

Chandrayaan sparked global aspirations in Indian students: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 has sparked global aspirations in Indian students.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is all the more evident that after the opening up of the Space Sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020, the number of Space StartUps sky-rocketed from merely 04 to 150 Start-ups and most of them being led by science students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Science 20 (S20) Conference under the aegis of G20 on the topic "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development", at Amity University at Noida.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, StartUps are centres of novel innovations and essential for the growth of the nation and driven by the ideas of the Prime Minister Modi, Startup India, Standup India and Make in India will help transform India to even stronger economic power and contribute towards adding 1 trillion USD to our GDP each year.

"They generate jobs leading to a stronger and healthier economy. Start-ups encourage a pragmatic approach at the academic establishments further leading to large scale employment generation. It motivates students or researchers to put their ideas into practice by collaborating with the start-up, which more importantly help to develop means of economic expansion. India now stands 3rd in terms of Startup ecosystem with almost 110 Unicorns," he said, encouraging the universities to promote students' tie-ups with the emerging



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, speaking after inaugurating the Science 20 (S20) Conference under the aegis of G20 at Amity University, Noida on Monday.

ambitious space exploration programme has left a clear message that we are one of the most scientifically advanced nations in the field of Space Science and Technology," he said. Dr Jitendra Singh said that the country has witnessed an exponential growth in Science and Technology during the last decade. He said, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our progressive government is focusing on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Referring to the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi later this week, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's G20 Presidency under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the year 2022-2023 has aimed to be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

"This G20 Presidency also heralds for India the start of 'Amritkaal,' a 25-year period commencing from the 75th anniversary of India's Independence leading up to the centenary of its Independence," he said.

Stating that science has been the driving force behind economic expansion and human progress, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the objective of S20 is to leverage scientific, technological, and intellectual interactions between nations, regions, and societies in order to address common problems and forge strong international alliances.

"With the disruptive changes happening all around the world, innovative science and technology needs to be encouraged to revolutionise lives and livelihoods in a world where 8 billion people are continually striving for a better life," he said.

Lauding that the S20 Conference delves upon another important initiative of PM Modi, which is Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR).



Ravish Trehan, Managing Director of Hillview Honda unveiling new Honda ELEVATE in Jammu.

Hillview Honda unveils Honda ELEVATE, price starts from INR 10,99,900

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 4: Hillview Honda, an authorized dealer of premium cars in J&K, today unveiled the latest global SUV, the Honda ELEVATE. The vehicle will be available at an introductory starting price of INR 10,99,900 to INR 15,99,900 for the top variant.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravish Trehan, Managing Director of Hillview Honda said, "Since its global debut, ELEVATE has garnered exceptional admiration and acceptance from customers. We are delighted to unveil its pricing for the eagerly waiting Customers in Jammu."

All-new Elevate caters to the needs and aspirations of younger customers who seek status, comfort, and an active lifestyle. With dimensions of 4312mm length, 1790mm width, 1650mm height, 2650mm wheelbase and a top-class ground clearance the Elevate

merges style and practicality seamlessly.

The ELEVATE is powered by 1.5L i-VTEC DOHC petrol engine generating 89kW (121 PS) power and 145 Nm torque, paired with a 6-speed Manual Transmission and a 7-speed Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) for a smooth and enjoyable driving experience and offering fuel efficiency of 15.31 kmpl* and 16.92 kmpl* respectively. Honda ELEVATE is E20 material compatible (up to 20% Ethanol Blended Petrol).

The Honda Elevate will offer complete peace of mind with 3 years of unlimited kilometers warranty as standard benefit to the customers. The customers can also opt for extended warranty up to 5 years, anytime warranty up to 10 years and road side assistance from the date of the car purchase.

Deliveries of the ELEVATE will begin from today.

Fireflies Day celebrated in SKUAST-J

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 4: The Entomological Science Academy (ESA) of Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Jammu celebrated Fireflies Day today to spotlight nature's original firework displays.

