

# Chandrayaan-3 to open up new Moon vistas for world: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said that Chandrayaan-3 will open up new Moon vistas for the world.

In an exclusive interview with ET (Economic Times) Governance, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's earlier mission, Chandrayaan-1 had thrown up new light on various aspects of the moon as it was Chandrayaan-1 which brought before the world for the first time the evidence of the presence of water on the surface of the moon. Now, the whole world looks up to Chandrayaan 3 with great anticipation, expectation and hope, and at the same time waits for it to uncover many more new features and mysteries of the Moon and the universe, he said.

Dr Jitendra said that Chandrayaan-3 mission signals March to the Moon one step closer and also demonstrates the fact that India is



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive media interview at New Delhi, on Tuesday.

not lagging behind other countries so far as exploration of the moon is concerned. He said, the unique feature of this mission is that it will not only observe the Moon from the Moon but will also see Earth from the Moon, thus making India part of the world's elite club of three or four nations.

Dr Singh also pointed out that during the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra

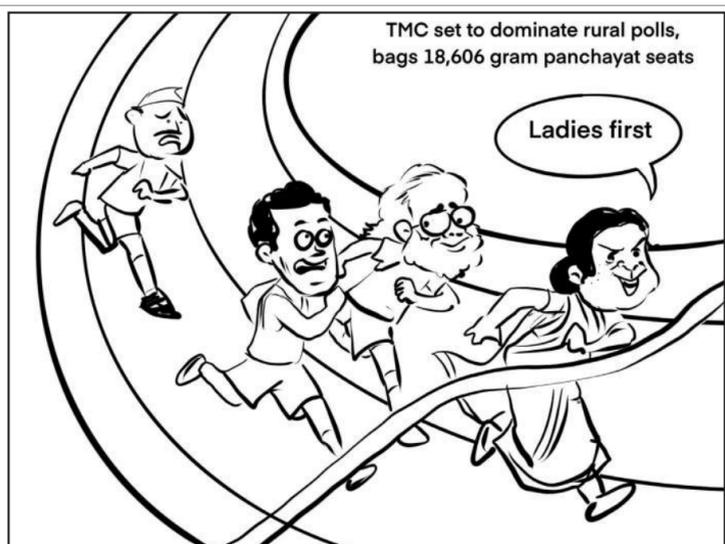
Modi to the United States, it became clear that America treats India as an equal partner and collaborator in space exploration. He said NASA is today soliciting India's astronauts and the Artemis Accord, where India is also one of the signatories, is also proof of India's great Space march.

Dr Jitendra said that India's space technology is not only confined to launch-

ing rockets, but has great implications for sectoral development. Dr Jitendra Singh said India has demonstrated the application potential of space technology during 6 decades of Indian space programme. He said, today, space has touched all walks of human life, including science & technology, telecommunication, agriculture, education, health, rural development, disaster warning & mitiga-

tion, studying climate change, navigation, defence & governance to name a few. Dr Jitendra said in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, India's ascent has begun through Space and the Space economy will be an important pillar of overall economic development in future. Out of 424 foreign satellites launched till date by India, 389 were launched in the last nine years of the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Further, out of 174 million US dollars earned, 157 million came in the last nine years and similarly out of 256 million Euros earned so far, 223 million came during the 9 years of the Government led by PM Modi.

In response to a question, Dr Jitendra said that Space technology has become a medium of instruction and having contributed significantly in disciplines like geophysics, telemedicine. He said, today education is also being acquired through Space technology via wifi.



TMC set to dominate rural polls, bags 18,606 gram panchayat seats

## RS Bali, spouse, son cremated in Chandosa Baramulla



Director Finance, Forest Department, RS Bali, his spouse, and their son consoling to flames amidst tears and profound grief at Baramulla on Tuesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In a heart-wrenching ceremony on Tuesday, Director Finance, Forest Department, RS Bali, his spouse, and their beloved son were consigned to flames amidst tears and profound grief.

The tragic demise of RS Bali has left a lasting impact as hundreds of mourners from all walks of life gathered at Chandosa Village in Baramulla District to pay their respects and bid farewell.

Officers and officials from Finance Department, along with the Forest Department, School Education Department, and various other departments attended

the last rites of the officer and his family. The mournful cremation took place at Chandosa Baramulla, where a multitude of officers, fellow relatives, neighbors, and individuals from all sections and religious communities gathered to pay their respects.

