

**LG Mathur meets Union Minister****India's first-ever 'Night Sky Sanctuary' in Ladakh: Dr Jitendra**

Lt Governor Ladakh, R.K. Mathur calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, has undertaken to set up India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" in Ladakh, which will be completed within the next three months.

The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. It will boost Astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes.

This was disclosed by 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 after meeting Lt. Governor Ladakh, R.K. Mathur, who called on him at the national capital today.

The Union Minister informed that a tripartite MoU was signed recently among the the UT administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for launching the Dark Space Reserve. He said, the site will have activities to help in building and boosting local

tourism and economy through interventions of Science and Technology.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that all the stakeholders will jointly work towards the preservation of the night sky from unwanted light pollution and illumination, which is a serious threat to the scientific observations and natural sky conditions. It may be noted that Hanle is best suited for the project as it is located in Ladakh's cold desert region, away from any form of human disturbance and clear sky conditions and dry weather exist throughout the year, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, a high level delegation of scientists and officials from Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI, as the UT has a very rich and wide variety of animals for leather research and industry and to promote bio-economy of animal skin-derived products. He added that Charthang in Ladakh has over 4 lakh animals mainly pashmina goats, besides Sheep and Yak. He also complimented CSIR for organising 4 training workshops, two each at Leh and Kargil for treatment of diseases of famous Pashmina Goats.

Dr Jitendra Singh also thanked the Ladakh Administration for taking a decision to start the commercial plantation of "Leh Berry", which is gaining popularity in the entire region. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union

Ministry of Science & Technology is promoting "Leh Berry" which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-employment.

The Minister said, as per the vision of Prime Minister Modi's Ladakh visit in 2018, the local entrepreneurs will be provided gainful employment through farming, processing and marketing of about 100 odd products from sea buckthorn plant like jams, juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps in a completely organic manner. Shri Mathur informed that commercial cultivation of three medicinal plants will begin this spring season at the height of above 15,000 feet. This also includes "Sanjeevani Booty", locally known as "Sola" which has a very high life saving and therapeutic properties.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed to LG, Ladakh that from next year, the Department of Science and Technology will establish a distinct and huge pavilion for Ladakh Education Fair, which will be an annual feature as announced by Shri Mathur. The Minister said, DST will actively participate in correct subject choice, scholarships, career guidance, skills development and apprenticeship with prime focus of employability of youth.

**Yasha Mudgal visits CCBL Jammu, reviews working****STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Secretary to Cooperative Department of the Jammu & Kashmir, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday visited the Administrative Office of Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd (CCBL), Jammu.

The Chairman of the Bank, Parveen Sharma along with his elected team of Directors of the Bank welcomed the Secretary, Cooperative Department.

On the occasion of her visit, the Chairman apprised and gave updates about the constitution and working of the Bank.

Chairman stated that it is the first and largest Urban Cooperative Bank of Jammu & Kashmir and catering to the financial needs of traders and public of Jammu Division.

The Bank having eleven branches and four extension counters provides banking services to its clients based on Rs.20.00 crores by the Government of J&K to enable the Bank to achieve CRAR level of 9% to make the bank functional in usual manner.

Board of Directors of the Bank appealed to the Secretary to take up with

the government the issue of capital infusion so that Bank is able to extend all the banking services freely to its clients and public of Jammu.

Ravi Kant, Managing Director expressed gratitude to the Secretary to Govt. Cooperative Department for having paid her visit to take stock of the affairs of the Bank.

Yasha Mudgal gave an assurance to the management of the Bank to take up the issue with the Government on priority and assured every cooperation from the Department of Cooperatives.

**Lawyers' agitation continue, to abstain from work on Monday****STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu has continued its agitation for the demand of construction of multi storied building in the Janipur Court premises for housing various judicial and quasi-judicial institutions like CAT, Registration authorities, Consumer Courts, AFT, DRT and similar other Tribunals and similar facilities in other Districts of Jammu province.