On the occasion, a series of lectures, painting competition and quiz on fireflies' conservation, ecology and environment was organized to create

flies or their prey, limit ground disturbing activities that can harm larvae and flightless adult females and reducing outdoor lighting when possible especially during the summer when adult fireflies are active.

Other faculty members including Dr Uma Shankar, Dr RS Bandal, Dr Kamlesh Bali and Dr AK Singh, highlighted their experiences on this insect while the students and research scholars also spoke on this occasion and took pledge to conserve fireflies for future generations.

The purpose of this brainstorming session was to involve all the stakeholders to provide food, shelter, moisture, protection from pesticides, awareness and advance a public conservation ethic by sharing information about fireflies and their habitat requirements in Jammu region.

Dr Rakesh Kumar Gupta (president, ESA) portrayed the contribution of fireflies for stable ecosystem functioning. He further emphasized on conservation of fireflies through protecting firefly habitats from potential threats by providing safe places to overwinter, eliminating use of pesticides especially broad spectrum insecticides that can directly kill fire-



Faculty members and students of ESA posing together during celebration of Fireflies Day at SKUAST-J.

to save these creatures. It was concluded that as fireflies contribute to the food-web stability, playing important roles as both predators and prey, they can be highly beneficial in gardens and agricultural settings, and are indicators of climatic vegetation.

Observing that fireflies have immense cultural, biological and economic importance and are important components of natural ecosystems, an public appeal was made to make them an ideal flagship for conservation.



Chairperson PNRGB during meeting with LG.

Chairperson Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board calls on LG

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 4: Dr A K Jain, Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed the plans to bring CNG and piped natural gas to valley's households.

The Lt Governor was apprised of the Board's action plan to award the licenses to set up CNG stations and to connect homes. PNGB is also envisaging a gas pipeline from Jammu to Srinagar.

The Lt Governor assured the PNGB leadership of due consideration of the issues and suggestions to preserve the clean environment of the UT through the increased use of natural gas and to offer more fuel choices to the people of UT.

It was informed by PNGB that Jammu area has already been largely covered by natural gas.

Gajendra Singh, Member, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board was also present.

BDC Chairman, 12 Sarpanchs, others join Cong Winds of change blowing in J&K: Wani

*BJP will be wiped out from Jammu: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

RS PURA, Sept 4: JKPC president Vikar Rasool Wani today said that winds of change are blowing in Jammu and Kashmir as there is large scale resentment against BJP in Jammu region too, owing to the failures, arrogance of power and unfulfilled promises by the BJP with the people, especially youth.

Addressing a large gathering along with working president Raman Bhalla and other senior party leaders at Miran Sahib in RS Pura today to welcome a number of BJP leaders, including over the dozen Sarpanchs and 100 Panchs



JKPC president Vikar Rasool Wani and others during a function in RS Pura on Monday.

led by BDC Chairman Daleep Kumar into the party, Wani said that more and more people from different parties including BJP strengthens our claim that people want change and look towards Congress as a secular democratic alternative at the Centre and in J&K.

A large number of prominent BJP leaders, Sarpanchs and Panchs along with their supporters joined the congress party amidst host of senior Cong leaders including Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Hari Singh Chib, TS Bajwa, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, TS Tony, Rajinder Singh Nathu, Bhushan Dogra, Amrit Bali, Gurdarshan Singh, Ch Hussain Ali Waffa, BS Jamalwal, Charanjit Bhagat, Mohan Choudhary, Aijab Motton and others.

Welcoming the new entrants, JKPC chief took a dig at BJP by stating that the coming events cast their shadows before. There is unrest amongst the cadres of BJP now as they see their defeat imminent, especially after coming together of all major opposition parties under INDIA alliance. He

Historic Sankri Devta Mela arrangements discussed

Excelsior Correspondent

Engineer PMGSY was tasked with road maintenance and pot-hole repairs.

In terms of healthcare provision, the Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy a team of doctors and an ambulance at the mela site to offer first aid facilities. The Information Department was assigned the responsibility of providing a Public Address System (PAS) for comprehensive event coverage. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer was instructed to organize various sports and activities throughout the mela.

