

Dr Jitendra addresses BRICS meet, suggests joint fight against common challenges

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NEW DELHI: Addressing the 10th BRICS meet of Science & Technology Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) on Tuesday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh called for joint fight against common challenges.

In his opening remarks, he said that BRICS countries face many similar challenges such as ensuring food, affordable healthcare and energy access for its people, and addressing environmental problems like climate change, biodiversity loss etc.

The Minister also underlined the importance of Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) in bringing together our researchers to tackle new and emerging challenges.

Wang Zhigang, Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, Dr. Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister,



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the 10th BRICS meet of Science & Technology, Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, on Tuesday.

Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, South Africa, Paulo Alvim, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil, Valery Falkov, Minister, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Russia took part in the 10th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting along with senior officials and scientists.

Dr Jitendra said, in order to resolve these challenges, it is imperative for us to join hands to innovate affordable scientific

solutions.

He pointed out that there are several areas where the lives of our people are directly benefited from our mutual cooperation like the establishment of a vaccine R&D centre, BRICS Network University, establishment of shared satellite constellation, mutual recognition of pharma products, etc.

Dwelling on the main session theme on "Strengthening BRICS STI Cooperation", Dr Jitendra said, BRICS countries must deepen cooperation

in the areas like Health, Agriculture, Water, Renewable Energy, biotechnology, Electric mobility, ICT, AI, Robotics and Environment. He said, the network of BRICS countries can collaborate to develop joint S&T solutions, commercialized to fit their local economies.

Dr Jitendra said, India would support BRICS efforts in developing innovative and inclusive solutions, including digital and technological tools to promote sustainable development and facilitate affordable

and equitable access to global public goods for all.

Referring to India's efforts and march in STI area, Dr Jitendra said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always emphasized that ultimate aim of all scientific endeavour is to bring "Ease of Living" for common man; and a "science-based development". He said, India is moving along the mantra of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, and Jai Amusandhan,' which essentially believes in coordination of various sectors to make India a global centre of research and innovation.

The Minister reiterated that India remains committed to environmental and climate causes. In the closing session, where BRICS STI Declaration 2022 was adopted, Dr Jitendra said, advancing BRICS innovation enterprises, developing next generation BRICS scientific leadership and enabling resource sharing should be our guiding strategy of BRICS STI partnership. He said, BRICS countries may explore opportunities of technology transfer & mechanism thereof and adaptation of intra-BRICS technologies among member nations.



Sept 23 will always be celebrated like Deepawali: Sukhnandan

Thankful to PM, HM & LG for declaring holiday

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JAMMU: "The holiday is a befitting tribute to the Maharaja. This is a joy for the Duggar society. All should celebrate it like Diwali," said former minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar while celebrating the government's decision for holiday on September 23, the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh at a function organized at Gajansoo on Tuesday afternoon.

Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Amar Rahe" (Long live Maharaja) and "Jai Duggar Jai Dogra" (Victory to Duggar society). "This was Maharaja's 127th birth anniversary. Entire J&K has participated in the celebrations," the former minister said.

The leaders of Yuva Rajput Sabha led by Happy Singh were also present at the Banquet hall where hundreds of villagers participated to celebrate the holiday on September 23 every



BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar addressing a gathering.

year.

"I bow to the symbol of nationalism Maharaja Hari Singh," said Sukhnandan Kumar, adding, "We are very much thankful to Narendra Modi and Amit Shah and LG Manoj Sinha for declaring holiday on his birth anniversary."

The Modi led government has paid a true and real tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh by declaring his birth anniversary as a state holiday to commemorate his efforts to make Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India and to keep the coun-

try's integrity intact, said Sukhnandan.

Maharaja Hari Singh was born to Maharaja Amar Singh on September 23, 1895, and died of cardiac arrest on April 26, 1961, in Mumbai at the age of 65.

Others who were present on the occasion include DDC member Balbir Lal, President YRS Rajan Singh alias Happy, Corporator Mahinder Kumar, Chairman MC Ghomanasha, Jatinder Singh, Sarpanches, Panches and prominent citizens from Gajansoo Marh.

DC Reasi inaugurates CBC's Multimedia Exhibition on Amrit Mahotsav at Katra



DC Reasi, Babila Rakhwal inaugurating a multimedia exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organised by CBC in Katra.

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KATRA: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakhwal, on Tuesday inaugurated a multimedia exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organized by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in Katra.

The multimedia exhibition mounted at Government Higher Secondary School, Katra is part of various outreach activities being organized by CBC, Jammu during this year's Navratra Festival.

The eight-day long exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of photo exhibits as well as audio-visual media. Apart from this special section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan wherein the achievements of the govern-

ment across various sectors in the last 8 years including in Jammu & Kashmir, have been highlighted. Separate corner for Azadi Quest-recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj - a 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the exhibition display.

