

Chandrayaan to send information about Moon's atmosphere, soil, minerals etc: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to send home information about Moon's atmosphere, soil, minerals etc which may be the first of its kind for the scientific community across the world and of far-reaching implications in the times to come, said Union Minister of State for Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today, adding that the Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover have started performing the Mission objectives exactly as per the schedule.

In an exclusive interview to a media agency, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the main focus of the science payloads onboard Chandrayaan-3 is to provide an integrated assessment of the lunar surface features, including the thermal properties and surface elements of the lunar topsoil (regolith) as well as the plasma environment near the surface, he said. It will also assess the lunar seismic activities and the impact of meteors on the lunar surface.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview with a national news agency on Sunday.

"All these are essential for the fundamental understanding of the lunar near-surface environment and for making future lunar habitat developments for explorations," said Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, and Atomic Energy.

Vikram Lander carries seismometer (ILSA), ChaSTE, Langmuir Probe (RAMBHA-LP), and a laser retroreflector array payloads and the Pragyan Rover carries Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) payloads.

"All these payloads are planned for continuous operations from 24th August 2023 till end of the mission," said Dr Jitendra Singh.

The Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) will make continuous observations of the lunar seismic activities as well as the meteors impacting the lunar surface.

These measurements will help us plan for future habitat developments by understanding the frequency of potential hazards from meteor impacts and seismic activities.

"These will help assess the lunar surface charging for future manned missions," he said. The Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS), mounted on the Pragyan, will make the measurements of lunar surface elements at the stop-points (once in about 4.5 hours) along the Rover track. These are first-ever in situ study of lunar surface elemental composition in the higher latitudes, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

"These measurements can make inference on the potential surface elemental compositions which will be helpful for future self-sustaining habitat developments," he said.

Besides probe instruments mounted on the Lander & Rover, the Chandrayaan-3 Mission carries the Spectropolarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) onboard the Propulsion orbit of the moon. "It will help identify earth-like exoplanets in future," said Dr Jitendra Singh, adding, "The data will be made available to the students and general public after the initial analysis and consolidations.

Meanwhile, ISRO is gearing up for the launch of Aditya-L1 mission by the first week of September, using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL with 7 payloads (instruments) onboard. Aditya L1 would be the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun. The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth. A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/eclipses.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Gaganyaan, India's first manned mission to space, will be the next major project before ISRO.

Jitendra Singh.

The study of the near-surface plasma of the Moon and its time variations will be carried out by the Langmuir probe. RAMBHA-LP will be the first-ever in-situ observation of the near-surface plasma and its diurnal variation in higher lunar latitude, where the Sun elevation angle is less, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

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CS inaugurates TPO organised "J&K Agro and Food Fest 2023"

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today virtually inaugurated the first edition of J&K Agro and Food Fest 2023 along with a Buyer-Seller meet being organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion



Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) organised at SKUAST, Jammu.

Addressing on the occasion, Chief Secretary stated that every product of J&K is unique in its quality and appeal. He remarked that based on the feedback of buyers good packaging, marketing and e-commerce opportunities will make each district of J&K an Export hub. He made out that the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan of J&K is expected to make our Agriculture sector grow exponentially bringing greater returns to our farmers.

Dr Mehta further stressed on the fact that each district should have clear export plan so that buyers from all over India get benefited. He also said the Jammu & Kashmir is agriculture and tourism-based economy and has many advantages in agriculture production over other parts of the country. He added that in coming years J&K's agriculture produce would at least become double and will contribute substantially in the SGDP of the UT.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh stated that recognizing the true potential of JKTP's could foster an environment for business that actively supports trade and exports to help J&K to flourish and prosper economically. He beckoned the foreign buyers to give their valuable inputs for realizing the optimum potential of the UT simultaneously meeting needs of national & international market requirements.

He gave out that JKTP is mandated to organize buyer seller meets for the promotion of unique and ODO-DEH products of J&K. He observed that Jammu and Kashmir has long back attained acceptance among international buyers and traders for its distinct products. He highlighted that this International Buyer Seller Meet is a pivotal initiative that aimed to increase exports while showcasing the region's excellent offerings made from local agricultural and horticultural products.

Deputy Director General, TPCI, Sandip Das, during his vote of thanks address showed his unwavering appreciation for JKTP's initiative, symbolizing the collaborative spirit between organizations dedicated to elevating J&K's products and their producers into the global stage. Their collective participation accentuated the event's commitment to fostering growth, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration.

