

Mexico Foreign Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, StartUps witness MoU signing

Excelsior Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Mar 4 : Mexico Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard, currently on India visit, today called on Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh at India Science Centre here.

The hallmark of the one hour meeting between the two leaders, representing their respective countries, was that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries on technology and innovation collaborations was also witnessed by private StartUps, who accompanied the large Mexican delegation.

innovation and he highlights scientific projects in each of his speeches, like marine science, climate change and biofuels among others. Terming India and Mexico as 'Privileged Partners', the Minister said, the two countries can complement

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that CSIR and Mexican Agencies, through this MoU, could contribute effectively to the global society through Research and Innovation Partnerships for technology development, upscaling of each



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Foreign Minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard during the signing of MoU between the two countries on technology and innovation collaborations at India Science Centre, Anusandhan Bhavan, New Delhi on Saturday.

and supplement each other in many areas and we are on the right course.

Dr Jitendra Singh assured the Mexico Foreign Minister that the three priority areas of Water, Lithium and Vaccines flagged by the Mexican side will be taken care of the CSIR and other Sister Organizations and India will provide tangible results in the coming few months. He said, Lithium is becoming a real connect between India and Mexico, apart from the future vision of Sustainable Start-Ups. The Minister appreciated the presence of Foreign Minister for signing of the MoU and said, it reflects the seriousness, the Mexican Government attaches to its relationship with India.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed to the Mexican delegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives high priority to scientific

other's Intellectual Property for commercialization and Research Infrastructure Development & Sharing. He said, in addition to regular research & development, capacity building & training and participation in Knowledge dissemination activities, a special focus on Technology and Industry collaboration has been structured in the MoU.

Foreign Minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sending COVID Vaccines during the peak of the pandemic and he underlined that India was the first country to send Vaccines to Mexico, when many other countries had declined to respond to the request for Vaccine.

Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates 8th 'Technology Exhibition cum Seed Mela' at SKUAST-K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today inaugurated 8th Technology Exhibition cum Seed Sale Mela' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The two day event is being held under the theme 'Subsistence to Sustainable Commercial Agriculture'.

Mayor, SMC, Junaid Azim Mattu; Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr. Drakshan Andrabi; Vice Chairperson J&K KVIB, Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat; DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq; Commissioner Sales Taxes Department, Dr Rashmi Singh; Chairperson, DPS, Dr Vijay Dhar, large number of students, progressive farmers and research scholars were present on the occasion.

During the exhibition, Advisor Bhatnagar alongwith other dignitaries visited various stalls showcasing variety of technologies and products developed in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

Advisor also visited stalls displaying and highlighting Farmer Welfare Schemes and programs besides the exhibits displayed by other stakeholders dealing with agriculture inputs, farm machinery and organic products.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor observed that such exhibitions play an important role in offering opportunity to farmers to access reliable, updated and relevant information. He laid emphasis on connecting farmers with experts from University and industry as that will help them

reduces risks and uncertainty. He further highlighted that the present LG led administration is promoting the culture of start-ups and entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors so as to tap the potential of agriculture sector fully across Jammu and

witnessing the participation of farmers, students, budding entrepreneurs, private players, input dealers, policy planners, development departments, and other related institutions from across the country.



Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates 8th 'Technology Exhibition cum Seed Mela' at SKUAST-K.

Kashmir. He added that the government has already approved a mega project for the holistic development of agriculture sector across UT which will change the agricultural landscape of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir A Ganai said that this Mela is a national level event

During the exhibition, new projects and initiatives for the welfare of the people and submitted a memorandum of important public issues. Meanwhile Safina Baig, DDC Chairperson, Baramulla called on Lieutenant Governor. The DDC Chairperson discussed various matters with Lt Governor pertaining to the employee's welfare and development of the district. The Lt Governor assured the DDC Chairperson of due consideration of the genuine issues projected during the interaction.



Delegation of JKNPP with LG Manoj Sinha posing for a group photograph.

J&K NPP delegation, Safina Baig call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: A delegation of J&K National Panthers Party called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here today.

The delegation led by its working president P K Ganju appreciated the efforts of UT administration in ensuring peaceful environment and the unprecedented development in the UT.

The delegation also discussed ongoing development

projects and initiatives for the welfare of the people and submitted a memorandum of important public issues. Meanwhile Safina Baig, DDC Chairperson, Baramulla called on Lieutenant Governor. The DDC Chairperson discussed various matters with Lt Governor pertaining to the employee's welfare and development of the district. The Lt Governor assured the DDC Chairperson of due consideration of the genuine issues projected during the interaction.



Guests during function by IEI Jammu on Saturday.

IEI celebrates World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre in collaboration with the Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET) Jammu today celebrated the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development with theme-"Engineering Innovation for a more resilient world".

The event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, organizations and senior Engineers along with members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu local centre. The day is celebrated worldwide on 4th March every year since 2020 as a UNESCO International Day of Celebration of Engineers and Engineering.

