

## New skills needed to support domestic tourism: Minister

**\* Urges leaders of hotel industry to develop a road map for Patnitop**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

PATNITOP, Nov 8: Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar today said there has been significant changes in the domestic tourism circuit which is pivoting more towards wellness,

clubs who shared with him their ideas of developing these changes in mind. Tourism is all about human connect. The tourism fraternity must study, assess and deliberate, factoring in the resources and the skillsets available or required to develop Patnitop as a pre-eminent tourist destination, he said.

Earlier, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a sanitation drive in Patnitop and urged the people to keep this picturesque tourist town clean and plastic-free.

He also held a meeting with representatives from SHGs discussed with them the challenges they face and the opportunities available around market linkages and capacity building. He also met representatives of the PRIs and was apprised of their issues and challenges.

Later in Jammu, the Minister visited National Skill Training Institute and Regional Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Jammu. He took rounds of the various sections of the complex including the laboratory of Computer Software Application Trade and also interacted with the trainees and staff members.

Sudarsan Kumar Director Skill Development, Jammu Kashmir, S. Santhimananal, Regional Director, V. K. Saksena, Principal, NSTI, Srinagar were also present on the occasion.



Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar along with others.

healthcare and other activities like adventure or sports and thereby triggering a demand for diverse skills and opportunities while meeting with leaders of the hotel industry at Patnitop.

The Minister urged them to draw a roadmap for making Patnitop a vibrant tourist destination, taking into consideration its local advantages and resources.

He said road trips, places with smaller footprints, short term rentals or stay-at-home facilities have become more in vogue and the hotel industry

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on developing the local economy, Chandrasekhar said that self-help groups could play a big role in connecting the local craftspeople with the marketplace.

Our handicrafts exports last year were worth about 2 billion dollars and mostly done through e-commerce platforms. So to help the individual craftspeople, the SHGs could help as a bridge for market access, the Minister said.

The Minister also met students and members of tourism

## Gurupurab celebrated with religious fervour in Kashmir

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Nov 8: Gurupurab was today celebrated with religious fervour across Kashmir while the biggest congregation on the occasion was held at Gurudwara Chattipadshahi, Rainawari where the people belonging to the Sikh community assembled from various parts of Kashmir.

Early in the morning, the special prayers were held at Gurudwaras located in the districts, while the special congregational prayers on the occasion were held around the afternoon at Gurudwara Chattipadshahi, Rainawari.

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

"It is a great day because this day saw the birth of Guru Nanak Sahib. When he was born, the people were divided, and he taught people about the oneness of God. He impressed on good deeds and gave a lesson of becoming a good human being," said one of the devotees, Gurmeet Singh.

Gurupurab marks the birth of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak who is one of the most celebrated



Members of Sikh community offering special prayers at Gurudwara Chattipadshahi in Rainawari on the occasion of Gurupurab on Tuesday.

**-Excelsior/Shakeel**

Sikh gurus and the founder of Sikhism. The event is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism.

On the occasion, the people of the Sikh community said that the teachings of Guru Nanak are not limited to one religion, rather, they said, his teachings are there for everyone. "Because he always taught people to work towards eradicating divisions of various sorts prevalent in the society," the devotees said.

A lady devotee who identified herself as Ritu said that the day

marks one of the biggest events in the history of Sikhism and that the youngsters no matter what their religion is need to understand the teachings of Guru Nanak who taught about oneness and impressed the need for love and affection for the world to sustain.

"On this day, people from different religions come and participate in the celebrations while as in the Gurudwara the elder shed light on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji," she said.

## NHPC celebrates 48th Raising Day

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 8: NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, celebrated its 48th Raising Day at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad and

hydropower projects in bringing economic development and all round growth in society. He also assured the support of Ministry of Power to NHPC in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, special guest, Alok Kumar, Secretary (Power), Government of India said that NHPC is playing a very important role to play in India's power sector and nation building.

In his address, YK Chaubey, CMD, NHPC assured the Minister that NHPC shall continue to work with full dedication and commitment.

A special highlight of the celebration was the inauguration of NHPC's Social Health and Well-Being Club by the Minister. The club aims to educate the next generation about healthy life by establishing around 10001 social health and Well-Being Clubs in various schools across the country.

During the celebrations, winners of NHPC Awards Scheme (2021-22) under various categories as such Best Power Station, Best Construction Project, Exemplary Commitment, Star of NHPC and Star student for Class X and Class XII were awarded.

