

Dr Jitendra asks Surveying authorities to adopt integrated technology

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 DEHRADUN: 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 on Friday asked the Surveying authorities to adopt integrated technology and called upon the National Surveying and Mapping Agency (NMA) to reorient itself to contemporary India.

He asked the Surveying authorities to come out of Silos and work in close coordination with other related departments like ISRO, IMD, Ocean technology in Earth Sciences etc, in order to be able to produce more fruitful and cost-effective outcomes, which are in tune with the priorities of the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During a visit to the NMA's National headquarters here today, Dr Jitendra, who is also the Ministerial Incharge of the NMA, which is under the Ministry of Science and Technology, said that the



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh convening a meeting with senior officers of National Surveying and Mapping Agency (NMA) at Dehradun, on Friday.

Survey of India Agency has a legacy which dates back to 250 years.

He recalled that it was established in the year 1767 with the mandate to explore the country's domain and provide base maps for expeditions and integrated development.

However, the Minister observed that ever since Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister in 2014, there has been a giant leap in India's technological approach which also has a bearing on the manner in which the process of survey is conducted and therefore it is the responsibility of all of us to live up to the era of new

technological innovations initiated and introduced in the last seven years. The Minister issued instructions for holding a joint meeting of the officials of NMA with representatives from all the Science Ministries and Departments to pursue initiatives through a joint task force. Giving credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra said, for the first time this Government has introduced technology in every Indian household and extended its applications for the benefit of the sectoral sector; development projects as well as for the common citizens. With the integration of different scien-

tific innovations and a huge jump in our technological advancement, he said, the responsibility today is to promote the use of geo-spatial knowledge and intelligence, not only in the conducting of surveys but also through partnerships and mechanisms which could involve all the stakeholders as well as all the sections of society.

Dr Jitendra also reviewed the progress made after 15th February 2021 when the Modi government had taken a historic and pathbreaking decision of acquiring and producing Geo-spatial data and Geo-spatial services including

maps.

This, he said, was aimed at collecting, generating, preparing, disseminating, storing, publishing, updating and digitalizing the Geo-spatial data and maps within the territory of India, with greater ease for individuals, organisations, companies, government agencies and all the other concerned stakeholders.

The responsibility before all of us, said Dr Singh, is that if under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has gone forward to liberalize and democratize the Geo-spatial data, how best can be the Survey conducting agencies put it into practical application and also evolve methods which are time saving, cost effective and convenient for the common citizen.

Reiterating that the Survey of India will have to reorient itself faster than possible, the Minister said, there are no other options than to this.

Survey General, Naveen Tomar also made a power point presentation before the Minister.



Congress responsible for mayhem in J&K: Kavinder

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JAMMU: Accusing Congress of being the root cause of corruption, terrorism and separatism in J&K, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Friday sharply reacted over the remark made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that RSS and BJP are breaking composite culture of UT. In a terse rejoinder to Rahul's allegation, the BJP stalwart said that exodus of Kashmiri Pandits under the nose of Congress rule in the country is the turning point as far as chaos in the UT is concerned. He said that Congress is responsible for the miseries of people in J&K as one fragment faced hardships due to exodus and the other confronted the ordeal due to terrorism sprouted by the ill-conceived and lop-sided policies run by Congress in the region. Kavinder said had the Congress played its role maturely during early 1990s the situation here would have been different with J&K touching the heights of progress.

He maintained that the Congress is the main culprit behind the sufferings of the people as it never thought beyond its electoral gains and in this course it ruined the region known as Paradise on Earth.

The former Deputy Chief Minister said that the BJP Government under the leader-



Former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta along with other BJP leaders.

ship of PM Narendra Modi has integrated J&K with the country in real sense and is working to establish lasting peace with no entity in the UT complaining of discrimination which used to be the main character-ists of the Congress regimes in the past leading to unrest and upheaval. Kavinder asked Rahul Gandhi to do some homework before leveling baseless allegations as the onus of turmoil in Kashmir solely lies on his party's leadership starting from Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, who gave nod to special status to J&K under Article 370. He blamed Congress for dividing the society in J&K by tacitly supporting the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, who are living a refugee's life in their very own country.

