

Venkaiah, Dr Jitendra address CSIR Foundation Day; IIM Jammu wins National award

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NEW DELHI: The Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) on Sunday celebrated its 80th Foundation Day. The function was held at National Physical Laboratory (NPL), one of India's oldest CSIR Laboratories, and was addressed by Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu as Chief Guest and Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh as Guest of Honour.

On the occasion, CSIR awards were presented in different categories, including young scientists, innovations by school children, Life-Time achievement and for distinguished work of the year to the outstanding among the 37 CSIR laboratories spread across the country.

Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIM) Jammu, which was established in 1940s by Sir Ram Nath Chopra, won the National award for initiating the "Purple revolution" of India and thus, redefining and reshaping the entire profile of agriculture entrepreneurship for the years to come. Pertinent to mention that during the last one year, IIM Jammu has supported a number of young Startups to undertake Lavender farming. As a result, young agriculturists from different parts of the country are approaching this institute to begin Startups in agriculture.

Venkaiah Naidu lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach of "Reform, Perform and Transform". He also appreciated Dr Jitendra Singh for his wide knowledge in different fields.

Expressing his keen interest in scientific research and encouraging the young Scientists, the Vice President of India said, he has undertaken a plan to visit various scientific institutes across India



Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the 80th Foundation Day function of Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) at New Delhi, on Sunday.

including CSIR laboratories, IITs etc. where he is interacting with Scientists from different spheres. He said he was particularly impressed with some of the women scientists. Dr Jitendra said, "We should not restrict our ambition to be best in India but be best in the world as India is blessed with the demographic dividend of youth and they can take up any challenge with the right training and motivation".

Dr Singh said, as the Nation is celebrating the Azadika Amrit Mahostav, the combined strength of CSIR, DBT, DST and MoES along with other science ministries can indeed transform the entire country in the next 25 years as the entire progress is going to remain heavily Technology dependant. He said, when India turns 100, it should be a global leader ranging from Defence to Economics with strong scientific and technological inputs.

Dr Jitendra said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership Science and Technology got enhanced budget and a very special impetus in the last 7 years and the scientific pursuits and endeavors are now being assigned special importance. He said, the ultimate goal of all Scientific Innovations is to bring "Ease of Living" for the common man and pointed out that with this aim in mind Prime Minister took decision to unlock India's potential in Space Sector, thus paving the way to transform skill, capacity and creativity to make the country self-reliant and technologically advanced. Similarly, country's atomic energy field was shut behind a veil of secrecy and it was only PM Modi who gave the permission to expand India's nuclear programme.

Lauding the 80-year successful journey of CSIR, Dr Jitendra said, it is heartening to see the evolution of CSIR from developing India's first Indelible Ink used in elections to providing Indian Standard time using Atomic Clocks today. From the development of Sварај Tractor to the recent test flying of HANSA-NG is a testament to the

growth of CSIR in the last eight decades, he added. Referring to the Aroma Mission of CSIR, the Minister said, it has made a difference in the lives of thousands of farmers across India and especially in Kashmir. He said, CSIR's Aroma Mission introduced a superior variety of lavender in Kashmir, and today, a purple revolution is underway in Kashmir. He also mentioned that CSIR has introduced Heeng cultivation in India for the first time and introduced Saffron in non-traditional areas, apart from its well-known mark in the area of menthol mint. Dr Jitendra said, scientific organisations in the country cannot work in silos anymore and the collaborations should look beyond partnerships between organisations in the same area of research. He said, scientists should move from interdisciplinary silos to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.

The Minister informed that in the last two months, he has taken the initiative of calling joint meetings of 8 odd Science Ministries and Departments to brainstorm on theme based solutions that have bearing on fields like health, education, infrastructure, mobility and climate change. Finally, Dr Singh congratulated all the scientists, researchers and students who have won the prestigious Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Prizes and said that the accolades will further motivate the recipients to continue their excellent work and inspire those around them. The Minister said, he was really delighted to see the power of innovation among the winners of CSIR Innovation Award for School Children. He said, they will be the future entrepreneurs, industry leaders, scientists and professors.



Div Com inspects proposed venues for Navratri events in Katra

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KATRA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Sunday visited Katra and conducted spot inspection of the venues proposed for conducting different activities during the 9 day long annual Navratri festival 2021.

