

Amit shares J&K's initiatives during National Mines Ministers' Conference

STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Secretary Mining, Amit Sharma, while representing Jammu and Kashmir in two-day National Mines Ministers' conference held at Hyderabad, on Saturday shared recent initiatives taken up by the UT administration towards ensuring added transparency and raising productivity in the Coal and Mining sectors.

The conference was presided over by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines, Pralhad Joshi, who shared his vision of taking nation forward in these key high potential sectors.

Amit Sharma, during his address, mentioned about several key initiatives undertaken in J&K recently which inter alia included launch of



Secretary Mining J&K, Amit Sharma addressing National Mines Ministers' conference at Hyderabad.

G2B2C portal for provisioning of e-Marketplace to sellers and buyers of mining materials and introduction of QR-code based e-Challans to ensure transparency in working of department, initiation of Mining Surveillance System, hi-tech mineral check posts and upcoming project of using drone and PTZ cameras

for random checking of illegal mining at vulnerable points.

Amit also requested Coal and Mining Ministries to support Kalakote mining operations which produce top quality Anthracite coal (usually found in Australia) for revamping the coal mining operations there. He further urged upon them to help in

exploitation of Padder Sapphire (Neelam) reserves and huge underlying Lithium reserves (used for electric batteries) which have been discovered off-late in Reasi and Rajouri belts of the Union Territory by Geological Survey of India (GSI).

Union Minister assured

complete support to the UT in further streamlining these vital sectors having vast potential in the region.

Meanwhile, Union Coal Secretary, Anil Kumar Jain and Director General, GSI, Dr S.Raju also expressed commitment for total support on issues flagged by Mining Secretary J&K while mentioning that they shall conduct visits soon here for addressing most of these issues instantaneously.

Later, Amit Sharma expressed gratitude towards Union Government team for their overwhelming response to issues regarding coal and mines sectors of J&K. He invited them to J&K for carrying forward the ongoing progressive reforms in the Union Territory.



IIPA JKRB organise workshop on 'Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955'



Dignitaries at a workshop organized by IIPA Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, J&K Advisory Board of Welfare and Development of Scheduled Castes Government of Jammu & Kashmir organized workshop for JK Police Personnel (DySPs/SDPOs) on 'Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 & the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989'.

Advocate Aseem Sawhney, Ex. Advocate General of J&K High Court and Advocate Mohsin Dar, Advocate J&K High Court deliberated on various provisions of these laws; challenges which can be encountered and also the roles and

responsibilities of the police officers in effective implementation.

In her message, Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Government of Jammu & Kashmir informed that these laws have been implemented in UT of Jammu & Kashmir after the reorganization in 2019, to realize the vision of government to promote social integration, equality and mainstreaming the marginalized section of the society.

Seema Bharti, Secretary, J&K Advisory Board for Welfare and Development of Scheduled Caste informed that a series of workshops are being conducted to sensitize various stakeholders about the various provisions

of the Act.

She also shared that National Helpline against Atrocities (NHAA) has been established which will empower the victims to register their complaints, as well as directly monitor the action taken by implementation agencies by Government of India. The NHAA will be available to the citizens of UT of Jammu & Kashmir as well.

Earlier, K.B Jandial, IAS (Retd) Director Seminars, IIPA JKRB delivered the formal welcome address and the Lt Col (Retd) Karan Singh, Joint Director Seminars, IIPA JKRB presented the vote of thanks. Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary, IIPA JKRB coordinated the programme.

Justice Magrey visits Central Jail Srinagar, reviews facilities for inmates

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary Home, R K Goel and other senior officers of government and Legal Services Institutions on Saturday visited Central Jail Srinagar to take stock of condition of Central Jail Srinagar including facilities for inmates.

On the occasion, Justice Magrey was presented guard of honour by the CRPF.

Afterwards, DGP Prisons, H K Lohia, accompanied Justice Magrey to male and female blocks of the inmates.

Justice Magrey had interaction with the inmates there regarding the facilities being made available to them. He directed the legal services officers to ensure that no UTP should



Executive Chairman JKLSA Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, along with ACS Home, R K Goel visiting Central Jail Srinagar.

remain unrepresented in the court.

Later, Justice Magrey visited the vocational centres including barber shop, bakery, tailoring centre, carpentry, kitchen, hospital, VC facility, e-mulakhat-centre, Gymnasium and Drug De-addiction Centre.

Justice Magrey appreciated the efforts made by the government in general and the department of Prisons in particular for

maintaining high standards of living in jail and providing all the basic facilities like hygienic food, medical facilities and skill training to the inmates.

Justice Magrey, while addressing the inmates, stated that Access to Justice for all irrespective of which section of the society they belong to. He said that the criminal justice system speaks about two

sets of people, that is, the victim(s) and the offender(s). But there is another section which remains unacknowledged by the system and is looked down upon by the society, that is, the family/dependents of the offenders. The fact of incarceration of the offender has many consequences on the family/dependents of the offender.