"It is painful that instead of playing a constructive role in healing the wounds of Kashmiris whether Hindus,

Sikhs or Muslims, Rahul has come to the UT of J&K with noxious mindset to again sow hatred in between different circles of the society making situation difficult for the government, which has achieved a lot in restoring pristine glory of J&K by ensuring peace and progress as never before', he maintained, adding that people should not pay heed to such rants by the Congress leaders as they are desperate to regain ground through concocted stories. Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta today chaired a meeting of Kisan Morecha and Mahila Morecha at BJP headquarters in Jammu. In the meeting, Yudhvir Sethi Vice President, Munish Sharma, Prabhari All Morecha, Oni Khajuria President Kisan Morecha, Sanjita Dogra President Mahila Morecha, Nand Lal Sharma, Ved Sharma, Rohit Verma, Purna Nanda and other office bearers were present. Kavinder laid stressed upon Mahila Morecha and Kissan Morecha leaders to intensify their working at grass roots level and make people about the policies, achievements and work done by the BJP Government in the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

Kavinder said that party is always on the forefront to reach out people in need as the connect which BJP has developed with the population in J&K no other party can think of it.

He urged the senior party leaders and workers present in the meeting to deal with people's issues with extreme sensitivity. "BJP is a public movement and not just a political outfit therefore it is responsibility of every constituent of the party to work for making lives of the people convenient and free from sufferings", he added.

Training programme on capacity building of JKP with NIA concludes J&K Police has very pivotal role in maintaining peace in J&K: Adv Gen Raina

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JAMMU: Peace is very import for every development and J&K police has a very pivotal role in maintaining it in Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by Advocate General J&K D.C Raina in the closing ceremony of third phase training programme on capacity building of JKP with NIA, here on Friday.

Organizing these training programmes is a part of the police headquarters' initiative of upgrading and updating investigation skills of /officers/personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The valedictory function was attended by ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh, ADGP (Coordination) PHQ, Danesh Rana, DIG



ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh presenting memento to Advocate General J&K D.C Raina during the closing ceremony of training programme.

NIA Sanjukta Parasor, DIG JSK Range Atul Goel, senior officers of J&K police, NIA officers and investigation officers from Jammu Zone and CID.

Chief Guest, Advocate General D.C. Raina, while speaking on the occasion,

expressed his pleasure to be the part of the valedictory function.

He said that proper documentation/evidence collection is important for securing the convictions and also threw light as to how an effective investigation is

conducted.

"We are facing a number of challenges today," he said and added that collective and effective performance of the officers would definitely contribute in safeguarding the people and the society.

He said that every dossier

Srinagar to face dearth of land in coming years due to illegal constructions

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: There will be no land available for house-construction purposes in Srinagar, if the current scenario lasts for another 15 to 20 years, a study has revealed. Ongoing illegal constructions of huge shopping malls and other structures in the main city area has become a cause of grave concern among the masses, as Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) continues to support the violations in lieu of millions as alleged bribes. According to sources, a game of bribe is going on in Srinagar and whosoever can pay, is free to carry out any type of construction at any place or site.

Taking undue advantage of unrest and recent COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Kashmir, some senior officials of SMC have allowed builders to undertake massive illegal constructions, in brazen violation of the Srinagar Master Plan, against alleged huge bribes for the deals. Such mega constructions are being undertaken in every district of Kashmir especially in Srinagar city. Experts believe that if the situation does not change, land prices in the summer capital will be skyrocketing making it impossible for the poor to own a house.

As per a study and data collected by the Town Planning Organisation, 'very limited' land is available for any development in Srinagar. As per data, out of a total area of 766 Sq Km, 160 Sq Km has already been developed. The data further shows that only 311 Sq Km are presently available for construction purposes. "In crude terms, about 57 per cent of total area cannot be used for any development. In a situation where annually about 15,000 housing units would be required to be built annually for an additional 75,000 souls, an alternative develop-

ment strategy based on sustainable parameters needs to be developed to accommodate an additional one million population in a period of next two decades," report added.

It is really sad that people are ignoring all rules and regulations and hundreds of Shopping complexes are being constructed illegally throughout Srinagar, especially in the Downtown area or Shehar-e-Khaas. Similar situation can be observed in the outskirts of Srinagar city where shopping complexes are being built in residential colonies. The devastating trend is not only in Srinagar district but other districts are also facing the same situation where nearly hundreds of Kanals of paddy fields and apple orchards have been converted into concrete forests with hundreds of illegal multi-storied shopping malls being constructed and revenue officials acting as mute spectators.

On the other hand, field staff SMC told STATE TIMES that they are ready to dismantle all these illegal constructions within a few days, but some senior authorities have a soft corner for them, due to which we can't initiate action against violators. Rejecting statements of field staff, locals alleged that field staff is much more involved in corrupt practices than senior officials and echarging huge bribes from violators and allowing them to raise illegal malls and other structures.