To guarantee security, the District Police will deploy an adequate number of personnel during the event, and the ARTO will provide a sufficient fleet of buses from various locations. Additionally, various departmental stalls will be set up to raise awareness about government schemes. Tehsildar Panchari has been appointed as the Mela Officer, and the Legal Metrology Department will oversee the inspection of rates and the quality of consumables in coordination with relevant departments.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Joginder Singh Jasrotia, DDC Councillor Panchari Jasvir Singh, BDC Chairman Jeevan Sharma, Additional SP Anwar-Ul-Haq, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, and other district officers from various departments.

2.3 lakh premises covered under GIS mapping: Athar Digital governance is new paradigm in J&K; real empowerment: CS

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 4: Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today stated that digital governance is the new paradigm in J&K, emphasizing that digitization represents genuine empowerment through which power shifts from officers to the people.

Speaking at an event organized in Lal Chowk as part of 'Digital Week', which focused on digital governance, Mehta stressed the significance of transferring power from officers to the people, characterizing it as "the true empowerment of the people."

Noting the advantages of transitioning to digitization, he mentioned the successful completion of nearly 92,200 projects during the fiscal year 2022-23, surpassing previous years' figures.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

"Those with ill intentions oppose digitization, but those striving for the betterment of both the people and the overall system will never oppose it," firmly stated Mehta.

He reiterated that digital governance is the new mantra in J&K and will play a pivotal role in preparing the region for the future. "Digitization is integral to our journey towards a brighter future. Our team in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the people, is fully committed to digital transformation. We are entirely digital and will continue to expand in this direction."

Mehta highlighted the convenience of digital services, stating, "There is no need to visit offices when services are available on phones. People can make requests



Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta along with other officials during the inauguration of an event under 'Digital Week' in Srinagar on Monday.

from their homes, and they will receive the services they need."

He further emphasized that the government is pursuing a governance model rooted in systematic approaches and efficient delivery mechanisms, which represents the most effective path toward progress. "We are aiming for a system-based and delivery-based governance, which is the best possible way to propel J&K forward."

The Chief Secretary also acknowledged the significant impact of digitization, emphasizing that the people of the UT have always been open to change.

"Digitization has made a tremendous difference. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are not resistant to change; they are the best people you can work with. I can say this with authority because I have the maximum experience in J&K."

As J&K has emerged as one of the top performers in digital online services, providing the highest number of services, Mehta stated that

efforts are being made to reach out to the people and familiarize them with digital initiatives, making it easier for them to access digital services.

During the occasion, Athar Amir, CEO of Srinagar Smart City Ltd, shared the Chief Secretary in sharing insights into the digitization process, with a focus on the implementation of QR coding for houses and premises in Srinagar.

Amir explained, "The QR coding of houses and premises will streamline a better system of governance and delivery in Srinagar. We are adopting the same addressing pattern as metropolitan cities, making it easier to identify locations."

He noted that GIS mapping in Jammu and Kashmir has been completed, covering 230,000 houses and premises. "Each house and premise will be assigned a unique digital number, displayed on QR metal boards, making location identification convenient. This QR coding system will significantly enhance governance planning and delivery in the district."

Mayor starts 'Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K' campaign

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 4: During a function here today Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma started 'Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K' campaign in which all JMC officers and officials participated.

The Mayor along with all the participants took integrity pledge to make the system corruption free.

"The main motive behind this campaign is to spread awareness about a corruption-free society. Everyone knows that corruption affects every section of the society. The purpose behind this kind of campaign is to make people aware of the repercussions of indulging in corruption and motivate them to follow righteous path," Sharma maintained adding: "Each and every individual and even organizations should pledge not to be part of any kind of corruption."

The Mayor said that combating corruption can be hard but not impossible if everyone refuses to participate in corruption.

"By saying no to corruption, we can help create more employment opportunities, achieve gender equality and secure wider access to essential services. Above all, we can make a system fair for all," he continued.

