

Dr Jitendra presents coveted Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar National Awards

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today presented the coveted Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar National Awards to eminent Scientists below the age of 45, at a largely attended function at Bharat Mandapam here.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the 82nd Foundation Day of CSIR at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Tuesday.

sage, in particular, mentioned the aroma mission, strides in floriculture, the Purple Revolution ushered in through Lavender cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, laying of Steel Slag roads along border areas of the country are just some instances of CSIR's contribution in meeting national aspirations.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, the CSIR could become the mainstay of STI journey in Amrit kaal to make India a Global Tech-Hub and the 100th year of CSIR in 2042 could trigger the glory of 100th year of independent

India in 2047. PM, who is also the President of CSIR, in his message said, said that the period till 2047 when we will celebrate the centenary of our independence, is an opportunity to fulfil the vision of building a strong, inclusive and self-reliant India and it is in this context that the role of institutions such as CSIR assumes greater relevance.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Vice-President of CSIR said, India is seeing sea changes in the way S&T is being spearheaded and organized to address not only national aspirations towards socio economic growth but also global posi-

tioning. Referring to some of the magnificent achievements and initiatives of CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Mission is a pioneering initiative undertaken by the CSIR to address the pressing global challenge of reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change. He said, the Mission focuses on developing innovative technologies and solutions related to CO2 capture, utilisation, and storage. I am given to understand that the key stakeholders with whom CSIR has been discussing this Mission include Adani, Reliance, Tata steel,

Ultratech Cement, NTPC, JSW Steel, among others, the Minister added.

In her address, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR, Dr N. Kalaiselvi said, in coming days, CSIR will enlarge its canvas and after the announcement of CSIR Vision-2030, it will also soon launch in a big way CSIR Vision -2042 to celebrate the Centenary Year of CSIR. She said, that both the Visions of CSIR will be in perfect alignment with Prime Minister's Vision of a Developed India in 2047.

Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood in his address talked about the rationalisation of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards and other Science Awards. He informed that the Awards will be announced on May, 11, the National Technology Day and the same will be presented on 23rd August, the day Vikram landed on South Pole of the Moon.

The prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards were also presented to the winners by the Union Minister.



Mayor advocates to eliminate political corruption from country



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma during anti-corruption campaign in Jammu on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Moving ahead with the anti-corruption campaign under the name 'Jan Jagaran Abhiyan' started by Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma with slogan 'Tmandar Jammu, Shandar Jammu' on Tuesday programmes were organized at SKUAST-Jammu campus.

On this occasion the Mayor while addressing the students stressed upon continuous efforts to eliminate political corruption from the country making a start from home. He enlightened the students and staff of the varsity saying that we should not fall prey to caste-system while electing a candidate as public representative and we should always prefer an educated candidate, upright in character and having knowhow about administrative matters in upcoming elections.

The students of the varsity pledged to do honest efforts to correct the wrongs prevailing in the system and establish an upright and honest system by following the three mantras propounded by the Mayor.

They also said that they will organize discussions in their class rooms, home, at work place and other places regarding the same so that more and more people get educated in this regard on ways to eradicate corruption and correct the wrongs in the system.

Dean Students Affairs, BS Sharma and Bharat Bhushan were also present on the occasion.

After this the campaign team reached fruit market Narwal and met Narwal Fruit Mandi Traders Association and enlightened the office bearers of the Association regarding men-

age of corruption and ways and means to eradicate political corruption from the system.

"We have no medicine to eradicate corruption from the country but the three commitments on this which have been discussed here are expected to bear fruits for which we should all make honest efforts," Mayor Sharma maintained.

On this occasion President Fruit Mandi Narwal, Parveen Kumar and Chairman Neeraj Anand were also present.

Similarly, programmes of anti-corruption campaign were held at a park in Ward number 8 where the JMC Councillor Dr Akshay Sharma was also present and conducted the function.

The Mayor administered anti-corruption oath to the people there and they all assured full-fledged support to the noble initiative.

Capacity building programme concludes at JKSCERT Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A two day Capacity building programme on School Based Assessment at Elementary Level concluded today at JKSCERT Jammu.

This programme was organized by Assessment Cell, Academic Unit -III from Sept 25 to 26 under the mentorship of Prof (Dr) Parikshat Singh Manhas and guidance of HR Pakhroo, Joint Director JKSCERT Jammu.

The programme was declared open by HR Pakhroo, Joint Director, SCERT J&K Jammu on the inaugural day. Surjeet Kumar, Professor and Head, Academic Unit-III, gave welcome address on this occasion.

