

Dr Jitendra addresses UN meet, reiterates India's commitment to 'preservation'

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 23 : Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh addressed the UN meet at which he reiterated India's stand for "preservation".

In his address delivered virtually to the UN Member Nations supporting high ambition coalition for the early conclusion of the International Legally Binding Instrument – Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under UNCLOS, the Indian Minister, on behalf of India led by the Modi govt, urged the member nations to stay dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the oceans and its biodiversity, as well as to supporting sustainable economic development and the well-being of coastal people under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS).

Supporting the high ambition coalition for the early conclusion of the International Legally Binding Instrument – Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under UNCLOS, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's approach to biodiversity management is congruent with three globally accepted principles: conservation, sustainable usage, and equitable benefit sharing.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that India's legislative framework, the "Biodiversity Act of 2002," bears witness to these values and we are determined to support all endeavours of global organisations that work towards the shared objective of achieving a robust and effective agreement on the



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the UN meet of the Member Nations supporting the high ambition coalition for the early conclusion of the International Legally Binding Instrument.

protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed desire to have a global agreement to ensure a protected and resilient ocean and extended support for the early conclusion of the ongoing BBNJ negotiations and the entry into force of a strong framework that addresses conservation, sustainable utilisation, and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of the same.

Aside from major elements such as Marine Protected Areas, Marine Genetic Resources and equitable benefit sharing, capacity building and transfer of marine technology, and Environmental Impact Assessment, India believes that the establishment of new institutions or the strengthening of existing ones with a robust democratic way of functioning are far more important, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh underlined that India is satisfied

with the present talks at the Intergovernmental Conference, as several rounds of intergovernmental talks have been ongoing since 2014, with the most recent one taking place in 2023. He added that during these negotiations, member states worked to reach an agreement on a variety of issues, including the scope and governance of the agreement, the conservation and management of marine genetic resources, the sharing of benefits from their use, and the protection and preservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that despite significant progress on several major issues, negotiations are still ongoing, and consensus has not arrived at important issues like funding, intellectual property rights and institutional mechanisms.

Ramban gets 3 critical care ambulances for real-time emergency response on NH44

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 23: National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) today handed over 3 Critical Care Ambulances to District Administration Ramban to cater to National Highway-44 related emergencies for real-time response.

Deputy Commissioner, Mussarat Islam, in presence of SSP Traffic NHW, Mohita Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal & Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Kamal Zadu, received the ambulances from Project Director NHAI, PIU, Purshotam Kumar, here today.

Thanking the NHAI for its humanitarian gesture, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for full-time dedicated ambulances at vantage locations on National Highway-44 to ensure that all accident-related emergencies receive real time response so that the injured are shifted to the nearest Trauma Centres for treatment. "The ambulances, which are



MP Ladakh Jamyang T Namgyal during meeting with LG Brig B D Mishra at Leh.

MP, CEC Leh call on LG, seek airlifting of stranded passengers

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Feb 23: Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at Raj Niwas.

Jamyang discussed various development issues along with public welfare activities in both

Leh and Kargil districts. He highlighted several issues, including the problems faced by the Ladakhi passengers due to exorbitant airfares.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen, also called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) at Raj Niwas. He apprised the Lieutenant Governor of various ongoing developmental and public welfare projects in Leh district.

He raised the issue faced by the Ladakhi passengers stranded in Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh due to the overpriced airfares and the need for intervention in airlifting them to Ladakh. Gyalsen suggested airlifting the stranded passengers from Chandigarh to Thoise and from Jammu to Leh by IAF's aircrafts.

Lieutenant Governor Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) assured to look into the matter.

fitted with high-class equipment, AC and medicines, shall be stationed at Chanderkote, Ramsoo and Chamalwas on the National Highway-44," he stated, adding the ambulances shall cover all critical spots on the Highway.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the people to note and circulate Helpline Number 1033 so that all NH-44 health-related emergencies are flagged for immediate rescue and response. "The CMO has been asked to ensure that there is seamless coordination between different stakeholders to address real time accident response," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Traffic NHWs thanked the NHAI for providing high-end ambulances which shall go a long way in saving lives of the people travelling on NH-44.

Besides providing the critical ambulances, NHAI shall also provide double-shift drivers, fuel for transportation, medicines and equipment to keep the service on National Highway-44 fully operational round-the-clock.