It was also revealed that J&K Agro and food Fest 2023 was attended by more than 24 buyers from countries like Canada, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bangladesh, Ireland and Saudi Arabia. The event has also 50+ buyers from various parts of India, whereas more than 80 sellers from various districts of UT participated and showcased their products from the Agro-food sector. This gave sellers the chance to highlight their products and build relationships with new clients/buyers.

The UT based products included Basmati, Honey, Red chillies, saffron, Pecanuts, dry fruits, spices, kahwa, Spices, Anardana, Lemon Grass Oil, Apples, Dry Fruits Rajmah Amla and Mushroom etc were put on display by the exhibitors. The event ensured great insight into the demand and likeability of these products. It also encouraged the participating exhibitors to further participate in such outreach exercise.

Divisional commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Director Industries and Commerce Jammu K S Chib; Director Handicraft & Handloom Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Registrar SKUAST, Dr S K Gupta and agribusiness students of SKUAST, Industrial associations and officials from Industries and commerce, SIDCO, SICOP and other departments were present on the occasion.



LG and other dignitaries during 'Virasat 2023'.

LG attends Cultural Kaarvaan -Virasat 2023

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the Cultural Kaarvaan Virasat-2023, organized under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and J&K Tourism Department at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lt Governor welcomed the promi-

nent artists and eminent writers, poets from across the country to Jammu Kashmir.

He said the three-day event symbolizes the rich culture, traditions and heritage of J&K UT.

"The fascinating culture of J&K crosses geographical and cultural boundaries and rules over the hearts and minds of art and poetry lovers. 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi' is our resolve to restore the past glory of Jammu & Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor lauded the contribution of poets, writers and litterateurs in building a progressive society.

"The artists and eminent personalities of the literary world have always demonstrated their unshakable commitment to social equality. They should continue to encourage and motivate people to march on the path of development to build proud and prosperous J&K," he said.

CBK produces charge sheet in duping case

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Aug 27: Economic Offences Wing Srinagar of Crime Branch Kashmir today produced a charge-sheet in a case of duping by a person who was securing admission for his children.

The case (FIR No. 06/2023 u/s 420 IPC of P/S EOW-Srinagar Crime Branch Kashmir) was registered against Fayaz Ahmad Rather son of Ghulam Hassan Rather of Aglar Chirah, Shopian, proprietor of M/S Fayaz International Education Consultancy, Abi Guzar, Srinagar, before the Court of Passanger Tax Srinagar for his alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Section 420 of IPC.

The Crime Branch Kashmir had received a written complaint wherein it was alleged that Fayaz Ahmad Rather had duped the complainant by making false assurances that he would secure admission of the complainant's daughter and son in the PG course in Medicine in the year 2021.

"Towards this end, the accused individual had demanded and received an amount of Rs. 25 lakh from the complainant. However, the accused individual had neither managed to secure admission of the complainant's children in the assured course nor had he returned the money to the complainant. Accordingly, the instant case was registered in P/S Economic Offences Wing Srinagar (Crime Branch Kashmir) in the year 2023 and investigation started," the CBK said in a statement.

"Irrefutable evidence gathered during investigation of the instant case has established and proved the criminal act of cheating by the accused individual. The charge-sheet has accordingly been presented before the court of competent jurisdiction on 25 August, 2023 for judicial determination," reads the statement.

Restoration of OPS for J&K employees demanded

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Aug 27: A convention of Jammu Kashmir Movement for Old Pension Scheme (JKMOPS) was held here today to urge the Government for restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in favour of New Pension Scheme (NPS) employees of J&K.

The convention was attended by hundreds of employees of various departments including teachers from all Zones of Ramban under the banner of JK MOPS and it was supported by Jammu Kashmir Teachers Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC). The convention was organized under the leadership of JKTJAC president and senior leader of JK MOPS, Vinod Sharma; JKTJAC chairman, Saleem Sagor; vice president JKTJAC, Afaf Malik and Ramban district president, Har Lal Nag.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Sharma stressed on restoration of OPS in favour of all

NPS employees of J&K appointed after December 31, 2009.

He said that the old age future of NPS employees is in dark and unsecured as NPS is proving anti-employees thereby making their families suffer. He claimed that those retiring under NPS are not getting guaranteed pension and are paid a meager pension by which they are unable to even meet the expenses of their medicines.

Sharma said that many States like Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Himachal Pradesh etc have either implemented OPS or they are going to do so for the welfare of their employees. He demanded the same OPS for the employees of J&K.