The aim of the multimedia exhibition is to generate awareness among the masses regarding the various initiatives & welfare programmes of Government of India. It is an effort to familiarize people with the objectives and vision behind Amrit Mahotsav and how people can be a part of the campaign. DC Reasi appreciated the efforts of the CBC Jammu in organizing the multimedia exhibition and urged people to visit the exhibition. She also exhorted youth especially students to visit the dedi-

cated corners for Azadi Quest and Swaraj and download the video game for an insight into the freedom struggle of India. Joint Director CBC Jammu, Ghulam Abbass, while welcoming the guests, gave a detailed overview of the functioning, structure and working of CBC, in the twin UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He also briefed the audience about various outreach activities that will be organized during Navratra Festival. Abbass said that these programmes are being organized so that people get benefits of various public welfare schemes of the government. He informed that CBC's empanelled troupes from different states including J&K will present Cultural Programmes throughout the Navratra Festival and participate in the Prabhat Pheris and Shobha Yatra on a daily basis. Others present were Ayushi Puri, AD, PIB Jammu, Angrez Singh, SDM Katra, Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag, Khurshed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur, Incharges of Field Officers, Kathua, and Doda, Artists of CBC, Jammu. In run up to exhibition, CBC, organized two Pre-Publicity Programmes in and around Katra to inform people about the various activities being organized by CBC during the Navratra Festival.

The Exhibition is open to the public up to October 4 during which people may visit the exhibition participate in open Quiz competition and enjoy the cultural programmes.

Power shutdown

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JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Baispur, Kotli, Kalyana, Purana Pind and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 28 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Jourian, Troti, Muthi, Mara, Bakora, Rakh Muthi, PIHE, BSE, Border Migrant, Sohla and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 28 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Div Com Jammu inaugurates month-long Special Exhibition-cum-Sale at Jammu Haat

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JAMMU: A one month Festival Special Exhibition-cum-Sale was inaugurated on Tuesday by Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, here at Jammu Haat, Exhibition Ground in the presence of Director, Industries & Commerce, Vikas Gupta and General Manager, District Industries Centre, Virender Kumar Manyal.

In his welcome address, the Director Industries & Commerce said that the main aim of such exhibitions was to provide a platform to the local manufacturers, artisans, craftsmen and service providers to promote and sell their products. He further elaborated that such exhibitions are being conducted by the department on



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar lighting ceremonial lamp after inaugurating Special Exhibition-cum-Sale.

regular intervals.

The main attractions of the exhibition were the showcasing of different products manufactured by PMEGP units, Entrepreneurs, weavers, artisans associated with Handlooms, Handicrafts and Industries and Commerce Department, stalls by Horticulture and Department of Archives,

besides a scintillating cultural and folk music presentation by the artists of Information Department.

The stalls displayed were mainly of White House Enterprises, Kashmir Silk, Sarveshwar Foods, Mahajan Rice Mills, Sifti, AVD Motion Pictures, DSD Knitwear, A One Dance and Aerobatics, Naturis

Cosmetics, Kanwal Food & Spices, JK Industries, Shapes Furniture and many more.

While taking the round of the stalls, the Director apprised the success stories of the entrepreneurs who availed the benefits of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme [PMEGP] and Women Entrepreneurs financed through the Industries & Commerce Department.

Such entrepreneurs are inspiring other youth to become entrepreneurs and concentrate on becoming 'Job Provider' instead of 'Job Seeker' for which the interested candidates shall also be extended financial assistance under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme [PMEGP].

Maiden Coordination meeting between J&K, Central GST officers held



Dr. Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes chairing a meeting.

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JAMMU: The first coordination meeting between UT and Central GST Officers was held the other day in the conference hall of Excise and Taxation Complex, Jammu. The meeting deliberated on different areas where State/UT and Central GST Officers could work together

to augment revenue collections under GST and to counter tax evasions. Dr. Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes, H.B. Negi Commissioner CGST Commissionerate Jammu and other Senior Officers from the UT and Central GST Department attended the meeting. The

deliberations focused on developing a mechanism for information sharing and to curb tax evasion in the region. Many other serious concerns related to Jurisdiction, Audit, Enforcement, Intelligence inputs were thoroughly discussed. Agreeing to the instructions by the Chair, the attending members agreed to the proposal of sharing of information pertaining to different areas of work on monthly intervals. To sensitise the general public, it was further decided that a joint outreach/awareness program by the UT and Central CGST Officers would be held on a regular basis.

The meeting concluded with the determination to put in place convenient modalities between the officers of both the departments to make knowledge and work experience sharing a regular feature. Dr Rashmi Singh, while welcoming the members, expressed that a need has been felt to have a regular interface between the officers of both the departments and this meeting shall act as starting point in this regard.

DB commutes death sentence into life-imprisonment in rape & murder case

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JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary commuted death sentence into life-imprisonment in a rape & murder case.