Vehicles used in bovine smuggling 5 Route Permits, 3 RCs suspended by ARTO

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Feb 23: Acting against illegal bovine transportation, ARTO Reasi Rajesh Gupta on recommendation of SSP Ramban and SP Traffic Jammu has suspended five Route Permits and three Registration Certificates of eight motor vehicles bearing Registration Nos. JK20A-1210, JK20B-6452 & JK20B-5221 and Route Permit of five vehicles bearing No. JK20b-4963, JK20A-7411, JK20B-1006, JK12-2112 and JK20A-4382 under Sections 53 & 86 of Motor Vehicles Act 1988, amended Act 2019.

Besides one driving license has suspended for habitual offenses. Further, four vehicle owners were given notices for the same offence.

The violators of these vehicles have been directed to surrender the Registration Certificate & Driving license to the competent authority with immediate effect.

ARTO Reasi Rajesh Gupta informed that these vehicle owners were already given notices for these violations, but no reply was submitted by any of them leading to suspension of their Route permit, RC and Driving License under rules.

ARTO Reasi also asked the vehicle owners to desist from transporting bovine animals illegally and strict action under rules shall be taken for any such illegal activity through their vehicles.

The ARTO also informed that the crackdown on illegal bovine smugglers shall continue in future also.

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Founder of AARK Global Inc. Amit Kachroo addressing a press conference at Jammu on Thursday.

AARK Global Inc to open Engineering & Innovation Centre in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 23: AARK Global Inc, a Silicon Valley-based Engineering and R&D services provider, is set to open Jammu's first-ever Engineering & Innovation Center.

This marks a significant milestone for the company as it expands its operations globally. More importantly, it will provide global opportunities to local talent in the engineering space and put Jammu on the global map as an Engineering and R&D hub.

"AARK Global is thrilled to set up its Headquarters in Jammu's blooming community and is looking forward to contributing to its prosperity. We are honoured and excited to be back to our roots in Jammu," said the founder of AARK Global Inc, Amit Kachroo, while addressing a press conference, here today.

"This is a significant moment for us, and we look for-

ward to building a strong relationship with the local community. We believe that Jammu has great potential, so we are committed to training and hiring its bright talent to work with us," he added.

Kachroo informed that AARK Global's new office in Jammu will be fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including world-class amenities, modern workstations, and more. The company's team of experienced professionals is looking forward to delivering innovative engineering solutions to its global clientele from its Jammu Centre, he added.

"With its strong commitment to providing innovative engineering solutions, AARK Global is poised to become an Engineering and R&D services industry leader. The company is dedicated to positively impacting Jammu's community and is excited to begin this new chapter in its history," said Kachroo.

Will roll back all anti-people orders when NC comes to power: Farooq

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 23: National Conference President and Member of Parliament, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that when NC comes to power, it will roll back all the anti-people steps.

He made these comments while chairing a provincial committee meeting at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar. Party Vice President Omar Abdullah was also present on the occasion.

Interacting with the functionaries, Dr Farooq said that the downsliding of democracy has hurt every sector of Jammu Kashmir without any exception. "The litmus test for a democracy is if the policy decisions are made through democratic procedure and have popular support. Unfortunately the current administration's decisions sans both!" he said.

Termining the recent Government actions as anti-people and a grave injustice, he said such decisions must be left to a democratically elected Government in J&K. "It all started with disempowering, disenfranchising our people, now they are dispossessing them. We won't allow this. If NC comes to power, all these anti people policies have to go lock stock and barrel. We cannot act as mute spectators to the injustices committed by this Government. People will punish them through elections as and when they are held. They cannot run away from it for long, one or the other day they have to face the people's raging



Dr Farooq Abdullah chairing NC Provincial Committee meeting at party office in Srinagar on Thursday.

anger," he said and asked the functionaries to enhance their public contact.

During the breadth of the meeting the functionaries highlighted the contemporary public and party issues, including the inflation, unemployment, rampant demolition drive and imposition of the property tax. The committee members also gave their estimation of the prevailing ground situation with regards to the deteriorating security situation, development deficit and the rising tide of intolerance against contrarian views in J&K. The underlay wanton suppression and prolonged detention of local youth besides plethora of other issues were also raised in the meeting.

Party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief

Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Senior leaders Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Shameema Firdous, Sakina Itoo, Irfan Shah, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Veeri, Ali Muhammad Dar, Mir Saifullah, Nazir Gurezi, Aga Mehmood, Dr Sameer Kaul, Mushtaq Guroo, Mudassar Shahmiri, Imran Nabi Dar, Ahsan Pardesi, Syed Tauqueer, YNC Provincial President Salman Ali Sagar, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, Dr Sajad Uri, Showkat Hussain Ganaie, Peer Afaq Ahmed, GR Naaz, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Muhammad Khalil Bandh, Sheikh Muhammad Rafi, Shabir Ahmed Kullay, Saif Ud Din Bhat, Dr GN Bhat, Ifra Jan, Shabira Qadri, Farooq Shah, Nazir Malik, Hilal Lone, Hashim Hussain, Dr Syed, Qaisar Jalali, Hilal Akbar Lone and others were present in the meeting.