Saleem Sagor demanded benefits of SRO-43 in favour of employees of J&K without any condition. Reyaz-ur-Rehman, Najam Jaffri, Rajesh Jamwal, Sukesh Khajuria, Malik Ashraf, Ghulam Nabi Ganie, Youusuf Shah and others also spoke on the occasion.

DC Poonch distributes motorized tricycles among specially abled persons

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Aug 27: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today distributed

Welfare Officer Mandi, Azam Rather, besides other concerned were present on the occasion. The motorized tricycles were distributed among 126 specially abled persons selected from different parts of the district.



DC Poonch distributing motorized tricycles among specially abled persons on Sunday.

The Deputy Commissioner complimented the Social Welfare Department for organizing the distribution camp for Specially Abled Persons. He added that the Government is extending special care and assistance to persons with special abilities and district administration is fully committed to fulfill the needs of every section of citizens without any discrimination.

He said the mobility of the specially challenged people would enable them to earn sustainable livelihood without inconvenience.

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SSK pays tribute to martyrs of 1967 Parmeshwari agitation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: In the remembrance of 1967 Parmeshwari Andholan and to pay homage to the martyrs of agitation an impressive programme was conducted in the premises of Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra (SSK) which was presided over by RSS Jammu Kashmir Prant Sangchalak, Dr. Gautam Mengi.

The main speaker on the occasion were Shibban Khatri eminent column writer, and prominent social activist Ashok Ji Braroo.

While highlighting the great struggle of Kashmiri Pandits in 1967 Dr. Mengi said that the failures are the pillar of success. "We could not bring back the minor girl Parmeshwari but the movement that was launched in an organised manner shook even the rulers of that time".

He further said that had the situation rightly been controlled by the then administrative and law and order agencies and the minor girl returned to her parents, similar situation which arise now-a-days across the country, would never occur. Unscrupulous elements would not raise their heads anywhere in any part of the country.

Shibban Khatri threw light on the month long agitation and explained the events that took place then in a detailed manner. He said that Kashmiri Pandit community has been facing discrimination and crisis for existence from a long time. But the community has been on struggle through out. 1967 agitation was our struggle to save our honour and life prestige and dignity. It was deliberately sabotaged by the agencies in power that time.

Social activist cum youth leader of that Era Ashok Braroo highlighted the role of youth at that time and apprised the audience by the actual facts of that time. He emphasized that huge potential and spirit of the community should prevail during present times of exile.

A book written by eminent fiction writer Ashish Kaul entitled "1967 Kashmir Ka Parmeshwari Anodhalan" was also released on this occasion. Dr. M. K. Bharat chairman SSK proposed vote of thanks. He said that it is the need of time to highlight the real narrative in the context of Parmeshwari Movement. This Movement was organized in a strong and fearless way for self-respect and this agitation shook even the government of that time.

Members of RC Jammu Tawi in a meeting with affected families at village Dangri in Rajouri district.

50 quintals polythene seized at Jammu Rly Stn

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: Teams of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Pollution Control Board (PCB) and Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) today seized 50 quintals of prohibited polythene bags.

A police spokesperson said that early morning, a reliable tip-off alerted authorities about the imminent arrival of train Shree Shakti from Delhi to Jammu, carrying around 40 to 50 quintals of prohibited polythene bags.

To ensure the operation's success and confidentiality until the train's arrival at Jammu Tawi Railway Station, he said, teams of PCB and JMC were promptly informed.

Upon the train's arrival, numerous items were disembarked, including the banned polythene bags, which were left unattended on the platform, said the police spokesperson, adding that among the various parcels, approximately 166 packets of polythene remained ownerless.

Father arrested for outraging modesty of minor daughter

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Aug 27: A man was arrested by Samba police for outraging the modesty of his minor daughter.

Police has arrested accused father on complaint lodged by his minor daughter in Samba.

The arrested person has been identified as Rajesh of tehsil and district Samba.

Police said Rajesh's 17-year-old minor daughter who happens to be a student, lodged a written complaint with police leveling serious allegations against her father. The matter being heinous, ugly and cognizable in nature, police registered a case FIR No.199/2023 at Police Station

Govt miserably failed to protect rights of OBCs: Rattan Lal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 27: The present dispensation has miserably failed to protect the rights of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), as the members of this backward community are living under depressed pitiable conditions in Jammu and Kashmir.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, provincial president NC Jammu while addressing a day-long convention of the Party's OBC Cell at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. The convention was organized under the chairmanship of Abdul Gani Teli, Chairman NC (OBC Cell) in Jammu Province.

