

Scientific fraternity hails PM for G20 showcasing of India's technological supremacy: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Scientific fraternity has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for successful G20 showcasing of India's technological supremacy.

Adopting a resolution by voice vote, the joint meeting of Secretaries of different Science Ministries and Departments, chaired by Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "highly technology driven" New Delhi Declaration and the announcement of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. The periodic meeting of Science Secretaries included heads of Government's all S&T bodies across the spectrum. The Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Earth Sciences, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy, among others, were represented at the meeting.

Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt of India, Prof Ajay Sood was also present at the meeting.

The New Delhi Declaration was hailed for the promotion and collaboration of Science & Technology, particularly towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing a joint meeting of all the Science Secretaries at CSIR Science Centre, New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Declaration adopted at the G20 Summit committed itself to implement India's initiative of 'Lifestyle for Environment Mission' (LiFE) and promote Artificial Intelligence towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). By adopting the 'Green Development Pact,' G-20 has also reaffirmed its commitments to sustainable and green growth. The Science Secretaries Meeting also complimented the ISRO for the Chandrayaan-3 successful landing on Moon and the launch of Aditya-L1 Solar Mission.

The G20 Summit supported India's plan to build and maintain a Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR) and welcomed the establishment of the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) within a WHO-managed framework.

A landmark achievement

was the launch of Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) by the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and UAE, at the initiative of PM Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. GBA aims to serve as a catalytic platform, fostering global collaboration for the advancement and widespread adoption of bio-fuels.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned PM Modi's very successful visit to the US with focus on S&T was an appropriate precursor to the G20 Declaration.

During PM Modi's USA visit, India became a signatory to the "Artemis Accord" and India and the US announced the Joint Indo-US mission to the International Space Station in 2024. Besides, Micron announced an investment of \$800 Million.

In his remarks, Principal

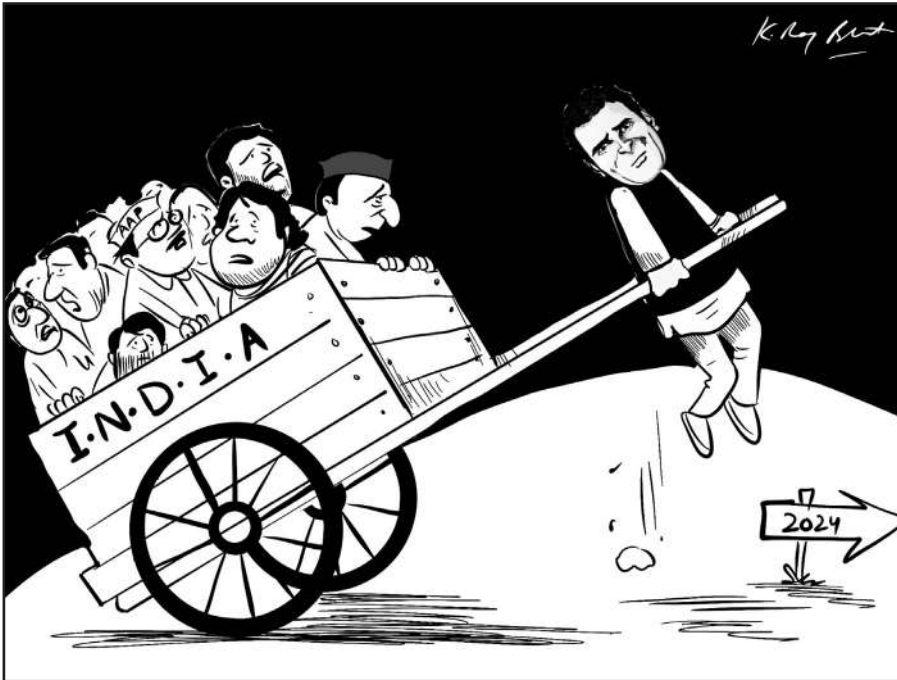
Scientific Advisor to Govt of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood underlined the G20 New Delhi Declaration mentions the word "data" 20

times.

The Meeting also congratulated PM Modi on the successful passage of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

The Minister was informed about the progress of the Anusandhan Implementation Committee and that the framing of Rules and Regulations is in the works. The Vigyan Gati forum will also be implemented under the NRF.

The Meeting also deliberated upon the scheduling of India International Science Fair, IISF 2023.