Deputy Commissioner Avny Lavasa chairing a meeting on Thursday.

DC Jammu emphasises on decongestion of traffic in city areas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 23: To streamline the traffic scenario in Jammu district, especially city areas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Jammu. Detailed discussion was held on various matters related to public transport, traffic management in the old city, Anti encroachment, parking issue, dividers & zebra crossing etc in the district.

Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav, ADC L&O Harvinder Singh, RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra, SSP Traffic R.P Singh, SP North Kulbushan Handa, SP South Mamta Sharma along with other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner, who is also the chairman of RTA Jammu, stressed upon the concerned officer to take effective measures for traffic regulation in Jammu, particularly near educa-

tional institutions and government offices to avoid inconvenience to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner directed to remove encroachments from footpaths and ensure the removal of street vendors who have encroached on public spaces. She asked the JMC to identify suitable locations for separate zones of vendors.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officials to regulate the traffic system in the old city and ensure that vehicles are parked in designated parking zones/areas.

She also directed Traffic Police to impose the fine for violation of traffic rules and regulations.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned authorities to take all requisite measures to ensure de-congestion of traffic in the city.

She stressed on maintaining synergy between all concerned agencies to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Congress, Independent Councillors express resentment against Property Tax

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 23: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Councillors belonging to Congress and some Independents here today have expressed resentment against the levying of Property Tax in J&K.

In a press conference Dwarka Chowdhary, Chief Whip of Congress Councillors said that many needs of the people living urban areas have not been fulfilled yet so Property Tax at this juncture will not be proper.

"Many areas of Jammu still face scarcity of water and

Randhawa, Preetam Singh, Kamal Singh, Mohi-Din Chowdhary and ex-Councillor Balbir Kumar were also present in the press conference.

Meanwhile, Independent Councillor, Inder Singh Sudan of Ward number 44 has also expressed resentment against the imposition of Property Tax in J&K.

"The people of Jammu have already bore the brunt of COVID-



Congress Councillors of JMC addressing a press conference at Jammu on Thursday.

power supply, drainage and sanitation problems are also still existing at many areas of Jammu and many more problems are there which the JMC should resolve," he maintained adding that the Congress will oppose the levying of Property Tax at this stage.

Chowdhary also said that even the Mayor of JMC had assured many times in General House Meetings that Property Tax shall not be imposed.

Other Congress Councillors including Bhanu Mahajan, Rashpal Bhardwaj, Inderjeet Kour

19 pandemic and imposition of Property Tax at this stage shall prove disastrous for the people," he claimed.

Another Independent Councillor, Prof. Yudhvir Singh said that all the Opposition Councillors got the Property Tax deferred for more than four years but the new team at helm of affairs of the elected body of JMC failed to get the Property Tax deferred.

He said that amidst large scale unemployment the newly introduced Tax shall adversely affect the people of Jammu.

Police freezes bank accounts of drug traffickers

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 23: While continuing investigation of case 20/2023 U/Section 8/21/22 NDPS Act, registered at Police Station Kishtwar, Police has identified financial transitions of drug trafficking having accused Mohd Iqbal Khanday, son of Bashir Ahmed Khanday, resident of Thakrie, at present Ward No. 10 Shakti Nagar Kishtwar with suppliers and other consumers.

Accordingly three bank accounts have been frozen in which dubious transitions were reported.

Apart from this, one motorcycle bearing registration no. JK14F-3365 used for bringing drugs from Jammu has also been seized.

A handout of Police Department stated that more action is likely against other drug smugglers and consumers in near future.

Cops are aggressively working on the involvement of other narcotic syndicates so that the innocent youth of Kishtwar and its adjoining areas could be saved from the menace of drug addiction.

Ex-Health Minister facing trial in molestation case HC transfers case from Srinagar to Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 23: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court today transferred the molestation case registered against Shabir Khan, ex-Health Minister and presently Vice Chairman DDC from the court of CJM Srinagar to CJM Jammu.

The petitioner/accused filed the petition seeking transfer of criminal challan titled State of J&K Versus Shabir Ahmed Khan, which is pending trial before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar to any other court of parallel jurisdiction at Jammu.

"The petitioner is a politician and due to political rivalry and in order to tarnish his image, he has been falsely implicated in a case on the basis of a complaint made by respondent, who happens to be wife of a separatist leader," it was submitted before the High Court.

