

Arunachal Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, seeks support for Biotech projects

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a significant step towards strengthening scientific and technological development in the Northeastern region, Minister for Science & Technology, Dasanglu Pul called on Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, and sought Centre's support, particularly for Biotech Projects in the State.

During the meeting, Pul submitted key proposals aimed at advancing scientific innovation, conservation of bioresources, and entrepreneurship in Arunachal Pradesh. Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed the Centre's firm commitment to inclusive and sustainable development in the Northeast, emphasizing that Science & Technology must serve as a core driver of growth.

"The development of the Northeast has been one of Prime Minister Modi's highest priorities. The transformation since 2014 is evident - what was once a region struggling with connectivity is now witnessing unprecedented infrastructural, technological, and human



Arunachal Pradesh Minister for Science & Technology, Ms Dasanglu Pul calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

resource growth," said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

He underscored how robust road networks, expanded railway lines, new airports, and improved aerial connectivity have revolutionized access to remote regions, enabling economic growth, tourism, and scientific outreach. He also highlighted that the hospitality and aviation sectors are actively recruiting talent from the Northeast, signaling a shift in the region's human capital development.

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted

that Prime Minister Modi has visited the Northeast over 70 times since 2014, a record that demonstrates the Centre's continuous engagement and dedication to breaking both mental and physical barriers that previously distanced the region from mainstream development.

Dasanglu Pul reiterated three major proposals to Dr. Jitendra Singh for consideration. The first proposal focuses on the Integrated Ex-Situ Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic

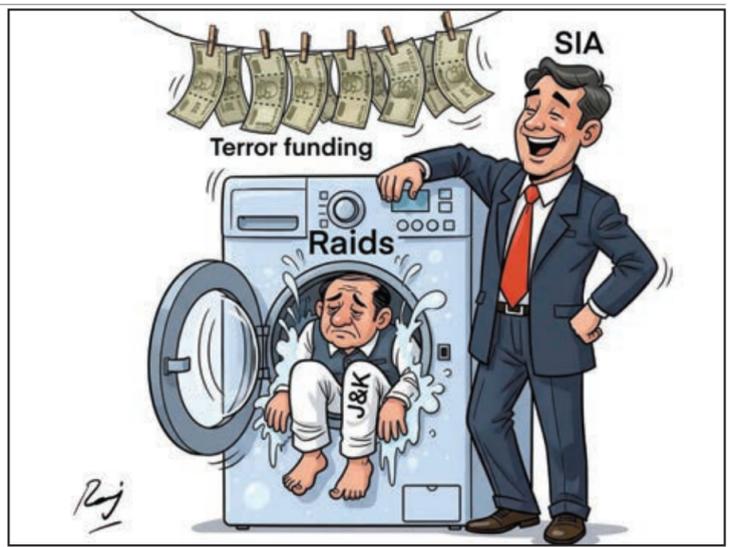
Diversity, aimed at characterizing and sustainably utilizing the genetic diversity of Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) as well as economically important plant species, in collaboration with ICAR-NBPGR. The second proposal involves the development of the Eastern Arunachal Regional Centre for Bioresource Management and Development, conceptualized under the BioE3 Vision, to be established at Kimin by the Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development (CoE-BRSD). This centre will serve as a hub for bioresource innovation and entrepreneurship. The third proposal seeks the establishment of a Bio-NEST Biocubator at Roing in the Lower Dibang Valley, with the State urging early issuance of the Call for Proposals under BIRAC's Biocubator Scheme to facilitate timely participation and capacity-building for startups and biotech entrepreneurs.

Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the strategic intent behind these proposals and assured that the Centre is actively

reviewing them with top priority. He stated that close coordination is underway between the Department of Science & Technology and the State government to ensure time-bound and effective implementation.

