

UN Ocean Conference

Dr Jitendra holds bilateral talks with Tajikistan Minister, focus on Glaciers

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

LISBON: India's Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh held a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Energy and Water resources of Republic of Tajikistan, Daler Juma Shofaqr on the side-lines of the UN Ocean Conference Lisbon, Portugal and discussed several issues of mutual interest.

Both the Ministers discussed water resources research, with special focus on Glaciers and their monitoring and understanding, Non-conventional Energy, etc.

Tajikistan Minister requested India to support global water action and climate resistance on Water for sustainable Development.

Dr Jitendra pointed out



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Tajikistan Minister for Energy and Water resources, Daler Juma Shofaqr shaking hands before the start of bilateral Ministerial meeting between the two countries, on the side-lines of the UN Ocean Conference at Lisbon, Portugal.

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit in January this year with the

participation of the Presidents of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in a virtual for-

mat that symbolised the importance attached by the Leaders of India and the Central Asian countries to a comprehensive and enduring India-Central Asia partnership.

Dr Jitendra also referred to 11th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of Tajikistan and India on trade-economic, scientific and technical cooperation in 2020, where cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, finance, investment, the private sector, industry and new technologies, transport, agriculture, energy, education, culture and tourism were discussed.

Dr Jitendra told his Tajik counterpart Daler Juma Shofaqr that during Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind's State Visit to Tajikistan in 2018, Eight

MoUs/agreements were signed in the areas of Peaceful Use of Space Technology, Disaster Management, Renewable Energy, and Agricultural Research and Education to name important ones.

The two Ministers appreciated the ongoing close cooperation between the two countries and hoped that the partnership grows from strength to strength in future.

Pertinent to mention that India and Tajikistan have shared a traditional warm relationship and are engaged in more than one sectors including Pharma, healthcare, chemicals ,etc. Incidentally, under PM Modi, all these sectors have received a special impetus, particularly after the COVID pandemic.



CS stresses on dedicating all 1,500 Amrit Sarovars within deadline



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday stressed on delivering all the Amrit Sarovars (AS) well before the set deadline. He made these remarks while chairing a meeting of the UT Level Committee constituted for Amrit Sarovar here.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries of Jal Shakti; PWD; Forest; RDD; Revenue, Culture; District Development Commissioners; Representatives of NHAI besides other officers from the concerned Departments.

Outside officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to work in a mission mode to identify the sites for all the 1500 AS and start work at an earliest on each of them. He asked them to use the work season efficiently. He advised them to take the monsoons into consideration in the areas which receive heavy rainfall during it and complete all excavations and earth work before its onset.

Highlighting the importance of such assets for a village life the Chief Secretary called them the milestones of

progress for them. He emphasised on meeting all the relevant guidelines while creating these assets.

Dr Mehta also maintained that the works should be carried out with cooperation of general public. He asked them to involve fully the PRIIs and locals in this development activity in consonance with the major aims of this flagship scheme.

The meeting was apprised that the Amrit Sarovar is to be generally constructed on at least 1 acre of land with a water holding capacity of about 10,000 cubic meters. The Mission aims at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, as was revealed in the meeting.

It was informed that recently the Lieutenant Governor dedicated 100 Amrit Sarovars to public across the districts of UT. It was elucidated that these were completed at a total cost of Rs 44.41 Cr. Out of this, Rs.15.09 Cr were utilized out of MGNREGA and Rs.3.98 Cr from SBM, as was said in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed that the timeline for 100% target of 1500 AS is 15th August 2023. Out of these

sites for 1214 (81%) AS had been identified and uploaded on the national portal. These were estimated to cost Rs 142.14 Cr with Rs 82.54 Cr to be provisioned out of MGNREGA and Rs 59.60 Cr from other sources.

It was further apprised that peoples' participation at all levels of its execution is the key to entire initiative, as it is meant to evoke collective spirit of the community. It also includes encouraging public contribution (crowd funding/CSR) for the work.

In this pursuit it also envisages laying of foundation stone for the AS by freedom fighters or her/his family members or by the family of martyrs (post-independence) or a local Padma awardee. In case there is no such citizen available, the eldest citizen of the specific/local Gram Panchayat is to be engaged, as was brought out in the meeting.

As far as the funding for the projects is concerned, the resources available from Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, XV Finance Commission Grants or similar schemes from the State/ Central government either individually or in combination may be accessed for this purpose.

Its components include development of pondage area, treatment of catchment bank, removal of encroachments, grey water treatment, plantation activities, improvement of drainage channels, development of spring near AS, common signage board, platform for flag hoisting etc.

Pertinent to mention here that the Prime Minister launched Mission Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022, on the eve of National Panchayat Day with a view to conserve water for the future. Under this programme a total of about 50,000 Amrit Sarovars are to be constructed or rejuvenated in the whole country, as was ascertained in the meeting.