While commuting death sentence of Sonam Dorjay @ Jamwang Tashi into life-imprisonment, the Division Bench observed that having regard to recording of conviction based on circumstantial evidence only, long incarceration of appellant for more than two decades, and after critical appreciation of the entire evidence in its minute detail, we are of considered opinion that the present case does not warrant award of extreme sentence of death to accused, as sequence of alleged crime is not that diabolical or cruel so as to attract the extreme

penalty of capital punishment. The convict is stated to be in the middle of his age and was a young-man when he is alleged to have committed the crime. He is also stated to be belonging to poor strata of society and cannot be said to be a threat to the society at large, which may warrant eliminating him to save the society, the Court observed.

On perusal of the sentencing order dated 04.12.2012, passed by the trial court, DB found that the convict was sentenced to capital punishment of death for the commission of murder punishable under Section 302 RPC, however, no sentence has been awarded for the conviction of rape punishable under Section 376 RPC, though the conviction was recorded for the commission of both the aforesaid offences. Though it could be a justifiable reason to remand the case to the trial court to decide this

aspect of the case, however, in view of the inordinate delay in disposal of the case by the trial court and long incarceration spanning over two decades, instead of remanding the case to trial court, it is proposed to decide the same by this Court. The convict is, thus, sentenced to undergo eight years imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 5,000 for the commission of offence punishable under Section 376 RPC. In default of payment of fine, the appellant-convict shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of two months. Both the sentences of imprisonment are directed to run concurrently," the Court observed, adding that impugned judgment of recording conviction of the appellant-accused for the commission of rape and murder, is maintained and upheld, however, impugned order of sentence, is only modified.



Secretary Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgal posing with students and other dignitaries.

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JAMMU: On occasion of World Tourism Day, the Department of Tourism and Travel Management (DTTM), Central University of Jammu (CUJ) in association with Tourism Department, INTACH & Cooperative Department of J&K organised Travelism-2022 on Tuesday. The theme for the event was 'Rethinking Tourism'. Travelism-2022 was celebrated as a curtain raiser for forthcoming international conference, likely to be organized in November 2022. The entire event took place under the patronage of Prof Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Cooperatives Department, was the Chief Guest on the occasion while

Amit Sharma, Secretary Mining was invited as keynote speaker. Moreover, Anuradha Rishi, President, Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust was the Guest of Honour while Surinder Singh, Assistant Director, JKPCB was Special Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasha Mudgal enlightened the house with her insightful inputs about tourism resources available in the union territory of J&K and emphasized on significance of Cooperatives in the overall growth and development of economy. She also focused on role of innovations and research in establishing successful tourism ventures.

The Morning session included several competitions comprising Quiz, Photography, Slogan writing,

Folk Dance, Documentary and Rangoli while the afternoon session commenced with lamp lighting followed by the formal welcome of guests by Dr Bharti Gupta. The deliberations commenced with the presentation of the event's theme by Prof Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business School studies, Central University of Jammu. Further, Amit Sharma discussed the technology interventions in the tourism industry and how technology can contribute in tourism revival.

Professor Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor in his presidential remarks talked about importance of practical exposure to the students in their overall development and promised to provide his due support for all endeavors of the department. Subsequently, Anuradha Rishi uncovered importance of heritage, culture, and traditions in the tourism development of India, while Surinder Singh talked about the possible niche segments of tourism that must be promoted by tourism professionals. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony and a formal vote of thanks by Dr Amit Gangotia, Head of the Department. Others present on the occasion included Dr Bharti Gupta, Dr Ranjeet Kumar Raman, Rahul Thakur, Dr Rabinder Singh, Manjeet Singh and Ketan Bhatt.

ASO FSL served show-cause notice for unsatisfactory performance

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JAMMU: The Director Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) has issued show-cause notice to Dr Rais Ahmad Shah ASO, C&T, FSL Srinagar on Tuesday for his unsatisfactory performance despite issuance of repeated verbal directions.

The show cause notice reads "During the last two months, you have examined, analyzed and reported 51 NDPS cases only, at an average of around one case per day in comparison to your counterparts, who have performed quite satisfactorily, which is deliberate, pathetic, shameful and unacceptable." The show cause notice to Dr Rais Ahmad Shah further states, "Your poor performance and lackadaisical approach towards your professional duties has led to accumulation of NDPS and UAPA cases in the FSL, hindrance in the implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, avoidable delay in criminal justice system and breeding indiscipline in the rank and file of the FSL." "The pathetic performance of duty on your part, leading to above consequences, attract imposition of major penalty on you under J&K Civil Service (Classification Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 which is dismissal, removal from service or premature retirement on proportionate Pension," the notice issued by Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, J&K states adding, "Before initiating disciplinary proceedings against you under J&K Civil Services Classification Control and Appeal Rules, you are directed to submit your reply to this notice within a period of seven days."