"India's rise as one of the world's top three economies will be powered by unexplored and underexplored regions like the Northeast. These areas hold the key to fulfilling the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047," said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that over the past decade, the Government has made significant strides in improving connectivity across the Northeastern region. This includes the operationalization of new airports, the expansion of all-weather roads and high-way networks, and the enhancement of railway connectivity, with regular train services now operating from Itanagar. In addition, the Government has focused on opening new inland waterways to improve access to remote and border areas, thereby promoting regional integration and economic development.



Sham Lal slams NC govt for ignoring public woes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President, J&K BJP and MLA Jammu North, held a public darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to address the grievances of people from various parts of the region.

During the darbar, Sham Lal Sharma launched a scathing attack on the NC-led government, accusing it of failing to address the basic needs of the people.

He expressed serious concern over the mismanagement of the Flood Control Department, especially after the recent heavy rains that led to widespread havoc including damaged roads & infrastructure, particularly near drains and khaddis. He further criticized the ongoing power crisis in the region, pointing out that frequent and unrelenting electricity cuts during peak summer and the rainy season. "Even areas with 100% metering are facing severe power outages."

"This clearly shows administrative failure and lack of planning," he remarked and attributed it also to the ongoing agitation by daily wagers, severely impacting



Vice-President, J&K BJP, Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

the delivery of essential public services.

A series of deputations from different localities presented a wide range of issues before the BJP leader. Residents of Trikuta Nagar highlighted the issue of pending bills and liabilities in the Mechanical Division Akhnoor; while locals from Raipur requested the installation of e-bus services and installation of electric poles, while Muthi residents highlighted issues related to Aadhaar and Ration Cards. Gangyal residents brought up the issue of a non-functional tubewell, and a deputation from Baba Kailakh raised an issue concerning the Floriculture Department. Public darbar was smoothly coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, who facilitated effective communication between the public and party leadership.

People from Samba requested the installation of Mark-II hand pumps along border roads, and those from Wazir Lane and Karan Nagar appealed for the construction and repair of drains and lanes. A deputation from Nagrota called for the introduction of e-bus services and installation of electric poles, while Muthi residents highlighted issues related to Aadhaar and Ration Cards. Gangyal residents brought up the issue of a non-functional tubewell, and a deputation from Baba Kailakh raised an issue concerning the Floriculture Department. Public darbar was smoothly coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, who facilitated effective communication between the public and party leadership.

CS exhorts officers to maintain highest standards of integrity, professionalism

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Public Administration (J&K IMPARD) marked the successful culmination of a six-week Joint Foundation Training Course for the 2023 batch of J&K Administrative, Police and Accounts Services with a valedictory function on Friday.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, was the chief guest while Commissioner Secretary, GAD, M Raju was the guest of honor on the occasion.

In his valedictory address, the Chief Secretary exhorted upon the trainee officers to uphold the sanctity of integrity and professionalism



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a valedictory function at Srinagar on Friday.

in their future roles as administrators. He emphasized the importance of delivering justice in a transparent and responsive manner to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon them to work with zeal and dedication, becoming effective leaders in

all administrative situations in the future.

Director J&K IMPARD, Rehana Batul, spoke at length about the efforts made by IMPARD to ensure smooth and successful completion of the Joint Foundation Training Course.

She highlighted the institute's collaboration with the

Art of Living Foundation to conduct a comprehensive training course on meditation and yoga, which helped the trainees stay focused, motivated and healthy throughout their training.

The Director congratulated the trainee officers on successfully completing the

Training Course, expressing hope that it would significantly contribute towards shaping and building their professional careers.

The function was attended by all the officers and faculty members of J&K IMPARD, including Financial Advisor Darshan Lal, Faculty and In-charge Trainings, Jammu, Dr Reva Sharma and Faculty and In-charge Trainings, Srinagar, Dr Jahan Ara.

Lastly, Dr Jahan Ara Jabeen presented an overview of the course with details of methodology followed and learning outcomes achieved while Dr Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Course Coordinator for the Joint Foundation Course, presented vote of thanks.

