

US Secretary Jennifer calls on Dr Jitendra, discusses bilateral collaboration

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 18 : US Secretary, Department of Energy, Ms Jennifer M. Granholm, who is equivalent of a Union Cabinet Minister in India, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block here today and discussed bilateral collaboration between the two coun-

originate from U.S. and Indian entities including StartUps, government, academic, or commercial endeavours, and any combination thereof provided they focus on applied R&D, incorporate a business plan and proof of commercial concept, and have significant sustainable commercial potential.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the move comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to US, where he stressed upon a new chapter to bilateral comprehensive and global strategic partnership. The Minister said, he felt happy that both the Indian and US sides have positioned themselves quickly to take-up the decision of the leaders to the implementation level.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the engagement has charted a new direction and a new energy in the AI (America-India) relation in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) era.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, among other technology-oriented matters of high relevance, it is heartening to note that President Biden and Prime Minister Modi had welcomed the launch of a \$2million grant program under the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) for the joint development and commercialization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technologies, and encouraged public-private collaborations to develop high performance computing (HPC) facilities in India.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that India has recently approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an aim to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem

in Quantum Technology (QT). Needless to say, that AI has the potential to address the world's most pressing challenges and presents tremendous opportunities for economic development, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, investments in AI and quantum technology would lead to transformative advances in our everyday lives and greatly benefit our social well-being by impacting healthcare, agriculture, climate change and more. He welcomed the transformative potential of the Endowment fund.

The call will remain open till August 31, 2023 and will invite promising joint Indo-U.S. technology innovation and entrepreneurial proposals that are commercially viable and socially relevant. It will provide a significant boost to the domestic as well as the US priorities looking at various facets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

JAMMU, July 18: A joint meeting of Channi Himmat Residents Association and Resident Joint Action Committee Channi Himmat was held under the chairmanship of Advocate V K Grover for discussion over alleged attempts by some self-styled persons to grab the precious land of prestigious temple of the colony, popularly known as Panch Mandir, Channi Himmat, Sector No.2.

The members recalled that in the year 1999, the land which belonged to J&K Housing Board was handed over to Panch Mandir Committee by the then State administration in presence of prominent residents of the colony after a successful agitation led by social and religious leaders like late Vaishno Dutt, Member Parliament & Indresh Kumar of RSS. During the agitation, even ladies of the colony were arrested and detained for a couple of days, they added.

The meet said that it has come to the notice of residents of this colony that some self-styled persons with nefarious motive and with nefarious design have formed a private Trust of couple of persons

and intend to get it registered with the intention of forcibly grabbing this precious land worth crores of rupees.

General Secretary of Resident Joint Action Committee, P L Kohli, who was instrumental in protecting the precious Channi Himmat land adjoining Nallah of Sectors 1,2 &3 by filing Writ Petition No.648/2015 before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir (which stayed the attempts of J&K Housing Board), spoke on the occasion and opined that a General Body of the residents representing all Hindu sections of the society should be formed, from where Executive Body be chosen to ensure early, modern and contemporary construction of Panch Mandir which has been hanging for more than twenty-five years now.

Grover expressed the view that proper accounts of Receipt & Expenditures should be maintained which need to be compulsorily audited annually. If the situation demands and the administration deems fit under these circumstances it may constitute a statutory Board to look after the affairs of this precious temple, he added.

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Lt Governor with a delegation of Bakerwal Community.

Former MP, public delegations call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: Choudhary Talib Hussain, Former Member Parliament and Vice Chairman J&K Haj Committee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

G H Mir, Senior Vice President, J&K Apni Party met the Lt Governor and discussed arrangements for Muharram.

Earlier, a delegation of All

Minority Employees Association of Kashmir called on the Lt Governor and put forth their concerning issues.

A delegation of Bakerwal Community led by Reza Ahmad Poswal also called on the Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of issues and demands.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the members of the delegations assured them appropriate redressal of the genuine issues and demands.

Embracing AI to bring efficiency in working of Govt offices: CS

* Launches competitions as part of 'Digital J&K' initiative

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched 'JK Saransh', a first of its kind Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool for document summarization developed by the Information Technology Department of the UT.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary complimented the Department for embarking on the path of adopting modern technology and tools to bring in efficiency and accountability into the government processes. He asked them to work towards adopting the tools that aids in identifying the habitual miscarens in different departments working against larger public interests.