At the outset of the meeting, Abdul Gani Teli reiterated the demand of OBC Cell which including implementation of 27 percent reservation as per the Mandal Commission, issuance of one time certificate to OBC community members, establishment of separate Corporation for welfare of OBC people and availability of loans on cheaper rates for youth belonging to OBC community.

Rattan Lal Gupta termed the issues and demands raised by Abdul Ghani Teli as genuine and justified to uplift the socio-economic status of the community. He came down heavily on the BJP Government at the Centre stating that it has brought nothing but miseries for the people of J&K, especially the OBC community.

He said there is a dire need to enhance the four percent reservation quota for the OBC community.

Ajay Sadhotra (former Minister and central secretary) in his address, stated that BJP has befooled the people with its hollow promises before the elections and now the people of J&K have today realized that they have been totally betrayed by the saffron party.

Babu Rampal (former Minister and central zone president) and Sheikh Bashir Ahmed (provincial secretary) also addressed the gathering.

On the occasion, Abdul Gani Teli nominated Mohd Ishaq Bhatt as district president Doda OBC Cell, Hukam Chand as district president Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Mushtaq Ahmed district secretary Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Jaku Verma district president Jammu Rural A OBC Cell and Gulshan Kumar Mehra as block president Marh OBC Cell.

Youth found dead

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 27: Under mysterious circumstances, a teenage youth was found dead in a lake at Thaley Kogermarsh in Tehsil Ramnagar.

According to the police, Baldev Singh (19), son of Roop Chand Thakur, resident of Ward No.07, Thaley, Tehsil Ramnagar, was found dead in a lake at village Thaley under suspicious circumstances.

The body was spotted by some locals, who informed the Ramnagar police. A police team led by Inspector Sohan Singh reached the spot and shifted the body to mortuary room of SDH Ramnagar.

After completion of all the legal formalities and postmortem, the body was handed over to the family members while and Ramnagar Police have initiated inquest proceedings under 174 CrPC and started investigation.

RC Jammu Tawi members visit Dangri village

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Aug 27: Members of Rotary Club (RC) Jammu Tawi today visited Village Dangri, Rajouri district today to interact and support families of the civilians killed and those injured in January this year.

Dr Dushyant Choudhary (past Governor Rotary), Ashok Kumar Gupta (Retired IGP), Rameek Singh (president), Balwinder Singh (secretary), Jaswant Rai Gupta and JP Singh interacted with the members of the affected families and them financially.

2 drug peddlers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Aug 27: Police today arrested two drug peddlers and recovered approx 08 grams of Heroin like narcotics from their possession.

During routine patrolling duty in its jurisdictional area at Katra, Police party intercepted two persons namely, Sanjay Kumar son of Purn Chand of Dansal, Jammu and Manik Dogra son of Both Raj of Ward No. 6 Katra.

During checking, approximately 08 grams of Heroin like narcotics was recovered from their possession. In this regard a case FIR number 271/2023 U/S

Lal Singh bats for separate Jammu State

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Aug 27: The Dogra Swabhinan Sangathan Party (DSSP) organized a day-long seminar centered on "The Jammu State: Reclaiming the Lost Identity of Jammu" at the E Square Banquet Hall in Barnoti, Kathua District.

The event saw participation from various segments of society, including lawyers, intellectuals, social activists, retired Army officers, businessmen, politicians, and civil society members.

Dr Hari Dutt Shishu, the General Secretary of the organization, emphasized the importance of these seminars as a platform for stakeholders from Jammu Province to address the region's challenges.

Dr Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, highlighted the significance of preserving languages and cultural practices to strengthen people's sense of belonging.

Dr Pardeep Kumar, a professor from the University of Jammu, pointed out that regions like Doda, Bhandarwah, Ramban, Poonch, and Rajouri have been marginalized and divided along lines of region, religion, and language. He stressed the need for inclusive development in these areas.

Ch Lal Singh, Chairperson of the DSSP, emphasized the demand for a separate Jammu State with Article 371. He lamented the loss of privileges like the Dogra certificate, which represented the regional identity of Jammu's people.

Singh envisioned developing Jammu State as a tourist hub, with a focus on horticulture, agriculture, power generation, and spices. He also advocated for the protection of land rights, jobs, and an end to the exploitation of natural resources.

Prominent figures like Rajinder Singh Babbi, MC Kathua, Advocates BB Mahajan and Kirti Bhushan, Brigadier Dr Vijay Sagar Dhemam, and Advocate BS Jamwal also spoke at the seminar, further contributing to the discussion.

Dr Pardeep Kumar, a profes-