He was accompanied by Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai; Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Charadeep Singh; SSP Reasi, Shailesh Singh; Assistant Director Tourism, Ambika Bali; SDM Katra, Chairman Municipal Committee, presidents of hotelier association, wrestling association, and other concerned.

It was informed that the nine day festival would commence on October 7, 2021 and culminate on October 15, 2021.

The Divisional Commissioner took a round of various places including Auditorium Spiritual Growth Centre, Hotel Panchavati Continent, Fountain Chowk, Yog Ashram, Raghunath Temple, Higher Secondary School Katra, SMVDSB Stadium Katra, which have been designated as the venues for different events.

Assistant Director Tourism and Presidents of Hotel Association, prominent citizens and organisers apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the proposed activity on each location.

It was informed that devotional song program would be held at Yog Ashram besides Devi Bhagwan Katha



Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer interacting with officials during visit to Katra.

would be held at Raghunath Temple with 50 percent capacity.

The Div Com stressed that in view of covid pandemic all the activities should be planned according to the SOPs. The Div Com stressed on adhering to the covid protocols while holding the festival events. He also suggested excluding activities involving large gatherings.

The Div Com stressed that the inaugural function of the festival would be held at Asia Chowk Katra followed by Shobha Yatra and a grand event showcasing the culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and India as a whole.

Representatives of Hoteliers Association assured to extend full cooperation towards facilitating tourists and guests during the festival. They also assured to maintain cleanliness besides following covid related guidelines while serving the guests. The Divisional Commissioner also had a detailed review of beautification of the town, provision for sanitation, essential services, traffic management and emergency services.

National CME on lung cancer held at Jammu

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JAMMU: National CME on Advances in Lung Cancer Management was organised by Jammu Oncology Forum in collaboration with Regional Cancer Centre, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu was held on Sunday.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Prof and Head Department of Radiation Oncology, Regional Cancer Institute and Nodal Officer State Cancer Institute, GMC Jammu was the Organising Chairperson and Programme Coordinator and Dr Paras Khanna, Surgical Oncologist was the organising Secretary of the said National CME.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta in his inaugural address said that Lung cancer management has taken a paradigm shift from conventional Management to Targeted Mutation Derived cancer care management, in which the main aim is to find out the Driver Mutation and



Doctors during a national CME at GMC Jammu.

Blockage. Further, most of the mutation testing is available and patients and treating oncologist should not only rely on the conventional histopathology but should avail the said facility for the advance care management of the patient. He further said that by this advance approach even stage III or IV Lung Cancer may have improved survival up to 3 to 4 years in some of the cases. Dr Arvind Kohli, Associate Prof. Dept. of CTVS; Superspecialty hospital, Jammu delivered a lecture on Overview of Pulmonary resection in Lung Cancer and Dr Puja Vimesh Prof and Head Cardiac Anaesthesia, SSH GMC Jammu delivered a talk on pre, peri and post operative

aspects of anaesthesia care in patients undergoing Pulmonary resection. The session was chaired by the Dr Gurjit Singh, Former Professor and Head CTVS Department GMC Jammu and Dr Rajinder Singh Former Principal and Dean, GMC, Jammu. In second session, Dr Paras Khanna Surgical Oncologist delivered the lecture on AJCC 8th Editions pertinent changes in Lung cancer staging and Dr Ajit Singh Consultant Nuclear Medicine SMVD Narayana Hospital Kakryal deliberated on the topic PET CT in Lung Cancer Management.

The session was chaired by the Dr Kulbhushan Gupta, Prof and Head Department of Radio-diagnosis and Dr Pavan Malhotra Director Principal ASCOMS Jammu Dr Rajiv Saini Consultant Medical Oncology SMVD Narayana Hospital Kakryal talked on immunotherapy in Lung Cancer and Dr Nadeem

Shoket Consultant Medical Oncology American Oncology Institute Jammu delivered a lecture on Molecular pathology in Lung cancer; beyond diagnostics.

The said session was chaired by Dr Ram a leading pathologist of the state and Prof. Dr Vishal Tandon, Department of Pharmacology GMC Jammu. The main Attraction of the CME was the invited lecture delivered by Dr Sandeep Bhorival, Assistant Professor Department of Surgical Oncology, IRCH, AIIMS New Delhi. He delivered a lecture on Sleeve Resection in Lung.

