

StartUp 'Skyroot' creates history Dr Jitendra to witness India's first-ever private Rocket launch

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to make history on Friday when it launches in the Space India's first-ever private Rocket developed by a StartUp, setting a new milestone in the 75 years journey of independent India.

Minister Incharge Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh will be personally present at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on 18th November to witness the historic maiden private launch of Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the founding father of India's Space programme.

This was disclosed here today in a special media briefing by Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the 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.

Speaking ahead of the launch at 11 AM on 18th November, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this will be a major milestone in the journey of ISRO, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had unlocked the Space Sector in India two years ago for private participation.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Non-Government Entity/StartUp, Skyroot Aerospace Pvt Ltd (SAPL) has developed the VKS rocket, which is a single stage spin stabilised solid propellant rocket with mass of approx.

550 kilograms. He said, the rocket goes to the max altitude of 101 kilometres and splashes into the sea and the overall duration of launch is 300 seconds only.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Skyroot was the first StartUp to sign a MoU with ISRO for launching its rockets. He said, apart from being the nation's first private

102 start-ups working in cutting-edge areas of space debris management, nano-satellite, launch vehicle, ground systems, research etc. The Minister said, with the integration of R&D, Academia and Industry with equal stake, it is safe to say that a Space Revolution led by ISRO along with the Private Sector and Start-ups is on the horizon.

Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that PM Modi has enabled India to earn universal recognition for India's science, technology, innovation capabilities and our StartUps are much sought after. The whole world is looking at India as an inspirational place, as it is helping budding countries in capacity building and satellite building including nanosatellites, he said.

Referring to applications of Space Technology to different sectors like Railways, Highways, Agriculture, Water Mapping, Smart Cities, Telemedicine and Robotic Surgery, which brought 'ease of living' for common man, Dr Jitendra Singh said, similar applications of Atomic Energy in areas like Nuclear Agriculture and Crop Improvement, Agri-Technologies for plant and soil health and Radiation technologies for food preservation, radiation processing of fruits and vegetables and radiation-based technologies for augmenting crop growth and water conservation are perfect examples of developmental mandate of Space and Atomic Energy Sectors from their traditional roles of Satellite launch and production of clean energy.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Space reforms have unleashed innovative potentials of StartUps and within a short span of time, from a couple of Space Start-ups three-four years back, today we have

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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media about maiden private launch of Rocket "Vikram", on Wednesday.



Delegation of WWAO calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu.

Former Minister, delegation of WWAO call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Bali Bhagat, Former Minister J&K, and a delegation of World Women's Awakening Organization (WWAO) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The delegation of WWAO led by its President Rita Jaiswal and comprising the office bearers including Sneha Bali, Dr.Usha Kiran Rai, Vice Presidents, Dr. Madhu Pandey, Gen. Secy., Dr. Renu Gupta, President WWAO Jammu Chapter, Dr. Shradha Singh, President Varanasi Chapter and Veena Handa, National External Affairs, WWAO, apprised the Lt Governor of the aim and endeavours of the organisation that works for the growth, development and empowerment of women in all sections of the society.

The Lt Governor appreciated the activities undertaken by the organization and assured the members of the delegation of all support through related schemes of the UT government for women.

Bali Bhagat, former Minister while calling on the Lt Governor discussed several issues of employees welfare. Similarly, Advocate Abhinav Sharma, former President J&K High Court Bar Association and BJP Spokesperson also met the Lt Governor and put forth the demand for expediting the recruitment process in Fire and Emergency Services, besides raising the issues of daily wagers.

The Lt Governor while interacting with Bali Bhagat and Abhinav Sharma assured them that the issues presented by them would be looked into for redressal on merit.



DC Jammu chairing a meeting.

DC Jammu reviews progress of RURBAN mission works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Avny Lavasa today chaired a meeting to review the progress of works under RURBAN mission.

CEO, Suraj Singh Rathore; CPO, Yoginder Katoch; ACD, Preeti Sharma along with senior district officers of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Giving details of the status of works, the ACD informed the meeting that against 153 proposed works, work on 95 was taken up and 90 have been completed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized on optimum utilization of available resources and instructed the concerned officers for regular monitoring and follow-up of all ongoing development works to achieve quality parameters. She also directed the officers concerned to resolve the bottlenecks, if any.

