to take shelter in Block or Gram Panchayat buildings, but the Union Government first sanctioned bunkers for civilians and later approved family bunkers also," said Dr Jitendra Singh adding, "PM Modi amended the rules to extend the 4% reservation to residents of border villages so as to include the International Border (IB) under its ambit. This corrected the anomaly created by the erstwhile Congress-National Conference Govt who had given 4% reservation to LoC residents but ignored IB residents for vote bank reasons".



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the National Security Conclave, at Jammu University, Jammu on Monday.

The Minister also complimented the Modi Govt for approved raising of two Border Battalions in the paramilitary police.

Dr Jitendra Singh said our national security will be further strengthened with two landmark agreements signed during the historic visit of PM Modi to the US. "One is the deal for manufacturing jet engines for the LCA Tejas fighter jets, and the other is that US warships will now be berthing at

our Naval Shipyards for extensive repairs. This demonstrates the trust reposed in our capabilities by the US," he said.

Dr Jitendra said our defence infrastructure will also gain from the Indo-US pact on Quantum Computing. "In the nine years of the Union Government led by PM Modi, India has turned the tide from being just an importer of Defence items to being an exporter of arms and ammunition. There has been a substantial jump in the export of Defence items," he said.

Dr Jitendra said all this helps create jobs for our youth. He said, the Modi Government has opened new avenues for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the residents of border villages.

"In J&K, the youth are also gaining with the launch of Agri Startups through Lavender cultivation and under the Aroma Mission", the Minister said.

"Youths are India's biggest asset, with people up to 40 years of age making up 60% of our population. With avenues open for the elderly people 60 years and above, India will emerge a developed nation during the Amrit Kaal by the centenary year of India's Independence," he said.

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Packaging prototypes for Jammu handicrafts unveiled



DG NIFT, Rohit Kansal and other dignitaries unveiling craft document at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Director General NIFT, Rohit Kansal, and Secretary in Industry & Commerce Department, Smita Sethi on Monday attended unveiling ceremony of packaging prototypes and craft document for Handicrafts and Handloom products of Jammu region at JLN Udyog Bhawan Jammu. The event was organized under the guidance of Vikranjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce. Dr Javid Ahmed Wani, Director National Institute of Fashion Technology, Srinagar, apprised the artisans and weavers from Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of the packaging project through a detailed comprehensive presentation.

Other dignitaries present were Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta, MD JKTPPO Khalid Jahangir

and other officers of the Industries and Commerce department.

Another important aspect of the event was unveiling of the craft document exhibiting the crafts of Jammu division by the dignitaries.

The project envisions evolving a roadmap to create unique and sustainable packaging to add value to the artefacts of the Jammu cottage industry, to give a unique packaging presentation to create a benchmark having international standards and to determine the unique selling point of chosen Jammu Handicrafts and Handloom goods.

Rohit Kansal appreciated the efforts of Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu and NIFT Srinagar as having professionally designed packaging prototypes, in tune with the market-demand. It would definitely increase the sales of the products viz-a-viz wage earnings of the artisans and weavers of Jammu region, he added.

Modi has gifted us with peace, shown us the way forward for sustainable development: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Minister of State & Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi chaired Intellectuals Meet at Sopore on Monday. The event was organised by Bharatiya Janata Party in connection with the month long celebrations of the party to highlight the achievements of nine years of BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prominent people from different walks of life participated. A very healthy discussion took place in which eminent personalities of the area spoke about the government programmes and schemes and their impact on the life of a common man.

Dr Andrabi was accompanied by party spokesperson Abhijit Jasrotia. In her address Dr Darakhshan said



Chairperson JKWB Dr Darakhshan Andrabi chairing Intellectuals Meet at Sopore.

that the viewpoint of the intellectuals shows us the way as we in BJP believe in public reach out and the feedback of the people guides us in formulating our plans and programmes.

