

India's space economy set to reach USD 40 bn by 2040: Jitendra Singh

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Nov 26 (PTI)

INDIA'S space economy is poised to reach USD 40 billion by 2040, and scientists will also enjoy a better working environment, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said here.

The Minister of State for Science and Technology & Atomic Energy and Space (Independent Charge) said that some foreign agencies like the AKD have predicted that this figure could even go up to USD 100 billion by 2040.

"At present, our space economy is not very impressive, as we have just about USD 8 million. But we are moving in quantum jumps, and in the foreign satellite launch alone, we have earned about EUR 230-240 million for launching

European satellites and about USD 170-180 million for launching American satellites," Singh said. He was speaking to PTI after inaugurating the 60th-anniversary celebrations of ISRO's rocket launch here on Saturday. Singh said that with the establishment of the National Research Foundation, Anu Sandhan, a better model of similar foundations existing in US, a significant industry presence could be established.

"With this, more than 70 per cent of our space resources are going to come from the non-government sector. So, this is also going to supplement our resources," the minister said.

Agreeing with the fact that India did face a resource crunch in its space sector, he said, "We could tide it over with the great scientific acumen we have."

"We could even overtake other countries with that. Although they were the first to land a human on the Moon, Chandrayaan was the first to detect the H₂O molecule," the minister said.

He said the 'courageous' decision of the political dispensation to open up the space sector to private players has been a game-changer. "This has supplemented our resources both fund-wise and knowledge-wise," Singh added.

He said the opening up of the sector also helped popularise the concept of space science in the country.

"The entire nation got involved in Chandrayaan. It was like the whole of science plus, the whole of the government plus, the whole of the nation," Singh said.

IAF considering taking over 3 airstrips in U'khand: CDS

NEW DELHI, Nov 26 (ANI)

THE Indian Air Force is in the process of taking over three air landing strips in Uttarakhand, which will not only be strategically useful for the defence forces but also help in improving the connectivity of the State, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has said.

The three airstrips mentioned by the CDS include Pithoragarh in the Kumaon Hills and Dharasu and Gauchar in the Garhwal Hills.

Addressing the event 'Raibaar-5', the CDS said,

"Pithoragarh, Dharasu, and Gauchar are landing grounds in Uttarakhand. These landing strips are made on the land of the state government. The state government wanted the Armed Forces to take over these airstrips which will not only be of strategic use but also help in improving air connectivity for the local people there."

"We have accepted this proposal, and the Indian Air Force is in the process of taking over these three landing grounds. We will expand these strips for strategic use and to help locals," he said.



General Chauhan

Foreign Secretary Kwatra meets Iranian Foreign Minister in Tehran

NEW DELHI, Nov 26 (PTI)

FOREIGN Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Sunday met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Tehran and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties, boost connectivity through the Chabahar port, and the current situation in West Asia arising out of the Hamas-Israel conflict.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said both sides agreed to further strengthen the ongoing cooperation in various spheres.

"Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra called on FM @Amirabdollahian of Iran in Tehran today," Bagchi said on



Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra with a Iranian Minister Ali Bagheri in Tehran on Sunday. (ANI)

X. "Discussed bilateral matters, connectivity projects including Chabahar port, and shared perspective on current challenges in the region. Both sides agreed to further strengthen the ongoing cooperation in various spheres," he said.

Kwatra's visit to Tehran assumes significance as it comes amid growing global concern over the hostilities between Hamas and Israel. In Tehran, Kwatra also met Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for economic diplomacy Mehdi Safa. Bagchi said the discussion focused on concretising Indian engagement in development of the Chabahar port as a connectivity project.

India has potential to be a mediator in international conflicts: Kamboj

■ By Yoshita Singh
NEW YORK, Nov 26 (PTI)

INDIA'S strategic position enables it to engage with various power blocs constructively and its ability to navigate complex diplomatic waters showcases the country as a potential mediator in international conflicts, the country's envoy to the UN has said.

"In an era marked by rapid changes and complex challenges, India emerges not just as a nation of immense diversity and cultural richness,



Ruchira Kamboj

but also as a key player on the international stage, embodying the principles of cooperation, peace and mutual respect," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said here.

Kamboj delivered a special address on the topic 'India in the Emerging Global Order' at the 'India: The Next Decade' conference hosted by the Deepak and Neera Raj Center at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs last week.

Kamboj said India's ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – the world is one family – positions the country uniquely as a mediator and conciliator in world affairs.

In recent years, the international community has witnessed India's proactive approach to fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse nations, she said in her prepared remarks.

"Moreover, India's strategic position, coupled with its non-aligned history, enables it to engage with various power blocs constructively," she said.

Constitution Day

ALL-INDIA SERVICE To select, nurture talent in judiciary President Murmu for citizen-centric system for justice

NEW DELHI, Nov 26 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Sunday suggested the creation of an all-India judicial service to select brilliant youngsters and nurture their talents from lower to higher levels in judiciary.

“I leave it to your wisdom to devise any effective mechanism that you deem fit to achieve this objective of strengthening the justice delivery system.”

Addressing the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court of India here, the President highlighted that “cost” and “language” act as barriers for citizens seeking justice, and said that the overall system needs to

be made citizen-centric in order to improve the access to justice.

Murmu said that the place of the judiciary, which has been welcoming diversity with open arms, in the constitutional framework remains “rather unique” and that a “more varied representation of India’s unique diversity on bench and bar definitely helps serve the cause of justice better”. “One way to hasten this diversification process can be the creation of a system in which judges can be recruited from varied backgrounds through a process which is merit based, competitive and transparent.

“There can be an all-India judicial service which can select brilliant youngsters and nurture and promote their talents from lower levels to higher levels,” she said.

Those who aspire to serve the bench can be selected from across the country to create a large

pool of talent, the President said.

“Such a system can offer opportunities to the less-represented social

groups too. I leave it to your wisdom to devise any effective mechanism that you deem fit to
(Contd on page 5)

Don't be afraid of SC, it's people's court: CJI

NEW DELHI, Nov 26 (PTI)

THE Supreme Court has acted as a “people’s court” and citizens should not be afraid of going to courts or view it as the last resort, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud said on Sunday.

Justice Chandrachud said just as the Constitution allows us to resolve political differences through established democratic institutions and processes, the courts system helps in resolving many disagreements through established principles and processes. “In this way, every case in every court in the country is an extension of constitutional governance,” the CJI
(Contd on page 5)



FRAGILE **Back on track** TRUCE Israel-Hamas war

DEIR AL-BALAH (Gaza Strip), Nov 26 (AP)

THE fragile cease-fire between Israel and Hamas appeared to be back on track on Sunday after the release of a third group of militant-held hostages including 14 Israelis, in a third set of releases under a cease-fire deal.

Red Cross representatives transferred the hostages out of Gaza late on Sunday. Some were handed over directly to Israel, while others left through Egypt. The Army said one of the hostages was airlifted directly to an Israeli hospital.

Israel was to free 39 Palestinian prisoners later on Sunday as part of the deal.

It was the third consecutive day in which Hamas released Israeli hostages it has been holding in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. A fourth exchange is expected to take place on Monday - the last day of the four-day cease-fire between the enemies. A total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed.

In a separate development, Hamas announced that one of its top commanders had been killed, without saying when or how. Israel's military confirmed it.

(Contd on page 5)



An Israeli man meets his wife and 2 daughters after they returned to Israel to the designated complex at the Schneider Children's Medical Center on Sunday. (AP/PTI)