

Dr Jitendra announces financial aid for 'Hydrogen' StartUp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced financial aid of Rs 3.29 crore for a "Hydrogen" StartUp from Maharashtra for indigenous development of Hydrogen Sensing & Analysis Technology.

Dr Jitendra said, the Hydrogen Startup funding is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of National Hydrogen Mission (NHM) launched on India's 75th Independence Day, last year from the ramparts of the Red Fort. He said, the NHM aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub. This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity, the Minister added.

Dr Singh presided over the signing of an MoU between



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during signing of an Agreement between Technology Development Board under Ministry of Science & Technology and M/s Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited, at New Delhi.

Technology Development Board under Ministry of Science & Technology and M/s Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited, Maharashtra to support the manufacturing of Hydrogen sensors indigenously.

Dr Jitendra said, the company is developing an indigenous cutting edge hydrogen analysis sensor for new age applications. The development is also related to the universal miniaturised core sensor designs for leak detection and/ or analysis of hydrogen. The patented hydrogen gas sensor and analyser is based on a core sensor; which has been conceptualised, developed, manufactured and serviced entirely in India. The

Minister informed that at present, it is heavily dependent on importing sensors, as all core sensor elements are imported from China, USA, UK, Japan and Germany.

The major quality of these sensors is that they do not face any cross interference from other combustible or reducing gases; can function in air as well as inert/ vacuum background and can perform analysis from 1ppm to 100% pure Hydrogen. With this technology, India can easily penetrate the global market to complement domestic demand through their Made in India products. The sensor has several unique and path breaking features such as Minimum detection: Parts

Per Million (PPM) range; Maximum detection: 100% Pure Hydrogen; Instant response within 3 seconds; low power consumption for core sensor operation. Portable detectors can operate continuously upto 36 hours on single charge; non-corrosive; long life of 5 years etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the demand for energy is growing and with the limitation of existing resources, there is a need for an alternative fuel. He said, 'Hydrogen' envisages being the future fuel to replace fossil fuel and therefore production of Hydrogen fuel by using power from renewable energy, termed as green hydrogen is one of the

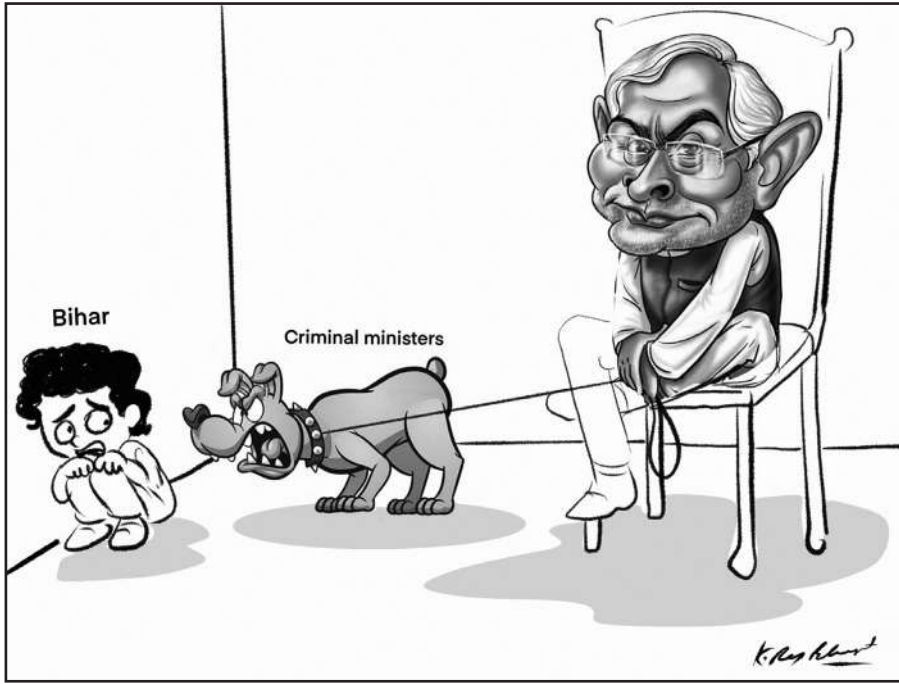
major requirements towards environmentally sustainable energy security of the nation. The Minister added that as per NITI Aayog's report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India' Hydrogen will provide a pathway to accelerate the emergence of a green hydrogen economy, which is critical for India to achieve its net-zero ambitions by 2070.

Rajesh Kumar Pathak, IP&TAFS, Secretary, TDB said that, "The target of net-zero emissions by 2070, as said by Hon'ble PM at COP26 Summit, Glasgow, can be achieved by promoting alternative energy resources. Hydrogen is one such resource which requires indigenous ecosystem development including safety & security during its usage. As an initial step in this direction, TDB is supporting startup 'M/s Multi Nano Sense' for development and production of highly advanced leakage detection sensors to detect hydrogen leakage, and to enhance safety and security of the systems".