He said in many cases, the convict/under trial prisoner (UTP) is the sole bread earner of the family. Due to his absence, the family gets trapped in the vicious circle of poverty and other economic, socio-legal or psychological issues, he added. This itself constitutes barrier to access to justice for the family members. Therefore, it is the duty of J&K government to ensure the well being of dependents of the inmates, so that the goal of access to justice for all is achieved.

Additional Chief Secretary, Home, while speaking on the occasion, ensured that few issues raised by the inmates and officers regarding court hearings through virtual mode shall be addressed expeditiously.

Later, a mesmerizing cultural programme was presented by a group of jail inmates comprising Umer Noor, Wassem Feroz, Irshad and group. The cultural event was impressively compared by Sadat Maqsood, an inmate.

The other officers present on the occasion included M. K. Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K LSA, Jawad Ahmed, PDJ& Chairman DLSA Srinagar, Anoop Sharma, CPC, High Court, Noor Mohammad, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar (Judicial), Daljit Singh, Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar and Sabha Shawl, Staff Officer to DGP Prisons.

95-yr old pensioner welcomed by P F Commissioner

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office - Jammu is functioning in flexi hours to offload the work related to claims by capitalising on system speed. Saturday, being a holiday the system works faster and most of the SSSAs and AOs attend Office to clear the backlog. In the meanwhile, Prem Nath (PPO No. LDASR00031176) 95 years old visited the Office along with his son Rampaul as he was not able to submit his digital life certificate. Archana (DEO) helped him submit a digital Life Certificate- Jeevan Praman in the Chamber of RPF-C-I (being a holiday one system was available with a scanning device in RPF-C's room). Another Member Simranpreet Kaur



EPFO employees clearing claim of a pensioner.

who had worked in M/s Unique Sanitation and Outsourcing

Services attended Office with a grievance that her employer had not approved her KYC (Bank Account) which she had uploaded through her UAN.

Mukesh Kumar, Sr. SSA requested P F Commissioner, Rizwan Uddin that two visitors have a long pending grievance, who heard them personally and action was taken immediately. The Bank Account of Kaur was approved by the employer within ten minutes. E-nominations of Simranpreet Kaur and Pervinder Kumar were processed by Shilpi (DEO) within Office and got e-signed today. Arif Ahmed Teli had visited the Office for filing of missing details in the member's profile; Anita Devi attended the Office for KYC and the claim process. They were guided by Archana (DEO).

Need to prioritize healthcare projects for early completion in Valley

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Many ongoing healthcare projects in Valley are jumping one deadline after another, which is really a matter of grave concern. Bemina Maternity & Childcare Hospital has become a typical example of missed deadlines as despite repeated assurances of officials to make it operational at the earliest, the mega project has been waiting for its commissioning for a long time. Although construction work on the hospital has been completed yet it has not been made functional for unknown rea-

sons. The hospital was earlier designated as a 200-bedded Mother and Childcare Institute, but in 2019, it was declared to be established as a full-fledged pediatric hospital with a 500-bed capacity. After missing more than 4 consecutive deadlines during last 8 years, it was announced to make the 500-bedded facility at Bemina area operational with OPD services starting from October 2021, and Government also assured to shift GB Pant Hospital to Bemina, but all these claims proved out as false as hospital jumped one

more deadline.

At present, G B Pant Hospital is functional at Sonwar from past 15 years, which is the only children's hospital in Kashmir catering need of a large population from across the Valley, and sometimes, from Jammu as well. "Hospital is congested which hampers delivery system that ultimately creates problems for patients," said a doctor posted at GB Pant Hospital. The hospital falls in the cantonment area in Sonwar and on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, which remains clogged with a heavy flow of traffic,

thereby impacting movement of patients. The new hospital has a bed capacity of 500 against 200 at G B Pant Hospital.

During the execution of project, the executing agency missed three deadlines in completing project, first in 2014, second in 2017 and third in 2018. Officials are of the view that some extra efforts are required for making Bemina hospital operational at the earliest. "The additional work will be completed soon and hopefully hospital will be ready by the end of September," they added.

Lawyers to resume work in courts

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu held meeting of its General House today, presided over by its President M.K. Bhardwaj, Sr. Adv to discuss the current status of the agitation on the issue of construction of multi storeyed building for housing Registration authorities, CAT, DRT, AFT, Tribunals, Commissions, Consumer Court and all Revenue Courts.

M.K. Bhardwaj and President of Young Lawyers Association Rohit Sharma apprised the members present in the General House meeting about the meetings held with Chief Justice, Justice Pankaj Mithal and other Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The members unanimously decided to resume work for some days in the High Court, District Courts, Tribunals, Commissions & all Revenue Courts in Jammu, in view of the intervention of the Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and other

Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

It was decided in the meeting that the agitation for construction of multi storeyed building at Janipur Court Complex, Jammu shall however, continue and the resumption of work in the Courts will not detract the struggle of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu for fulfillment of the demands of the Association, for which the Association has resolved further to go to any extent by resorting to all the available legitimate means.