The High Court was further informed that petitioner engaged Advocate Mohd Abdullah Pandit for defending his case before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar and when the Advocate argued his case before the Magistrate, he received threat to his life and thereafter, he refused to appear on behalf of the petitioner.

Two more lawyers were approached by the petitioner to appear on his behalf but they also refused to accept the brief of the petitioner. Moreover, whenever petitioner appears before the court, slogans are being raised against him inside and outside the court premises.

After hearing Advocate Ravi Abrol for the applicant, Justice Sanjay Dhar observed,

"Section 526 of the Jammu and Kashmir CrPC, which is applicable to the instant case vests power with the High Court to transfer a case from Criminal Court Subordinate to its authority to any other such Criminal Court of equal or superior jurisdiction".

"The grounds on such power can be exercised by the High Court are enumerated in Clause (a) to (e) of the provision. One of the grounds of transfer of a case is when it is made to appear to the High Court that a fair and impartial inquiry or trial cannot be had in any Criminal Court subordinate thereto", Justice Dhar said, adding "it is this ground which has been pressed into service by the petitioner in the instant case".

Accordingly, High Court allowed the petition and ordered that the criminal challan titled State Versus Shabir Ahmed Khan arising out of FIR No. 9/2014 for offences under Sections 354 and 509 RPC registered with Police Station, Shaheed Ganj, Srinagar is withdrawn from the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar and is transferred to the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu.

It was however, directed that the petitioner shall bear diet and travel expenses of all the prosecution witnesses, excepting those belonging to Police Department. The parties were directed to appear before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu on 12.04.2023 by which date, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar shall transfer the original record of the file to the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu.

Paddar deputation calls on Div Com, projects several issues

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 23: A deputation from remote area of Gulabgarh, in Paddar Sub-Division of Kishtwar district called on Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and projected the burning issues of the area.

The deputation led by BJP State Executive member and chairman Pahari Development Forum, Paddar, Kartar Singh Rathore during meeting, demanded that funds be released for the completion of under construction suspension bridge between Atholi and Gulabgarh, over river Chenab. They said about 70 % work has already been completed on the said bridge. The JKPC has now abandoned work for want of more funds. This nearly 150 mt link will provide direct straight link between Atholi and Gulabgarh.

He further said that at Sub District Hospital, Atholi (Paddar) there are not specialist doctors and the local public is suffering badly. The Government must appoint Physician, Surgeon, Gynaecologist and the posts of Ultrasound and X-Ray Technician should also be filled up. At New Type PHC at Machail, a doctor and other staff be deployed besides providing medicines there as thousands of pilgrims visit Machail Mata.

Rathore further demanded improvement/ upgradation of Ring road at Gulabgarh town and its extension up to Grid Station via Kalimata Mohalla. He also demanded improvement of water supply facilities at Gulabgarh town by laying new water supply pipes.

The BJP leader was accompanied by Daya Krishan, Surjit Singh and Bharat Singh, all hailing from Paddar area.

BAKC demands release of land rent occupied by Army

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 23: Border Area Kisan Committee (BAKC) demanded release of rent amount of the land owners occupied by Army in Patwar Halqa Chhani Dewanoo as well as Hamirpur Kona in Tehsil Khour, here today.

In this regard, the Committee led by its president Ravi Singh Bhatt also submitted a memorandum for release of rent amount of the land owners to Lieutenant Governor through Deputy Commissioner Jammu.

The Committee also dis-

farmer's miseries.

They decided to hold protest dharna if their demands are not resolved within three week and appealed to Lieutenant Governor not to intervene in the matter, so that their genuine demands will be fulfilled.

They demanded release of the amount of farmers for the period 2014-15 to lying pending with Tehsildar Khour without any reason along with interest.

They said that during the Kargil war, the Army occupied more than 3200 kanals land in Patwar Halqa Chhani Dewanoo



Office bearers of BAKC addressing media after submitting memorandum to DC Jammu on Thursday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

cussed the long pending demands and problems being faced by the farmers residing in border areas of Block Khour with the Deputy Commissioner.

Criticizing the local administration, the Committee said that they repeatedly raised the issue with the local administration but nothing has been done so far by them and maintained the criminal silence over the

and Hamirpur Kone in the year 2021 but after the lapse of 22 years no rent has been paid to owners of the land.

Romesh Singh Bhatt, general secretary, Tarsem Singh Manhas, vice president, Ranbir Singh Bhatt, Omkar Verma, Ravi Kumar Sharma, Prem Singh Chib, and others were present during the press briefing.