

Modi prioritised border areas, termed last village as ‘first village’: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Addressing a gathering of farmers, youth, and entrepreneurs during "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" in the border area of R.S.Pura sector near here, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that over the last 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi prioritised border areas and sought to do away with the terminology "Last Village" to replace it with "First Village" vision, placing border development at the heart of nation's growth.

The Minister emphasized that this paradigm shift in the mind-set and approach towards the aspirations of citizens in remote and border regions.

Highlighting India's leap from the 5th to 4th largest economy, Dr. Jitendra rebuked false narratives of economic downfall due to assertive defence strategies. He cited Operation Sindoor as a testament to India's balanced approach - maintaining strategic strength while propelling economic growth.

"This rise is a befitting reply to so-called intellectuals who doubted India's capability to sustain economic growth with a robust defence policy," Dr. Singh asserted, crediting the leadership of PM Modi over the last 11 years for this economic resilience.

Dr. Jitendra quoted Prime Minister Modi's core governance mantra of serving the Women, Poor, Farmers, and Youth, and affirmed that 26 crore citizen have risen above the poverty line over the last decade through initiatives such as Fasal Bima Yojana, Nano Urea, and direct sup-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking during Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan at R S Pura, Jammu on Friday.

port for marginal farmers, especially in conflict-affected border regions.

He also recognized the role of Ministry of Home Affairs in ensuring insurance coverage for fields exposed to cross-border shelling.

Dr Jitendra referred to the Purple Revolution, spear-headed from Bhaderwah under the Aroma Mission, which has expanded to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Dr. Singh proudly shared that over 3,000 lavender-based startups are now active, engaging with perfume industries in Mumbai and redefining the concept of agri-entrepreneurship.

He also spotlighted tulip cultivation-once seasonal, now being harvested off-season. The CSIR-Srinagar is poised to lead cultivation of saffron and marigold, opening new vistas in floriculture.

Underlining the role of cutting-edge science, Dr. Singh announced that biotech-based value addition projects will enhance the shelf life of produce, with a notable rise in apple production and SHG involvement.

Dr. Jitendra announced operationalization of Biotech Industrial Park in Kathua,

Programme, Upcoming AI-based agricultural decision-making system in Srinagar

In a landmark announcement, Dr. Singh revealed that Group Captain Shukla, India's astronaut heading to the International Space Station (ISS) in June, will carry biotech kits for scientific experiments in plant research and seedling growth in the Space milieu, showcasing India's fusion of space science and agriculture.

Furthermore, 4 Agromet Observatories under the

Gram Krishi Seva Yojana have been set up in Ladakh, Srinagar, Jammu and Poonch , and 4 new district-level Agromet units launched in Kupwara, Baramulla, Kathua, and Reasi, with support from SKUAST.

Concluding the event, Dr. Jitendra stated that the path to a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047 will be paved by value addition in unexplored sectors, and that Jammu & Kashmir will play a pivotal role in this transformation.



LIC of India receives BSI certificate

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: LIC of India, the leading Public sector Insurer, has been awarded the ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management System (BCMS) certification from the British Standards Institution (BSI) reaffirming that the Insurer's Operational Resilience, Business Continuity Planning and Risk Management capabilities are consistent with global best practices. The ISO 22301:2019 BCMS accreditation recognises the Insurer's ability to maintain robust business continuity practices, ensure uninterrupted services even during unforeseen disrup-

tions and effectively manage risk.

ISO 22301:2019 is an international benchmark for business continuity management, focusing on minimizing operational disruptions and ensuring swift recovery in times of crisis.

Achieving this certification enhances LIC's reputation as a resilient organisation that is well-prepared to ensure continuity of services even in the face of unexpected challenges that may arise and serve customers seamlessly.

Speaking on this milestone, Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & Managing Director, LIC said, "As an institution, we place utmost value

on the trust and confidence that our customers and other stakeholders have in us. Receiving the prestigious ISO 22301:2019 certification stands as a testament to our commitment to ensuring business continuity in the face of any disruptive events and safeguarding the interests of our stakeholders, further strengthening confidence in LIC."