Dr Noor Ali Principal GMC Doda and Dr Ratnakar Sharma, Professor of Surgery GMC Jammu were the chairpersons of the said session.

Dr Vikas Roshan and Dr Satyender Gupta also shared their case experiences with the audience. Dr Paras Khanna, Surgical Oncologist delivered cotes of thanks.

Tourism Deptt organises Musical Evening at Srinagar

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Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and others witnessing cultural programme.

present on the occasion.

The Musical Evening was organised on the backdrop of World Tourism Day being celebrated across the globe tomorrow and also as part of the activities under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75th Independence Day of country.

During the event, various artists enthralled the audience with their remarkable performances besides some traditional folk songs were also presented to the audience by singers.

Pertinent to mention, the Tourism department has initiated several activities to pro-

mote the Tourism potential of J&K and in that direction, some senior officers of Tourism Department visited places like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and other places to attract tourist footfall from there. The officers also interacted with Bollywood filmmakers as well as Tollywood filmmakers and invited them for film shooting in the locales of J&K. Apart from this, the tourism department also launched several measures to tap the tourist potential of some virgin destinations as well as rural tourism.

It was in January 2009 that the then Chief Minister of Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir Mr. Omar Abdullah while addressing a function (150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence) organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages said that he had traveled far and wide but nowhere witnessed a composite cultural richness and diversity as is evident in Jammu and Kashmir. No one can deny what Omar Abdullah had said but the question is has any one like 'him' care that truthfully to exploit the values contained in the composite cultural richness of J&K for the betterment of the people therein? Among other things the cultural diversity of quality and ancient historical 'prints' that exist in J&K have enough scope for creating infrastructure worth sizable commercial tourism with the support of pilgrim tourism to benefit so particularly the Jammu and Ladakh regions that have not been otherwise blessed with that favorably climate as has been Kashmir Valley.

Asserting that the Govt will have to ensure safe and dignified of the aborigines of Kashmir Valley to their original homes and hearths in Kashmir, the BJYM Spokesperson appealed to the Lt Governor, J&K Union Territory, Manoj Sinha to immediately fulfill the long pending demand of the KP community by holding an enquiry into the exodus of the members of this community from Valley in 1989, identify the culprits and bring them to just justice.

In a statement issued here, the BJYM Spokesperson, while condemning such cowardly acts, said that terrorists are targeting innocent Kashmiris with the sole motive of creating fear among them but Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with full confidence wants to convey the message these merchants of death and destruction that all the terrorists will be eliminated soon and even the people who are supporting such elements overtly or covertly will not be spared come what may.

Terrorists targeting KPs to create fear will be eliminated: Wanchoo

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Spokesperson Chetan Wanchoo on Sunday expressed anguish over the continuous killings of Kashmiri Pandit (KP) namely Constable J&K Police Ajay Dhar, Constable Railway Protection Force Bantu Sharma and many others before them in the Valley.

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■ DAYA SAGAR

In a way the work on Bhaderwah-Bani Basohli road (J&K) was started in 1964 by the J&K Public Works Department (PWD), it was handed over to BRO in 1986 and though BRO claimed that the 165Km road was completed as single lane traffic movement in 1993 surely it was of no use from tourism point of view. It was also reported by media quoting Border Roads Organisation India (BRO) / GREF sources in November 2012 that in J&K Bhaderwah-Bani Basohli double lane road (165 Km) will be completed for commercial tourism flow by 2017 connecting Lakhnupur with Bhaderwah and with Himachal Pradesh via Bhaderwah - Chamba Road.

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Jammu Region does rough climate during summers enroute to spots worth development as tourist resorts but instead this region is blessed with more of pilgrimage places near to potential tourist destinations . This way there is multi dimensional scope for carrying the visitors / likely tourists/ pilgrims in and around areas of Jammu region where a good number of adventure sports as well as cable car projects too could be promoted.

But still a high order pilgrim as well as commercial tourism could be promoted particularly in areas outside Kashmir valley like that in Jammu Province but that has not been done even after the Kashmir Valley tourism was so badly affected in 1990s. One would ask why?