Dr Mehta even advised the local NIC to generate reports highlighting the performance of different government depart-



CS launching a competition on Tuesday.

ments onboard on e-office. He called for pinpointing different users whose disposal of files is poor or whose take-off on the software is negligible. He made out that such an attitude on part of any government officer/official is unacceptable and should be viewed seriously.

He advised creating mass awareness about the services offered online particularly in rural areas. He asked for holding such informative sessions during morning assemblies in schools and workshops in higher educational institutions to train around 10 lakh youth in making good use of these online platforms.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also launched a 'painting' and 'photo caption' competition as part of the 'Digital J&K' campaign. Both these competitions are aimed at creating awareness about the Digital initiatives rolled out by government. The link for registration by interested persons would be available online on JKMyGov application to be reached out at the URL <http://jk.mygov.in>.

Talking about these initiatives the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri stated that it would offer an opportunity to people to showcase their talent and creativity while capturing the captivating essence of Digital J&K.

She revealed that the participants stand a chance to win prizes also. The top five winners of the selected best entries shall be awarded cash prizes and a certificate of appreciation by the Department. The prize amount for 1st Prize is Rs 10,000, Rs 5,000 for 2nd position holder, and Rs 3,000 as an award for winner at 3rd position. In addition two Consolation Prizes of Rs 2,000 each would also be given in each category, she informed.

The timeline of the Contest has been fixed for 24 days till 11th of August, 2023, as was learnt during this meeting.

Those who were present on this occasion includes Principal Secretary, Education; IT Consultant for UT; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers of the Department.



US Secretary, Department of Energy, Jennifer M. Granholm calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block, New Delhi on Tuesday.

tries.

The meeting assumes special significance as it comes close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit. Ms Jennifer was accompanied by a high-level American delegation.

India and the United States also jointly launched a call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives. The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Secretariat for USISTEF have designed the program.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, through this competitive grant program, the USISTEF selects and supports promising joint U.S.-India technology innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives that are commercially viable and socially relevant. He said, these joint initiatives can



DDC Rajouri chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

DDC Rajouri reviews arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, July 18: District Development Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra.

During the meeting, the DDC exhorted the officers to make the arrangements pertaining to their departments well in time to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. The DDC stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements, adequate medical facilities, and other essential services to be provided to the pilgrims.

The officers were also reminded of the importance of putting all necessary arrangements in place well in advance. The DDC urged them to work diligently and leave no stone unturned in their efforts to make the yatra a fulfilling and memorable experience for everyone who embarks on this spiritual journey.

Complex knee replacement surgery performed at G Nagar hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: In an attempt to rejuvenate the District Hospitals by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, a complex knee replacement surgery was performed at Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu.



Doctors and staff who performed complex knee surgery at Govt Gandhi Nagar Hospital.

A young 39 years old male suffering from post traumatic Arthritis of the knee, underwent successful knee replacement. Consultant Orthopedics, Trauma & Joint replacement surgeon of the hospital, Dr. Kanav Padha said that the patient suffered an accident in 2015 for which he got operated

to bed the knee up to 90 degrees. With the help of physiotherapy, he was walking nicely with the help of walker, when the patient was discharged today.

The whole operation was done free of cost, under ABPMJAY Scheme. Dr Parveen Yogrj, Medical Superintendent, Gandhi Nagar Hospital provided all assistance for the surgery.

Residents allege grabbing of Panch Mandir Channi Himmat

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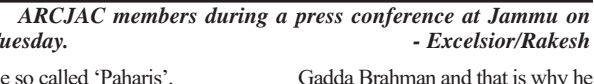
The members recalled that in the year 1999, the land which belonged to J&K Housing Board was handed over to Panch Mandir Committee by the then State administration in presence of prominent residents of the colony after a successful agitation led by social and religious leaders like late Vaishno Dutt, Member Parliament & Indresh Kumar of RSS. During the agitation, even ladies of the colony were arrested and detained for a couple of days, they added.

The meet said that it has come to the notice of residents of this colony that some self-styled persons with nefarious motive and with nefarious design have formed a private Trust of couple of persons

ARCJAC asks GoI to drop bill regarding ST status to 'Paharis'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: All Reserved Categories Joint Action Committee (ARCJAC) has expressed deep anguish and lambasted the Government of India (GoI) for including a bill for discussion in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament for granting Schedule Tribe (ST) status to



ARCJAC members during a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

the so called 'Paharis'. Addressing a press conference at Press Club Jammu, ARCJAC members said that the bill should be dropped and should not be considered for granting ST status to the so called 'Paharis'. They also expressed their concern with regard to the inclusion of some other fake identities as Schedule Caste.

