

Dr Jitendra presents National 'INSPIRE' awards to school children

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NEW DELHI: While presenting the National "INSPIRE - MANAK" awards to school children at a virtual ceremony here today, 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 called for grooming innovation aptitude in them.

In his address on the occasion, the Minister said, Innovation in S&T has a bright future and it will make India self-reliant. Innovative learning will also contribute to India's \$5 trillion economy goal and fulfill the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat".

Citing India's proven prowess in launching as many as three vaccines besides developing the DNA based vaccine in a short time to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Jitendra Singh said in the 21st century, a



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after presenting the National 'INSPIRE-MANAK' awards to school children at a virtual ceremony, at New Delhi on Wednesday.

nation's economic power is determined by its scientific growth and related technological application. In the times to come, India will reap the demographic dividend by grooming these young innovative minds and pooling their resources together, he said.

The S&T Minister said the INSPIRE scheme is helping create a scientific temper as every year there is an increasing number of aspiring students competing for the awards. More than 3.92 lakh students across different States and UTs submitted their projects this year, of whom 581 were shortlisted and 60 awarded, said Dr

Jitendra Singh. More than 5 lakh schools have been reached out under the MANAK Awards since the scheme was launched. This proves that the phenomenon of grooming young Indian scientific minds is catching up, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Union Ministry for Science & Technology will write to the State Governments/UT Administration to sensitize them about the awards and awardees in their respective state/UT. This will help inculcate a wholesome scientific and innovative aptitude and learning process from the initial stages of schooling, he said. He suggested

focusing on three different age group brackets for creating a scientific temper in the country, viz Below 25 years age group, 25-to-35 years old and Above 35 years of age, for building a scientific mindset in the country.

The virtual Awards Ceremony was also addressed by the Secretary, Department of S&T, Dr. Renu Swaroop and Chairperson, National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Dr. P. S. Goel. Namita Gupta, Head - INSPIRE Programme, DST, Dr. Vipin Kumar, Director, NIF and other senior officers also attended the programme.

Tripura CM pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine



CEO SMVDSB, Ramesh Kumar felicitating CM of Tripura, Biplab Kumar Deb after paying obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

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KATRA: Chief Minister of Tripura, Biplab Kumar Deb today visited the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and paid obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum. The CM prayed for the well-being, progress and prosperity of the people of the country.

Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board received the Chief Minister on his arrival at Bhawan.

Ramesh Kumar mentioned various infrastructure development initiatives taken and further arrangements being put in place by the Shrine Board for continuously improving the facilities for the visiting pilgrims.

JAMMU: Department of Telecommunications (DoT) conducted a webinar on 'Awareness on Electro Magnetic Field Radiation from Telecom Towers & Mobile Phones' on Wednesday.

The webinar was addressed by senior officers of DoT, Dr Konika Bhagat from Jammu and attended by many public personalities including Sarpanch from many Gram Panchayats.

Addressing the webinar, Sr. DDG, DoT in J&K LSA, A.K. Srivastava said that such awareness programmes are being run to dispel the myths and misinformation related to effect of radiation from Telecom Towers.

Such awareness programmes are the need of hour for smooth and uninterrupted connectivity, he added.

Other senior officers from J&K service area of DoT spoke in detail on the issue.

It was informed that many prestigious institutes in world

as well as of the country have found in their research that the electromagnetic field (EMF) radiated from mobile towers are not harmful as they are radiated within the set standard values.

A technical presentation was made by DoT officers wherein it was mentioned that the Indian Standards of EMF radiation from mobile towers are ten times more stringent than global standards.

"Department of Telecommunications is very sensitive on the issue and the officers of the Department are engaged in monitoring of EMF radiation levels with full sincerity and promptness," Srivastava said adding that EMF radiation level from all the tested towers in J&K LSA have been found to be within the standards set by the Department.

The participants were made aware that there is a web-porta

www.tarangsanchaar.gov.in on which the Department has

The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK is a flagship programme of the Government of India and is jointly implemented by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India. In the year 2016, the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scheme was revamped and aligned with the action plan for "Start-up India" initiative launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Through MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), students are encouraged from all schools, government or private, throughout the country, to send original and creative technological ideas/ innovations focusing on common problems and come up with solutions on their own, be it household or for porters, labourers, society or the likes. The shortlisted projects are also displayed at the National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC).

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EMF radiated from mobile towers are not harmful: DoT

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put the radiation level and other details of each and every tower in the country and the same is updated regularly.

If a person desires to get the radiation level of any tower in his/her area tested, he/she can make online payment on the portal and Department will organize the testing of EMF radiation level of the tower.

Dr. Konika Bhagat said and mentioned that she has never come across any case related to harmful effect of radiation from Telecom Towers.

She mentioned that she also studies many medical articles and bulletins from prestigious institutions and it's true that there is no scientific proof and also no possibility of any harmful effect of the radiation within prescribed limit radiated from Telecom Towers.

Of course, while using mobile phones, the precautions as mentioned by DoT officers need to be taken care of, she added.



Chugh hails wheat, barley MSP hike

Says it underlines Centre's commitment to MSP system, blasts misleading propaganda on MSP

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CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the MSP of wheat, barley and other crops and said it reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to stand by the MSP system and help farmers double their income.



He welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the MSP for sunflower by Rs 114 per quintal to Rs 5,441, and that for wheat and barley a hike by Rs 40 and Rs 35 per quintal, respectively. The MSP for wheat will be Rs 2,015 per quintal and Rs 1,635 for one quintal of barley.

He said the increase in MSP for rabi crops for RMS 2022-23 was in line with the Centre's commitment of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production, aiming a reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers. The expected returns to farmers over their cost of production were estimated to be highest in the case of wheat and rapeseed and mustard at 100 per cent each, followed by lentil at 79 per cent, gram at 74 per cent; barley at 60 per cent and safflower at 50 per cent, Chugh added.

In a statement, Chugh slammed the "misleading and deceptive propaganda" by some vested interests on the issue of the MSP to beguile the farmers.

He said right from day one the Modi government had expressed its commitment to stand by the MSP system and has increased the MSP of all crops from time to time besides making sure that the remunerations were transferred directly to the farmers' accounts.

Kansal reviews power sector in Jammu; penalty, disconnection drive against willful defaulters



Principal Secretary PDD, Rohit Kansal chairing a meeting.

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JAMMU: Principal Secretary Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal on Wednesday said that "Preventive maintenance is the key to avoid undue and unwanted power failures". He advised the officers and staff of the corporations to carry out exhaustive preventive maintenance activities particularly on 11KV feeders and lines so as to eliminate cases of power outages due to sudden faults. He specially asked the officers of various Sub Transmission and Distribution divisions to identify lines and feeders with chronic problems address them first so as to prevent cases of undue cuts and unscheduled, erratic power supply.

He was chairing a meeting with officers of the Jammu Power Development Corporation and sister Corporations at Jammu today.

The Principal Secretary took an exhaustive review of the power sector in the division while laying special emphasis on progress of revenue realization, AT&C losses, outages and status of various development works under centrally sponsored schemes and other programmes.

With respect to revenue realization, the Principal Secretary exhorted the officers to conduct rigorous inspections, impose strict penalties and disconnect power supply to those at fault. He emphasized that the gap between cost of power purchased and revenue realized was becoming unsustainable and that the DISCOMS needed to make the best efforts to meet the targets set for revenue realization this year. He added that willful defaulters in all segments- industrial, commercial or domestic need to be strictly proceeded against.

The Principal Secretary directed that pending dues of corporate consumers, large business establishments, government and private offices and all other defaulting organizations be looked into and outstandings realized.

The Principal Secretary directed that all feeder meters be checked, a regular database of energy

supplied, losses and outages be maintained and fed in the department's online portal e-support.

He also announced that a cash incentive would be given to all feeder managers and supervisory engineers upon achievement of pre agreed targets. He also warned that there still existed feeders with losses over 80% and continued losses of this kind would invite strict action. Special mention of crude heaters and boilers was also made by the Principal Secretary who said that their use has been banned by law and strict action be taken on their sale and use. On the installation of Smart Meters in Jammu city, the Principal Secretary was informed that 1 lakh such meters each are being installed in Jammu and Srinagar cities currently. Another 3 lakh Smart Meters, for Jammu and Srinagar cities each, are in the pipeline to be installed shortly. The Superintending Engineers were directed to identify priority areas for installation of such meters and were also told to include government offices and establishments in the priority list. The Principal Secretary took stock of winter preparations by the department and discussed availability of essential equipment and material including poles, wires and conductors. The Executive Engineers of "winter districts" were directed to mobilize their workshops, speed up repairs and stock up of material and machinery to avoid any power shortages in winter. Winter districts, which include Kishtwar; Doda, Poonch and others, were also assured of availability of buffer stock and material from central stores.

The working of JKPDCL's cell centre was discussed by the Principal Secretary who also expressed the need to further increase the interface of the department with the consumers. The meeting was attended by Chairman JPDCL, Jagmohan Sharma, Managing Director JPDCL, Gurneet Singh, Managing Director JPTCL, Naseeb Singh, Chief Engineers, Director General Planning, Director Finance, Superintending and Executive Engineers and other senior officers.

CCI resents NHAI's anti-encroachment drive, seeks approach path for business establishments

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JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI), Jammu on Wednesday resented the ongoing anti-encroachment drive led by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials along NH-44 by terming it as arbitrary and sought provision to allow path for having access to business establishments on highway as already businessmen are passing through tough time due to pandemic COVID-19.

In this context, a delegation of CCI Jammu headed by its President Arun Gupta met Regional Officer, NHAI, J&K, Rohin Gupta and expressed surprise and pain that how come they have started dismantling fronts of shops and other business establishments without serving prior



CCI Jammu delegation calling on Regional Officer, NHAI, J&K, Rohin Gupta.

ness community is facing an ordeal due to COVID-19 pandemic as many of the traders are on the verge of starvation as their businesses have been severely affected and this ruthless drive will force them to even manage a day's meal for them and their families.

He said that this uncalled for and should be stopped immediately or at least the affected traders be given

He also said that the business establishments so that their clients or customers can visit them and they could earn bread and butter with dignity.

The CCI President demanded that NHAI should immediately repair the front portions of the shops and other establishments to restore business activity as development after closing the shutters of trader brethren is no development at all.

Those who accompanied the delegation include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

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