

Dr Jitendra addresses Mumbai ‘CSR Dialogue’, calls it duty not charity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not a charity, but a duty & responsibility towards society inspired by the highest values of seeking to return to society a part of what we have received in whatever capacity and to whatever extent we can, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Saturday.

Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing the gathering as Chief Guest at the Inaugural session of CSR Dialogue organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP), at Thane, Maharashtra, to mark a decade of the implementation of CSR Act.

Dr Jitendra said social responsibility has been part of our sanskaar and ancient Indian tradition. The spirit of contributing towards the welfare of society is inherent to every Indian individual, but sometimes it needs an inspiration, provided an outlet and lead to direction.

Dr Singh said the best example of Social Responsibility is the appeal given by PM Modi to the well off citizens who could afford gas connection, to voluntarily surrender their sub-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the inaugural session of "CSR Dialogue" organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini at Thane, Mumbai.

sidy to the benefit of the deserving & poor. Similarly, Swami Vivekananda had inspired Jamshedji Tata to spend on healthcare when he established pioneering institutions like the

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the National Center for Performing Art (NCPA) and the Tata Memorial Hospital, said Dr Jitendra.

Considering that contribution to society is not limited to the rich and the affluent, Dr Jitendra said it is the duty of every citizen to work for uplift of society through whatever means he can.

Referring to Science Social Responsibility, Dr Jitendra said teachers and experts of science can utilize their experience to become researchers and set up Startups.

Pointing out that India has a budget outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore under CSR Act, Dr Jitendra said India has jumped from being the Tenth largest economy to being the fifth and today we are the fourth largest economy and by 2030 we will be the third largest economy in the world. In such a situation it is expected that CSR contribution will also increase manifold.

"Let each one of us make every effort, not only should we contribute to CSR activity, but also inspire others. We should seek ways to contribute to society in different areas and create infrastructure and institutions for the Viksit Bharat @2047," he said.



Hamas’s Attack on Israel: Lessons for India & Global Cyber Security: Pradeep Dutta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor at Times Now, emphasized the gravity of Hamas's unexpected assault on Israel, sending shockwaves globally.

During his lecture on "Different Dimensions of the Israel-Hamas War - Responses and Lessons Learned" at the Department of Strategic and Reader Studies, Jammu University, he urged India not to underestimate the significance of Hamas's October 7 attack.

Drawing from his on-the-ground coverage experience, Pradeep underscored the importance of India learning from this event.

Instead of downplaying Hamas's assault, he recommended that India fortify its defenses and enhance its intelligence network to thwart any potential deceptive actions by adversaries.

Pradeep, in his insightful presentation, delved into Israel's challenges in the cyber realm, emphasizing the spillover of the Israel-Hamas conflict into cyberspace.



Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor at Times Now being honoured at Jammu University.

Dutta highlighted how threat actors effectively utilised social media and digital platforms for influence operations, shaping global opinions on the ongoing conflict.

Notably, he detailed the timing and rationale behind Hamas' attacks, viewing the carnage as an accomplishment, shattering the status quo and ushering in a more volatile chapter in their fight against Israel.

Intriguingly, Dutta explored the geopolitical implications, explaining how China stands to gain from the conflict.

The attack disrupting the Indo Mediterranean European Union Economic Corridor (IMED) aligns with China's Belt and Road Initiative, hindering its influence in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean.

Dutta's presentation, accompanied by vivid slides from the Israel-Hamas war zone, provided a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted dimensions of the conflict.

Session was moderated by Prof Monir Alam and vote of thanks was presented by Ganesh Malhotra.

J&K Bank carries forward ‘Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyaan’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Continuing the mission to achieve 100% Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation in Jammu and Kashmir under the 'Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyaan', J&K Bank conducted various camps across the UT.



MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash at the KCC camp.

Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Sunit Kumar, Director Agriculture (Jammu) Ram Sevak, DGMs Rajesh Dubey and Vinod Sharma besides officials from the line departments and the Bank.

Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar, who was the Chief Guest on the

ongoing agricultural transformation across the country.

"Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) of the UT Government is also the part of revolutionising the agricultural landscape here and to double the farmers' incomes in the next five years", he added.

Addressing the participants, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash highlighted the importance of financial support in the transformation of agri- economy and expressed the need for unwavering support to farmers.

He said, "J&K Bank is at the forefront of economic transformation of J&K of which agriculture is a vital component. We are implementing the 'Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyaan' in mission

mode to ensure that our farmers have unhindered access to easily affordable financial facilities. And we will not stop till 100 % saturation of KCC is achieved." "We will extend every possible support to realise the Government's vision of enhancing agricultural productivity and doubling farmers' incomes thereby contributing to the national prosperity", he added. The dignitaries distributed over 100 KCC sanction letters among the PM Kisan beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, other dignitaries urged the eligible farmers across the UT to come forward and extend their support to the ongoing campaign carried forward by the Bank in collaboration with the line departments of the Government.

Martand Trust delegation, former ministers call on LG



Delegation of Martand Trust Mattan calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of Martand Trust Mattan Anantnag led by its President Ashok Kumar Sidha called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, on Saturday.

Sandhya Dhar, Social Activist also called on the

Lieutenant Governor. Meanwhile Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday.

Former Ministers- Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta, and Satish Sharma, former

General Secretary BJP apprised the Lt Governor on various issues of public importance.

Sheikh Muzaffar, President, Jammu & Kashmir Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF), also called on the Lt Governor.

Sukhnandan celebrates Lohri with BSF Jawans at Chicken Neck border post

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SUCHETGARH: To boost the morale of the armed forces and BSF jawans on the border, Former minister, Ex MLA and Senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Choudhary visited "Gole Pattan Chicken Neck Post" on the border and celebrated the festival of Lohri with them. On this occasion, he distributed sweets and fruits among the BSF Jawans and prayed for their long life.

Sukhnandan Choudhary said that Lohri is celebrated on 13th January, the eve of Makar Sakranti in the month of Magh. It is a major festival of sharing happiness. It also spreads the love of new zeal and enthusiasm among the people. That is why it is also considered a symbol of power.

Sukhnandan Choudhary appreciated the commitment



Former minister and Senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Choudhary along with BSF Jawans at "Gole Pattan Chicken Neck Post" during Lohri celebrations.

of the soldiers in maintaining internal security and said that this ensured that the country could celebrate Lohri peacefully. He said that Lohri festival gives us the message of moving from darkness to light. This festival inspires us to live with peace, harmony

and unity. On this occasion, he prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the state.

Commandant BSF 44 Bn Shri Lokander Singh Yadav appreciated and welcomed former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary and thanked him

for boosting the morale of the soldiers on Lohri festival.

On this occasion, DDC member Marh Balbir Lal, BJP State Secretary Vikas Choudhary, BJP Mandal President Marh and Ex Sarpanch Vikramjeet Singh Manhas, District Secretary

BJP Deepak Pandey, Shakti Dutt Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Om Prakash Verma, Ex Sarpanch Lal Singh, Mool Raj, Naresh Kashyap, Ex Naib Sarpanch Pradeep Chouhan, Sandeep Choudhary, Balwinder Singh were also present.

Bhupinder Kumar takes on-spot assessment of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, Semi Ring road projects



Secretary, PWD(R&B), Bhupinder Kumar inspecting Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Secretary, PWD(R&B), Bhupinder Kumar on Saturday conducted detailed tour of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and Semi Ring road Jammu projects to assess the progress of ongoing works on these prestigious projects.

Project Director, NHAI; Director, Finance PWD; Director Planning PWD and other officers of PWD and NHAI also accompanied the Secretary during his maiden field visit after assuming the charge of PWD.

During the visit, the Secretary directed NHAI authorities to improve the

riding surface of road from Satwari to Bari Brahmana so that inconvenience faced by public and commuters due to execution work on the expressway project is reduced. He travelled the entire length of the expressway project falling in J&K, which is taken up by NHAI in three packages between Kathua and Jammu city at a cost of Rs 5781 Cr. He impressed upon NHAI to complete the expressway works within the stipulated time frame of September 2024.