DB rejects bail in Narco-Terrorism

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir High Court comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem rejected the bail application of one Arshad Ahmed Allaie allegedly involved in narco-terrorism.

According to the police case that on May 27, 2019 at 2107 hours a written docket, endorsed by SI-Rahul Dogra, I/C PP Hari Market, Jammu, was received at Police Station City, Jammu to the effect that he had laid a Naka at Vivekananda Chowk, Jammu and during checking at about 1915 hours, one Creta Car (white colour without Number) was spotted coming from JP Chowk towards Dance Gate and when it was intercepted near Naka point by the police party, two persons were found to have been travelling and during questioning, the Driver disclosed his name as, Arshad Ahmed Allaie (appellant herein), while the other occupant disclosed his name as, Fayaz Ahmed Dar, residents of Shopian and Anantnag, respectively.

On checking of the vehicle, one polythene pink coloured bag containing about 260 gms heroine was found and also huge cash in the shape of bundles came to be recovered from the bag.

The judgment written by Justice Shahzad Azeem for Division Bench, after hearing Adv IH Bhat for the appellant whereas Sr. AAG Monika Kohli for the UT, observed that in view of the law governing the subject and material collected during investigation, so much so the evidence of the material witnesses so far recorded, we

are satisfied that there is prima facie material on record indicating the complicity of the appellant in carrying out the alleged terrorist activities and drug trafficking so as to bring unrest within the country, therefore, at this stage indulgence is unwarranted.

For the aforementioned reasons, the bail plea of the appellant is rejected and, consequently, the appeal is dismissed.

DB further said that the observations made in this order are limited to the adjudication of the present bail application and shall not prejudice the merits of the case during trial.

Before parting, DB said that we are constrained to note that on going through the order dated October 24, 2024 whereby said Fiaz Ahmed was granted bail by the trial Court, despite recovered consignment of heroine weighing 260 gms falls within ambit of commercial quantity but there is no whisper as to whether or not same falls within commercial quantity, and thus attracts rigors of Sections 37 of NDPS Act.

In this regard, para 5 of order dated October 24, 2024, is noteworthy, which for the facility of reference is reproduced hereunder:- "Perused the report, charge sheet particularly the charges against the applicant and charges against him are under Section 8/22/29 of NDPS Act and only 260 gms of heroine has been recovered from the possession of the accused on May 27, 2019 since then he is in custody.

keeping in view the progress of recording of prosecution evidence, there is no prospect of the case concluding before 10 years from the date of occurrence."

DB observed that the alleged recovery of heroine was 260 gms, which as per the table appended with the NDPS Act falls in entry 56 wherein 5 gms is a small quantity and 250 gms is shown as a commercial quantity. If this be the position then definitely the rigors of Section 37 of NDPS Act with all its rigor applies to the case. At the same time, the observation of the trial Court that there is no prospect of the conclusion of trial before 10 years is not only unwarranted, but is also in contravention to the circulars and notification issued by the High Court from time to time for speedy disposal of the cases.

DB further observed that the approach of the trial Court in granting bail to the co-accused without taking into consideration the mandatory requirement as envisaged under Section 37 of NDPS Act, calls for immediate remedial measures. Therefore, to that extent we deemed it proper that matter be placed before Chief Justice for desired action.

Nonetheless, DB also hold that the State is being represented by the prosecution, therefore, it was expected of the prosecution to have taken the appropriate legal recourse, but it appears that the prosecution too has slept over the matter. Therefore, to that extent we also recommend the matter be forwarded to the Director General of Police for taking appropriate remedial steps.

IIM Jammu hosts lecture on 'Operation Sindoor' Under Kartavya-Social Responsibility Club

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, through its Kartavya - Social Responsibility Club, organized lecture on "Operation Sindoor" at the Mandapam Auditorium on Friday.

The session brought together students, faculty, staff, and newly admitted students with their parents for a rare and moving interaction with officers of the army who served on the frontlines.

The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director IIM Jammu, who honoured the officers with mementos and praised their service to the nation.

