

India fast emerging as world's knowledge based economy: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 14: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that India is fast emerging as the world's knowledge based economy and over the last few years, it has grown by leaps and bound when it comes to innovation and technology. India stands today as one of the leading nations of the world in terms of scientific and technological progress, he said. Addressing the plenary session

of the 28th edition of The CII Partnership Summit being held in partnership with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Innovation process of any country is instrumental in shaping and sustaining its industrial sectors, delivering economic growth, jobs, wealth creation and ensuring a strategic edge. The Covid-19 pandemic taught the business world an important lesson - 'innovate or perish'. The Minister said that India is on a mission in the very first year of Amrit Kaal. This mission is technology-driven towards achieving its aspiration of becoming a USD 5



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the plenary session of "CII Partnership Summit 2023" in New Delhi on Tuesday.

trillion economy. "Technology will therefore, be at the centre-stage in this phase of socioeconomic growth and development", he added. Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that the present Government clearly puts a strong emphasis on strengthening the Nation's ecosystem of Research, Innovation and Technology development to achieve this aspiration. He added that the technology-driven, and innovation-focused enterprises that form the bedrock of an innovation nation have moved from being a buzzword to a critical component of national economic and strategic power. Having leapfrogged from 81st

potential to revolutionise and bring in a technology movement. He added that integration of Research, Start-ups, Academia and Industry is no longer an option but a dire necessity to attract young innovators in the country, particularly in the States to come out with cutting-edge and globally competitive products and solutions. The Minister said that the key concern is R&D contribution by the private sector, less than 40% of the national GDP. This is in contrast to the global average of over 70%, especially in developed economies. It is important for industry to scale up investing in R&D and initiate collaboration through sponsorship research with the other pillars of the Quad, supported by policy and funding from the Centre. Talking about Startups, the Minister said that India has the third-largest startup ecosystem and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns. Startups are very important as they are a source of new ideas and technologies. He added that linking StartUps with Industry right from the beginning as equal stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable Start-Ups is essential. Support from industry and government is crucial.

The Minister emphasised that a seamless and collaborative innovation ecosystem will enable a dynamic ecosystem. Private-public partnerships must be aligned with the national goals. "The time is opportune to collectively harness the strengths of all the innovation ecosystem stakeholders and quickly take India to the next level of technology and innovation leadership", he added.

Dr Singh further highlighted that the Indian industry is the backbone of the fastest growing large economy of the world and has the

HC directs I&FC for proper land acquisition, compensation to owner after 6 decades

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: The High Court has directed the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department for proper acquisition of land which has been in its possession for the last 6 decades without acquisition. The appeal was filed by the I&FC against the writ court judgment passed in 2013, directing the respondents to initiate and finalize the acquisition proceedings, if the land of the respondent-owners is required by them, in accordance with rules and pay the compensation.

The appellants court recorded that the Government cannot forcibly occupy the land of the citizen without adopting due course of law, and, even in case of the forcible possession by the State or its functionaries, the State is under legal obligation to compensate the owner who has been deprived of his land. Taking note of the affidavit filed by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, that the appellant-Department is in possession of excess land measuring 01 kanal and 16 marlas, which has been found as deficit in the possession of the private respondent. Court after perusal of the SRO 1986 said, there is nothing on record to demonstrate that the respondent-owner ever donated the land measuring 01 kanal and 16 marlas to the appellants-department as such, the contention raised by the department that the land in question was donated by the owner is rejected.

owner of the land could not have filed the writ petition after 60 years of the acquisition of the possession by the Appellant Department. However, the counsel for owner of the land counsel submitted that the SRO-154 dated 07.03.1986, was not applicable in the instant case, because under the SRO, the compensation could not have been paid to the persons who had donated the land and the possession has been taken by the department concerned before the year 1971.

The counsel further argued that the appellant-department cannot take the plea that the respondent has approached the Court after 60 years, as the right to property, though not a fundamental right, but continues to be a constitutional right in terms of Article 300-A. Court said the affidavit filed by the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam reveals that the department of Irrigation and Flood Control is in possession of excess land measuring 01 kanal and 16 marlas, which has been found as deficit in the possession of the private respondent. Court after perusal of the SRO 1986 said, there is nothing on record to demonstrate that the respondent-owner ever donated the land measuring 01 kanal and 16 marlas to the appellants-department as such, the contention raised by the department that the land in question was donated by the owner is rejected.