On this occasion, Sandeep Seth, Chief Engineer, JPDCJ Jammu was the chief guest and Major General (Retd) S K Sharma, Director MIER Group of Institutions, was the guest of honour, whereas Dr Bhawna Sharma, Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre presided over the function. Sunil Kumar Pachar, Director, Ecolive Ventures Pvt Ltd, Gurugram was key note speaker.

At the outset, Dr Bhawna Sharma introduced the relevance of the day to the audience. She said that there is a greater need for reimagining the cities with innovations in health, agriculture, energy, waste management, industrial and infrastructure development for a more resilient world. Sustainable technology is an umbrella term that describes innovation that con-

siders natural resources and fosters economic and social development.

While speaking on the occasion, Major General (Retd) S K Sharma stressed that the earlier slogan of "Perform or Perish" has been replaced by "Innovate or Perish". He said that organizations and engineers who do not devote time on research shall perish. He sought that engineers need to identify problem areas including inefficient processes and find ways to solve them by innovating new or better methods to improve efficiency of the system.

Sunil Kumar Pachar, in his address, highlighted the need of the ecologically viable engineering solutions for sustainable development of mankind.

During the seminar, Er P K Nanda, MIE; Er Joy Ganjoo, AM Technologist; Er Lovneesh Talwar, HOD Electrical Engineering, YCET Jammu; Raghav Sharma and Rohin Sabherwal, Kashish Sharma, Ayush Dhotra, Ayush Thakur and students from MIET Jammu presented their papers.

Er Sandeep Seth, Chief Engineer JPDCJ Jammu, lauded the paper presenters and appreciated the efforts of the IEI Jammu local centre for organizing this event and improve public understanding of how engineering and technology are central modern life and for sustainable development.

Er Sachin Tickoo, MIE, Honorary Secretary, conducted proceedings of the event and also presented the vote of thanks.



YAIKS leaders at a press conference in Jammu on Saturday. Excelsior/Rakesh

No power can debar KPs from rehabilitation in Kashmir: YAIKS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS) today asserted that Islamic terrorists responsible for selective and targeted killings of Minority Pandits in Valley can't deter the community from return and rehabilitation in their motherland.

Addressing a press conference here, today, YAIKS presi-

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true blame to Pakistan and their sympathisers.

The real custodian of ensuring the safety and security of minuscule KP, population in the Valley are the majority community and they have to ensure it to maintain the real Kashmiriyat", he added.

"The Kashmiriyat is meaningless until and unless Kashmiris civil society, political leaders and religious preachers publically and consistently denounce killings of KPs". Time has come when they should come openly and boldly to speak against minorities' killings, the time for mere condemnation has gone and the onus lies on their shoulders besides the security forces," he added.

"We hope the process of delimitation and new arrangements should make Pandits politically empowered. We demand the formation of Apex Committee of KPs headed by Home Minister to discuss short term and long term issues", he said.

"At this crucial time when our own people are again being killed, we have to rise above party lines, personal interests and affiliations and to form a Joint Action Committee of all KP organisations globally and work for comprehensive rehabilitation of the entire community". The community needs to be united for dignified return to our Motherland—Kashmir'.

PSC Lecturers' Association calls on Chief Secretary, others for ACP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: A delegation of All JK +2 PSC Lecturers' Association Jammu, led by its president Manjeet Chib, called on Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and urged him to fulfill the demand of career progression.

The delegation apprised the Chief Secretary about the stagnation being faced by the cadre because of no provisions of Time bound / Non Functional Promotion.

The delegation also met with Commissioner Secretary GAD Sanjeev Verma and made a detailed deliberation over the pros and cons of the different aspects of ACP. The Commissioner Secretary assured to the delegation that if and when meeting is held to discuss the issue, the representatives of the association will also be invited.

The delegation also met with Principal Secretary School Education, Alok Kumar and made a threebare discussion over the core issues. The delegation requested the Principal Secretary to expedite the process of amendment/ incorporation of Service Recruitment Rules.

The delegation requested Principal Secretary to abolish the

trend of in-chargism which is in fact a curse and chronic disease. The Principal Secretary said that promotions will be done after the process of verification is completed. The Association claimed the Principal Secretary told them that the appointments and deputations at various institutions such as DIETs, SCERTs, DSEs and offices like JKBOSE, SAM-AGRA will be on rotational basis and these offices will no longer serve as dumping grounds and during the upcoming transfers, the Department will surely work on it.

The delegation also forwarded a suggestion to adjust efficient and hardworking HOIs at various Model Schools so that these schools may serve the purpose and become working models in real sense. The Principal Secretary directed his subordinate to prepare the list of all Model Schools as well as efficient administrators who will take the lead to run those institutions. Principal Secretary endorsed the suggestions put forth by the Association and appreciated the cadre for such insightful suggestions.

