

Space has more things in store for humans: expert

Space settlement will bring about a remarkable change in our lives, says Srijan Pal Singh

TDT | Manama

Exploring the possibilities that space has to offer is one of the best ways to further advance the human race, said Srijan Pal Singh, a leading space expert, author, public speaker, social entrepreneur and Chief Executive Officer of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Centre.

Mr Srijan is in the Kingdom to deliver a keynote speech on the life and vision of Dr Kalam, former President of India and renowned space scientist, at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) tomorrow as part of the ongoing book fair and cultural fest.

During a brief interaction with Tribune, he said space settlement, space tourism and space defence force are the three latest topics intensively researched by space scientists as well as widely discussed by space enthusiasts.

"Among the three, space settlement deserves maximum attention. If the researches in this field succeed, it is going to bring about a remarkable change in our lives.

"Space tourism is only the first step towards the colonisation of space. It will help us understand



Mr Srijan with Dr Kalam (A file picture)

the space more. For instance, the Mars exploration missions mainly focus on the factors in that planet that support life.

"There could be a large scale migration of human race to Mars in the decades to come. But before that, we need to understand the existing challenges."

Speaking about space defence force, a topic of deep interest to US President Donald Trump, Mr Srijan said the proposals could lead to a growth of a new defence

sector.

"All weapons have to be redesigned for space purpose. For instance, if a man fires a bullet from space, along with the bullet he will as well start moving towards the infinity in the absence of gravity and friction."

Mr Srijan expressed hope that all ongoing space research activities would eventually reap benefits for the common man.

"Undoubtedly, common man has been the number one ben-

eficiary of space research. All of us are, these days, using GPS applications. Satellites have made tsunami and earthquake warning systems more efficient.

"Satellites have revolutionised broadcasting of television channels, telecommunication technologies and telemedicine."

The social entrepreneur asserted that in all aspects space science is a "common man's science" as it will widen the horizons of human race.

Spreading Dr Kalam's vision across world

All countries including Bahrain should strive towards creating a knowledge society as envisioned by Dr Kalam, opined Mr Srijan.

He said the Centre is in its best efforts to spread and the vision and messages of Dr Kalam, a legendary scientist and statesman, across the GCC as well as other countries.

The centre plans to develop a special space curriculum for schools and colleges with special emphasis on Astrobiology.

"Mars Mission India (MMI) is an initiative by the UK Centre for Astrobiology (UKCA) and Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Centre that aims to explore the habitability potential of the Red Planet.

"The main objective of the project is to promote Astro-



The Centre is in its best efforts to spread the vision and messages of Dr Kalam.

MR SRIJAN

biology as a subject of wide-spread interest in India and engage Indian engineers and other youth in projects initiated by the UKCA."

Bahrain under crypto spotlight

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain has come under the global spotlight as the Kingdom's latest progressive crypto-regulations have impressed the tech community.

The latest initiatives taken by the Central Bank of Bahrain has garnered global praise and was cited as a step forward for the development of crypto-currencies usage by global experts and media.

The move was well received with some international analysts going as far to say that Bahrain could become a leader in the field.

The Central Bank of Bahrain ("CBB") on Thursday issued for consultation, the draft rules on Crypto-asset Platform Operators ("CPO") which provides a regulatory framework for the licensing and supervision of crypto-asset services including those provided by a platform operator as a principal, agent and as a custodian, within or from Bahrain.

"Realising the growing demand for this type of market globally and regionally, the CBB is introducing a comprehensive framework, which is risk-based to regulate this area of financial services.

"The new regulatory framework covers the requirements for licensing, financial resources, and measures to safeguard client or customer interests, technology standards and in particular the cyber security risk management measures, reporting and other requirements," the CBB stated.

"Bahrain is all set to establish itself as a regional leader in Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology," The Currency Analytics stated.

"Bahrain is evolving to be the best in the International Fintech Hub. Bahrain has already identified the Fintech sec-



The crypto-regulations issued by the CBB have impressed the tech community.

Bahrain could become a leader in the crypto-currency space with the expected launch of crypto-currency exchanges.

MR PARKER

The CBB's experience with the participants within the Regulatory Sandbox was insightful in shaping the rules.

MR HAMAD

tor as being crucial in contributing to the development of the Kingdom as the regional business and banking hub," it stated.

The news of CBB move was prominently covered by crypto news outlets such as Coin Telegraph, Bitcoin.com, coingape. They noted that Bahrain is one of the first countries to take initiatives for crypto regulation.

"Regulations have been a critical hurdle that limited growth and adoption of cryptocurrency across the globe. But as cryptocurrencies are getting popular and the positives of it becoming more visible, regulators are trying their best to regulate it than eliminate it. The recent addition to this list is Bahrain, where the Central Bank has issued draft rules to regulate cryptocurrencies," Coingape said.

Khalid Hamad, Executive Director of Banking Supervision, commented on the move saying: "This regulatory framework will address the demand from the market for these services and the need to also recognise this innovation in financial services. The CBB's experience with the participants within the Regulatory Sandbox was insightful in shaping these rules."

Bahrain's first ever crypto-currency exchange will soon be launched in the Kingdom. Rain will be one of the first in the region.

The exchange has already opened its waiting list on its website after spending a year in Central Bank of Bahrain's regulatory sandbox. The exchange will facilitate the purchase, sale and storage of crypto-currencies.

Rain, founded in 2016 by four entrepreneurs - Yehia Badawy, Abdullah Almoaiqel, AJ Nelson and Joseph Dallaga, is backed by big names in the industry including Bitcoin core developer Jimmy Song and Cumberland Mining founder Mike Komaransky.

Bahrain could become a leader in the crypto-currency space with the expected launch of crypto-currency exchanges in the country, according to Executive Director of Financial Services at Economic Development Board, David Parker.

"Bahrain has the potential to be a leader in terms of crypto-currency exchanges. There are a number of crypto-exchanges currently testing at the Central Bank of Bahrain Sandbox.

"If we can get this right, we can emerge as not only as a regional leader but also an international leader. I think there are so many ways in which Bahrain in terms of its financial industry and its wider economy be embracing Blockchain Technology for the good of the economy."

Gulf Air launches stopover packages

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom, has announced the launch of new stopover travel packages designed to promote the Kingdom as a tourist destination to its global customer base.

The new stopover programme was launched in response to the directives of the Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA), Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) and local destination management agencies.

Eligible passengers on Gulf Air can now explore Bahrain en-route before reaching their final destination. The stopover packages, available for both Falcon Gold and economy travellers for the duration of 1 - 4 days, can be booked via the airline's website and worldwide contact centre. The packages comprise a wide range of hotel accommodations, day tours and excursions for authentic Bahraini experiences.