"Once this Court has come to the conclusion that the SRO-154 of 1986, is not applicable in the present case, then the appellant-authorities are bound to pay compensation to the respondent-owner", read the judgment. Deputy Advocate General, appearing for the appellants-department vehemently argued that the writ Court has passed the judgment in utter disregard of SRO-154 as the

Samba police arrests one for abducting girl

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Mar 14: Police has arrested main accused after registering FIR under relevant sections of law in alleged abduction of girl student of GDC Samba, belonging to Sumb area of Samba district, whose dead body was found at Sarmalla Ludhiana under mysterious circumstances in August, 2022. Further investigation is going on. Twenty year old Sumb girl, happened to be a brilliant student of Government Degree College, Samba and has been one of the best sportspersons in the college. On August 20 last year, she had left her home to attend GDC Samba and after attending college didn't return. Upon this, missing report was entered at Police Station Samba. Next day her dead body was found under mysterious circumstances at railway track in the jurisdiction of GRP PP Sarmalla, Ludhiana following which people had protested demanding strong action under law against the perpetrators of crime. On March 3 this year, upon the application of father of the deceased girl, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Samba directed SSP Samba to depute senior officer to conduct preliminary enquiry and proceed under law. Complying with the court direc-

tions, SSP Samba, Benam Tosh deputed DySP Hqrs Samba, Usman Choudhary, who visited Sumb village, conducted preliminary enquiry, recorded statements, thoroughly examined call details, discretely elicited information and submitted report with the conclusion that the matter was cognizable and warranted registration of FIR under law. Upon this, Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate passed directions to police under Section 156 (3) CrPC to register FIR under relevant sections of law. In compliance with the CJM Court directions, case has been registered at Police Station Samba, main accused has been arrested and investigation going on. The arrested person has been identified as Sunil Kumar Sharma, son of Late Pritam Chand of Markoli Taloor Samba. Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh said that Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by lady DySP Priyanka Kumari with lady Senior PO Gurpreet Kaur, SHO Samba, Rajeshwar Singh and in charge PP Rakh Amb Talli, SI Ravinder Singh as members, has been constituted to conduct thorough investigation and unravel actual facts of the case.

CJ visits District Court Complex Jammu, assesses infra issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, today paid his maiden visit to District



CJ N Kotiswar Singh during maiden visit to District Court Complex, Jammu.

Court Complex, Jammu. He was accompanied by Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul. On the occasion, the Chief Justice and other Judges of the High Court were welcomed with guard of honour presented by a contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The Chief Justice inspected the entire Court Complex including Family Court, POCO Court, E-Seva Kendra and other sections and also took stock of infrastructural issues of District Court Complex, Jammu. He also took first-hand appraisal of working of the office of Chief Defense Counsel and Legal Aid Clinic. Chief Justice also visited

the AIR Café and e-Library set up within the precincts of Lawyers' Chambers Building. Later, Chief Justice interacted with the Judicial Officers posted at the District

of cases. While presenting the welcome address, Sanjay Parihar, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu apprised the Chief Justice and other Judges about the statistics regarding pendency of different categories of cases as well as about the ways and means adopted by the Judicial officers to ensure their expeditious disposal. He further assured the Chief Justice that District Judiciary Jammu shall work with complete dedication, utmost sincerity in free, fair and transparent manner to ensure that quality justice is delivered in a time bound manner to each and every seeker of the Justice. Later, the Chief Justice was felicitated by the Judicial Employees Welfare Association on the occasion. Senior Advocate, Vikram Sharma, President, High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, M.K Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and other officers of the registry of the High Court were also present at the occasion.

Headquarter Jammu as well as with members of the Bar. He advised the Judicial Officers to work with utmost dedication, diligence and compassion to uphold the dignity and honour of the institution. He also laid emphasis on the use of technology by all the stakeholders of the Justice for expeditious disposal



Div Com Ramesh Kumar inspecting work in Jammu.

Div Com visits Transport Nagar to inspect ongoing upgradation works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, conducted a tour of Transport Nagar and Narwal to inspect the ongoing up-gradation works executed under Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority. The Div Com was accompanied by Vice Chariman JDA, Pankaj Magotra; Chief Engineer PHE, (Jal Shakti), Superintendent Engineer, JPDCL, Architect JMRDA, Davinder Gupta; and other concerned officers. The Div Com inspected various ongoing works, including drainage systems, road improvements, construction of roads, internal lanes and dividers. The VC JDA and JMRDA officers apprised the Div Com of the project's components and status of ongoing works. The Div Com instructed executing agencies to expedite the pace of all the ongoing works while maintaining quality parameters. He suggested corrective measures for the overall development of the busy business hub (Transport Nagar) and directed concerned officers to ensure that the works are completed within fixed timelines. He also instructed the executing agencies to maintain interdepartmental coordination for any utility shifting works.