GGF J&K honours Dr Sushil for his outstanding contributions to medical sciences

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Sushil Sharma, the Head of the Department of Cardiology at Government Medical College (GMC) and Super-Specialty Hospital in Jammu, was awarded by the Jammu and Kashmir Branch of Gandhi Global Family in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of medical sciences.

The award was presented to him in a ceremony attended by Padma Shri S P Verma, President of Gandhi Global Family J&K.

During the ceremony, Verma praised Dr. Sushil for his dedicated service to society and expressed admiration for the impactful work he has done. He also noted that Dr. Sushil could serve as a role model for aspiring doctors in the J&K UT.



Dr. Sushil Sharma, HoD, Cardiology, GMC Jammu/SSH being honoured by members of GGF in Jammu.

Dr. Sushil Sharma, in his response, expressed gratitude for receiving the award but emphasized that awards and rewards should not be the primary goal for doctors. Instead, he stressed the importance of improving healthcare facilities and ensuring that patients receive the necessary attention and care.

He highlighted his commitment to creating an environment where cardiac diseases become less life-threatening, and he aspires to see cardiology reach new heights in Jammu and Kashmir, with advanced facilities and reduced need for medical interventions in the future. Dr. Sanjogita Sudan Deputy Medical Superintendent SSH was also present along with others.

District Hospital Ganderbal administration under scanner Government orders probe illegal activities against doctors



■ MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education Department has appointed Dr. Shafqat Khan, Additional Mission Director of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, as an inquiry officer to probe into allegations of illegal activities and substandard patient care at District Hospital Ganderbal.

Dr. Khan has been tasked with investigating a complaint filed by Dr. Ab. Majid Bhatt against certain doctors and officials at the District Hospital in Ganderbal.

An official order issued by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, reads "Sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Dr. Shafqat Khan, Additional Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K as Inquiry Officer to inquire into the complaint filed by

Dr. Ab. Majid Bhatt, against few doctors/other officials of District Hospital, Ganderbal for their involvement in illegal activities."

The complaint, which has sparked concern within the healthcare community, alleges that some doctors and officials at the District Hospital are engaging in illicit activities, including accepting bribes and delivering subpar medical care to patients.

Dr. Khan has been given a mandate to conduct a comprehensive inquiry and submit a report along with recommendations within ten days from the date of the order.

This development follows a series of controversies surrounding the District Hospital Ganderbal.

Earlier on July 11, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir took action against Dr. Abdul Majid Bhat, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, following allegations of harassment made by medical and paramedical staff.

In response to mounting pressure, Dr. Bhat was attached to the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, with Dr. Nighat Yasmeen Sheikh, the current Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Ganderbal, temporarily assuming the additional responsibility of the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Ganderbal.

The decision to attach Dr. Bhat came after doctors and paramedical staff held a protest within the hospital premises, voicing their discontent and demanding the removal of the Medical Superintendent due to alleged deplorable behaviour.



Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paying homage to martyred DySP Humayun Bhat and expressing grief with family members.

ASHAs are frontline health workers, serve humanity: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Recalling the heroic role of ASHA workers alongside the paramedics during the most difficult times of pandemic, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday said these were the frontline workers who contributed to India's war against Covid-19-an unprecedented and unparalleled crusade acknowledged the world over.

"You have religiously performed a huge role in serving the humanity during the most difficult times at the altar of your lives and now it is for the administration to ensure that your legitimate demands are fulfilled, which is being done in a phased manner", Rana told a delegation of hundreds of ASHA Workers Union -



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana addressing ASHA workers at Jammu on Wednesday.

Jammu, led by its Working President Om Prakash and the other functionaries who met him at his residence.

Devender Rana said the nation in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular will remain indebted to all the frontline workers for winning the war against Covid and sav-

ing the lives of millions.

He assured that their legitimate demands would be taken up with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who has been very compassionate in solving the issues facing people and all categories of employees. He hoped that these would merit earnest attention from the administration.

ASHA Workers Union - Jammu stated that ASHA workers played a crucial role in the fight against the Covid pandemic. There are approximately 13, 000 ASHA workers within Jammu & Kashmir's

public health system and a number of them have sacrificed their lives while saving thousands of others during this fight. Despite their selfless dedication and exceptional services throughout the pandemic, where they risked their lives and the lives of their families, the government has yet to acknowledge their contributions by providing permanent employment, fair wages, social security, and pensions, as recommended by the 45th and 46th Indian Labour Conferences.