Ashish Upadhyaya, Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Raghuraj Madhav Rajendran, Joint Secretary (Hydro) and Mohammad Afzal, Joint Secretary from Ministry of Power and RP Goyal, Director (Finance), Biswajit Basu, Director (Projects) and Prem Prakash, CVO from NHPC were also present on the occasion.

In the end, RP Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC delivered the vote of thanks.



RK Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy lighting lamp to inaugurate Raising Day celebrations of NHPC.

across all its Regional Offices, Power Stations and Projects with great enthusiasm and fervour.

RK Singh, Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy graced the occasion as chief guest.

In his address, the Minister acknowledged the role of

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## Dr Jitendra convenes joint meeting of national autonomous institutes

**Excelsior Correspondent**

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Breaking away from the culture of working in "silos", Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh today convened the first ever joint society meeting of all the national autonomous institutes in the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and called for integrated "whole of government" approach.

Five autonomous institute societies, that is, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) have been merged into a single society of MoES.

Apart from Dr Jitendra Singh, who is the President of the Society, Members, Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences; S Somanath, Secretary, Department of Space; Dr N Kalaiselvi, DG CSIR and Secretary DSIR; Dr K Radhakrishnan, former Chairman, ISRO; Dr P S Goel, former Secretary, MoES; Dr Harsh K Gupta, former Secretary, DOD/MoES; Dr Shailesh Nayak,



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh convening the first-ever Joint Society meeting of all the national autonomous institutes in the Ministry of Earth Sciences at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on Tuesday.

Ray, Director, NCESS; Dr Thamban Meloth, Director, NCPOR took part in today's deliberations.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Ministry of Earth Sciences has taken the notion of "Marine Surveillance" to a new level, where Space applications are also being deployed to share the valuable inputs with the security agencies. The Minister informed that Oceansat will be launched on 26th of November, 2022 and preparation for a NASA-ISRO Radar System is at an advanced stage. He also informed greater use of Global services (VTS) on a vessel's position, course and speed.

Taking a review of the design and development of manned submersible - MATSYA 6000, Dr Jitendra Singh said, completion of all testing shall proceed for shallow water testing of manned submersible during the first quarter of 2024 using the NIOT-MoES research vessel ORV Sagar Nidhi. He informed that based on the ongoing progress, it is expected that all the long lead components shall get realised by the third quarter of 2023 to proceed for the sub-component integration and testing by following due DNV approved interface procedures.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the benefit of ocean scientific community, under the Deep Ocean Mission's SAMUDRAYAAN program of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the deep-water human submersible MATSYA6000 is designed and developed indigenously by National Institute of Ocean Technology, an autonomous institute under MoES. The battery-powered submersible MATSYA 6000 shall have the capability to carry three persons upto 6000 m water depth and perform scientific exploration with a normal endurance period of 12h and emergency support for 96 hours.

Secretary, MoES, Dr M Ravichandran said that considering the complexity in the depth rated component custom design, realisation and testing of other subsystems; contract were signed for the long lead items with national and international agencies for the sub-components realization.

Speaking on the occasion, Manish Anand, Chief Executive Officer, IIT Roorkee, said that the innovation can come from anyone from anywhere and that is why iHUB Divyasampark has created several spokes across the country.

Dr Jatinder Manhas said he is the Coordinator from the University of Jammu to carry out the implementation of different schemes concerning innovations and convergence using high-end technologies.

Among others, Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar; Prof Dipankar Sen Gupta, Chief Coordinator; Anik Gupta, Director, IT; Dr Jatinder Manhas, HoD, Computer Science and IT Bhaderwah Campus; Dr Sunil Bhardwaj, Dr Cherrington Tundup, Dr Neeraj Sharma, Dr Rohit, Dr Ashok Sharma and the team from iHUB Divyasampark that comprises of Prateek Sharma and Lalita Bharti were also present on the occasion.

former Secretary, MoES & Director, NIAS, Bengaluru; Dr GA Ramadass, Director, NIOT; Dr T Srinivasa Kumar, Director, INCOIS; Dr R Krishnan, Director, IITM; Prof Jyotirajan S



Chief Secy Dr A K Mehta reviewing winter preparedness of power DISCOMS.