The programme was attended by 50 resource persons from all the districts of Jammu Division. The programme aimed at sensitizing the State Resource Group about the implementation of School Based Assessment Scheme at Elementary Level as envisaged in NEP 2020.

School Based Assessment is a stu-



Officials SCERT J&K Jammu along with participants during the programme.

dent centric approach to assess and evaluate students' learning progress and achievements within an educational institution. This new SBA scheme promotes flexibility in assessment, personalized learning and holistic evaluation.

Resource persons in the programme

included Ranjeet Singh Manhas, Sr.AO, Rajesh Hali, Sr.AO., Bindia Balwal, A.O., Rakesh Chobber, AO., Arsh Kour, AO., Monica Sharma, A.O. JKSCERT Jammu oriented the participants about Student Assessment and Evaluation Scheme, Holistic Report Card, various assess-

ment tools and techniques of formative and summative assessment and NCF of School Education.

The programme was coordinated by Rakesh Chobber, Nodal Officer, Assessment Cell SCERT J&K. He was assisted by Bindia Balwal, A.O. The programme was managed by organizing committee members namely Puneet Thukral, Dr. Balgar Singh, Rohit Sharma, Manisha Chunn, Academic Officers, SCERT J&K Jammu.

On the last day of the programme, participants shared their valuable feedback. Valetory function was graced by HR Pakhroo, Joint Director, SCERT J&K Jammu.

While addressing the participants, he said that implementation of School Based Assessment is a key policy challenge in the design of evaluation and assessment frameworks. He urged them to secure effective links of this assessment scheme to classroom practice and student learning.

J&K Bank opens Easy Banking Unit in Kishtwar



STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: Continuing its mission of providing convenient banking services to the people of remote areas, J&K Bank on Tuesday operationalised an Easy Banking Unit (EBU) at village Lopara in District Kishtwar. The EBU will provide the basic

facilities of banking like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, account openings etc. to the people of the area.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Doda) Fayaz Ahmad Bhat e-inaugurated the EBU at Lopara in the presence of Chairperson, DDC (Kishtwar) Pooja Thakur, Cluster Head

(Kishtwar) Parvinder Singh with a good gathering of people present at Lopara.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Fayaz Ahmad Bhat apprised the people about the contribution of J&K Bank in rendering the world class banking facilities to the people irrespective of their location, status and gender. He said, "The EBU at Lopara will definitely help the people in meeting their daily banking needs."

Chairperson DDC (Kishtwar) lauded the Bank for providing the banking facilities to the people living in remote areas of J&K. She said that the opening of this Easy Banking Unit (EBU) has fulfilled the long cherished desire of the people in the area.

People present on the occasion expressed their gratitude for opening of an EBU by the Bank in their area. "The EBU will definitely enhance the bonding of the people with the J&K bank", they said.

CBC Regional Office observes 'Vigilance Awareness Week'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India today observed Vigilance Awareness week in the media centre Regional Office Jammu.

The theme of the programme was Awareness building about Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution. As a precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, the Central Vigilance Commission had carried out



DySP Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu, Devinder Singh speaking during the programme.

a campaign highlighting certain preventive vigilance initiatives as focus areas for all the Ministries/Departments/Organizations.

The DySP Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu, Devinder Singh in his opening remarks said

that Anti-Corruption Bureau is an organization governed by strong values and ethics and has always been striving to achieve excellence. He highlighted various real life experiences demonstrating highest degree of honesty and courage.

Kamal Sangra, Inspector Anti Corruption Bureau Jammu emphasized that every organization must inculcate three core values viz. transparency, disclosure, and good corporate governance practices. He presented many case stud-

ies where in examples of honesty have been set by different people. He also presented details of many laws and their applicability in our day today working.

In his presidential address Gh Abbas, Joint Director CBC/PIB said that corruption can be eradicated from the society by the participation of common public. He added that no government department can be successful until public at large participate wholeheartedly. Vote of thanks was presented by Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director CBC J&K Ladakh.

HC dismisses petition seeking quashment of FIR in corruption case

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Judge Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed the petition seeking quashment of FIR 16/2023 registered with Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau Srinagar under Section 7 and 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988. According to the case one Altaf Hamza Mir the driver of a vehicle loaded with FCI Rice from Gurdaspur reached Chandpora Budgam Godown for unloading. While unloading this vehicle the petitioner Sheikh Abdul Majeed and petitioner Tajamul Hassan Shah allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 3,500 and the said amount was recovered in trap proceedings. Both the accused were booked under the FIR 16/2023 and arrested. Counsel for the petitioners Syed Faisal Qadri, Sr Advocate submitted that for invoking any provision of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988, the essential condition for that is that there has to be 'Public Servant' against whom the Act would be applied. Since the petitioners are neither the public servants nor would fall under any of the category of discharging any function as Public Authority as such under no circumstances, the

petitioners can be brought within the ambit of the Act of 1988. Counsel further said that petitioner No 1 is a private lesser who had leased the Godown to FCI and petitioner No 2 is his servant of petitioner No 1 and are private individuals.

