

## Awareness, mindset change imperative for availing StartUp, skill avenues: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 28: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that awareness and mindset change are

Modi is himself always coming forward with new ideas and has a huge aptitude for innovation. "Prime Minister Modi's each Independence Day address is marked by Technology-driven, Skill-driven or Innovation-driven declarations. In 2014, Swachhata was the theme, it led to better healthcare and pulled out an esti-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, addressing the "Global and Petrochemical Manufacturing Hubs" Summit-2023 at New Delhi on Friday.

imperative for availing StartUp and Skill avenues.

The Minister was addressing the "Global and Petrochemical Manufacturing Hubs" Summit-2023.

Skill, Innovation and Research & Development are at the heart of every new initiative that has been undertaken by the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the last over nine years, said Dr Jitendra Singh. Unfortunately however, our mindset is not developing at the same pace to equip ourselves for skills of the future, he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said PM

mated 13.5 crore people above the poverty line. Next year Digital India was the focus, followed by Gaganyaan; Deep Sea Mission was the theme twice in 2021 & 2022," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the Government is supportive of having a synergy among the Industry, Academia and entrepreneurs to innovate and flourish.

"Without being modest, I would say, in the past nine years, a favourable view has been provided by this government. You have the liberty to experiment, the liberty to take path breaking initiatives, you have the liberty also to make



SOS Int Chairman Rajiv Chuni addressing press conference in Jammu. — Excelsior/Rakesh

## BJP betrayed displaced people from PoJK: Chuni

\*Demands 8 Assembly seats, Pahari status

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: Lashing out at the BJP Government at the Centre for step-motherly treatment with Pak occupied Jammu Kashmir displaced persons over the nomination in Assembly as well as pick and choose in according Pahari status, Chairman of SOS International- an organization of the PoJK Displaced community, today questioned the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

"Once again this Government has established that sky is the limit for the Valley migrants while the displaced people from PoJK are the children of a lesser God," he said while talking to media persons in presence of Prof NN Sharma, VK Datta, Amarjeet Singh, Ved Raj Bahi, Bhai Ram Singh, Jorawar Singh, Daleep Chib, Jagjit Singh and Satinder Dev Gupta here today.

While elaborating, the DP leader said that those who migrated from within the country and not going back to their homes despite return of normalcy, have been considered for nomination of two Legislative Assembly seats while on the other hand, the PoJK Displaced community, whose number is much more higher and who are unable to go to their native land which is still under illegal occupation of Pakistan since 1947, have been given only one seat.

Moreover, he added, the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 183rd Report submitted on 22-December-2014 in both Houses of Parliament has already recommended de-freezing of at least eight Assembly seats for the displaced people, out of 24 reserved Assembly seats for the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Chuni further said that even the Delimitation Commission has recommended for adequate representation to the displaced per-

sons from PoJK, which is understood to be at least eight Assembly seats for the community by way of nomination.

He drew attention towards another discriminatory move of the Government to deprive a large chunk of PoJK DPs from their natural right of being a member of Pahari community/ clan. "Lakhs of PoJK Displace families temporarily settled in Jammu and other areas are being denied Pahari certificate notwithstanding the fact that entire population of the displaced community belongs to the Pahari tribe, who are native of districts of Poonch, Mirpur and Muzaffarabad areas, which are now under illegal occupation of Pakistan since 1947," he said.

As per the existing government provisions, to claim the benefit of Pahari category status, it is mandatory for the beneficiary to be a member of Pahari clan, tribe and ethnicity. But the government is openly violating the provisions of their own 'Pahadi Act' in lieu of vote bank. All the displaced people of Poonch, Mirpur and Muzaffarabad districts belong to Pahari clan, tribes and ethnicities, irrespective of where they are living in displacement today. He added that the government is giving Pahari certificates only to those people who are living in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

To consider all the people living in Rajouri and Poonch districts as Pahari is a big conspiracy which is being done only with a view to increase the vote bank. This is a sinister game being played by the government through which some fake people who are neither the ancestral citizens of Rajouri or Poonch district nor belong to hill tribes, he alleged.

He made a fervent appeal to all the leaders of BJP belonging to the displaced PoJK community to resign from their respective positions on moral grounds.

## Safai Karmcharis stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 28: Akhil Bhartiya Safai Mazdoor Sangh Udhampur today staged a protest dhama in front of the Municipal Office, Udhampur in favour of their long pending demands.

The employees of the Municipal Committee led by David Sandhu gathered in front of Municipal Office Udhampur and raised slogans in support of their demands. They said that a notice

has been sent to the Principal Secretary to Housing and Urban Development Department by the Sangh, warning of indefinite strike from 1-8-2023.