Recently, SMC Commissioner Athar Amir, while interacting with reporters, said that the Corporation is very strict against illegal constructions in Srinagar and we are collecting the data regarding all illegal structures, especially in the city from where we have received several complaints regarding illegal constructions.

Dharmarth Trust celebrates Ganesh Utsav with fervour at Raghunath Temple

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JAMMU: Dharmarth Trust celebrated Ganesh Utsav (Ganesh Chaturthi) with religious fervour and gaiety in Raghunath Temple here on Friday.

The installation of the deity was performed by the Pujaris of the temple as per the rituals thus marking the beginning of 10-day long Ganesh Festival.

A Head Priest of Raghunath Temple informed that the Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, marks the birth of Lord Ganesh as it begins on the fourth day of the month of Bhadrpada, the sixth month of the Hindu calendar.

"It concludes after 10 days on the day of Anant



Devotees performing Puja of Ganpati Ganesh.

Chaturdashi, when the idol is immersed in the nearest water body in the city. Lord Ganesh is considered an embodiment of wisdom and widely revered as the remover of obstacles," he added.

Similarly, an idol of Ganpati ji was also installed at Shri Ranbireswarji Temple by the temple Priests.

Ajay Gandotra, President of

the Trust greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on Ganesh Chaturthi.

While praying that Lord Ganesha will bless all to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and restore peace in J&K, Trust's President said that people should take refuge in spiritual life to overcome the throat cut pressures of today's

Union Agri Minister visits Indian Int'l Trade Saffron Spice Park Pampore



Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar visiting Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park.

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SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar accompanied by Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary and Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture Sushri Shobha Karandlaje on Friday had a detailed visit to Indian International Trade Saffron Spice Park, Pampore, where they inspected various depart-

ments of the processing unit.

In addition to the Stigma Separation Center, they also inspected the Drawing, grading, packing and E-Auction Centers at the park.

Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar said that the Central Government is ready to provide all possible help and support to the farmers. With the existence of Spice Park the income out of saffron production of growers has

doubled. Center will provide all kind of facilities and assistance to the farmers that will make the lives of our farmers prosperous, he added.

During the programme the delegation of ministers also spoke to the farmers, during which the farmers presented their grievances and issues before the visiting dignitaries. The farmers were assured that the government will take up the issues on priority to resolve the legitimate demands of the farmers.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor Farooq Ahmad Khan, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Naveen Kumar Chaudhry, District Development Commissioner Pulkama Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhry, Director Agriculture Kashmir Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry and other officials, besides a good number of farmers also participated in the interaction programme.

NCGG, JKIMPARD organise 'Mid Career Training Programme' for senior officers of J&K



Senior JKAS officers along with other dignitaries posing for a photograph.

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SRINAGAR: In a significant move towards streamlining administrative structure in Jammu and Kashmir, a first ever "Mid Career Training Programme" was organized for senior officers of the UT as per new training policy adopted by Jammu and Kashmir government. This training intervention is in line with IAS training at the national level which has been in vogue for quite some time. The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi, in collaboration with JKIMPARD organized this two week training programme at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussori, which focussed on changing paradigm of governance, public contacts and policies, right to service, leadership, ethics, innovation, creativity, health governance, land acquisition, electoral reforms, Rural Development programmes, etc. Apart from the academic discourses, the officers had several institutional visits to Smart City projects, e-governance, initiatives of MDDA, AIIMS New Delhi, zero energy projects etc.

Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, interacted with these senior JKAS officers and acquainted them with several governance reforms that have been and are being introduced in J&K including Prevention of Corruption Act, abolition of interviews for recruitments and cadre review of civil service officers. Dr Singh emphasized upon the officers to empower themselves with new ethics and best practices. He highlighted the broad contours of recently signed MoU between NCGG and JKIMPARD. Union Additional Secretary, DARPG, V Shrinivas distributed certificates among them. DG IMPARD, Sourabh Bhagat, who was present on the occasion, was felicitated by V Shrinivas for his hard work towards rolling out of this programme in a short span of time. Director, NCGG, New Delhi, Professor Poonam Singh, presented an overview of the programme.

Prof. Reva Sharma Director Trainings J&K IMPARD Jammu presented vote of thanks. Deputy Director, J&K IMPARD, Tariq Kakroo was also present on the occasion.