Bhupinder Kumar also visited damaged Tarnah bridge site and took detailed briefing from NHAI authorities. The NHAI officers

assured that restoration work of the bridge will be completed by March 2024 so that the difficulties faced by the HMVs and commuters are resolved.

The Secretary also inspected bottlenecks at Road under Bridge at Nanak Chak, flyover at Ghagwal and other locations and advised NHAI to coordinate with the Northern Railway so that the works could be completed without any delay. He also inspected casting yard of NHAI at Jakh and was briefed by NHAI authorities about the quality control mechanism in place for ensuring speedy and quality casting works for the expressway project.

Bhupinder Kumar also visited Semi Ring road Jammu to assess the readiness of the road for opening of traffic. He was informed that 48 Km length of the road has been completed.

NHAI was directed to complete the pending bridges on the road so that Akhnoor, Rajouri and Poonch bound traffic is diverted through it and Jammu city is decongested. NHAI authorities were also advised for conducting safety audit of the road before opening it for traffic.

Bhupinder Kumar also visited and inspected under-construction tunnels at Balwal and Kheri, which will connect the ring road with NH-44 at Jagti. He was informed that the tunnels are on track for completion in June 2025. NHAI authorities were directed to immediately take up strengthening of the existing PWD roads in Bhalwal-Kheri-Jagti stretch of the Ring road, in consultation with Chief Engineers R&B and PMGSY, so the ring road is connected with NH-44 for LMVs till the completion of tunnel.

Secretary RDD calls for convergence, innovation in rural development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Saturday held a detailed interaction with the Assistant Commissioners Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACP) and Engineering head of Rural Engineering Wing (REW) for a comprehensive citizen centric development planning and outreach. A review of flagship schemes and programs was also conducted during the meeting.

Dr Shahid asked the ACDs and ACPs to spearhead convergence and innovation in rural infrastructure development with great public participation. He discussed about futuristic planning through creation of outcome oriented rural landscape development. The officers were asked for an immediate focus on completion of DDC and BDC office building, Panchayat Ghars and other community assets for establishment of institutions of Local Self Government. The shortage of technical and engineering staff highlighted by the officers was also discussed for early resolution.

He held detailed deliberations with the Heads of Departments, ACDs and ACPs for transitioning the platform of "Block Diwas" towards a measurable service-delivery event for all the departments, making it more vibrant, inclusive and change oriented. Officers were also asked for seeking stakeholder suggestions for making Block Diwas more effective, upscaling the outcomes and



Secretary, RDD&PR Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary chairing a meeting.

performance evaluation of all the departments viz a viz service delivery leading to a greater public confidence in the governance system.

ACDs and ACPs were asked for on-boarding other departments particularly those related to rural infrastructure, farming and climate for convergent planning to maximise outcomes. They were also asked for initiating the process for formulation of Development Plan for every Halqa Panchayat in line with the laid down guidelines. Social audit of the works executed and under execution was also emphasised. Rationalisation of wards in Halqa panchayats was also discussed during the meeting, seeking early proposals from the districts. Expeditious completion of PMAY housing units was also highlighted in the meeting.

The Secretary also asked the officers for early rent assessment of all the office buildings hired for Panchayat Ghars, BDC and DDCs offices, and initiating steps for vacation of Panchayat Ghars

which are yet to be operationalised. The need for strengthening the planning capabilities of District Development Councils and inter-sectoral coordination was discussed in details and officers asked for measures in this regard. Directors, Directorate of Rural Development Jammu/ Kashmir and Director Panchayati Raj shared detailed presentation with ACDs and ACPs for progress under various schemes and steps required for targeted achievements under various schemes.

Secretary in RDD, Tariq Ahmed Zargar, Director, Panchayati Raj Sham Lal, Director Rural Development Jammu, Muntaz Ahmed, Director Rural Development Kashmir, Shabir Ahmed Bhat, Addl Secretary, Sanjay Kumar Bhat, Jt Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma and other senior officers were also present in the meeting and shared insights about various schemes including MGNREGS, SBM, PMAY and SBM.