Even after PDP-BJP alliance had taken over the governance since March 2015 and some draft references were made in the Agenda for Alliance March 2015 for development of Jammu region as an independent tourism circuit with specific plans for: Suchetgarh - Samba - Hiranagar border tourism, Katra - Patnitop - Bhaderwah sector, Parmandal - Utterberi - Surinsar - Mansar sector Katra - Majalta - Billawar - Basoli sector Bani - Sarthal - Jai circuit and Rajori - Poonch (seven lakes) sector and Enhancing connectivity by building Basoli-Bani-Bhaderwah road, the commercial tourism infrastructure is nowhere in sight worth attracting the tourist for leisure , stay and relax for a week or 10 days even in the so often talked about "Bhaderwah- the Mini Kashmir" zone/ zone what to talk of other areas.

It was expected that after BJP has come in power both in Center and in

State the neglect suffered by areas outside Kashmir valley would be undone by pumping in extra financial and human resources to make

good the loss but nearly 7 years have passed and so disappointingly even the Katra - Patnitop - Bhaderwah sector has not been suitably exploited what to talk of Bani/ Basohli/ Bhaderwah/ Chamba track / or to Valley via Kishtwar. It is the summer tourism (to some extent adventure tourism) that brings in the tourist who spends money to buy leisure, comfort, entertainment and services worth improving the economy of the locals. Himachal Pradesh has been able to attract lakhs of tourist even in small places like Dollhouse, Macleodganj and Khijiar but J&K could not even carry a few thousand tourist to Bhaderwah sector what to talk of other areas.

It is no use blaming the Kashmiri leadership, Kashmiri bureaucracy and civil society for the neglect meted to Jammu Region since the Jammu region leadership, bureaucrats (whatever small may be the number) as well as civil society too has not rendered the needed attention and services for suggesting, promoting and following development projects.

The scope could be well seen in the treasure of The Sukrala Mata, Varun Mandir Billawar, Mata Bala Sundri, Machedi, Cheoo (u) Banga Sankar Devta, Mongri Shiva Parvati Cave, Devasthans at Bariote, Badsar Devta at Laki, Shiva Khor (Cave) Shrine, Sudh Mahadev Shiva Temple, Jakhed Naag temple, Basant Garh Purda Devta/ Nag Devta, Khaned, Sehogali Chamunda, Mandir, Kakddi Dhar mountain range, Gaudh Top Nag

A Look through the Mist



Daya Sagar is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist

mandir, Majohi, Mata Chountra Devi, Budha Amarnath Temple Mandi , Gurdwara Nagli Saheb, Dashmarg Akhara Poonch, Ziarat of Shahdara Ziarat Budgoyal Dora Poonch, Ziarat Battalot Mandi, Ziarat Guntrian Poonch, Ziarat Pamote in Surankote, Ziarat Chote Shah , Surankot, Noor Chamb , Sungari (Bhdudhal) , Galimaidaan, seven lakes , Shrine of Shah Farid ud Din Sahib Kishtwar , Shah Asra ud Din Sahib Kishtwar, Ziarat Zain Shah Sahib Bhandarkot , Chandi Mata MachailPaddar,Atharabhuja Temple Sarthal Kishtwar, Sinthan Top, Paddar Leondi single stone Nandi , Hanuman Temple of ancient times (as per local belief it was got constructed by Bhim Sen elder brother of Arjuna), Chesiotsidens Deodar forests, Chandi Mata Temple Bhaderwah, Vasuki Nag/ Patta, Kailash Kund, Gupt Ganga , Asha Pati- Glacier, SONE (deep) BAW- BLI, Lal Daram Doda , Padri Top/ PadriDhaar , Padri (everlasting Glacier) , Chinta Valley , Jai Valley, Seuj Dhar, Raushira Mata Temple, Hairru, Thathera, Satsar Spring , Thubba Temple, and many like .

Writer has at occasions submitted a brief on potential spots in Jammu Region indicating holy places of pilgrimage as well potential exploitable tourist destination nearby to the erstwhile directors of tourism as well but even clues have not been taken from that. The local civil society and political leadership must come forward and build pressures on the Government to pump in extra resources in Jammu region for development of tourism to compensate for the neglect meted so far.

Daya Sagar is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist

dayasagr45@yahoo.com