

India @75 to promote women Scientists, Technologists: Dr Jitendra

■ 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 said here today that India @75 is resolved to promote women Scientists and Technologists.

In an exclusive interview to a news agency, Dr Jitendra Singh said, as the Independent India turns 75, we are witnessing an increasing number of women scientists who are not only distinguishing themselves in different areas of work but also earning national and international recognition. Some of our very prestigious projects, for example, in Space technology, are being spearheaded by women scientists, he added.

The Minister informed that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has started a new programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' to encourage meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 to pursue education and career in science and technology, particularly in the areas where women are under-represented.

At present, he stated, the pro-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview to a national news agency.

gramme is implemented in over 100 districts of the country. Various activities such as Science Camps, special lectures/classes, counselling of students-parents and interaction with role models are conducted in the programme. Dr Jitendra Singh further stated that selected girls are also getting opportunities to visit nearby scientific institutions and industries. Access to the Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), wherever available, is also provided to selected students for tinkering activities.

The Minister said, institutional support is also provided through 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE)' Programme for development of research infrastructure in women universities in order to encourage women's participation in Research & Development activities in S&T. DST has started a new programme 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)' which aims to transform institutions for a more gender sensitive approach and inclusiveness with the ultimate goal to improve the gender equity in STEMM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics and Medicine).

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), said Dr Jitendra Singh, has also started "SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)" scheme with aims to address comparatively lower participation of women scientists in research activities and to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering. In addition to this, SERB has instituted 'Women Excellence Award' in order to reward young women scientists below the age of 40 years, who have excelled in science.

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Traders warns strong agitation if Govt allows Reliance Stores in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Calling for a decisive fight against opening of Reliance Retail Stores in Jammu, Traders warned the Jammu Kashmir UT Government that if the Reliance Retail stores are allowed to open in Jammu, the traders will protest on a large scale.

Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market has expressed strong displeasure over the proposal of big companies like Reliance to open stores in Jammu in the retail sector, saying that if this happens then small shopkeepers of Jammu will be ruined and their shops will be closed. Traders will not allow this to happen.

Giving a seven days ultimatum to the government, the Federation has said that if the Government does not review its decision, the traders will come on the roads, will hold rallies, protest and even sit on hunger strike.

Deepak Gupta, President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu, while addressing media on Thursday, said that when the Modi Government abolished Article 370, we all celebrated and welcomed it, but in these two years we saw that the small shopkeepers of Jammu are dying out and the big traders of big cities of the country come here to do business.



President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market Jammu, Deepak Gupta addressing a press conference.

"We saw what happened to the wine traders in Jammu. Now the bar has also been closed. The business of brick kilns came to an end. We have been continuously appealing to the government for the last two years to take some steps to save the small traders of Jammu but no plea is being heard," he said.

Now the government has given permission to open the network of Reliance Fresh stores in Jammu, he said adding that Reliance is opening more than 100 stores in Jammu province.

These stores will sell everything from

groceries to medicines and electronics to liquor. Then who will go to the small shopkeepers running the shops in our streets when these stores are opened?, Gupta asked.

"I want to ask the government that whenever there is a tender, the turnover of the trader is seen. Small traders cannot apply for big tender, then how can big traders do the work of small things like grocery and medicines," Gupta asked.

Reliance is doing big business like petro-diesel, gas, textile, mobile. These are big companies who have done great things for the country.

On this occasion Prithvi Pal Gupta, Ex-General Secretary Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, Kirti Gupta, president Dal Merchant Association, Rajesh Bhagat, President Sugar Association, Munish Mahajan, Sr. Ve. President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, Abhimanyu Gupta, Vice President, Sham Lal Langer, General Secretary, Vishal Gupta, Secretary and Amit Gupta, Cashier of the Federation was also present.

So the government should stop such big companies from coming into the field of retail, he said.

When small people will do small business and big people like Ambani and Adani will do big business, only then will everyone progress.

Gupta said that if the government does not listen to them and does not stop Reliance Store from coming to Jammu, we will come on roads.

He also appealed to the people of Jammu not to give land to Reliance to open a store to save the small business men of their city.

We also appeal to all the traders of Jammu to unite and oppose this because with the opening of Reliance Stores, all kinds of small business will come to an end.

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JAMMU: Former Minister & Incharge BJP Panchayati Raj Cell Sukhnandan Kumar, while addressing media persons at party headquarter on Thursday, said that drug addiction in J&K is rising and it is also one of the main reason for crime going up here.

He said that cases related to rape, theft, murder etc are reported daily which is a serious matter.

Flanked by BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta and Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, he said that no doubt that the administration is doing its work well which is seen from the cases of seizing drug consignments in different areas of Jammu as well as Kashmir but still there is need of taking more steps to

nab and punish the culprits. He said that stringent laws related to grant of bail in case of peddlers caught with any quantity of drug.

He said that a person caught in possession of 5 grams of a drug gets bail within days but it takes long for ones caught with more quantity.