Reviewing the progress, the

Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to expedite the pace of works and complete all the pending development works within the given timeline.

The DC exhorted the officers and field functionaries to work as a team for better public service delivery.

2 DGMs of JKPC transferred

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: The Managing Director of J&K Project Construction Corporation (JKPCC) Ltd today issued orders of transfer and posting of two Dy General Managers (DGMs) in the Corporation.

Raman Sawhney, I/C Deputy General Manager, JKPC Ltd Unit Udhampur/Reasi has been transferred and posted as I/C DGM, JKPC Unit, Jammu.

Pankaj Sawhney, I/C DGM, JKPC Unit Jammu and been transferred and posted as I/C DGM, JKPC Ltd, Unit Udhampur/Reasi.

Wani urges Centre to restore full statehood, hold elections

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, Nov 16: Stating that Congress Party is ready to face the challenges and defeat the falsehood of BJP and its offshoots, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president, Vikar Rasool Wani slammed the Central Government for doing misleading politics in-order to hide its failure on all fronts.

Wani was addressing workers' convention in Dak Bungalow Baramulla in which senior Party leaders of JKPC and DCC Baramulla were present.

Addressing the convention, Wani described Congress as an instrument of service to the people, which has represented their urges and aspirations, in true sense, it will continue to work for their wellbeing and inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir. He said J&K has witnessed ugliest situation due to wrong policies adopted by the Modi Govt and expressed serious concern over the rising unemployment, lack of development and depressed economy confronting people of J&K while lashing out at the unprecedented price hike and other failures of Govt which is responsible for making living condition of people difficult, he said.

JKPC president slammed

Every town to decide what it wants to be during upcoming MTMP: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today impressed upon all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to decide for themselves what they aspire to be known for during the soon to be held phase 2 of the 'My Town My Pride (MTMP)' programme.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UD; Divisional Commissioners; Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary, GAD; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs, Director, Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir and many other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta urged the officers to work with same zeal during this urban outreach programme like they performed during the recently concluded phase 4 of Back to Village programme.

He asked them to fix the deliverables to be achieved during this programme on the similar lines of B2V. He remarked that this connection of officers with the people should be regular and continuous round the year. These Visiting Officers would be made the 'Town Prabharies' like the ones designated as 'Panchayat Prabharies' during B2V4, he maintained.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on the fact that appropriate number of visiting



officers be deputed to each town after considering the recommendations from Deputy Commissioners. He made out that the objective of this outreach programme is to connect with people and each one ready to give his/her viewpoint should get an opportunity to do so.

He also stressed on making our towns clean and litter free. He stated that the towns are the face of any region and build the narrative about it. He said that cleanliness can be achieved through our collective efforts. He asked them to work for 100% penetration of digital services in all the ULBs and

besides Mukht and Brashtachar Mukht J&K during this programme.

Dr Mehta also laid emphasis on improving services provided to people. He strongly recommended saturating the CSS and Self Employment Schemes in these areas. He gave out that it is the programme of every Municipality and a specific city plan for each of them should be formulated at the end of this public outreach campaign. He asked the department to make a city development index so that it acts as a yardstick for each of them to prioritize their preferences.

The Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta gave a broad picture of the activities and objectives of this phase of My Town My Pride programme. He revealed that the Visiting Officers are going to be in the towns for 2 days. He also informed that before it a week long Jan Abhiyan for awareness of masses is to be conducted in all the 78 ULBs including the 2 Municipal Corporations as part of this outreach programme.

DB sets aside CAT order

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: A Division Bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul today set aside the order of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and directed that Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) shall not make any recommendation for promotion of Patwaris of Shopian district.

The petitioners feeling aggrieved of their position of seniority, notified in terms of order dated 24.08.2020, challenged the same before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar in OA No. 62/700/2020 and the Tribunal on hearing counsel appearing for the applicants/petitioners as also the respondent Union Territory of J&K, directed for filing of counter affidavit within two weeks, with further direction that the impugned seniority list would be subject to outcome of the OA.