Other office bearers of J&K High Bar Association, namely Mohinder Pal Singh Palli Vice President, Surjeet Singh Andotra General Secretary, Aditya Sharma Joint Secretary, Amandeep Singh Treasurer and of Young Lawyers Association Rohit Sharma President, Gagandeep Singh Lucky Vice President, Yasir Farooq Khan General Secretary, Karanjeet Singh Johal Joint Secretary, Naresh Kumar Treasurer were also present in the meeting.

Link StartUps with Industry right from beginning: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday called for linking StartUps with Industry right from the beginning, as equal stakeholders, in order to ensure sustainable StartUps.

While chairing the Leadership session of Ministers from different States on the first day of the 2-day "Centre-State Science Conclave" at Science City here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, his Ministry is proactively reaching out to StartUps across the country and providing seed funds for incubation and quality research with 50-50 investment mechanism from the DST and the StartUps.

Earlier, the 2-day 'Centre-State Science Conclave' was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Science City here. Referring to Prime Minister Modi's launch of StartUp India from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2015, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India in its 75th year of Independence is now home to more than 75,000 Start-Ups taking a huge leap from 300 odd start-ups a few years ago. He said, India ranks globally 3rd in Start-Up



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing the Leadership session of Ministers from different States on the first day of 2-day "Centre-State Science Conclave", at Ahmedabad on Saturday.

ecosystem and also in terms of number of Unicorns.

Dr Jitendra informed that a special session with the CEOs of over 100 Start-Ups and industry at the Centre-State Science Conclave' in Ahmedabad will try to explore state specific solutions for unique problems faced by individual states. The Minister promised all support from all the 6 Science Departments to the potential start-ups willing to work with state governments with funding from all stakeholders.

Science and Technology Ministers of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Chief Secretaries and Science and Technology Secretaries of other States and UTs gave brief presentations about the

STI policy and other achievements in scientific endeavours and Start-ups in their respective states.

Dr Jitendra said, integration of Research, Start-ups, Academia and Industry is no longer an option but a dire necessity to attract young innovators in the country, particularly in the States to come out with cutting-edge and globally competitive products and solutions. He said, "Doubling Private Sector investment in R&D by 2030" and supplementing the country's and State's overall economy is a key agenda of the Conclave in tune with Atma Nirbhar goal of Modi Government.

Bowing to the will of State Ministers for proactive engagements between Centre and States in S&T and creating a mechanism to facilitate the flow of STI information

and data between Centre and States, Dr Jitendra Singh said, after two days manthan, small joint committees will be formed between the Centre and different cluster of states for taking forward the STI policy to its logical conclusion. The Minister said, Capacity Building of Scientists, technologists and professionals from States will be the key focus area and added that Centre and States will work together to promote Private sector participation in the State R&D and will try to put in position a robust and long term "Centre-State coordination and monitoring Mechanism in STI at the highest level.

Taking a cue from Prime Minister's address at the conclave to open more Innovation Labs in the higher education institutes of the States, Dr Jitendra Singh

promised that Department of Science and Technology at the Centre will provide all support including monetary support for establishing niche innovation centres in the States.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that in tune with Prime Minister's relentless efforts to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship in the country, the first-of-its-kind Conclave will strengthen Centre-State coordination and collaboration mechanisms in the spirit of cooperative federalism to build a robust science, technology & innovation (STI) ecosystem across the country.

Referring to the theme of Leadership Session "Anusandhan se Samadhan", Dr Jitendra Singh said, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that important plenary sessions with State S&T Ministers are being organized during the two-day summit on issues like Agriculture, Innovation for producing portable drinking water including application of technologies like Desalination, Heli borne methods developed by DST, Clean Energy for All including S&T role in Hydrogen mission, Deep Sea Mission of MoES and its relevance

for Coastal States/UT, Digital healthcare for All and Synergizing Science with National Education Policy.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address at the 'Centre-State Science Conclave', Dr Jitendra Singh lauded the vision and bold initiative of Modi for unlocking the Space Sector for private participation and now we are looking forward to Gaganyaan Mission. Similarly, joint ventures in Department of Atomic Energy is leading to establishment of new institutes and new research initiatives. The Minister said, the Deep Sea Mission along with manned submersible will also have an Integrated Mining System for mining Polymetallic Nodules from 6000 m depth in the central Indian Ocean along 7,500 kms of coastal length in the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded that the two-day Science Conclave will focus on the inherent capacities and innovative spirit of Indian Youth to make India a global centre of research and innovation in this Amrit Kaal to fulfil Prime Minister's dream of making India a frontline country in the world in its 100 year of Independence.