

# Dr Jitendra addresses Mumbai Conclave, underlines Marine StartUps for coastal States

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MUMBAI: Addressing the CSIR "StartUp Conclave 2025", Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, underlined Marine StartUps for coastal States and said this is a relatively unexplored sector which holds to potential of value addition to India's growing economy.

Dr Jitendra said, the ascent of India to the pedestal of Viksit Bharat will hugely depend on under-explored sectors and the city of Mumbai, located on the sea shore, is the appropriate place to talk of Marine economy, particularly when India has one of the world's longest coastal areas extending over 1,000 km with several large States sharing it. He said, only after PM Narendra Modi announced the Deep Sea Mission from the Red Fort, we have started looking at this sector with seriousness.

Dr Singh said, the idea behind holding such StartUp conclaves in different parts of the country is to reach out to potential StartUps in every nook and corner; and it is a healthy sign that 49% of StartUps today are from Tier 2 and 3 cities.

Dr Jitendra also tried to



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking addressing the 2-day "StartUp Conclave 2025" at Mumbai on Tuesday. Also seen is CM Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis.

explode the myth that one needs to have a big science degree to be a successful start-up, he said it is more important to have the right aptitude and right passion.

In a compelling address that blended policy intent with national ambition, Dr Jitendra released a CSIR Compendium titled "Towards Viksit Bharat - CSIR Technologies Empowering the Nation," showcasing over 400 technologies transferred to industry and more than 125 Start-ups nurtured in recent years. "The compendium reflects India's scientific growth story under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where science, Start-ups, and societal development go hand in hand,"

Highlighting India's meteoric rise in the global innovation

landscape, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that India has jumped from 81st to 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index over the last nine years. "From just 350 Start-ups in 2014, we now boast over 1.25 lakh recognised Start-ups and more than 110 Unicorns," he pointed out, crediting proactive policy reforms, ease of business, and increased scientific collaboration for this growth.

The Union Minister emphasized that the present government has dismantled outdated rules, opened space and atomic energy sectors to private participation, and created a start-up ecosystem that is inclusive, aspirational, and impact-driven. He credited the CSIR labs across the country for their pivotal role in nurturing deep-tech ventures, translational research, and sustainable tech-

nologies.

Dr. Jitendra has also highlighted the recently developed state-of-the-art facility at the CSIR Innovation Complex in Mumbai, designed to provide incubation and business spaces for Start-ups, MSMEs, and industry stakeholders. The facility offers access to high-end scientific infrastructure, regulatory support, and expert collaboration opportunities, effectively bridging the gap between research and real-world application. He also drew attention to the integration of investment platforms like Shark Tank into science events, underlining their role in connecting young innovators with potential investors and accelerating lab-to-market transitions. Reinforcing the Ministry's commitment to inclusive growth, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the support provided through initiatives such as NIDHI, TIDE, and Technology Business Incubators (TBIs), which combine financial assistance with mentorship and infrastructure to cultivate a robust start-up ecosystem.

The exhibition, which Dr. Jitendra inaugurated along with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, featured breakthrough innovations across sectors ranging from green hydrogen and clean energy to

affordable healthcare and AI-powered solutions. Interacting with Start-up founders and researchers, the leaders lauded their efforts in aligning scientific advancement with national priorities.

Dr. Jitendra underlined that the Start-up movement is not restricted to metros anymore. "Young innovators from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, including women and under-represented communities, are now at the forefront of India's tech transformation. This is the real spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh, Director of CSIR-NIO, delivered the welcome address, followed by special remarks from Dr. Ashish Lele, Director of CSIR-NCL, and Dr. S. Venkata Mohan, Director of CSIR-NEERI.

Notably, ahead of the formal inauguration, a Shark Tank-style session enabled Start-ups to pitch their ideas to investors-an initiative aimed at bridging the gap between science and entrepreneurship.

As India heads toward its centenary of independence in 2047, the CSIR Start-up Conclave serves as a timely platform to catalyse the role of science and innovation in shaping a truly developed and self-reliant nation.



## BJP delegation visits shelling-affected areas in Poonch, engages with administration, bat for swift relief measures

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POONCH: A senior delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited the shelling-affected areas of Poonch district to assess the ground situation and coordinate relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population. The delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP Vice President and MLA Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, MLA Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, and District President S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa.