They said till date we have got only fake assurances from the Government on our demands. We request the Government to solve our genuine and long pending demands by or before 1-8-2023 otherwise all Safai Karmcharis will go on strike and stop their routine work.

## Peacefully transforming J&K unnerves those who have thrived on politics of graveyards: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU July 28: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today said that peacefully transforming, blooming and progressing Jammu and Kashmir has unnerved those playing politics over graves, relegating them to



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana listening public grievances at party headquarter on Friday.

political wilderness they had never dreamt of.

Interacting with senior BJP functionaries, workers and the people assembled during the weekly public grievances redressal camp at the party headquarters here this afternoon along with Venu Khanna, BJP State Secretary and Danish Mishra Vice President, BJP Yuva Morcha.

Rana referred to fast changing scenario across the Union Territory with tourism influx registering new marks, Shri Amarnathji Yatra surpassing records of sorts, Muharram procession taking place after 34 years and the era of stone-pelting and shutdown culture evaporating like the exploitative politics of the elite class believing Jammu and Kashmir as their fief-

dom.

"They are dumb struck as their fake narratives are working no more now", Devender Rana said, adding that while understanding the changing mood, they are not giving up true to the character of wolves who lose teeth but not their nature. The

world class infrastructure, holds promise for better days to come, not only in terms of growth but also job generation. The successful G-20 conclave has further bolstered the efforts of the Centre and the UT Administration to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of progress and development. This is something the frustrated politicians are not comfortable with as peoples' prosperity means their political doom. The height of their dejection and desperation is ironically so deep that those getting just two to three percent votes are now hobnobbing with their counterparts across the country in mistaken belief of changing the political structure of the country, he said.

He also referred to the mega efforts being taken to ensure political empowerment of all sections of society, especially the marginalized and neglected segments. He hailed the proposed amendment in reservation by including Paharis of various communities in the Scheduled Tribe without diluting even an iota of the share of Gujjars and Bakarwals much to the discomf of those who wanted to create dissent and division among communities. The inclusion of Valmikis in reserved category and OBC status to OSC is also a welcome step. This is the inspiring example of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas, he said and exhorted the cadre to intensify the public outreach programme to educate the people about path breaking initiatives to change the destiny of the nation.

Rana, during the public hearing, heard individual and collective problems of the people and assured that these will be taken up at appropriate forums for earnest action.

He said the economic emancipation of the people in the recent years, especially after focus on investments to build

## Secy L&E meets representatives of Labour Trade Unions

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: Presidents and representatives of various trade unions of the labourers met Secretary, Labour and Employment (L&E), Rehana Batul at Civil Secretariat, here today.

The representatives from Labour Unions of Kashmir participated in the meet through video conferencing. During the meeting, latest challenges being faced by the labourers working in various sectors of Jammu and

Valley Hair and Beauty Saloons Union, J&K Tourism Employees Union, etc.

Speaking during the meeting, Rehana Batul said that labourers are an integral part of economic development of our country including J&K. She underlined that the Government is committed for welfare of the labourers-local as well as those coming from other parts of the country.

She apprised unions about welfare measures being taken by the Government through J&K Building and Other Construction



Representatives of various labour unions in a meeting with Secretary L&E Rehana Batul at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Kashmir were discussed in detail. The meeting was attended by CEO/Secretary JK B&OC/WWB, Munir Ul Islam; Labour Commissioner, J&K, Abdul Rashid War; and other senior officers of the Department.

From the labour unions, the meeting was attended by presidents, general secretaries and other representatives of Centre of Indian Trade Union, Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh, Indian National Trade Union Council, State Central Labour Union, Kashmir Labour Union, ASCOMS Employees Welfare Association, Chenab Textile Mill Mazdoor Union, Marble Workers Union, Kashmir Private Diagnostics Centres Association, Kashmir

Workers Welfare Board, Employees State Insurance Schemes, among others. She also informed that Government has recently revised the Minimum Wages required to be paid to the labourers in categories of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled and Ministerial.

The Secretary disclosed that the activities of Employees State Insurance Schemes will get an impetus as the Governing Body of the Society has been revamped. She also asked representatives of all the unions to submit their suggestions, representations and grievances, if any, to the Department which shall be given due consideration.

## IIM Jammu hosts knowledge based inspiring sessions

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: On day five of its ongoing Orientation Programme, IIM Jammu today hosted knowledge based inspiring session with guest speakers like Shiv Anant Tayal, MD, JKPDCL and others.

During his interaction, Anant Tayal insisted the students to become job creators and not job seekers. Moving ahead, he explained factors of production and then he went on to describe when the economic reforms took place in 1991 budget, the day that changed India forever.

He also gave an overview into gig economy. He finished his speech on a positive note and encouraged students to become wealth creators in nation's best interests. The session was coordinated by Dr Rambalak Yadav and Dr Kapil Manohar Gumte.