JDA carries out anti-encroachment drive at Boria Market



JDA removing encroachment at Boria Market, Bahu Fort colony.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: An anti-encroachment drive was carried out at Boria Market, Bahu Fort colony by Jammu Development Authority (JDA) under supervision of Vice Chairman, Pankaj

Magotra on Thursday morning to remove encroachments from roads and public spaces. The action was undertaken on basis of complaints received from locals. The encroachers were adequately warned beforehand

and advised by Director Land Management, JDA during field visits and meetings to peruse scrap dealers for removing encroachments on their own. Even Khilafvarzi wing of JDA also made announcements through Public Announcement System asking dealers to voluntarily remove encroachments. As unclaimed vehicles continued to remain there encroaching public spaces, the Chief Enforcement Officer JDA carried out a drive and freed public places and roadsides from encroachment. The move of JDA has been appreciated by local residents and devotees thronging Bawwali Mata Temple.

Countdown begins for end of KCR Government in Telangana: Kavinder



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta receiving blessings from an old-age woman at Hyderabad.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

HYDERABAD: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that countdown has begun for the end of KCR Government in Telangana as none of the promises made to public have been fulfilled.

Kavinder said this during visit to Telangana State in connection with BJP's two days national executive meeting scheduled to be held on July 2 and July 3.

The BJP stalwart leader held several meetings with Shakti Kendra Parmukh and Booth Presidents in Bellampalli Vidhan Sabha. He also visited five Rural Mandals of Bellampalli Vidhan Sabha including Bellampalli, Bheemni, Kannepalli,

Venmanpalli and Nenella besides convening OBC Moreha, Mahila Moreha, Yuva Moreha and ST Moreha interactions to highlight the progressive moves made by the BJP Government in the Centre and its upcoming policies and plans. Earlier on reaching Hyderabad, Kavinder was accorded warm reception by the local leadership of the party. At the outset, he inaugurated one Mandal Office at Bellampalli Rural. Thiripati District Vice President; Ramesh District General Secretary; Goverdhan Secretary; Raju Lal Yadav Corporator; Ema ji Koyalla and Sai Krishna Vistarak accompanied Kavinder Gupta. During the meetings, Kavinder criticized the KCR Government for not fulfilling

the promises made to public. He alleged that the Telangana government involved in neck deep corruption and that is the reason people are fed-up of this dispensation and have started galvanizing towards BJP. He also alleged wrong doing by the KCR Government as all the boardings in context with party's national executive meeting have been removed overnight from the prominent places in the Hyderabad city to mislead people. He said that this will not change the atmosphere which has turned hostile for the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said that days of KCR government in Telangana are numbered because people have started reposing faith in BJP as they have understood that there is no match to the double engine government of BJP.

It is pertinent to mention that party high command has given a task to senior BJP functionaries to cover all the 119 constituencies of Hyderabad disseminating policies and plans of BJP in coming times in three days before the start of National Executive meeting.

'Maha' twist: Shinde takes oath as CM, Fadnavis his deputy

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde was on Thursday sworn in as the 20th chief minister of Maharashtra, while BJP stalwart Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the deputy chief minister, capping a day of surprises and hectic political activities, just 24 hours after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. In a surprise move, Fadnavis announced in the evening that Shinde, who led the rebellion in the Shiv Sena, will be the new chief minister, while he himself will be out of the new government, only to change his stand and become the deputy CM following prodding from his party's central leadership.



Arun Mahajan from Jammu congratulating Devendra Fadnavis, newly appointed Dy CM of Maharashtra.

at the Raj Bhavan in South Mumbai shortly after 7.30 pm. Shinde, a four-time MLA, began oath taking by paying tributes to late Shiv Sena leaders Bal Thackeray and Anand Dighe, his political mentor in Thane district.

The Sena leader, hailing originally from a village in Satara district in western Maharashtra, is the MLA from Kopri-Pachphakhi in Thane city.

Some Shinde supporters took out a motorbike rally in Thane and shouted slogans hailing their leader, who is known as a mass leader, often mingling with his voters and hearing their grievances besides holding regular meetings with local Sena workers and functionaries.

Meanwhile, Arun Mahajan also congratulated BJP stalwart Devendra Fadnavis for becoming Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Authorities failed to install fare-meters in auto-rickshaws, commuters facing hardships

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**

SRINAGAR: To provide transportation facilities to residents, the authorities have taken a good initiative to launch e-auto facility in several areas of Srinagar. According to authorities, it was a long pending demand of people residing in areas without easy access to public transport. Even though it is a welcome step and everyone is lauding it for convenience of general public but on the other hand, people are anguished that e-autos and other auto-rickshaws are not charging prescribed fares. Failure of authorities to install fare meters in auto-rickshaws in summer capital is tak-

ing heavy toll on passengers. Most of the passengers said that in absence of fare-meters in auto-rickshaws, they are being charged exorbitant fares. "In absence of any regulation, auto-rickshaws ply without fare meters. Taking undue advantage, most of the auto-rickshaw drivers charge exorbitant fares," said a passenger, adding that for 3 to 4 Km, they charge Rs 100 to Rs 150, and for 10 Km they charge more than Rs 200.

