

Dr Jitendra hosts media lunch, seeks informal feedback on different issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh hosted at his residence an informal Media lunch for print and electronic journalists from various known publications and channels, wherein he sought an informal feedback on different issues.

Dr Jitendra Singh has been, over the last several years, holding such media get-togethers at regular intervals of time , the one held today being the first of its kind in the New Year. According to him, an event like this provided an opportunity for exchange of views on a wide range of varied subjects and sharing of ideas on several current topics.

The luncheon meeting saw a vibrant exchange of views, with journalists offering their inputs on various policy matters and current affairs. The Minister sought feedback on areas where collaborative efforts could enhance governance, public service delivery and wider awareness about the success stories, particularly in the scientific arena .

The gathering was marked by an atmosphere of constructive dialogue, where the Minister engaged directly with journalists on a range of topics concern-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an informal luncheon interaction with media persons at his New Delhi residence on Saturday.

ing his Ministries. The interactive session allowed for insightful conversations that delved into the government's initiatives, recent legislative Assembly elections in J&K and the broader vision for the nation's development as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Welcoming the guests, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh said "I am delighted to have this opportunity to engage with all of you today. Your role as journalists

is vital in a democracy and informal conversations like these are essential to understand each other better and work towards our common national goals."

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the crucial role played by the media in informing the public and shaping public opinion. When asked about the new reforms of Modi Govt. 3.0, he highlighted the newly launched BIO-E3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment) Policy, which was recently approved by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. This forward-thinking policy marks a significant milestone for India's biotechnology sector, reinforcing its potential to shape the country's economy,

employment landscape, and environmental sustainability in the years to come.

Beat journalists covering

Science and Technology, Space and Earth Sciences wanted to know about India's Space Missions, Deep Sea Mission and next generation Technologies, emphasizing the importance of a "whole of Science, whole of Government, and whole of Nation" approach. He highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the Deep Sea Mission, which Prime Minister Modi has referred to on multiple occasions and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), which was passed in 2024 and is set to foster innovation in 2025.



Gulmarg to host 5th edition of Khelo India winter games

CS for using such opportunities to promote J&K internationally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday emphasised the need for optimally utilising the events like 'Khelo India Winter Games' for tourism promotion in Jammu and Kashmir at global level.

The Chief Secretary was addressing at a meeting held here to take stock of the preparations being made for successful conduct of 5th edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' at Gulmarg.

Besides the Secretary, YS&S and Dy DG, SAI the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture Department, ADGP, L&O, DG, F&ES, Commissioner, GAD, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Secretary, PWD Deputy Commissioner, Bara mulla / Budgam, Director, Information and PR besides other concerned officers while out station officers participated online.

Dulloo highlighted the significance of such national level events in promoting brand J&K as one of the prominent tourist destinations. He maintained that Gulmarg being one of the biggest ski destination in whole of the country should be utilised to attract the international skiers by holding exclusive competitions



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

for them. He asked for exploring the possibility of holding Heliskiing competitions for its professional players at the venue. Regarding successful commencement of winter games, the Chief Secretary asked the divisional administration to coordinate with other departments so that the games are held in a befitting manner. He asked each of the concerned department to extend best of the services to the participants and play their role effectively in making this edition successful.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the Youth Services & Sports Department to start their promotional campaigns on their social media handles in order to create necessary buzz about this event. He asked them to use the creatives captured earlier for this purpose. He impressed

upon the department to look into holding such events at the tourist destinations of J&K in coordination with the Tourism Department to make year round activity calendar for the adventure lovers all over the country.

He also reviewed security, sanitation, transportation, health, traffic management besides provisioning of uninterrupted supply of power and water during these days. He directed the departments to make best of the arrangements with adequate back-ups for each of the facility required there.

The Chief Secretary asked for making suitable arrangements for holding of cultural programmes and demonstrations during night time in view of the cold weather there. He also asked the Information & PR to coordinate with DD and

AIR for live telecast of these events besides giving wide publicity to the sporting events.

Secretary, YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, informed the meeting that J&K is hosting these winter games 5th time straightaway this year. He made out that the Department has gained enough expertise during previous years and is making preparations to hold a great spectacle this time. He further gave out that the sporting competitions like Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Ski Mountaineering and Snow Boarding would be held in Gulmarg as part of Khelo India Winter Games-2025 this year.

He revealed that 30 teams consisting of about 1000 athletes and officers from different states and sports boards all over India are

going to participate in these events scheduled to be held between 22-25 February, 2025.

