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Niti's Rajiv Kumar calls for New Coalitions of Like-minded Nations

Our Bureau

New Delhi: NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar has called for setting up of new coalitions of like-minded nations while strengthening and promoting the existing multilateral institutions to ensure that a liberalised and multilateral order is put in place to serve the global community.

"Openness is under threat in some sense. We need to put our heads together to ensure a liberalised and multilateral order is put in place," Kumar said while addressing a session of LEADS 2021 on future of global governance and development partnerships, organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

"Economic recovery is strengthening. This is the time to prepare for the post Covid world order," he said, adding it can only happen when countries maintain the openness seen after the World War.

According to Kumar, the business as usual approach will not work and that countries will have to think fresh, boldly and not have to be scared of entering into coalitions.

"The world is too divided. We need to build new coalitions, if possible, between nations that respect the rule of law and the multilateral forum," he said.

Kumar said the existing multilateral institutions have failed to achieve the primary objective of convergence between nations. "The world is going through turbulent and transition times. We need global institutions that are nimble and sensitive. They should not retain inertia of the moment but respond to such times," he concluded.



The Niti VC was speaking at a Ficci session on the future of global governance and devp ties

Gaganyaan mission likely to be launched by 2022 end or early 2023

INDIA'S 'GAGANYAAN' MISSION is likely to be launched by the end of 2022 or early 2023, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday. The mission, originally scheduled for a launch by 2022, was delayed due to coronavirus pandemic. It aims to launch a manned mission in the Lower Earth Orbit.

"We could have actually done this. We had planned to time it along the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, but it could not happen that way because of the inevitable delay caused by Covid-19. But I am sure, maybe by the end of next year or may be (by) the beginning of 2023, we would be able to do that as well," he said.

Singh, the Minister of State in the Department of Space, was addressing a webinar on 'Future of India-Oceania Space Technology Partnerships' organised by the FICCL. —PTI

Will concentrate in building air connectivity between India and CIS: Scindia

THE CENTRE WILL concentrate on building air connectivity between India and countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States as the world slowly comes out of the coronavirus pandemic, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) includes Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

“I think this is the right time for the relationship between the CIS countries and India to take off. We look forward to growing our relationship, both on the ground as well as up in the air,” Scindia said at an event titled ‘Future of India-CIS Silk Route Partnerships’ organised by the FICCI.

—PTI



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PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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Singh, the Minister of State in the Department of Space, was addressing a webinar on 'Future of India-Oceania Space Technology Partnerships' organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) here.

He further said a brainstorming exercise by space scientists and government officials in 2015-16 helped them understand where space technology could be used.

"Space technology has a role to play, virtually, in every sector," he asserted.

Space technology has come very handy in the area of disaster management, the minister said, adding that space medicine is also deeply connected in the endeavour to send three Indians to space.

According to the government, four biological and two physical science related microgravity experiments from academic institutions are shortlisted for unmanned mission of the Gaganyaan programme.

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (I/C), PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE, DR. JITENDRA SINGH DELIVERING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE LEADS-2021 SUMMIT, ORGANISED BY THE FICCI, THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING, IN NEW DELHI.