Bali, his spouse, and their son tragically lost their lives in a devastating accident while traveling on Mughal road on July 9, 2023.

The news of this heart-wrenching incident has left everyone present at the cremation site in deep grief, with tearful eyes, as they prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. During the cremation cere-

mony, representatives from the J&K Finance Association and J&K Accounts Employees Association were also present to express their profound sorrow and offer their prayers for the well-being of the injured daughter, who is currently undergoing treatment and reported to be in stable condition.

The Finance Department, along with all those in attendance, extended deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Bali. His contribution and dedication to the department and the state will always be remembered, and his untimely demise has left a void that will be difficult to fill.

## NBT-India to organise 5-day 'Ladakh Book Festival' at Leh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: National Book Trust (NBT), India is organizing the first-of-its-kind Ladakh Book Festival from July 12 to 16, 2023 at the New Multipurpose Indoor Stadium (NDS Memorial Sports Ground), opposite LAHDC Secretariat, Leh.

Set against the serene backdrop of the towering Himalayas and Karakoram Mountain ranges, this literary festival is a joyous ode to both the written word and the magnificence of Ladakh.

Organized in association with Administration of UT of Ladakh, this festival aims to provide a platform for bringing the Ladakhi literature, arts, and culture to the forefront of discourse at the National



Yuvraj Malik and Sonam Nurboo addressing media at Leh.

and International platforms through its digital outreach programme where all the discussions will be made Live across various platforms pan India.

Yuvraj Malik, Director National Book Trust, India informed this at a

press conference in Leh on Tuesday.

He talked about how books and reading impact every mind, and how exchange of literature and culture influences a society, and hence this unique book festival by NBT-India is an opportunity for

all age-groups to visit and benefit from this event.

He asked the youth to visit the fair and added, "One book can change your life. Come and choose that book in this book festival". He was flanked by ADDC Leh Sonam Nurboo who appealed to the people of the region to benefit from this book festival and get the best from it. Entry is free for all, and 10 per cent discount on the purchase of books are also available as well.

The Ladakh Book Festival will be inaugurated by the Lt. Governor of Ladakh, Dr B.D. Mishra.

Apart from the main venue, a host of activities and events will also be organised across the city of Leh, including reading and storytelling sessions,

musical performances, art, and craft activities, ensuring an immersive experience for all. A three-day translation workshop in Hindi to Bhoti language will also be organised on the sidelines of the book festival to foster greater translation of local literature, facilitating wider access to the literary treasures of Ladakh.

In addition, there will be an interactive session between PM YUVA authors and the budding authors of Ladakh.

The collection of Urdu books by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language and Culture Academy's Kargil chapter showcases books for the diverse reading needs for the people of Kargil and Leh.

## J&K Bank commissions CRM at Pouni Reasi



J&K Bank's Zonal Head (Udhampur) Rajesh Gupta inaugurating Cash Recycler Machine at Pouni.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Continuing its extension of convenient banking services to people at their nearest possible locations, J&K Bank on Tuesday commissioned a Cash Recycler

Machine (CRM) at Pouni in district Reasi.

The CRM was inaugurated by Bank's Zonal Head (Udhampur) Rajesh Gupta in presence of Cluster Head (Reasi), Ravi Sharma, Branch

Manager Pouni, Amarpreet Singh, other bank officials, besides an impressive gathering of valuable customers and prominent citizens of the area.

On the occasion, the Zonal Head reiterated the Bank's commitment of providing easy and affordable banking services to people irrespective of their location. "Besides serving our customers and people at large, the CRM machine will also help in reducing foot-fall at the adjacent branches of the Bank," he said, adding, "the best feature of CRM is that it is a 24x7 facility which enables people to deposit or withdraw cash at their own convenience".

People of the area thanked the Bank management for extending high-tech banking facilities to the area.

## Investor Facilitation Meet of JKTPO discusses issues, concerns of industries

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh on Tuesday chaired an Investor Facilitation Meet at Convention Centre here to address the issues and concerns of the industries.

The Investor Facilitation Meet was organised by Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) for investors in Jammu Division in which 20 industrial associations and over 80 industries participated like ITC, Chirpal Megpoly Films Bhagthali, Jupiter Aluminium, Aegios Poly Films and Industrial associations like CII, FICCI, Bari Brahmana Industrial Association, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Federation of Industries Jammu, Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jammu and others.