Drug is a drug and its quantity should not be parameter for legal action, especially granting bail early or late, he said.

Sukhnandan Kumar said that it is also must that Pakistan, which pushes drug consignments into our territory from border routes be told in clear words that India will not tolerate this narco terrorism to make our youth drug addict.

He said that those within J&K, who play as local carriers and suppliers of drugs, must also be identified and punished under law of the land within shortest time.

The Ex-Minister also appealed the government to organise awareness campaign to educate the youth in particular about the harmful effects of taking drugs and that they should concentrate on sports, education and their career.

He said that the youth is future of a nation and young people should take pledge to keep themselves away from drugs and also take pledge to defeat the nefarious designs of the neighbour country, which has now adopted narco terrorism mode to make youth drug addict in J&K.

Lt Governor releases former MLC Ramesh Arora's poetry collection 'Anubhutiyan'



LG Manoj Sinha and others dignitaries releasing former MLC Ramesh Arora's poetry collection 'Anubhutiyan'.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday released former MLC, Ramesh Arora's poetry collection titled 'Anubhutiyan' at Raj Bhawan here.

While releasing the book and a poster of one of its songs penned down by the former MLC, the Lt Governor said that it's dif-

ficult to write poetry being in public life. He appreciated Arora for the tremendous work and said that he found the book excellent in expression and content, which will certainly inspire many readers to write poetry.

I express hope that Arora will come up with a new book in future as he has the capacity of writing

Shayari', Lt Governor said.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor JMC; Shamsher Singh Manhas, Former MP; Kavinder Gupta, Former Dy CM; Abdul Gani Kohli, Former Minister; Charanjit Singh Khalsa, Ex MLC; M.K. Bhardwaj, President Bar Association Jammu, said, it was heartening to see women in the engineering

Women achievers from Leh meet POWERGRID's female engineers

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LEH/GURUGRAM: Women achievers from Leh met women executives of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power, in a function organised by Northern Region-II of POWERGRID in coordination with the Social Welfare Department of UT Ladakh.

The function was organised under the banner of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav which celebrated women empowerment. Girl students of Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College, Leh were invited to interact with the speakers.

The Chief Guest, Padma Angmo, Secretary, Hr. Edu. & Social Welfare, Ladakh, said, it was heartening to see women in the engineering

field which a decade ago was considered a male bastion.

She hailed the invited women achievers from Leh and said that Ladakh had a long list of women achievers, who are an inspiration to not only girls but boys of Ladakh as well.

The function was organ-

Rinchen Dolma (Captain of Indian Ice Hockey Women's Team).

The women addressed the students and inspired them with the stories of their struggles and achievements. Several women from POWERGRID including Pratyaksha, Senior GM Fin,



Women achievers from Leh posing with POWERGRID's female engineers.

Practice yoga at least 5 minutes a day, says minister Sonowal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday appealed to people to spend at least five minutes every day practicing yoga for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Inaugurating a yoga demonstration-cum-ayush exhibition here, Sonowal said youths should take a keen interest in the practice as it plays a vital role in changing the lives.

"I appeal to everyone to spend at least five minutes every day on practicing yoga as it yields quick and effective results," he said.

The Union minister of Ports, Shipping Waterways and Ayush said that a good public healthcare system



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visiting a yoga demonstration-cum-ayush exhibition at Baramulla.

through the intervention of innovative and traditional practices is the Modi government's top priority.

He said institutions of ayush are being strengthened at the grassroots level and every possible step shall be taken in this regard.

Sonowal said the Ayush Ministry is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for giving people a happy and healthy life.

Underlining the need for unity in diversity for a strong nation, he said the ambitious 'Azadi Ka

Amrut Mala' initiative is a unifying factor where all sections of the society converge and excel.

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir has special identity in the country, the minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a good dream for the development of the union territory and the central government has been working on various flagship programmes aimed to develop the socio-economic status of the people in the region. Later, the minister inaugurated a local cricket tournament titled "Big Bash Tournament Cup" at Showkat Ali Stadium, organised by the Baramulla Cricket Forum in collaboration with the district administration.

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He further said that the



Union MoS for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, Ramesh Teli distributing sanction letter of LPG connection at Doda.

e-shram portal. He also asked the locals to submit the applications for the sanctioning of Petrol pumps as per the required specifications.

DDC Chairperson Doda Dhananjan Singh Kotwal, Commissioner Secretariat Labour And Employment Sarita Chauhan, DC Doda Vikas Sharma, SSP Doda Mumtaz Ahmed, ED IOCL, besides DDC members, BDC Chairpersons, MC President Doda, besides other officers were present on the occasion.

The minister also interacted with various deputations which included DDC members, Block development council Chairpersons, MC chairman & members, Sarpanches/ Panches, recently constituted Youth Clubs, Women SHGs and political leaders. The deputations which met with the minister projected various demands of public importance to which minister gave patient hearing.