The meeting discussed various issues pertaining to these sectors and decided to take them up with the Government at various levels to address them. "Every compatriot has to play their pivotal role in realising the PM's vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir; with opportunities of progress to all, irrespective of region, religion or caste", he said, hoping that the BJP cadre will be a facilitator in achieving this objective.

General House meeting of the Bar Association is

economy in most testing times and promotion of these sectors is top on the agenda of the BJP especially as these generate a lot of jobs to skilled and unskilled workforce. He said the Cell will endeavour for seeking timely interventions of all concerned for addressing the issues confronting these sectors. For this purpose, a close coordination with the stakeholders will be ensured, he said.

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The lawyers abstained from work in all the courts including District Courts, Tribunals, Commissions and in all Revenue Courts today also.

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**Youth Congress leaders, workers led by Vishal Chopra resign in support of Azad****STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A number of Youth congress leaders and workers led by Vishal Chopra, Chief Spokesperson and Chief Media Incharge J&K resigned from prime membership of Congress to support Ghulam Nabi Azad.

While addressing media persons in Jammu on Saturday, Chopra said that

but also leaving people of UT on mercy of God," said Vishal, adding that J&K direly needs a determined and decisive leader like Ghulam Nabi Azad to lead the UT towards a safe, secure and better future, which Congress has miserably failed to do due to its internal dynastic dictatorship and absence of democracy in party.

**Public grievances redressal camp held at Tehsil Bahu**

Naib Tehsildar Bahu, Mohd Salim listening to public grievance.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A public grievance redressal camp was organised at Panchayat Chowadhi by Naib Tehsildar Bahu, Mohd Salim, Girdawar and Patwari of Tehsil Bahu.

The dossier for registration of these crafts has already been submitted to the Intellectual Property

Department for GI registration.

Director H&H also led the discussion regarding submission of three more dossiers for Copperware, Willow Wicker and Chain Stitch crafts of the valley which are already under consideration of the

**BJP for impetus to Cooperatives, Trade, Industry & Transport sectors in J&K: Rana**

BJP Cells members felicitating senior BJP leader and ex-legislator, Devender Singh Rana.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP is committed to give impetus to Cooperatives, Trade, Industry and Transport Sector in J&K to be a part of the transformed growth story of the country under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to the convenors and co-convenors of co-convenors of the Cooperatives, Transport and Industries and Traders Cells of the BJP, here this afternoon, senior BJP leader and ex legislator, Devender Singh Rana said we must all work to revive the Cooperative sector in J&K and fast track growth Industry, Trade & Transport sector in J&K to work towards Naya Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted the crucial importance of the cooperatives, saying this sector can be a game changer in transforming

rural and urban economy. The outreach of the cooperatives is equally vital for growth and employment generation, he added.

Cooperative Cell Convenor Sanjeev Sharma, Co Convenor Omkar Padha, Ravi Bakshi, Sham Gupta, Transport Cell Convenor Ashu Mahajan, Co Conveners Roshan Sharma, Parvesh Bali, Industries and Traders Cell Convenor Shyam Langer, Co conveners Indu

Bhushan, Sanjay Mahajan, Rajinder Pinki Jain and Chamel Singh were present in the meeting.

Rana said due to relentless efforts of the Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir is on transformational mode with the industry and services sectors getting fivefold increase in investments, which is itself a record during the past 75 years.

He said the transport, trade and commerce have held the

camp in Naya Jammu and Kashmir.

Such camps are being

organised on the directions of the UT government.

In the camp, Narinder Singh Corporator Ward 70 (Ex Chairman Health and Sanitation Committee), Sarpanch

Arshad Bibi Panchayat Chowadhi and other prominent citizens were also present.

Mutations were attested on spot and other miscellaneous services were provided to the applicants present in the camp.

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In the camp, Narinder

Singh Corporator Ward

70 (Ex Chairman Health

and Sanitation Committee), Sarpanch

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