The other sessions included "Teaching through Case" (MBA & MBA HA-HM) by Dr Ateeque Shaikh, Dr Mahesh Gadekar, Dr Muqbil Burhan and Dr Ashish Kumar, faculty at IIM Jammu.

Suchitra Karumanchi, Associate Director, Elanco

began her speech by introducing pharmaceutical sector wherein she presented several interesting facts and trends on the topic. Maintaining that the Pet owners are now younger, wealthier, and more aware about animal health, she emphasized that the Human-Animal bond were reaching new levels. She also gave a brief mention on how to manage the work-life after MBA. She stressed upon taking every change as an opportunity and urged the students to leave no stone unturned. She also shed some light on opportunity cost and how even the industry giants like Yahoo and BlackBerry failed to survive owing to their resistance to change. The session was coordinated by Dr Sajit M Mathews and Dr Malaya Ranjan Mohapatra.

Debargha Deb, National Manager Sales HR and Campus Lead, Dabur India Ltd, addressed the students and gave an insightful session on leadership, encouraging the students to move out of their comfort zones and the impact of leading from behind. The session was coordinated by Dr Prakrit Silal and Dr Praveen Kumar.

## PoJK DPs protest; demand ST status, land allotment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: The Displaced Persons from Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir today held protest demonstration projecting their demand of providing ST status and allotment of land retrieved from illegal occupants recently.

A large number of DPs under the banner of PoJK DPs' Front 1947, 1965 and 1971 and (Non Camp) led by its president, Capt Yudhvir Singh Chib assembled at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu and started protest demonstration. They were demanding ST status for the Displaced Persons from PoJK. They said that they were not against the ST status to the Paharis from Rajouri and Poonch but they also fall in the same category. They deserve the same status as they are originally from the same area.

They further demanded that they should be given compensation @ Rs 30 lakh per family as recommended by the JPC. They extended gratitude to the Modi Govt for providing Rs 5.5 lakh per family but maintained that it was

just one installment of the total package/ amount recommended by JPC.

They at the same time lauded the JKUT administration for retrieving land from the land encroachers who had illegally occupied Government lands. They said that the land so retrieved be allotted to the PoJK DPs and other refugees. Land should also be allotted top non-camp refugees, they pleaded.

Capt Yudhvir Singh demanded that out of the 24 seats kept for the PoJK area, 12 seats be allotted to the DPs from PoJK in the J&K Assembly. Refugees from Chhamb, settled in Pargwal area with hard work had cultivated lands along the bank of Chenab river. Under Roshni Act they were allotted lands prepared by them with hard work but the same have now been snatched by the Government. The government by taking lenient view should restore those lands to them, he added.

Prominent among those who joined included JP Sharma, Kuldeep Singh Chib, Kulbir Singh, Sakandya Devi, Sudesh Rani, Kamal Sharma and others.

## Chhatral villagers suffer badly due to lack of bridge

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR July 28: The residents of Chhatral, Pathanafir and adjoining areas in Mendhar Sub Division have expressed resentment against the concerned authorities for dilapidated condition of Chhatral road and absence of bridge over the Nallah in the area.

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

They said the condition of this road is so bad that most of the operators have stopped plying their vehicles on it. The road surface is broken at many places and the large potholes are posing a great risk of accidents.

Locals have said that the monsoon season has started and the condition of the road is getting worse which may lead to any mishap. This road connects many rural areas of Chhatral which include Kalaban, Takia, Pathanafir, Nadol among others and the population of that area is in thousands including school students and Army jawans.

Locals informed that the road is under PMGSY and the agency is not paying any heed to make the road fit for vehicles movement. Several accidents have taken place on this road. Locals and students of the including Usmaan Ahmed Manzoor Ahmed, Irfan Khan, Raja Abass and others have said that the concerned department and locals representative have failed to undertake even minor repair work on the road.

They said that a big Nallah flows en-route this road, when the flow of water is fast, at that time people, students and teachers have to wait for several hours on both sides, in such a situation, if any accident happens or becomes ill, then the communication gets snapped.

Many political leaders including representative DDC Vice Chairman, former MLA and other belong to this area while the bridge could not be built for the last several years and thousands of people are troubled.

Locals have appealed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to issue orders for the construction of a bridge over the Nallah.



DGP Dilbag Singh presenting a memento to a probationary IPS officer in Srinagar on Friday.

## DGP, others interact with probationary IPS officers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 28: A group of 22 probationary IPS officers from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, including two women officers and two officers from Nepal and Maldives, visited the Police Headquarters here today.

The officers were on a study-cum-cultural tour as part of the Bharat Darshan program and their basic training.