Navigation Satellite System, GNSS, as one of the key sources of position information, alongside radio navigation systems, which exchange information with nearby ships and land-based vessel traffic

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Chief Secy Dr A K Mehta reviewing winter preparedness of power DISCOMS.

## CS reviews winter preparedness of power DISCOMS

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Nov 8: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a winter preparedness review of Power Distribution Companies (DisComs) here at the Civil Secretariat today.

The Chief Secretary instructed the officers to ensure that government workshops are replenished with spare parts, inspections of transformers should be undertaken and sufficient stock of transformers is maintained to meet demand during peak consumption season. He stated that the flat rate system of billing will be dispensed with soon.

The Chief Secretary observed that demand side management to reduce losses and to ensure regular supply of power to the customers is of paramount importance. For this purpose, effective enforcement has to be undertaken against power theft. The Chief Secretary directed the Department to ensure that the schedule of power cuts, wherever required, is publicized in advance so that the consumers can plan their activities accordingly.

He called for expediting the process of power lines installation between Ramban-Kishtwar and for Sonamarg and Gurez.

Reviewing the overall power scenario, Dr. Mehta called for hiring professional consultants for efficient and cost effective power procurement by the UT. He called for formulating definite procedures for such purchases, either through Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or from power exchanges.

The officers were directed to set definite targets of revenue collection from regular customers and amnesty payers and asked for ensuring efficiency of the process. The Chief Secretary reiterated directions for installation of at least 1.5 lakh smart meters each in Srinagar and Jammu cities by March 2023.

The Chief Secretary directed for concluding disciplinary action against officers/officials in charge of feeders with losses greater than 90 percent immediately. He stressed that Aggregated Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses should be maintained below 15 percent.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Power Development Department (PDD), H. Rajesh Prasad; Managing Director JPDC, Shiv Anant Tayal and Managing Director KPDC, Yasin M Choudhary among other senior officers of the discoms.

## DC withholds salary of 11 BDOs

**Excelsior Correspondent**

DODA, Nov 8: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vishesh Paul Mahajan has withheld the salary of the 11 Block Development Officers (BDOs) for poor performance.

"Subsequent to the review meeting of the progress of physical and financial achievements by the Rural Development Department and in view of poor performance, the salary of the 11 Block Development Officers is stopped with immediate effect till further orders", an order

issued by DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan reads.

The officers, whose salaries have been withheld are, Ajit Singh BDO Assar, Sunil Kumar BDO Bhaderwah, Shabir Ahmed BDO Bhagwah, Himat Kumar Raina BDO Chilli Pingal, Mahesh Chander BDO Bhalla, Aamir Ashraf BDO Changa, Liaquat Ali BDO Dalu-Udhanpur, Chandan Manhas BDO Ghat, Mukesh Kumar BDO Khellani, Sanjay Bhardwaj BDO Marmat and Om Parkash Khokher BDO Thathri.

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<p><b>Dr. Himanshu Sharma</b> M.S. DNB Urology Fellowship Kidney Transplant, Uro-Oncology &amp; Robotic Surgery (Vattikuti Foundation) Consultant Department of Urology, Robotics, Kidney Transplant &amp; Uro-Oncology Thursday, 10th November, 2022 Timing:-4:00 pm to 6:00 pm PULSE HOSPITAL, National Highway Sunjwan Jammu</p>	<p><b>Dr. Gaurav Garg</b> Consultant Urologist Urology Saturday, 26th November, 2022 Timing:-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm</p>
<p><b>Dr. Sharan Choudhri</b> Associate Director (Surgical Oncology) Saturday, 26th November, 2022 Timing:-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Dr. Yawar Shoaib Ali</b> Senior Consultant Neurosurgery Saturday, 26th November, 2022 Timing:-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Dr. Yawar Shoaib Ali is part of Dr. Arun Saroha's Team</p>
<p><b>Dr. Ramneek Mahajan / Dr. Gaurav Singh Bhandari</b> Senior Director (Orthopaedics) and Head Joint Reconstruction (Hip &amp; Knee) Unit Sunday, 27th November, 2022 Timing:-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Dr. Manash Biswas</b> Director Gynaecology Oncosurgery Sunday, 27th November, 2022 Timing:-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm</p>

Venue: National Hospital Karan Bagh, Hospital Road Jammu

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### Dr. Jitendra Singh

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Minister of State in the PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Pensions,  
Public Grievances & DoAE, Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

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