Passengers further said that despite directions from authorities regarding installation of meters, no implementation is visible on ground level. "In absence of buses and cabs in evening hours, the fares of

auto-rickshaws increase further. There are many young students who are can't afford auto rides," said students. "Although the authorities have started e-auto service in Srinagar city, the number of autos is low due to which there is a heavy rush during peak hours. Unless the number of auto-rickshaws is increased and rent is fixed, the problems will not end," a commuter added. An auto-rickshaw driver said, "Majority of us are plying autos without meters for years. The rule should be implemented for all and rates should be fixed in a way so that we don't face losses, petrol prices are skyrocketing."

Service rules were not relaxed to allow private practice to Govt doctors for raising commercial enterprise

If Private Practice is for increasing income, why not then allow it to all government employees

Jan Aushadi Store scheme has not been that 'professionally' supported even by Government doctors

■ **DAYA SAGAR**

It is surely not true that the common man has been and is of the view that the government need to find out some way out to allow PVT practice to Government doctors as and when questions on private practice by government doctors have been raised like had it happen after the J&K HC order of 25th November 2011 Even in 2022 even when Government spends hundreds of crores of INR on the wages and health infrastructure, what to talk of the common man , even superior bureaucrats and the political masters appear to have lost faith in the quality of Government health services in UTs like J&K where inspite of there being in 2022 AIIMS said to be in operation holding MBBS classes , there being 6 government medical colleges and super specialty govern-

ment hospitals so often patients are found rushing to PGI Chandigarh and private hospitals outside J&K even for routine treatments. Jammu has a super specialty hospital but it was reported in the media with reference of Principal Medical College Jammu that Rajesh Gupta ex MLA who left for his heavenly abode in his early fifties on 7th June 2022 that he was suffering from brain tumor for the last eight years, was admitted in the hospital for 15 days and had been discharged recently after feeling better but he was brought back to the hospital around 2 pm on 7th June with aspiration (pneumonia) and breathed his last around 5.40 pm same day. One could ask why he was allowed to carry with brain tumor and was not atleast operated for tumor when Jammu had even a super specialty hos-

pital? J&K Governor N. N .Vohra was been quoted as having said while he was speaking (on June 1st 2013) after inaugurating the 32nd Annual Conference of North Zone Indian Orthopedic Association at SKICC Srinagar that (i) The frontiers of science are advancing at a fast pace and we can't stand by and claim that we know adequately well what needs to be done. We need to work with all the avenues we have (ii) It seems difficult to accept that all this is possible when we have a system where we expect our doctors, practitioners and surgeons to work 8 to 10 hours a day and then also do private practice. (iii) This particular arrangement needs to be reviewed and looked at in all fairness. A day before that on 31st May 2013 J&K



A Look through the Mist

Cabinet had considered the proposals moved by Taj Mohi ud Din Minister for Medical Education, Youth Services and Sports for banning private practice by faculty members of Government Medical Colleges , Government Dental Colleges and associated hospitals but it was deferred in view of his not getting support of his cabinet colleagues. Disallowing private practice to government doctors was more in news after Taj Mohi-ud-Din took over the charge of the concerned Ministry. Surely the objective behind had been the desire of Minister to improve the patient-care in the government institutions. Almost every year it is reported that administration is viewing the need for ban on private practice by government doctors but it remains only a news.

Those who plead allowing private practice to government doctors quote shortage of doctors, need for rendering service in odd hours / emergencies and even plead that if PP is disallowed there would be more opportunities to private clinics / private practitioners for fleecing the common man. But the pleadings do not stand to logic , more particularly the way some government doctors have converted the provision of consultation to almost a business enterprise and above all since there is not that acute shortage of doctors in private sector / many senior retired government doctors are available in the market. Not only that doctors even with MD /MS/ DM/MCh degrees are under employed in private sector / government job advertisements get flooded with applicants even when inferior service condition are

offered to them by governments like J&K Government (J&K Health & ME Department appointed has appointed 459 Medical Officer (Allopathic) under G.O No. 938 - JK(HME) of 2020 of 31-12-2020 to fill up much needed vacant posts , particularly those lying vacant over a long periods in the health cover deficient rural/ backward areas on the basis of communication received from J&K PSC under number PSC/Exam-WT/MO/2020/6 of 14-12-2020 (900 posts notified by PSC under No: 01/PSC(DR-P) of 2020 Dated 30-07-2020) conveying 'select list' of 642 MOs but withholding recommendations in respect of 183 selected candidates).

To be continued
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