Prominent among those present in the press conference were Bheem Army Legal Cell president Rajat Ramit, J&K Gujjar United Front chief Advocate Anwar Choudhary, All Tribal Co-ordination Committee president Rafiqat Ajaz, Social Movement of India's Chief Advocate Ashok Basotra, Gujjar Ishaik Committee's general secretary Aslam Khan and

Sildhar becomes 1st Panchayat in Ramban to bag 'Har Ghar Jal' certification

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, July 18: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam today inspected works completed under the flag-ship Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Panchayat Sildhar.

The DC was accompanied by Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Rajeev Gai; AEE, Rocky Mahajan, JE, Sarpanch, Anita Kumari, Project management unit officers, officers of Implementation Support Agencies (ISA) and other stakeholders.

Chairing Maha Gramsabha at Sildhar, the DC informed that a total of 88 JJM schemes are being executed in district Ramban for providing functional Tap Water connections to every household.

Gadda Brahman and that is why he has recommended ST status for Gadda Brahman too.

"Law is well settled that nobody can be judge of his own cause but in the present case the recommendation of such as person is being considered for grant of ST status to non-deserving communities," they lamented and said that any unconstitutional decision in this regard will be challenged by them in Supreme Court of India.

A day earlier, these organizations handed over memorandums addressed to the President of India to all the deputy commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir and requested the President to rein into the Central Government not to resort to the unconstitutional act.

He congratulated the Sarpanch, civil society and the beneficiaries of Jal Jeevan Mission scheme for achieving the milestone. He also hailed Executive Engineer, AEE, JE, and team of project management and other officers of ISA for ensuring 100% FHTC coverage in Panchayat Sildhar.

The DC also urged participants to be a part of the campaign "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls" to capture, store and conserve the rain water and other rejuvenation methods to rejuvenate and protect natural springs from getting dry. He hailed local PR Anita for her commendable work in promoting Jal Jeevan Mission and asked other PRIs to promote water conservation as a community movement.

He informed that many other Panchayats of the district are on last mile coverage to achieve the target of Har Ghar Jal certification.

NC, PDP trying to incite people to again unleash violence in J&K: Khatana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: BJP MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana today alleged that certain elements were hell bent to derail the peace and development mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by encouraging



BJP MP Gulam Ali Khatana and others at a Rights Act and public gathering in Sanasar.

and supporting divisive tendencies among the people.

He said that PDP, NC, Congress have lost touch with the ground and people have rejected them lock, stock, barrel. "Now these parties are trying to incite people in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to again unleash violence and terrorism," he added while addressing an impressive public gathering at Sanasar in district Ramban.

MP Gulam Ali said that unprecedented measures have been initiated by PM Narendra Modi on both political and economic front so that the poor and economically deprived people of UT could reap the benefits. He said that PM Modi led Government provided political reservation to STs and reserved 9 seats for ST population. Besides, he added, Govt provid-

ed reservation to people living on LoC, International border, Rs 5 Lakh compensation relief to PoJK refugees.

Reminding that Home Minister Amit Shah announced during public rallies in Jammu and Rajouri that Paharis will be provided ST status, the BJP MP

stressed that share of Gujjar B a k k a r w a l s won't be lowered and very shortly a Bill will be introduced in the Parliament to that effect. MP Gulam Ali said that Govt of India has implemented Forest recently also

for allotment of 5 marla plots to landless to construct houses under PMAY scheme. But some anti-poor parties are spreading canards by claiming that outsiders will be settled in UT which is totally false, he added.

On the occasion, people also highlighted their demands and issues.

District president BJP Ramban, Rajeshwar Kumar; Minority Morcha President Tariq Lone; ST Morcha President Uttam Singh; Sarpanch Jiya Lal, Haji Mohd Yousuf, Haji Mohd Zakir, Haji Salam Din, Ex. Sarpanch Choudhary Bashir Ahmed Khatana, Waseem Choudhary; Razaq Ali, Chairman, ADCC, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, ASP Ramban Gourav Mahajan and others were present on the occasion.

H&ME orders departmental action

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department has directed the initiation of regular departmental action against three alleged officers who were posted in different positions in the Baramulla district of north Kashmir.

According to the order, the Deputy Director (HQ) of the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, has been appointed as the Inquiry Officer to investigate the charges leveled against the officers.

The officers under investiga-

tion are Dr Masarat Iqbal Wani, Dr Manzoor Ahmed Hakeem, and Dr Adil Ahmed Kangoo, who previously held the positions of Block Medical Officers (BMOs) at Sub District Hospital, Pattan.