During his interaction with the traders and shopkeepers at Transport Nagar, they raised their concerns and requested strict action against encroachers who have encroached roads and dividers. They expressed gratitude to the government for executing improvement of infrastructure works in the area. The Div Com assured them that all their genuine issues would be redressed at the earliest and advised them to cooperate with the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of works. The Div Com also conducted a Jammu city tour and inspected the ongoing pathways/footpath and rotaries improvement projects executed under Jammu Smart City Mission. He inspected the progress of work at various locations, including Gandhi Nagar, Panama Chowk, University Road and Bahu Fort area. The concerned officers apprised the Div Com of the present status of work and future work plan. The Div Com directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all the executed works and complete the same in a time-bound manner. The Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, Rahul Yadav, project consultants and other concerned officers accompanied the Div Com.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha with former Minister Surjit Singh Slathia.

Former Minister, Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad delegation call on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Surjit Singh Slathia, Former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan today. The former minister submitted a memorandum to the Lt Governor pertaining to the demands of inhabitants of District Samba. The demands included enhancement of infrastructure in GDC Samba, a degree college for Sumb area, besides augmentation of power supply and health facilities and widening of Samba to Dhabbi road. Earlier, Surinder Choudhary, former legislator also met the Lt Governor and discussed the issues of public importance. The Lt Governor assured the former minister and former legislator of appropriate redressal of the genuine demands based on merit. A delegation of Jammu

Kashmir Shree Kashi Vidvat Parishad, Jammu also met Lieutenant Governor. The members of the delegation led by Chairperson of the organisation Padma Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri apprised the Lt Governor about the efforts of the organisation to promote and preserve "Sanskaar, Sanskriti & Sanskrit". They discussed the establishment of vedic schools, library and granting scholarships to students through the organisation. The members of the delegation also submitted a proposal for the establishment of Shri Sharda Peetha International University in J&K UT. The Lt Governor appreciated the tireless efforts of the members for the promotion of the ancient vedic culture, teachings & tradition and assured all support from the UT administration in furthering their noble work for the welfare of society.

and depending on information the mission leader re-organised the inner cordon," he said. "Assessing the situation the vigilant troops displayed situational awareness, extreme restraint and exceptional fire control in not opening the fire. The alert troops of the joint team managed to nab the militant thereby displaying great synergy," he said. He has been identified as Owais Ahmad Mir son of Nazir Ahmad Mir resident of War Mohalla Gund Brat. "During search, incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a 9mm Pistol, 08 (9mm) rounds, a Pistol Magazine and a Chinese Grenade were recovered," the spokesman added.

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Militant arrested in Sopore, ammunition recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: Security forces today arrested a militant in Sopore area of Baramulla district and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession. A police spokesman said that based on specific input regarding presence of a militant in Madina Bagh Moh, Dangerpura area of Sopora, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Sopore Police and Army (22RR) in the area. "As the initial cordon was being laid, a militant was spotted trying to run away and attempting to break the cordon, taking cover of narrow lanes by-lanes and congested area. The movement was passed to all the troops

and depending on information the mission leader re-organised the inner cordon," he said. "Assessing the situation the vigilant troops displayed situational awareness, extreme restraint and exceptional fire control in not opening the fire. The alert troops of the joint team managed to nab the militant thereby displaying great synergy," he said. He has been identified as Owais Ahmad Mir son of Nazir Ahmad Mir resident of War Mohalla Gund Brat. "During search, incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a 9mm Pistol, 08 (9mm) rounds, a Pistol Magazine and a Chinese Grenade were recovered," the spokesman added.

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MACT directive to insurance companies

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: The Presiding Officer Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), Doda Amerjeet Singh Langeh, while hearing batch of claim petitions relating to accident and death cases, has directed New India Insurance Company Ltd, United India Insurance Company Ltd, Go Digit Insurance Company Ltd, IFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company Ltd and Shree Ram Transport Finance Company Ltd to adhere to mandate of Section 149 of Act and come up with offer of compensation as soon as information of accident, either from claimant or otherwise comes to

the notice. "It is required to be noted that in terms of Section 149 of Motor Vehicles Act, respondent Insurance Company is under statutory obligation to come up with an offer of compensation/settlement to claimants", the Presiding Officer said, adding "this provision is not without purpose and insurance companies therefore can't afford to observe it in breach". "Let respondent Insurance Company, therefore, also take steps to adhere to the mandate of Section 149 of Motor Vehicles Act and come up with an offer of compensation by or before the next date", the Presiding Officer said.