About the commencement of events, it was divulged that the players would be received on 21st of February at Srinagar Airport and housed in 3-star and 4-star hotels at Gulmarg for their ease and comfort.

In addition, cultural evenings would be part of the programmes for all the days with laser & drone show on the first night itself.

The games are going to be opened in a grand ceremony on 22nd of February with culmination on 25th February with a medal ceremony and gala cultural event.

It was also apprised that the event managers are being hired to professionally manage these events with are going to be telecasted live over Doordarshan.

The meeting was also informed that different committees had been constituted to give final shape to the arrangements. It was revealed that different stalls depicting handicrafts and cuisines would be installed to promote such trades for the overall benefit of the people associated with these industries as well.

HC directs BOCA to submit details of commercial establishments in Gandhi Nagar Housing Colony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has directed the Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA) to file a comprehensive supplementary affidavit detailing commercial activities in Gandhi Nagar Housing Colony, Jammu, which is designated primarily as a residential area under zoning laws.

The Court was hearing petition, wherein BOCA challenged the Tribunal's decision dated September 25, 2023 allowing a small-scale commercial activity in a residential building. Advocates Amit Gupta and Parvesh Singh Salaria appeared for the respondents, arguing that the

Tribunal's decision was in line with the Jammu Master Plan 2032 and Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021, which permit limited commercial activities in residential zones.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal directed BOCA provide a detailed list of all shops or commercial establishments operating in Gandhi Nagar Housing Colony and also clarify whether these activities comply with the Master Plan and Bye-Laws or violate residential zoning rules.

During the proceedings, Advocate Parvesh Singh Salaria and Advocate Amit Gupta emphasized that their clients were being unfairly targeted, despite

operating within legal limits, while larger commercial establishments in the area faced no action. They highlighted the arbitrary approach of BOCA and stressed the need for uniform enforcement of zoning laws.

The Court has granted the respondents the liberty to respond to BOCA's affidavit within two weeks of its filing. The matter is now listed for further consideration on February 13, 2025.

This directive underscores the High Court's focus on ensuring transparency and addressing concerns of selective enforcement in the application of zoning regulations.

Legislators, delegations call on LG

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JAMMU: Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh, Yudhvir Sethi, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu East and Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu West called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.

Meanwhile, A delegation of new appointees under PM Package, led by Sanjay Koul, President, All Minority Employees Association of Kashmir called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Subsequently, representatives of Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu has set an inspiring precedence by recognizing the outstanding contributions of its officers in a ceremony held at the SCW Headquarters Channi Rama, here on Saturday.

This initiative to honour excellence in investigation and legal support underscores the department's commitment to professionalism and public service.

Inspector Deepak Thakur, judged as the best performer, exemplified exceptional investigative skills, while Inspectors Rajesh Kumar and Ashok Bajaj earned well-deserved recognition for their dedication and achievements. Additionally, Senior Prosecuting Officer Neha Nayyar was commended



SSP SCW Sanjay Parihar honouring outstanding performers at Jammu on Saturday.

with an appreciation letter for her invaluable legal guidance, which has been

instrumental in supporting the investigative process. SSP SCW Sanjay Parihar

said, "The Wing has achieved a record disposal of 26 cases and numerous inquiries in 2024, reflecting the team's relentless efforts to deliver justice, particularly in fraud, cheating, and other complex cases. This milestone serves as a stepping stone towards even greater accomplishments in 2025, as the department continues to enhance its role in protecting the public and bringing criminals to justice".

He further added, "Such initiatives to recognize excellence not only motivate officers but also strengthen public trust in law enforcement. Here's to a future of continued success and impactful service by the SCW Crime Branch!"

Jammu Bar condemns brutal attack on Adv Kanav Sharma

Demands strict measures to ensure security, safety of Advocates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu held a press conference in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and strongly condemned the brutal and life threatening attack on its member, Advocate Kanav Sharma, at New Plot, Jammu on January 3, 2025.

While addressing the press conference, K. Nirmal Kotwal, Advocate & President, JKHCBAJ emphasised that strict measures shall be taken to ensure the security and safety of the Advocates inside as well as outside the court premises. Further he led emphasises on protection of the common masses and general public.

He requested the Police and Administration to ensure the measures and promptness in each case.

Addressing the media,



President JKHCBAJ, Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal talking to reporters at Jammu on Saturday.

Kotwal thanked the Police and Doctors who actively stood upon their toes and ensure arrest of culprits and saving the life of Advocate.