Army defuses unexploded ordnance shell

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army troops detected and defused an unexploded ordnance shell in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Friday, officials said. Soldiers of the Tiger division assisted the civil administration in carrying out safe extrication of the unexploded ordnance shell from a heavily populated area near Kikri Morh in Balole Nala of Samba, they said. They demolished the shell safely, thereby averting a tragedy, the officials added.



LG releases Hindi Ghazal anthology of Satish Vimal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday released the Hindi Ghazal anthology of noted litterateur & poet Satish Vimal here.

The book titled 'Nriya Maun Kaa' (The Dance of Silence) is Vimal's sixth Hindi poetry collection. Vimal has nine poetry anthologies in Hindi, Urdu and Kashmiri to his credit.

The Lt Governor appreciated the work done by Satish Vimal in the field of literature.

"Satish Vimal is one of the most celebrated authors of the country. His masterly works are enjoyed and appreciated equally by the literary connoisseurs and readers. I wish him success for many more such literary



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha releasing Hindi Ghazal anthology of poet Satish Vimal.

endeavours in future too", said the Lt Governor.

This Ghazal anthology, published by Aakriti Prakashan, New Delhi comprises fifty seven Hindi Ghazals of Satish Vimal. Extracts from the articles of

famous writers of India Ganga Prasad Vimal and Gopal Dass Neeraj are included in the anthology. The book has been decorated by the sketches of famous artist of India Kavita Mahajan.

LG Mathur launches 1st Ladakh Education Fair

Advises students to choose careers, professions relevant to Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur, on Friday virtually launched the first Ladakh Education Fair being organised by the Higher Education Department in collaboration with the University of Ladakh and Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM), at EJM College in Leh.

LG Mathur also launched the Ladakh Skill Development Mission portal on the occasion.

Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh (UoL), C Phuntsog were present at the event as Guests of Honour.

Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Stanzin Choshpel and Vice-Chancellor, UoL, Prof SK Mehta, were present at the event.

Calling Ladakhi youth as the future of Ladakh, LG Mathur advised them to make full use of the first Ladakh Education Fair.

He appreciated the atti-



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp at Leh.

tude of the Ladakhi youth for coming back to Ladakh after the completion of their higher education to work for the benefit of society.

He stated that this is a positive sign for society and the economy of the region. He informed that efforts are being made to provide jobs and scholarships to the students of Ladakh.

LG Mathur stated that the Ladakhi Education Fair aims at career counselling and provides information on scholarships, skill development, appren-

ticeship programmes and education loans for students to enable them to avail the benefits.

He expressed happiness that a much larger number of students from Ladakh are availing benefits of various scholarship schemes of the central government and UT Administration after the formation of Ladakh as a Union Territory.

LG Mathur called choosing a career or profession as a critical decision for youth. He suggested the primary sector as an area that can contribute to the

economy of Ladakh in the future.

He stressed the need for convergence between the future of Ladakh and the subjects chosen by the students, especially those that are relevant to Ladakh. He suggested that students may choose professions where Ladakh can offer ready-made opportunities.

LG Mathur expressed hope that the Fair would prove beneficial to students in providing guidance and helping them to decide their careers/professions.

Former Vice-Chancellor, UoL, C Phuntsog, shared his experiences and stressed the importance of analytical learning and on education as an investment in human resources.

Earlier, Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Padma Angmo, welcomed the guests. Principal of EJM College, Sameena Iqbal, gave the vote of thanks.

Students of EJM College, Government Degree College (GDC) Nubra, GDC Kargil, GDC Zaskar, GDC Drass and GDC Sankoo are taking part in the two-day Fair.

Despite golden era of tourism, Nigeen Club losing utility

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Established on the banks of picturesque Nigeen Lake, the very ambience of Nigeen Club is enormously attractive. As an icing on the cake, recently upgraded infrastructure and State-of-the-art facilities provide ample amusement and entertainment to visitors, not only from valley but outsiders too. According to details provided by tourism department on their website, the club has enormous modern facilities like Conference Hall equipped with the latest sound system and can accommodate 150 persons. The Club restaurant offers wide variety of delicacies ranging from Kashmiri cuisine to Chinese. The health club has also got latest equipment and trainers have been appointed to help those availing the facilities within club. Moreover, the club has Sauna & Steam bath services which are beneficial for patients suffering from arthritis and other disorders.