DB directed that the Tribunal shall take up the matter on 21.11.2022 and in the meantime, till the decision is made by the Tribunal in the interim application/OA, the DPC shall not make any recommendation for promotion of Patwaris of District Shopian.

"Any observation made or finding recorded shall not form any basis for deciding the inter se merit of the parties in OA/interim application. The Tribunal shall ensure that appropriate orders are passed on the next date, so as to avoid any delay in the proceedings", DB added.



Pujaris chanting Vedic Mantras at the shrine of Baba Jitto on concluding day of Jhiri Mela on Wednesday.

Jhiri Mela concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Annual Jhiri Mela which commenced on November 7, concluded today with performance of Vedic rituals and chanting of mantras by group of Pujaris of Baba Jitto shrine at the site.

This year's Mela which could not be organized during last two years due to covid pandemic, attracted huge number of pilgrims/ devotees from within and outside the J&K UT especially, Northern Indian states. Due to extra-ordinary arrangements and efforts of District Administration Jammu, this year's Mela proved a grand success.

More than 15 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the shrine of Baba Jitto and had bath in the Sarovar/Bawa Ka Talab during the period of ten days which happened first time in the history of Jhiri Mela.

It is worthwhile to mention that not even a single incident of violence / theft or any other anti-social act was reported from any corner during the conduct of this Mela which speaks volumes about the arrangements / attention given by the Mela authorities in organising this mega event.

The security forces and civil defence volunteers / QRTs/surveillance teams/flying squads deployed by the Mela authorities to deal with any emergency at any point of time were performing their duties round the clock to respond to any urgency at any point of time.

Providing sanitation facilities and maintaining cleanliness in about 600 Kanals of Mela venue was another big challenge which was handled meticulously with planning and dedication of the sanitation workers/supervisors.

Unlike previous Melas at Jhiri, organization of laser show on the story of Bawa Jitto, Bua Koudi and Mata Vaishno Devi, depiction of activities under "Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on big LED panels, providing massive awareness about employment generation schemes, organizing local folk activities by top Dogri artists, Nukkad natak on socially relevant themes like; Nasha Mukti Abhiyan, Atm Nirbhar Bharat, Beti Bachhao Beti Padoao, Swachhata Abhiyan and of course "Bhajan Sandhyaas", "Gaytri Deep Yagya" and conclusion of Mela with chanting of Vedic Mantras were glaring features of Jhiri Mela.

JCCI delegation calls on CS, raises issues of traders, industrialists

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: A delegation of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) led by its president, Arun Gupta along with his team today met Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta at Civil Secretariat and discussed various issues of the traders and industrialists besides the common masses of Jammu region.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar was also present on the occasion. Several issues which came up for discussion include, development of Patnitop, power amnesty for commercial users including industrialists of Jammu region, tourism development, expediting work on Mubarak Mandi Heritage projects etc.

The JCCI representatives also demanded enhancement in the limit of e-way bill from the existing Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The delegation demanded ownership rights for sons of the soil entrepreneurs who have been allotted the industrial land and our traders at Warehouse.

The Jammu Chamber also raised the issue pertaining to the circle rate besides demanded inclusion of separate clause of land value / stamp duty for industrial units on the lines of other states claiming that existing commercial notified rates are too high.

Further the JCCI demanded extension of VAT Amnesty Scheme as the traders couldn't avail this earlier due to COVID-19 lockdown. They also demanded extension in validity period beyond June 30, 2022 upto at least one year for the industrial units which could not commence production within the stipulated time due to several genuine reasons.

Another important issue which



JCCI delegation during meeting with Chief Secy Dr A K Mehta and Div Comm on Wednesday.

came for discussion was declaration of Gair Mumkin Khud by the Revenue Department despite the fact that no water body is passing through these lands. It was apprised that registration and construction activities on these lands was barred therefore, there is need to redefine the "Kism" of this type of land and also a policy to allow the commercial and construction activities on such land chunks. As the period of lease deeds in respect of some allottees in Sabzi Mandi and Fruit Mandi Narwal have expired, therefore, the Chamber appealed that their lease deeds should be renewed further after charging minimum possible premium.