During an interactive session with the Director General of Police (DGP), Dilbag Singh, and other senior police officers, the young officers were given insights into the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The DGP expressed his pleasure in meeting the batch of IPS officers and highlighted the challenges faced by the JKP over the last three decades. He commended the efforts of the police and other security forces, which resulted in peaceful changes in the region, as evident from events like the G20 summit and historic Muharram processions after 34 years.

The DGP acknowledged the sacrifices made by the police and security personnel to achieve peace in the region.

He emphasized the courageous efforts of JKP Jawans, who are seen as peacemakers and heroes in society. He also appreciated the support of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in defeating the attempts of disruptive elements, including Pakistan, to disturb the peace.

The officers were advised to make the most of their study-cum-cultural tour by meeting people and ground-level policemen to gain first-hand access to the workings of the force.

The senior police officers, including Special DG CID, RR Swain and Special DG Crime, A K Choudhary, shared their experiences and insights into intelligence gathering and the fight against terrorism.

The interactive session also covered topics such as the functioning of the Crime Branch, Cyber Police Stations, and the Anti-Narcotic Force. The officers suggested the probationary officers inherit leadership qualities and lead from the front.

The session concluded with the presentation of mementos to the visiting officers by the DGP J&K, and the probationary IPS officers also presented a memento to the DGP on behalf of the Director National Police Academy.

## Sikh Community dismayed over reservation, says ignored again

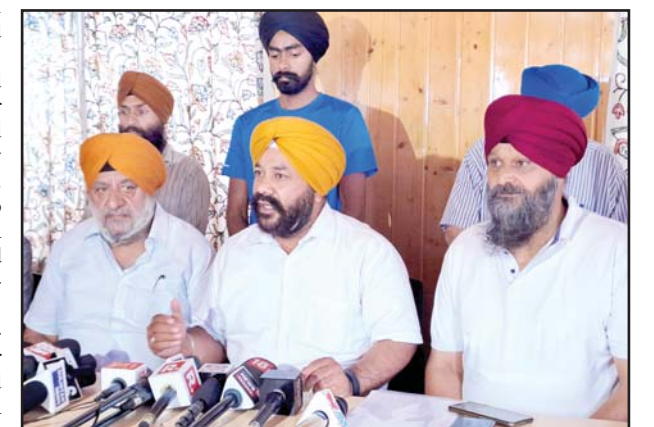
Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 28: The All Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (ASGPC) of Kashmir, along with the United Kashmir Sikh Progressive Forum, expressed deep disappointment today stating that their hopes for reservations in the J&K Assembly were dashed once again. Despite suffering

reserved for Kashmiri Sikhs, and this time, we hoped for a positive outcome, but our hopes have been shattered."

He emphasized that despite facing turmoil and challenges, the Sikh community remained steadfast in Kashmir and did not migrate like some others.

"It seems that if we had left the Valley, we might have received the reservation like



Members of All Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee during press conference in Srinagar on Friday. — Excelsior/Shakeel

immensely, the Sikh community leaders claimed that their demands have been repeatedly ignored.

Chairman of ASGPC, Baldev Singh, along with other Sikh

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

leaders, voiced their concerns during a press conference held here. Singh revealed that they had been assured by Home Minister Amit Shah of a 2-seat reservation in the Assembly for non-migrant Kashmiri Sikhs. "However, the community was recently informed that their demands had not been addressed," he said.

Singh passionately highlighted the sacrifices made by the Sikh community in the past, stating, "In 1947, 35 thousand Sikhs laid down their lives for this nation, yet even after enduring countless hardships, nothing has been done to fulfil our aspirations. Until 1957, 2 seats were

other communities. But we chose to stay here, and in return, we have been given nothing," Singh lamented. He questioned the purpose of staying in J&K if the government continues to neglect their demands.

The Sikh bodies recalled the early 90s when they were compelled to relocate to towns and cities, leaving their ancestral estates behind. They claimed to have suffered economically and politically, yet no adequate policy for their rehabilitation and compensation has been announced or implemented.

Appealing to political parties for support, the Sikh leaders urged figures such as Farooq Abdullah, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti and Altaf Bukhari to raise their voices in support of the community's demand for reservation in the J&K Assembly. They emphasized that this representation was essential to address their concerns adequately.

## Security forces recover 9 kg narcotics near LoC

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, July 28: The security forces recovered nearly nine kilograms of narcotics near the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera area of district Rajouri today.

Official sources said the Army, along with the police and the BSF, launched a massive search operation in forward Jhangar area of Nowshera sector, closer to the LoC following specific intelli-

gence inputs. During the operation, five packets carrying narcotics that weighed 8.960 kilograms were recovered, he said.

A case was registered at the Nowshera Police Station in this regard and investigation was launched, the sources said. "The recovery of such a huge quantity of narcotics indicates a possible cross-LoC smuggling attempt, which was foiled," a senior police official said.