

'INCLUDE TVM, KOZ IN SMART CITY'

New Delhi: The Kerala government has requested the Centre to include Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode in the Smart City list, state Minister for Panchayats and Local Self-Governance K T Jaleel today said. Jaleel met Union Minister for Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu and urged him to include the two cities in the list, along with Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode, in the list.

Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode need to fulfill certain requisites to become eligible to be considered in the Smart City list and we have requested the Union minister to include these two cities along with Kochi, which is already in the list," Mr Jaleel said in a press meet here.

The minister also promised to help through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) or Housing for All Scheme under which homeless urban dwellers do not own land in rural areas could be given assistance to construct houses, the minister said. —PTI

STATE TO TAKE OVER PALAKKAD IL

CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JUNE 27.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that the state government has decided in principle to take over Palakkad Industrial Development Corporation central public sector unit, Instrumentation Ltd (IL). The move comes in the wake of the decision taken by Centre to close down the unit in Palakkad.

In a letter to Anant Geete, Union Minister of Heavy



Sunita Williams interacts from NASA through Skype with FISAT students.

Sunita on Skype at Angamaly

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI, JUNE 27

"If not an astronaut, I would have been a science teacher," said NASA astronaut Sunita Williams as she made a virtual appearance at Federal Institute of Science and Technology (FISAT), Angamaly, in an interaction through Skype organised by IEEE India Council the other day.

It was the first in a series of interactive sessions by students with eminent scientists and educationists which the IEEE India Council is conducting for the benefit of its members.

The programme was beamed to 17 colleges from FISAT and viewed by over 1000 students across the country.

In a one-hour interaction, the NASA astronaut, who holds the records for seven space walks by a woman, shared her experiences.

Earth, she said, was still her favourite place. "Doing space walk is not easy. The feeling that only a visor separates me from the vastness of space is overwhelming," she said from NASA.

When asked about space movies, she said 'Gravity' and 'The Martian' come close to the reality of space exploration.

She asked the students to take up challenges and mentioned that life is not about going from point A to B; rather it is about the journey and enjoying it by pausing and looking around, she said.

MVD sleuths to

From spacewalk to Gravity, candid Sunita wows everyone

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Students and participants, attending the inaugural session of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers lecture series at Fisat Engineering College, Angamaly, had a surprise guest who 'virtually' flagged off the event. Astronaut Sunita Williams appeared on a large screen from Nasa, via SKYPE, much to the delight of the audience from different engineering colleges across the country.

There was a flurry of questions which she answered patiently during an hour-long interaction. They ranged from her favourite city (Jaipur) to preferred food (Pizza). She also told her audience that extraterrestrial life was a reality.

She confessed that earth was still her favourite spot and that she would have taught science at school if she was not an astronaut. "The photographs they send from space does not convey the whole experience of seeing the blue beautiful globe through the wide windows of the space station," she said.

Williams also shared her experience of spacewalking, the preparation and complexities involved. "Doing a spacewalk is definitely not easy as it



CLOSE TO REALITY: Astronaut Sunita Williams 'virtually' flags off the lecture series at Fisat Engineering College, Angamaly

is a demanding process. The feeling that only a visor separates us from the vastness of space is overwhelming. I hope somebody breaks my record of seven spacewalks (the most by a woman) as it would signify that science has progressed," she said.

When asked about space movies, especially 'Gravity', Williams said: "It was very close to reality (space exploration) though certain bits in the movie were unreal. But, again, movies need such unreal elements." She recommended 'The Martian', a project that received Nasa's expertise.

Talking about her career, the astronaut said that self-determination was the key factor. She shared her childhood dream of wanting to become a veterinary doctor, then a diver and later a test pilot that gave her an opportunity to become an astronaut. She asked students to take up challenges.

"Life is not about going from point A to B, rather it is about the journey. Enjoy, pause and looking around. Do not be disheartened by failure," she said.

The programme was viewed by over 1,000 students in 17 colleges across the country.

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