The session featured Major Sahil Sharma, as the lead speaker, who offered first-hand insights into the moti-



vation, strategic rationale, and operational execution of Operation Sindoor.

Through a compelling narrative supported by an impactful slide presentation, Major Sharma guided the audience through the real-time challenges, tactical planning, and courage involved in the mission.

His address provided a deeply human perspective on national defence and high-

(Retd.), CAO, IIM Jammu, opened the session by sharing reflections from his own service in the Indian Navy, drawing a powerful connection between national defence and institutional leadership.

His remarks set the tone for the session, emphasizing the significance of real-world exposure in shaping responsible future leaders.

Brigadier Neeraj Soni, Co-Chairperson, Anandam, IIM Jammu also addressed the audience and appreciated the initiative. He encouraged students to remain grounded in the spirit of service, courage, and national responsibility. The presence of academic leaders and senior officials further underscored the institute's commitment to holistic education and nation-building.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the IIM Jammu community, including faculty members, staff, and students from various programs.

For the incoming batches and their parents, it served as a powerful and memorable introduction to the ethos of the institute - an ethos rooted in service, learning, and leadership beyond the classroom. As the event concluded, the auditorium resounded with applause, not only in honour of the officers but also in recognition of the sacrifices made daily by the armed forces.

The session reaffirmed IIM Jammu's mission of cultivating socially conscious, nationally committed, and ethically grounded leaders who will shape the future of India and the world.

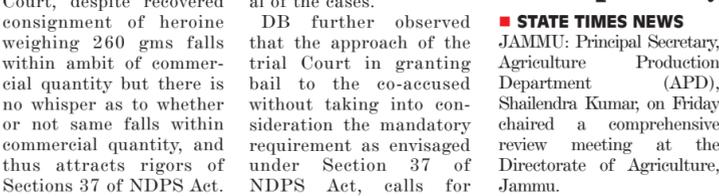
Principal Secy APD reviews progress under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs, NABARD

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

The meeting was convened to review the progress on fund utilization under CAPEX, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and NABARD for the financial year 2025-26 besides assessing the status of issuance of fertilizer and pesticide licenses across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD, Mission Director HADP/JKICP, Director Finance APD, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Law Enforcement, Director Command Area Development Jammu, Managing Director JKA-



Principal Secretary APD, Shailendra Kumar chairing a comprehensive review meeting.

GROS, Director Research SKUAST-Jammu, Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied departments, Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning), Scientists from SKUAST-J, Plant Protection Officer, Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs), Chief Horticulture Officers (CHOs) from all districts of Jammu division and other senior officers.

The departmental heads presented detailed updates on scheme implementation, challenges encountered and strate-

gic measures to expedite the pending activities.

The Principal Secretary underscored the need for timely execution, optimal fund utilization and enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure the benefits of these schemes reach the grassroots level.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the significant advancements made under HADP, which has been instrumental in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the farmers' livelihoods. He

observed that special attention has been given to ensure the expenditure under HADP, CSSs and CAPEX projects align with the overall goal of infrastructure development in the sector. He also had detailed discussion on CSS projects-Krishonnati Yojana, focusing on key flagship schemes like PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others aimed at boosting the rural prosperity.

Key directions issued during the meeting included estab-



Principal Secretary APD, Shailendra Kumar chairing a comprehensive review meeting.

lishing a Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming in each district, accelerating bee hive insurance coverage across all districts, prioritizing completion of district-wise unit tracking through the KSOT App and developing a comprehensive calendar for national and international exposure visits for the farmers.

The Principal Secretary also emphasized for resolving the fertilizer and pesticide licensing issues, particularly those faced by krishiudyamis, strengthening district-level enforcement wings, ensuring GPS-based tracking of fertilizer movement and intensifying regular monitoring of pesticide manufacturers and retailers. The meeting concluded with formulation of a time-bound action plan focused on fast-tracking project implementation and strengthening the agricultural ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

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