"We are not the party for the political families but for common people. Our

thrust is always on public service guided by the people's aspirations and needs. Modi has ensured that inclusive & equitable development of all in the country is done", said Dr Andrabi.

She thanked the intellectual gathering for their valuable suggestions and

guidance for future plans of growth and development in J&K.

"Modi's popularity is increasing day by day in J&K as he has gifted us peace and has shown us the way forward for a sustainable development in J&K. We are now progressing in tune with the rising India and sets very high targets for future. She said that BJP believes in all time continuous public reach out in contrast to the dynasts who only use the people for their votes and later get busy in their power games. "Youth of Kashmir are getting attracted to BJP in large numbers seeing party's public welfare approach and the real spirit of democracy within", said BJP National Executive Member.

Party District President G M Sofi & Ex MLC Surinder Anbarbar along with many local leaders of BJP were also present.

JKPCC Working President meets AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla during meeting with AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla met AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi and apprised her about the current state of affairs on the political front and the activities of the party in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhalla updated her about the Congress agitations and protests against the unprecedented price hike of petrol, diesel, gas and other commodities and the decision to impose property tax and other taxes in J&K which has overburdened the already distressed residents.

He sought guidelines from

the high command to strengthen the party and organisational structure at various levels in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gandhi asked Bhalla to continue working towards highlighting the wrongdoings of the government, especially the "anti-people decisions of the Modi government" towards Jammu and Kashmir.

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 Central Government in J&K to come up to the expectations of the

people on various vital commitments.

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

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

Bhalla held discussions over the wide range of issues concerning people of J&K. He also briefed Gandhi about the socio-political developments prevailing in J&K, besides having a detailed discussion on different issues confronting people especially, rising unemployment, economic losses, lack of development and other issues of public importance.

Bhalla criticized the "mis-governance" of the BJP Government due to which the common masses are feeling cheated.

Div Com, ADGP Jammu review traffic management Plan for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

Ask to divert empty trucks on Mughal road to decrease traffic rush on NH-44

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements made for regulation of traffic in view of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023.

The meeting was attended by IG Traffic, Bhim Singh Tuti; (through vc), DIG Traffic, Shridhar Patel; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Arny Lavasa; SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic, offi-



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh chairing a meeting.

cers of NHAI and other concerned officers while SSP national highway, Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch Udhampur and Ramban along with SSPs participated

in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Div Com and ADGP reviewed the Traffic Regulation plan formulated to facilitate smooth flow of traffic during Yatra days,

especially on Udhampur to Banihal stretch of Jammu Srinagar National Highway. The IG Traffic and SSPs shared the feedback and apprised about the existing traffic plan and the plan formulated for the Yatra days.

The IG Traffic informed that traffic advisories will be issued regularly during Yatra days for smooth flow of traffic on the National Highway.

The ADGP and Div Com, after seeking suggestions from all the officers, decided to allow empty vehicles (trucks) to ply on Mughal road to minimize traffic rush amid the tourist season and

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

It was also decided that the cut off timing should be properly followed for smooth flow of traffic.

It was also decided that the Light Motor Vehicles (LMV) will be allowed in a staggered manner to avoid traffic jams on the National Highway.

The importance of devising an effective mechanism for the movement of light motor vehicles (LMVs) and heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) on the National Highway in a way that avoids congestion at any point, especially on National Highway.

Traders await buyers in Srinagar livestock market ahead of Eid al-Adha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Ashiq Mohammad, a trader from Rajasthan, comes here every year with sacrificial animals ahead of Eid al-Adha and heads back home after selling his livestock within days.

This year, however, what should have been the busiest time of the year for Mohammad has turned into a waiting game with high prices keeping buyers away.

"I have been coming here for five years now and business is very slow this year. People used to be very fond of buying these animals but due to soaring prices, they are not buying them like they used to,"

Mohammad said.

"In the past years, my livestock would sell out in two days. This year, it has been five days and the majority of animals haven't been sold yet," he said.