The Union also highlighted the discrepancy in wages for ASHA workers across Union Territory and pointed out that ASHA workers in states like Puducherry, Haryana, Kerala, Telangana, and Gujarat receive wages/remuneration of Rs 10,000, which is considerably more than the Rs 2,000 paid to ASHAs in Jammu & Kashmir. The Union underscored that ASHA workers, often on duty for nearly 24 hours a day, face an increased workload without

leave, and are expected to digitise all activities without access to mobile phones. It demanded a minimum wage of Rs 26,000 for ASHA workers, alongside social security provisions such as pension, EPF, and ESI.

Inter-alia the Union also sought an increase in monthly remuneration/wages from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000, annual increments of Rs 1,000, mobile phone allowances up to Rs 500 per month, provision of appropriate attire, settlement of pending incentives, removal of additional work responsibilities, revision of long-pending incentives, provision of accommodation at PHCs/hospitals, prompt payment of JSY, implementation of the Supreme Court judgment on ex-gratia, full reimbursement of travel expenses, provision of high-quality smartphones for all ASHAs, promotion of trained ASHAs to FMPHW, and the assurance that no ASHA will retire until pension and social security schemes are put in place.

Bukhari directs Party leaders to gear-up for ULB, Panchayati Raj elections

Asks Party leaders to intensify public outreach programmes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has directed party leaders to gear-up public outreach programmes in the wake of upcoming Urban Local Body and Panchayati Raj elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Bukhari chaired an important meeting here at Apni Party Office in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu where senior provincial leaders, district presidents and heads of different wings held threadbare discussion regarding the party activities, and its strengthening of the party roots across Jammu Region.

Bukhari directed that the party leaders and cadre on the ground should prepare for the Urban Local Body and Panchayati Raj elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also directed to gear-up the membership drive and public outreach programme while highlighting the public grievances



Apni Party President S.M.A Bukhari speaking at party workers meeting.

for early redressal. "For last several years, the absence of an elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir has created a situation that has annoyed the people because of multiple issues surfaced across the erstwhile state of J&K especially in Jammu plains," he said.

He said that the unilateral decision of the authorities to install smart meters and inflated electricity bills has overburdened the pockets of masses in Jammu plains.

He expressed surprise as to why the Assembly Elections are being delayed in Jammu and

Kashmir when the people in Jammu as well as in Kashmir Regions equally demand restoration of Statehood and democratic system.

He however appreciated that the Urban Local Body and Panchayati elections are going to be held in J&K.

"We need to prepare for the UBL and Panchayat elections," he directed again and appreciated the role of party leaders in Jammu region's each district where the party has garnered support.

Earlier, he discussed the political scenario in J&K with the Party leaders and stressed on the need

for Assembly Elections that would provide relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that "The bureaucracy has failed to come up to the expectation of the people and hence, it has taken many anti-people decisions leading to mistrust among the people against the authorities.

The mistrust and feeling of alienation among the people must be addressed by holding elections and restoring statehood to the historic state of Jammu and Kashmir."

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Senior

Vice President, Jammu, Ex-MLA Qamar Ali Choudhary, Provincial Vice President Prem Lal, Vice President Sheikh Shafi, Additional General Secretary (organization), Arun Kumar Chhiber, District President Poonch, Ex-MLA Shah Mohd. Tantray, State Secretary, Mohinder Singh Parihar, Provincial Secretary, Dr. Rohit Gupta, Provincial Secretary, Sohan Singh, Provincial Secretary, Riyaz Atish, State President ST Wing, Saleem Alam Choudhary, State President SC Wing, Bodh Raj, State President Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi, OBC State President, Bhagat Ram, District President Jammu Rural-A, Pushap Dev Kumar Uppal, District President Jammu Rural-B, Adv. Harpreet Singh, District President Samba, Raman Thappa, District President Udhampur, Hans Raj Dogra, District President and others.

SAFF Championship winners call on Lt Governor



Winners of SAFF Under-16 Championship from Jammu Kashmir calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The winners of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-16 Championship from Jammu Kashmir called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

The delegation was comprised of Ishfaq Ahmed, Head Coach; Majid Yousuf, Manager of the Team and Abdul Salah, the champion Football

Player from Khanabal, Anantnag. The delegation was the part of the Indian National Football Team who emerged as Champions at SAFF Championship held at Thimphu Bhutan.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Indian National Team members for the great victory and bringing laurels to Jammu Kashmir and the Nation. The coaching camp for

the Indian National Team for SAFF U-16 Championship was held at Srinagar from 20th July till 29th August 2023.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council and Arun Malhotra, former Indian Footballer & Technical Member All India Football Federation were also present.