Sharma said: "We aim to make Jammu a frontline city of India. Corruption is not just a matter of a few rupees. On one hand, corruption hits development of the country and it also disrupts social balance. Most importantly, corruption breaks the trust that one places on the system of a country and the sense of belongingness."

He said that in order to curb



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma along with JMC officials take pledge for 'Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K'.

corruption, online mode of service delivery is game changer and stressed upon to encourage digital mode of services only.

"Technology can bring transparency and accountability in the working of government functionaries," the Mayor said.

He further said that it is not up to countries to unite and face this global problem but every single person, young and old has a role to play in this regard to prevent and counter corruption in order to promote integrity in the society.

Meanwhile, the Mayor along with senior BJP leader and JMC Councillor, Gurmeet Kour Randhawa inaugurated developmental works involving construction of deep drains and bridges over them in Ward number 69 at Sainik Colony area which shall be completed at an expenditure of Rs. 44 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Mayor reiterated four main functions of JMC and said that the very first function of JMC is to ensure sanitation and for that door-to-door garbage collection using autos has changed the very look of Jammu.

He said that second function of JMC is to lit streets and for that over 90,000 street lights have been installed in the city while the third function of the urban local body remains development of lanes-drains and roads and for that what used to be spent earlier in all the 75 Wards is now being spent on a single Ward.

He further said that the fourth function of JMC is to ensure proper water supply. "This summer season there was good water supply due to which almost no protest was witnessed though some shortcomings might be there which we are working to overcome," he continued.

Kangan School struggles with basic facilities

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Sept 4: The Government Boys High School Haygam, located in the Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, is grappling with several pressing issues, including a lack of drinking water, washrooms, and proper infrastructure, affecting the safety and overall learning environment of its students.

The school operates out of a makeshift tin shed, which has become unbearable for students during the ongoing hot weather, prompting teachers to conduct classes under the shade of trees within the premises.

The most critical challenges facing the school are the lack of proper infrastructure, including a building, access to drinking water, and washroom facilities. This dire situation forces students to seek out these basic amenities in nearby houses, leading to disruptions in their education. The female students, in particular, face extreme hardships due to the absence of washrooms on the school premises.

"First of all, we lack washrooms here, and we have to go to neighbouring houses to use washrooms. We are girls, and the government should think about it. We do not have drinking water facilities here and have to drink water from the nearby stream, which is very dirty. This also puts the children at risk, as small kids can easily slip into the stream, and their parents would then blame teachers," an 8th-grade student, speaking on behalf of her fellow classmates, said.

Sadia, another student, highlighted the lack of a proper school building, explaining that classes are often cancelled when it rains, and during hot weather, they are compelled to study under the shade of trees. "We have to lay mats

under trees because we only have a tin shed here. Up to 8th grade, we study under the trees, while 9th, 10th, and 7th-grade classes are held inside the tin sheds," she said.

Inayat Bashir, a local resident, informed that the school was upgraded to a high school in 2012 from a middle school, but it has been operating from just three rooms since then. Expressing frustration, he said, "Many officials have visited the school, but nothing has happened. Now, I want the LG administration to kindly look into the issue. It is quite unfortunate that officials are sitting in their AC rooms while our kids are receiving education from this tin shed in this hot weather," he said.

When it rains, he added, the school is forced to close as water enters the makeshift classrooms. "When kids have to use washrooms, we receive calls from the school to take our children home for washroom use. We also have to take them to other buildings for midday meals, which disrupts our work," he said.

District Development Council (DDC) member from Kangan, Tasmeena Adil, acknowledged the severity of the issue and said that she had visited the school twice with officials from the concerned department. "The issue is genuine, as children are studying under a tin shed, and there are no facilities like washrooms," she said.

Rafiq Ahmad, the Zonal Education Planning Officer, explained that the demand for improved facilities has been pending for a long time and has arisen due to an increase in student enrollment. "The CPW had provided extra land where these tin sheds are built. We constructed the tin sheds and two toilets," he said.

He further said that the government had sanctioned compensation of around 10 lakhs to the CPW, and a proposal for a new building was approved.