A shutdown of work was observed in all the Courts of Jammu Province in solidarity of the incident.

Team of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu

thanked the office bearers of periphery Bar Associations including Kathua, Samba, R.S. Pura, Akhnor, Bishnah, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch and Rajouri for standing together and calling against the increased crimes against public in general and Advocates in particular.

AIIMS Jammu rated as "Iconic Education Institutions to Look for in 2025"

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JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu has been listed as one of the 'Iconic Education Institutions to Look for in 2025' by the reputed magazine Outlook.

AIIMS Jammu joins the ranks of prestigious Institutions like IIT Chennai and IIM Ahmedabad, which are also listed in the list of iconic education institutions.

This accolade is a testament to the Institute's unwavering commitment to excellence in medical education, translational research, and patient-centric healthcare provisioning.

The article, titled "Inspiring Future Medical Luminaries," in the Nationally and Internationally reputed magazine Outlook highlights AIIMS Jammu's remarkable journey as a pioneering medical institution in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and neighbouring States.

The Article has stated that AIIMS Jammu, has established itself as the 'First AIIMS Facility' in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir,

Ladakh, and neighbouring states.

It has revolutionized medical education, fostered innovation, and transformed healthcare for the region.

This aligns with the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bridge regional disparities, promote research, and elevate medical education standards-all within the framework of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSY).

The article dwells on how AIIMS Jammu, envisioned as a beacon of global camaraderie, embodies the spirit of a 'Global Village.'

Under the leadership of President Prof. Dr. Y.K. Gupta and Founder Executive Director & CEO Prof. Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, AIIMS Jammu empowers students, researchers, and patients, particularly those on the fringes of society.

It is meticulously crafted to bring solace and inspiration to all.

The magazine has flagged AIIMS Jammu's state-of-the-art infrastructure, which includes ten lecture halls equipped with advanced audio-visual



tools and smart boards for interactive learning, state-of-the-art laboratories, comprehensive Clinical Training and modern Digital Library operating from 8 AM to 8 PM with only six holidays annually and soon to be functional 24x7.

The library offers extensive e-resources, including journals, databases, and study materials, alongside a rich collection of hard copies.

The article has highly appreciated

the infrastructure of AIIMS Jammu which is authorized 750 beds, including 193 ICU beds. It will house 50 departments with 18 super-specialties. It stands as a stronghold of unparalleled healthcare provision, with cutting-edge technology and a devoted healthcare cadre ushering in a new era of healing and well-being.

The article has appreciated the highly experienced, competent, patient centric and innovative faculty at AIIMS Jammu. It has stated that AIIMS Jammu takes immense pride in the accomplishments of its medical and nursing students and faculty. These achievements span academics, research, and extracurricular activities, earning numerous accolades across diverse platforms.

The article has highlighted AIIMS Jammu's impactful outreach activities, including telemedicine, educational visits, and social media engagements. These includes over 210 awareness videos on the official YouTube channel, more than 200 articles and press releases showcasing ini-

tiatives and achievements, educational visits to over 20 schools to inspire young minds towards careers in healthcare.

Campus tours and motivational sessions led by visionaries like Prof. Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta.

The article has also dwelled on AIIMS Jammu's achievements in research and development. The Institution fosters collaboration across disciplines, integrating traditional healing modalities like AYUSH with modern medicine. International partnerships which enrich the tapestry of exploration, bridging academia, technology, and industry to create groundbreaking innovations.

AIIMS Jammu's collaborative MoUs with IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, and other leading institutions have also been flagged in the magazine for fostering interdisciplinary research and innovation. The Institution endeavours to achieve complete healthcare digitalization within a year, progressing through significant milestones, has also been highlighted.

The article appreciates AIIMS Jammu's commitment to sustainability through its green and eco-friendly comprehensive township. It also underscores the institution's efforts in women empowerment via equal opportunities, supportive work environments, and gender-sensitive policies.

The article has applauded Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta for fostering a robust learning environment and a patient-centric healthcare model and shaping future healthcare leaders through a robust learning environment, extensive outreach programs, and a vision for academic and clinical excellence.

The article concludes with a visionary statement of Prof Gupta "With its unique infrastructure, exceptional talent, and forward-thinking approach, AIIMS Jammu strides towards a healthier and vibrant future, where quality healthcare is not just a privilege but a right for all. Let us join together to make AIIMS Jammu a most modern and state-of-the-art institute with focus on quality patient care."