The BJP leaders held a detailed meeting with the district administration to review the relief measures being undertaken in response to the recent unprovoked shelling by Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC). They emphasized the need for immediate relief, long-term rehabilitation, and infrastructure enhancement in the border areas to support the resilience of local communities.

The delegation also visited Geeta Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the structural damage caused by the shelling. Interacting with affected families, the BJP leaders offered their solidarity and assured that their



BJP senior leaders interacting with shelling-affected people at Poonch.

concerns would be taken up with the Central Government on priority.

Sunil Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said, "The courage and resilience of the people of Poonch in the face of constant danger is deeply inspiring. The BJP stands firmly with our border residents and will ensure that no family is left behind in the rehabilitation process."

Dr. Narinder Singh, remarked, "Our priority is to ensure that essential supplies reach every household impacted by the shelling. The Government of India is committed to providing all necessary support to rebuild lives and restore normalcy."

Sham Lal Sharma, stated, "The hardships faced by residents due to enemy aggression must be met with swift and coordinated action. We urge the administration to accelerate relief operations and strengthen infrastruc-

ture in vulnerable areas."

Adv. Vibodh Gupta, J&K BJP General Secretary, noted "Border communities are the first line of defense for our nation. Their security, dignity, and well-being must be our top concern, and the BJP will continue to be their strongest voice."

Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, said "We have seen firsthand the devastation caused by this shelling. It is imperative that our response is not just reactive, but proactive, focusing on preparedness, safety, and sustainable development."

The BJP delegation reaffirmed that the Narendra Modi-led government is fully committed to the development and security of border regions. Emphasis was placed on long-term infrastructure upgradation, construction of reinforced bunkers, and improved emergency response mechanisms.

## 100-meter long Tiranga leads Tiranga Yatra in Jammu



President, J&K BJP, Sat Sharma leading Tiranga rally at Jammu on Tuesday.

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JAMMU: Portraying the patriotism and solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces, a "Tiranga Yatra" was organized by the Citizens for National Security, Jammu in Ward No. 9, Jammu.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP accompanied by Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President & MLA, Priya Sethi, former Minister, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, District President, Sanjita Dogra, President, BJP Mahila Morcha, former JMC Councillor Suneet Raina and others prominent persons participated in the Tiranga Yatra.

The Yatra was led by an awe-inspiring 100-meter-long national flag, held aloft by spirited children who symbolized the future of a proud and resolute nation. The event saw enthusiastic participation from nearly one thousand citizens, cutting across age groups and backgrounds.

Yatra commenced at Ved Mandir near Shree Institute and culminated at Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

Sat Sharma, while addressing on the occasion, lauded the Indian Forces for their valiance and sacrifices. He said that our rich history is filled with the stories of valour and moments of pride. He termed the Operation Sindoor as one of the historic moments, when our nation has shown its true power to the world.

"Yeh Naya Bharat Hai, Yeh Chedoge to Chodega Nahin (This is new India, if troubled, it won't forgive)", said Sat Sharma.

Sat Sharma also lauded the efforts of the Civil Society for the massive Tiranga rally and said that these gestures sing the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

Yudhvir Sethi, speaking on the occasion, said that the brave Indian forces have conveyed the message that in order to safeguard our citizens, our nation is capable of

delivering precise and strong strikes as and when required.

Priya Sethi said that India is proud of the successful Operation Sindoor and hence the people in different areas are organizing Tiranga Rallies to support Indian Forces in the fight against terrorism.

Rajesh Gupta paid respects to the indomitable courage, valour and patriotism of our brave soldiers.

Sanjita Dogra said that Yatra is a symbol of our unwavering commitment towards the honour of Matr Bhoomi.

Suneet Raina expressed gratitude towards all the participants of the massive Tiranga Rally in support of our brave forces.

Er. Dilbahadur Jamwal, Er. TK Sharma, Asha Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Ravi Ramesh, Dr. Akshay, Raman, Swati Sharma, Naveen Sharma, Bhanu Sambyal, Rish Khajuria and others were among the prominent present in the Rally.

## JMC intensifies efforts to make Jammu City garbage-free

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JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is making continuous and determined efforts to transform Jammu into a completely garbage-free city in a sustainable manner. As part of this mission, the Corporation regularly organises awareness programs and activities to educate and engage citizens on waste management.

To further streamline waste

Sanitation) and the Health Officer have been directed to intensify city-wide cleanliness efforts. Citizens are being urged to actively participate and take responsibility for keeping Jammu clean by following proper waste segregation and disposal practices.