Some traders in the livestock market, which was swarming with sacrificial animals with colourful markings and painted horns, said they were selling their livestock at a loss.

Mohammad Shafi from Kupwara's Handwara said he brought around 35 home-reared animals to the market, hoping to get some good returns.

"In the last two days, I have only

sold around eight to 10 animals. This year business is slow. Buyers don't have enough money to buy animals and hence they are staying away," Shafi said.

Abdul Majid, a livestock trader from the Lolab area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district said, "I brought 50 sheep from my hometown for selling here. I bought them for Rs 330 per kilogram and I am selling them for almost the same price. I am incurring losses due to this."

The government has not fixed the prices and authorities are not paying attention, he rued.

"I am selling local breeds that

have been fed good quality fodder but since many traders have brought animals from other states, they are selling them for around Rs 400 per kilogram," he said.

Another seller Rouf Ahmad also said authorities should fix prices.

Since there are no fixed prices, buyers are discouraged, he said.

"Even the traders are not satisfied with these prices and the inflation is high," he added. Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on Thursday. The festival commemorates the readiness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son in order to prove his obedience to Allah.

Religious bodies can play an important role in preventing drug abuse: Experts

■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: In order to raise essential awareness about, devastating effects of drug abuse every year June 26 is celebrated as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

In Kashmir Valley, Department of Psychiatry, IHANS, GMC Srinagar organised a workshop in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board at Drug de-addiction Centre, GMC, here.

Experts from different parts of Valley and health institutions expressed their thoughts and views during day-long workshop in SMHS Hospital Srinagar. "The Stigma and discrimination associated



with drug use can further harm people's physical and mental health and prevent them from seeking help", said experts.

This is need of hour that during Friday sermon and Imams of local Mosques should be raised drug abuse issue and its bad effects on our society, besides this it is our

duty to create awareness and enhance the understanding of people on the issue of drug abuse.

There are nearly 10 lakh drug addicts in Jammu and Kashmir as per the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

through National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi.

Amid rising drug abuse in Kashmir, doctors Paramedics and other experts urged imams and other religious scholars to speak against the drugs and spread awareness among the people.

The doctors who are working tirelessly in drug de-addiction centres on different district headquarters said, it is clear that drug abuse is harmful, but there is need to make people understand it. There is also role of parents and teachers they should call preachers and other religious body mem-

bers to school so they can make students understand, it is also important to save those who are not yet involved in drug abuse.

Meanwhile antinarcotics task force urges people to provide info on drug peddlers, dealers as drug abuse has emerged as a major problem in the Kashmir region in recent years as fatal heroin addiction has increased and hundreds of youth are falling prey to the narcotics substance.

According to recent data there are estimated 1,08,000 males and 36,000 females were found using Cannabis in Jammu and Kashmir while 5,34,000 males and 8,000 females were found in the dragnet of Opioids and

1,60,000 males and 8,000 females were found using sedatives of different kinds.

There are 340 Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts established in the country only one is running in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, three Outreach and Drop in Centres (ODICs) in UT of J&K out of total 71 established by the Ministry to provide safe and secure space of treatment and rehabilitation for substance users with provision of screening, assessment and counseling and thereafter provide referral and linkage to treatment and rehabilitation services for substance dependence, the Ministry said.

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(TOPS)

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex (East Gate)
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

No. 01-06005(04)/16/2023-HO-TOPS-HPD-Division 12.06.2023

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Division, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Delhi, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India invites applications for engagement of consultant on contract basis. The contract is initially for a period of two years extendable by one year at a time upto a maximum tenure of five years i.e 2+1+1+1. The schedule for applying online is given below:-

(i) Date of opening of online registration- 5pm, 15th June 2023
(ii) Closing date for submission of online application- 5pm, 5th July 2023
(iii) Link <https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/saijobs>

The details of the job description and responsibilities, etc. for the posts are available at the website of SAI & MYA&S: <https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/> and <http://yas.nic.in/>

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