Counsel for the respondents Mohsin Qadri Sr AAG said that the case of petitioner No 1 falls within the ambit of 'Public Duty' as defined in Section 2(b) of the PC Act as a duty in the discharge of which the State, the public or the community at large has an interest. The Justice after hearing the counsels of both the parties and also going into the details of the case, held that both the petitioners fall within the ambit of public servant as defined under section 2(c) of the Act. Thus the court held the petitioners as public servants performing public duty and could be proceeded against in terms of the said Act. The Justice further said that in the light of the discussions made herein above, the instant petition which has been filed under Section 482 of Cr PC seeking quashment of FIR No 16/2023 dated 18-8-2023 under section 7 and 7 A of PC Act 1988, does not merit any consideration and the same is accordingly dismissed.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court dismissed the appeal filed by General Administration Department, upheld the judgment of writ court whereby writ court quashed the premature retirement of Chamel Singh TSO and Romesh Singh Store-Keeper.

DB comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekhri after hearing AAG Raman Sharma for the GAD whereas Advocates Achal Sharma for the TSO and Store-keeper, observed that admittedly, a perusal of the file clearly reveals that the State Government has run roughshod over the petitioner by compulsory retiring the petitioner from service as the decision seems to be based on no material, in as much as the relevant material including the APRs and other service record which was required to be considered by the Committee for considering the case of the

petitioner for compulsory retirement has either not been placed before the Committee or has not been considered while coming to the conclusion that the petitioner is generally known to have bad reputation and his continuance may not be in the larger interest of the public.

It is pertinent to mention here that the important aspect of considering the APRs has been given a complete go by the Committee while considering the writ petitioner's compulsory retirement.

The Committee, in general, ought to have considered the entire service record of the public servant available in the shape of APRs, service book, personal file giving the details of the complaints received against him from time to time and so on and so forth. While retiring the public servant compulsory, his case has to be considered on the basis of documents/service particulars, as stated above. It is conspicuous by its absence in the present case. If these

are disregarded and omitted in the matter of the accord of consideration to the case of the compulsory retirement of a public servant, the whole exercise will get vitiated under the colour of non application of mind and decision having been taken not on just grounds. It appears the APRs of petitioner, have not been taken into account by the respondents. This itself speaks about the non application of mind by the Establishment Committee which apparently arrived at the conclusion without looking into the relevant record.

It is specially observed by the learned Single Judge in his judgment that the writ respondent had not denied the APRs of the petitioner which were annexed with the writ petition by way of filing any reply affidavit, however, the respondents have emphasized on the statement in the minutes of the meeting of the Committee that 'due to his persistent misconduct, the employee

does not enjoy a good reputation in the public and the overall perception of the general public is that he is a corrupt and delinquent official. We are of the view that in absence of any adverse entry in the APRs of the writ petitioner, the reputation of writ petitioner cannot be termed as doubtful, as projected, nor could his conduct be determined only on spoken words in the absence of any material on record, which was the fundamental flaw in the order issued against the petitioner compulsory retiring him from service.

It is abundantly clear that the decision to compulsorily retire the petitioner was taken only in view of the registration of FIRs registered by the Vigilance Organization, Jammu and Crime Branch, Jammu and apart from the aforesaid two FIRs no other record was either placed before the Committee or the Competent Authority.

DB further observed that the power to retire compul-

sory a government servant in terms of service rules is absolute, provided the authority concerned forms a bonafide opinion that compulsory retirement is in public interest. Although the scope of judicial review is limited, it has repeatedly been held by the Apex Court that when an order of premature retirement is challenged, the authorities concerned must disclose the materials on the basis of which the order was made.

Further, the order of compulsory retirement cannot be based on the sole basis of recommendations of the committee which has to be considered by the competent authority in accordance with law. Merely because the committee has made recommendations for retirement of petitioner, he cannot be compulsorily retired unless the competent authority comes to a conclusion after forming a bona fide opinion of its own that the petitioner can be subjected to compulsory retirement in the interest of the institution.