Principal Secretary chairs 83rd BoDs meet of JKSPDC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 14: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), H Rajesh Prasad, today chaired the 83rd Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC-CL) at Civil Secretariat here. The meeting was attended by Managing Director, JKSPDC, Raja Yaqoob Farooq; CPES, CE, HPM, Central Electricity Authority, Manoj Tripathi; Chief Engineer, Ministry of Power, GoI, Hemant Kumar Pandey; Director Finance, JKSPDC, Executive Director (Civil), Company Secretary and other representatives of Finance and Planning departments. During the meeting the BoDs discussed several aspects related to the functioning of Corporation besides the financial progress was also deliberated in detail during the meeting. Speaking during the meeting, the Principal Secretary, who is also the Chairman of Board directed the management of corporation that upto date annual accounts of the Corporation

should be finalized, approved and adopted at the earliest. During the meeting, the Board of Directors accorded approval for works comprising Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132 KV Double Circuit Transmission line for evacuation of power from 37.5 mw Parnai HEP to grid station, Draba, of Poonch district including construction of two 132 KV line bays at the receiving end. The Board further accorded approval to Revenue Budget for the year 2023-24 and revised estimates for the year 2022-23. Similarly, the Board accorded approval to appointment of Internal Auditors for the Corporation for Financial Year 2020-21 to 2022-23. The Board of Directors also confirmed the action taken for pre-payment of Rupee Term Loan of 37.5 MW Parnai HEP to the tune of Rs. 115.20 crore and thus, saved an amount of Rs. 13.24 crore annually. The Board also accorded its approval to annual accounts of the Corporation for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18.

surely be beneficial to both the organisations," he added. up P K Saxena hoped that association between two leaders in their own operational domains will script a new chapter of success in serving the people. He said, "We are excited with the journey we have embarked upon with leading financial institution in UTs of J&K and Ladakh. By offering the industry-best insurance related products and services to customers, I am sure our company will gain greatly from J&K Bank's extensive network of touch points selling our products." Sounding optimism General Manager Narjay Gupta said, "LIC's products and J&K Bank's second-to-none services will bring laurels to both the institutions going forward as the agreement will provide greater choice of insurance solutions to the customers." On the occasion General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool asserted that both the organisations will live up to the expectations of their stakeholders so as to build further on their reputation. "Our country has a vision to insure every individual in the times to come. I think this collaboration will play its part greatly in achieving the national goal across our operational geographies", he added.

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J&K Bank and LIC of India officers during signing of agreement.

J&K Bank inks agreement with LIC of India

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 14: With a view to provide its customers a wider range of life-insurance products and services, Jammu and Kashmir Bank today entered into an agreement with the country's insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. General Manager (Cross Selling Vertical) Narjay Gupta signed the agreement on behalf of J&K Bank, while as, Regional Manager (MBAC) P K Saxena put in his signatures representing LIC India in presence of Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool, LIC of India's Senior Divisional Manager Dinesh Tanania besides senior officials of J&K Bank and LIC of India at Bank's corporate headquarters. The agreement will be effective from April 1, 2023. Terming the agreement a milestone set to benefit Bank's growing clientele, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said on the occasion, "With customer welfare at the heart of Bank's policies, the tie-up with LIC of India - a premier insurance company in the country - will provide our customers an access to wider range of products that LIC offers while adding to Bank's non-interest income. This association will

surely be beneficial to both the organisations," he added. up P K Saxena hoped that association between two leaders in their own operational domains will script a new chapter of success in serving the people. He said, "We are excited with the journey we have embarked upon with leading financial institution in UTs of J&K and Ladakh. By offering the industry-best insurance related products and services to customers, I am sure our company will gain greatly from J&K Bank's extensive network of touch points selling our products." Sounding optimism General Manager Narjay Gupta said, "LIC's products and J&K Bank's second-to-none services will bring laurels to both the institutions going forward as the agreement will provide greater choice of insurance solutions to the customers." On the occasion General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool asserted that both the organisations will live up to the expectations of their stakeholders so as to build further on their reputation. "Our country has a vision to insure every individual in the times to come. I think this collaboration will play its part greatly in achieving the national goal across our operational geographies", he added.

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