Those who were part of the delegation, include Manmeet Bali, Arvind Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Sanjeev Gupta, Anjali Charak and Rupali.

Court acquits 3 accused in rape, kidnapping case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Additional District & Sessions Judge Poonch Parvaiz Iqbal today acquitted three persons, who were facing charges of kidnapping and raping a minor girl from Gunthal Surankote.

The case FIR No 3 of 2013 Police Station Surankote was mired in controversies at the investigation stage because of aspersions raised over various officers involved in the investigation process.

"It has been proved that prosecutrix and Zulfikar Ahmed had consensual sexual intimacy which resulted in pregnancy to her. The prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused Zulfikar Ahmed committed rape by leading unflinching and cogent evidence", the court said, adding "kidnapping has also not been proved and there are sufficient reasons for the court to believe that the prosecutrix had voluntarily eloped with accused Zulfikar Ahmed and she was intelligent and mature enough to know and understand the fall out and repercussions of her action".

"The allegation of gang rape leveled by the prosecutrix which has not been supported even by the prosecution is found not based on truth and possibly a reaction to

the allegation of voluntarily causing death of new born against the family of prosecutrix as well as a ploy to swindle Rs 3 lakh received by family of prosecutrix from accused Zulfikar Ahmed in a panchayat", court said.

Recording its strong criticism about the quality of investigation, the court further observed, "fair trial and investigation are the constitutional guarantees to every citizen under Articles 20 and 21. Therefore the minimum requirement of rule of law is that the investigation must be fair, transparent and judicious", adding "investigation has been conducted in a perfunctory and cavalier manner".

"The investigating officer has not done his duty professionally and left grey areas which ultimately have proved fatal for the case of prosecution. The level of callousness can well be gathered from the fact that none of the Investigating officers has appeared before the court as prosecution witness which as a result proved as the last nail in the coffin for the prosecution case because all the shortfall and lacunas in investigation remained unexplained and resultantly gave the benefit of doubt to the accused persons", the court said.

Accordingly, Court acquitted the accused persons.



Seema Bharti, Secretary, J&K SC Advisory Board inks MoU on behalf of DSW J&K with Prof. Alka Sharma on behalf of IIPA J&K.

DSW inks MoU with IIPA J&K branch

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Department of Social Welfare (DSW), J&K Government and IIPA, J&K Regional Branch in the presence of B.R Sharma, former Chief Secretary J&K and Chairman IIPA J&K Regional Branch to establish, maintain and enhance academic, research and intellectual interaction through specific initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Seema Bharti, Secretary, J&K SC Advisory Board on behalf of DSW, J&K Government and Prof. Alka Sharma, Hony Secretary IIPA J&K Regional Branch. Seema Bharti informed that

the MoU has been signed under the guidance of Sheetal Nanda, Secretary SWD with an objective to undertake research to evaluate the social economic status of Scheduled Castes in Jammu region and also to understand the working of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in J&K.

Among other present on the occasion were Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Special Secretary DSW, J&K; J.B.S Johar, Vice Chairman IIPA J&K Regional Branch; K.B Jandial, Prof. Rekha Choudhary, Vikrant Kuthiala, Prem Gupta, G.M Andrabi, Joint Secretary (Kashmir) and Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary (Jammu).

LPEF urges Govt to settle Patwaris demands

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Low Paid Government Employees Federation (LPEF) Unit, Kishtwar in a meeting today held under the chairmanship of its district president, Manzoor Ahmed Kichloo discussed various issues being faced by Patwaris who are on indefinite strike since March 1.

The Federation urged the LG Administration to settle the demands of the Patwaris including enhancement of their grade pay from Rs 2400 to Rs 2800, delimita-

tion of Patwari Halqa and Girdawari circles, sanctioning of promotion quota for the post of Naib tahsildar on departmental basis in accordance with UT of Ladakh as per 75:25 rationalization and posting of newly promoted Girdawaris in their home districts. The meeting among others was addressed by Noor Hussain Malik, Bori Singh Rathore, Mohammed Nayeem Ahanger, Farooq Ahmed Bhat, Rupesh Sharma, Masood Ahmed Naqib, Shamshu Nath, Sheikh Masood and Akhtar Hussain Qazi.

Principal IGGDC Jammu nominated Dean FDS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Principal, Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGDC) Jammu Dr Rakesh Krishan Gupta has been nominated as



first Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences (FDS) for remaining triennial period 2021-2024 with effect from 03-03-2023.

This is for the first time that the Dental Sciences has been taken as independent entity by YV Sharma appointed in charge Policy Research Deptt BJP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 4: Y V Sharma, spokesperson BJP JK UT has been assigned the responsibility of Policy Research Department of BJP JK UT by the party president, Ravinder Raina today. Sharma complimented the president and assured the party of doing his best in this connection. Sharma who is ex president of Chamber of Commerce and Industry for three terms will soon meet the public and will assist the party by giving the feedback from them in this regard.

Excelsior Correspondent