The purpose of the meet



Comm Secy I&C, Vikramjit Singh chairing an Investor Facilitation Meet at Jammu.

was to hear the grievances and issues of investors, including those who have been allotted land under J&K land allotment policy and solve their issues under one platform to actualize the investment on the ground through a one stop facilitation process.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce appreciated JKTPO for hosting such sessions where all Investors, trade bodies,

industrial associations and other officials are on the same platform to have a threadbare discussion on the issues faced by industrialists. He said that the Government is focused to improve the industrial ecosystem of J&K and guide them in every possible way to resolve their grievances.

The Commissioner Secretary further said that the Department of Industries and Commerce is taking various steps to improve the business

ecosystem of the UT like Single Window System, upgradation and amendments of J&K Industrial ecosystem policies. He also assured such meetings will be regularly featured in both the divisions to facilitate investors.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director, JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir said that JKTPO is committed to ensure smooth operations of industries in the UT of J&K and stand hand in hand with all the investors of J&K as they are

helping us to develop industrial ecosystem of the UT. He added that our intent is to address the issues faced by the industries though such facilitation meets and make the UT one of the preferred industrial destination of India.

During the meeting, one on one discussion with investors, industrial associations and trade bodies regarding the issues faced by them in different verticals such as land, power, change of land use, industrial estates, environmental clearances etc were held. Secretary in I&C, Smita Sethi; Director, I&C Jammu, Kishore Singh Chib; MD SIDCO/SICOP, Interjeet, Director, Finance, I&C, Regional Director, PCB and other senior officials from Pollution Control Board, Power Development Department, Public Works Department and Revenue Department were present in the meeting.

## Time to stand with forces of justice and liberty: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla with other senior leaders at a meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: District Jammu President Rural Hari Singh Chib on Tuesday organized meeting over Maun Satyagrah tomorrow. The meeting was presided over by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla & former Minister Mulla Ram.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said, "We believe that the truth, and our commitment for the genuine welfare of every Indian, speaks loud and clear; no matter what tactics the BJP will deploy against us or our leaders." "India will not allow such fascist forces to go on for too long," he added.

Undeterred, Rahul Gandhi has remained steadfast in his resolve to take on the ruling regime, he said. "As a result, not just the Congress, but the entire country is agitated at his wrongful and vindictive disqualification," he claimed.

"We appeal to 140 crore Indians, regardless of affiliation, to stand with the forces of justice and liberty, to stand up against this muting of democ-

cracy," Bhalla said. Bhalla exhorted the party cadre to remain in touch with people, keeping their actions deeply rooted in the ideology of the party.

"Never step back, face the challenges with courage and faith. Our distressed people want us to strengthen our rows to come to their rescue. The ruling party and its local 'Trojan horses' are not batting an eyelid over the miseries they have created for our people," he added.

Mulla Ram said that Government is viewing the situation through its own mirror otherwise everyone knows how better the situation is in J&K in terms of development. He asked the Central Government when it would ensure a congenial atmosphere for elections to take place in Jammu and Kashmir and elect a Government of the people in the state.

Hari Singh Chib said that BJP Government and its various departments do not seem, at all, serious about burning public issues.

## Div Com reviews implementation of ST & other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Officers of forest Department and BSNL to review the implementation of Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act and pending cases of transfer of land for 4G saturation (mobile towers).

The Div Com reviewed in detail the pending cases of land transfer for 4G tower installation in the districts, while Deputy Commissioners informed about the total number of locations/sites involved, number of cases in which land has been allotted to BSNL and pending cases in their respective districts. It was informed that in most of the cases district administrations have allotted land and rest cases are



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

under process.

The Div Com observed mismatch of data shared and directed the BSNL Officers to compile the data in consultation with district administrations.

The Deputy Commissioners were directed to hold a meeting with all the concerned officers and expedite the cases for early installation of towers.

The Div Com also asked CCF to clear pending cases of forest clearance. While reviewing disposal of the cases related to Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, the Div Com inquired about the status of settlement of claims received in the districts.

Pertinently, under the Act, mem-

bers of the Scheduled Tribes dwelling in the forests along with other traditional residents have the right over forest land for habitation or self-cultivation or livelihood. It was informed that the Gram Panchayat Level, district level Forest Rights Committee(s) (FRC) have been constituted in all the districts for verification of cases and settlement of claims.

The Div Com instructed DCs to expedite the progress and ensure early settlement of all the pending cases in their respective districts. He also asked DCs to ensure conduct of Gram Sabhas for settlement of claims under the Act.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forest, Officers of BSNL while Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division along with other concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.