The issue of some commercial shops in Bahu Plaza area which have been allotted to some persons but the possession of the aforesaid shops has not been given to the concern allottees and lease deeds are also pending, was also raised and it was demanded that possession should be given and lease deeds be executed henceforth.

Chamber also discussed the issue pertaining to the Jammu Central Cooperative Bank besides the issue regarding the Transport Nagar. The Divisional

Commissioner Ramesh Kumar assured that issue of Transport Nagar will be resolved within 15 days.

JCCI president also apprised the Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner Jammu about the notice served by the JDA declaring Bus Stand and Warehouse buildings as unsafe. He advised that there should be some policy for the aforesaid traders so that their businesses should not be affected.

Jammu Chamber also demanded an exclusive Power Amnesty Scheme for commercial users viz traders and industrialists apart from the one which has been offered to the domestic users.

The Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the visiting delegation and assured early consideration of their issues.

The delegation comprised of Anil Gupta, senior vice president, Rajeev Gupta, junior vice president, Gaurav Gupta secretary general and Rajesh Gupta, secretary of JCCI.

The DC directed the officers to adhere strictly to the laid guidelines and maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability in the implementation process. He also exhorted the officers to put in coordinated efforts to achieve the desired results and meet the timelines targeted for completion of tasks at all levels.

Aijaz further asked the concerned officers to work with added zeal and determination in implementation of flagship programme of the Central Government.

Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic, Superintending Engineer, Mechanical PHE, Technical Officer, JIM, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers Rural Water Supply PHE and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

HC seeks affidavit from H&UDD, LCMA on building permissions

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 16: As the new Master Plan for Srinagar has been approved and the buffer zones of Dal Lake have also been notified, the High Court today sought an affidavit from the Housing and Urban Development Department and Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) with regard to building permission of structures in terms of new Master Plan.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice V C Koul has sought affidavit from Principal Secretary H&UDD and Vice Chairman LCMA with regard to granting of permissions for building structures in tune with the new MP.

When the Government sought further time to apprise the court about the steps taken in this regard, the DB observed that it is faced with the resistance made by the counsel appearing for the applicants/ writ petitioners seeking clarification and permission on building of structures.

They through their counsels submitted that the court has document in the shape of Master Plan which is in tune with the scheme of the law notified by the Government after having associated and discussed the Master Plan with the people of all shades including traders, public representatives, common citizens,

hotel associations etc. Further, it was submitted that the Master Plan has been notified only after all the concerned agencies including the Town Planning Organization, Srinagar Development Authority, the experts dealing with the construction activities in the cities, the experts dealing with the sustainable and economically empowered growth of the city and the experts from other fields were associated which is evident from the preface of the Master Plan, 2035 notified on 13.02.2019.

The DB in this background, directed the Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Government of J&K, to file affidavit in compliance of the directions passed by this court on 08.09.2022 and 09.11.2022 read with the today's order in advance of the next date with copy in advance to learned Amicus.

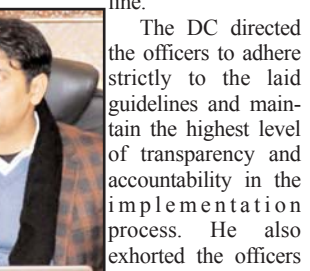
DC Srinagar reviews performance under Jal Jeevan Mission

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Nov 16: In order to review the functionality status of Household Tap Connections (HTCS) in all rural households of the district, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here today.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the village-wise progress achieved, with regard to set parameters and indicators under JJM including 'Har Ghar Jal' certification by Gram Sabhas, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance and Institutional Arrangements. He also reviewed measures undertaken for water quality testing at HHS and PWS source, besides training imparted to women for FTK testing for a sustained surveillance on quality of water by the community itself.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that all the villages of the district have been saturated with piped tap water connections and certification to this effect has been completed during the recent-



ly concluded B2V4 programme. With regard to water quality it was given out that the target of testing household tap water and PWS source using FTKs or Labs is being achieved under set timeline.

The DC directed the officers to adhere strictly to the laid guidelines and maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability in the implementation process. He also exhorted the officers to put in coordinated efforts to achieve the desired results and meet the timelines targeted for completion of tasks at all levels.