The appointed Inquiry Officer has been instructed to submit the report within a period of thirty (30) days, starting from the date of the order.

Additionally, the order designates the Chief Medical Officer of Baramulla as the Presenting Officer, who will assist the Inquiry Officer in completing the inquiry within the specified time frame.

New acting workshop by Natrang from 23rd July

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Natrang Jammu is going to organize a new 'Theatre workshop for young aspirants' from 23rd of July at its Studio in Jammu.

The workshop will have special focus on various ele-



Senior functionaries of Natrang during a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

mentary aspects of acting. This exclusive acting workshop has been devised by Padamshree Balwant Thakur which is aimed at providing learning opportunity to young aspirants of theatre. The workshop will be conducted by the senior faculty of Natrang.

The participants will also get the opportunity to learn and interact with Balwant Thakur who has got the international exposure of theatre. All those who want to be a part of this training programme and are

practitioners and makes them more confident, creative, imaginative and spontaneous that is why Natrang keeps on organizing such workshops for the benefit of the youth, the future of the State.

"Moreover, in last few years there is a growing demand of actors in the industry of theatre, events, television and films and just to respond to that, Natrang has taken the initiative to help, support and train the fresh talents," they added.

Natrang viz. Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Sumeet Sharma and Rahul Singh.

They said that Theatre certainly hones the skills of its practitioners and makes them more confident, creative, imaginative and spontaneous that is why Natrang keeps on organizing such workshops for the benefit of the youth, the future of the State.

VC BGSBU releases book titled 'Rhyacophilidae of India'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Prof Akbar Masood today released a book entitled "Rhyacophilidae of India," authored by Dr Sajad Hussain Parey, Assistant Professor, Dept of Zoology; Tabraq Ali, PhD Scholar and Dr Manpreet Singh, Scientist, ZSI Kolkata today.

Prof Akbar Masood congratulated the authors for their scholarly contribution and termed this as a significant milestone in the field of entomology, specifically in the study of the insect order Trichoptera.

On the occasion, Prof Akbar said that release of this groundbreaking book signifies the pio-

neering efforts of Indian authors in shedding light on the Rhyacophilidae family, offering a valuable contribution to the scientific community and opening new avenues for research and exploration in the field of insect taxonomy.

Prof Akbar said that this memorable event serves as a testament to the dedication, expertise and collaborative spirit of the authors, who have significantly advanced the understanding of India's rich insect biodiversity.

Those who were present on the occasion included Dr A A Shah, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr Shamas Kamal Anjum, Associate Dean School of Islamic Studies and Languages and Mohd Ishaq, Registrar BGSBU



Saga Industries' joint chairs.

Saga Industries introduces new models in furniture range

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Saga Industries, a renowned manufacturer of robust office chairs, has now expanded into new product categories.

A statement said that the company now sells a range of trendy executive chairs, conference chairs, work station chairs, and restaurant furniture.

Recognised for their commitment to ergonomic design and superior craftsmanship, Saga Industries has consistently been a go-to choice for businesses seeking durable and comfortable office seating solutions.

The company's conference chairs are crafted with premium materials, exquisite finishes, and ergonomic support to ensure that lengthy meetings and discussions are conducted in utmost comfort and style.

Recognising the importance of a well-designed work station, Saga Industries has developed a line of work station chairs that strike a perfect balance between comfort and functionality. These chairs feature adjustable height, lumbar support, and flexible armrests, allowing individuals to customise their seating position and maintain comfort throughout long hours of work.

Expanding beyond seating solutions, Saga Industries has now ventured into other furniture categories as well. Their sofas are designed to offer both comfort and style, catering to office reception areas or lounge spaces.

For executive and office spaces, Saga Industries offers high-end executive and office tables that complement their chair offerings. Their bar chairs are designed to create a trendy and inviting atmosphere in bars and lounges, while their salon chairs offer comfort and functionality for salons and beauty parlours.

Restaurant furniture options are tailored to the specific requirements of the food service industry, ensuring durability, style, and customer comfort.

"With our expanded product line, we aim to become a one-stop destination for businesses seeking not just office chairs but a comprehensive range of furniture solutions," said Dhairya Choudhary, the Marketing Director of Saga Industries.

"We are dedicated to incorporating the latest trends in chair technology and furniture design to meet the ergonomic, and visually appealing furniture that enhances their workspace and reflects their brand identity," he said.