JMC appeals to all residents to support this initiative and contribute towards making Jammu a model city



management, the JMC has established a Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) Center at Bandhu Rakh.

The center caters to municipal wards in Zone III, in an effort to convert waste to wealth; wet waste collected from households, vegetable markets, and fruit markets is brought in for processing. At the MRF Center, efforts are being made to convert this organic waste into compost-supporting both environmental sustainability and effective waste disposal.

Under the guidance of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the Joint Commissioner (Health and

for cleanliness and sustainability.

## Dir Information reviews Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements

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SRINAGAR: The Director Information, Jammu and Kashmir, Nitish Rajora on Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Srinagar, to review the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

At the outset, the Director took a detailed review of logistical arrangements, including the installation of public



Director Info J&K Nitish Rajora chairing a meeting.

address systems (PAS), staff deployment, and the formulation of a comprehensive media and publicity plan.

He emphasized the need for robust staff deployment and seamless coordination across all designated locations.

Stressing the importance of early preparedness, the Director instructed that fool-proof arrangements be made in advance for the smooth installation and operation of PAS at

all earmarked spots to ensure better convenience for the pilgrims.

He further directed that preparations related to installation of hoardings, banners, and other publicity materials be completed well in advance at all identified locations.

He issued strict instructions for effective coordination among the designated staff to ensure that all stations remain functional and operate smoothly.

## World Bee Day celebrated with progressive beekeepers

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JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, marked World Bee Day with enthusiasm and commitment across the Jammu Division. The central event was held at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, under the global theme "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all." The event emphasized the critical role of bees in pollination, biodiversity, and food security. Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, presided over the function and stressed the ecological and economic value of bees. "Bees are vital contributors to our food systems. Jammu has immense potential for commercial beekeeping which can generate sustainable income for our farmers," he said. He highlighted key initiatives like honey testing labs, diagnostic centres, and processing units that support quality production. Progressive beekeepers including Bhabli Devi, Neelam Devi (Samba), Jeffi Kumari, Rajinder Barni, and young entrepreneur Vasu Sharma shared their success stories



in honey production and sustainable practices. The event began with a welcome address by Rajesh Verma, Assistant Entomologist, Apiculture Development Scheme, who outlined the global relevance of World Bee Day. The Director urged farmers to adopt pollinator-friendly practices, plant native flowers, reduce pesticide use, and support local honey producers. The event saw participation from senior officers including Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Subject Matter Specialists, and a large number of farmers and beekeepers. The programme was hosted by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu, and coordinated smoothly by AEA Veena Wazir.

## Ensure adequate arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela: Chief Secretary

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday asked the divisional administrations of both the regions for ensuring immaculate arrangements for peaceful and successful celebration of annual Kheer Bhawani Mela to be observed on 03rd of June at Tulmulla Ganderbal.

Dulloo was speaking at a high level meeting of civil administration and Police department held to take stock of the preparations being put in place for smooth conduct of this religious festival.

The meeting besides the Divisional Commissioners was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Director, F&ES; Secretary, PWD, Secretary, Health; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Transport; IGP,



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner, SMC; Relief Commissioner, MD, JKRTC; Director Health, Kashmir; Director ULB, Kashmir and representatives from other departments.

All the concerned Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police participated in the meeting virtually along with several outstation officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasised upon both the Divisional Commissioners and Relief Commissioner to have close coordination with each other for pleasant experience of the pilgrims. He called upon them to make all

the arrangements of transportation, accommodation, power, water, sanitation, medical aid and security as well.

Dulloo stressed on improving the arrangements whenever necessary. He asked for creating amenities for comfortable and satisfactory stay of the pilgrims at the shrine and enroute. He directed the district administration to make on spot assessment of the facilities created and requirement of any additional steps to be taken by them.

The Chief Secretary also assessed the transportation arrangements for the journey of devotees besides the condi-

tion of road leading to this Shrine, accommodation for night stay and provision of essential supplies to be made for smooth conduct of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela this year. He asked for ensuring proper cleanliness of the Shrine premises and its surroundings besides collection of garbage and other waste material during the festival days. Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir gave overview of the measures being taken up by his administration, so far. He detailed out the kind of facilities created for transportation of pilgrims and accommodation facilities made inside the temple premises and at other nearby locations.

He also threw light on the traffic plan, medical aid, 24x7 power supply, water, sanitation and disaster management provisions created by the administration. He revealed that the administration has augmented all these facilities in view of the expected rush of devotees