The club has also a billiard and snookers room where the players can enjoy the game. The club library houses variety of books on tourism, travelogues, culture and trekking. On the other hand, employees working in Tourism Department's Nigeen Club are alleged that the club is losing sheen due to official apathy. The employees claimed that Club has failed to retrieve over Rs 38 lakh from members including several old ones. Sources said that despite ample revenue, employees are being denied service benefits. "Official apathy has created a number of issues related to salary benefits. Majority of service benefits of the employees are pending as authorities are sitting over the same like TA, CP fund and other arrears, which are pending for years. Despite tireless work of employees, the officials are not paying heed to our requests. The employees have not received CP funds since October 2019," they alleged.

A recent RTI revealed that Club has failed to retrieve over Rs 38 lakh from its members. "I had also filed a RTI to know about some details on functions held in the club which is one of the main sources of revenue generation, but unfortunately, some of such questions were not answered by officials saying that personal information cannot be shared," said a RTI activist. As per the official record, the club has over 200 members, but presently only a few are visiting due to these issues. Even permanent staff at the club has been transferred and sent to other places. The club is a good revenue generator through marriage functions etc but still, employees are claiming that they don't get service benefits. The members and employees said that an audit should be carried out to check functioning of the club. Meanwhile, in reply to a RTI, it was also revealed that no audit has been carried out in club during last 10 years.

Janmashtami celebrated with religious fervour in J&K



Glimpses of Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations in Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: A grand function to mark the celebration of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, birth of Lord Krishna, was held at International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Temple, Dream City, Muthi. Thousands of devotees from every nook and corner of the Winter Capital, thronged the temple and took the blessings of Bhagwan Krishna. They worshipped to celebrate the festival and offered special 'Bhog' on the occasion, waiting in queues

outside the temples to have Darshan of Bhagwan Krishna.

The temple was beautifully decorated with flowers and lights besides special stalls were also installed highlighting the teachings of Lord Krishna.

Amid blowing of conch shells and chanting of Vedie hymns, worshippers offered prayers since early morning in temples which wore a festive look.

Devotees observed day-long fasts as special delicacies for the occasion remained an

attraction.

Earlier the programme started with Mangal Aarti, followed by day long Akhand-Kirtan. An impressive Shobha Yatra of Rath of Bhagwan Krishan was also taken out.

In the evening Gaur Aarti was performed with kirtan and devotees were seen dancing on the bhajans of Lord Krishna. Children dressed as 'Krishna' and 'Gopikas' and floats depicting various incarnations of the Lord were the highlights of the celebration.

After that Maha Abhishek

of Lord Krishna was performed with religious fervor and the devotees were seen dancing while going into the state of trance.

At last Falahar Prashadam was served to the devotees where the devotees of Lord Krishna also showed their participation with enthusiasm.

Rainawari KP Action Committee celebrated Janmashtami at Hari Parbhat, Dok Paloura. The celebrations started with the offering of Navediya to Bhagwan Krishna. Leelas

and Bhajans dedicated to the Bhagwan Krishna were sung by devotees.

Gita recitation and other Sholakas dedicated to Leela Puroshitam by Ramesh Sapru, Anjana Razdan, Roop Krishen Razdan and their team.

On this occasion 6th edition of Sharika Leela Lahiri was released by Shri Shri Sharika Chakreshwar Sanstha, Hari Parvat Srinagar, Devi Angan/Dok Paloura, Jammu.

People present on the occasion include B. L Jalali, President of the Committee,

Ranjeet Gurkha, President, Shri Shri Jagat Amba Sharika, Chakreshwar, Sanstha. Among others present were Sanjay Raina, Ajay Raina, R.L Koul, Secretary ASKPC, Ramesh Kaw, Dr Mahesh Kaul, Virender Dembi, Kishore Mattoo, K.J Bhat, S.K Khar, Veer Jalali, Ravinder Jalali and J.K Khar.

Kite flying has gained popularity amid Janmashtami celebrations in Jammu region. People, especially children and youth, reveled in flying kites to mark the

occasion of Janmashtami in the capital city and other towns of Jammu region. People were seen purchasing kites and threads from the shops since morning and at some places there was a beeline of youth in front of such shops dealing in selling of kites.

Meanwhile, Janmashtami festival was celebrated across Kashmir Valley. Attired in their colourful best with some kids dressed up as Lord Krishna, dozens of Kashmiri Pandits today took out a procession here in Srinagar to celebrate

'Janmashtami.'

Amidst religious chants in praise of Lord Krishna, the procession began from temple in the Habbakadal area of the city and passed through Krakhud, Barbarshah before reaching the clock tower at the historic Lal Chowk before concluding peacefully at the place of its origin.

The Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley thronged various temples since this morning and participated in 'Puja Archana, Bhajan Kirtan and Prasad Vitaran' before joining the march.