"Security and resilience have always been central to LIC's operational philosophy," stated Tashesh Pandey, Managing Director, LIC.

"Achieving ISO 22301 certification underscores our unwavering dedication to safeguarding the interests of millions of policy-

holders by ensuring secure, uninterrupted services, and consistently enhancing our preparedness against disruptions."

Exemplary leadership, throughout this journey, Continuous Support and Executive oversight from LIC's Enterprise Risk Management, Cyber Security Department and senior leadership teams ensured robust organisation-wide participation in this initiative. Going forward, LIC will engage in regular exercises and periodic reviews under BSI's surveillance programme, reinforcing continuous improvement in its business continuity management practices.

Prof Keshav Sharma gets 3-yr extension as VC, ICFAI University

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prof. Keshav Sharma has been granted another three-year term as Vice Chancellor of The ICFAI University, Himachal Pradesh. The decision was approved in the

Education; Provost Hostels; Chief Coordinator Campuses & Rector, Udhampur Campus; and Warden etc.

Prof. Sharma has also served as the Campus Director at the Mohali Campus of the Rayat Bahra Group. He is a

Ph.D. in Marketing and a Post Doc. from the University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Prof. Keshav has had the privilege of doing his FDP from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

He has attended many International/National Conferences and Meets. He visited Singapore, Canada and USA as a member of the JU Core Teams to study the academic practices in these countries.

Besides being an author of three Books, he has several publications in Journals of repute. He has guided sixteen Ph.Ds and 07 M.Phils and has also been a Coordinator of the prestigious UGC SAP DRS Projects.

Prof. Keshav has not only been popular amongst his students but also amongst the University fraternity for his indefatigable, humane and helping nature.

He is fondly remembered for having been instrumental in organizing two Mega Youth Festivals Umang & Harmony in the University of Jammu which lent JU an extra visibility and a name both at the national as well as at the international levels.

Governing Body meeting chaired by Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, former UGC Chairman and Founding Chairperson of NAAC.

Prof. Sharma's reappointment reflects the University's confidence in his leadership and commitment to academic excellence.

Son of the soil, Prof. Keshav Sharma, formerly Dean Academic Affairs and Professor of Management Studies, The Business School, University of Jammu was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious ICFAI University, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh in 2022 for a period of three years. Now, Prof Keshav he has been given another three-year term as VC.

Prof. Keshav Sharma a well-known name in the educational circles. In his academic career spanning around 40 years, he has worked on almost all the important academic and administrative positions of the University of Jammu including the Dean Academic Affairs; Registrar; Controller of Examinations; Dean Students Welfare; Dean Faculty of Business Studies; Director, The Business School; Director, Sports & Physical


Relief assistance to shelling-affected residents in Rehari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to certain reports suggesting that only Rs 6,500 was provided to houses damaged during the recent Pakistani shelling in Rehari, the District Administration clarified that as per the prescribed norms, the main house that was directly hit by the shelling has been sanctioned an assistance amount of Rs 1,20,000.


Nearby houses, which sustained minor damages but were not directly impacted, have each received Rs 6,500, in accordance with the existing guidelines for compensation of minor structural damages.

Furthermore, individuals who suffered minor injuries due to the shelling have been extended Rs 10,000 each by the District Administration as immediate relief, while the ones grievously injured have been granted an assistance of Rs 35,000 each.



“The harmonious blend of tradition and modernity in Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar’s life, today serves as an inspiring ideal for the country’s progress.”

-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar

A visionary reformer, cultural patron and a leader!

The reign of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar was an epitome of justice and service. She turned her rule into a means for public benefit - prioritizing social harmony, women empowerment, and cultural rejuvenation. Her vision of administration continues to be an inspiring ideal for policy and a model for good governance framework to this day

Commemoration of the 300th Birth Anniversary

Chief guest

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Program highlights

Commemorative Stamp & Coin release

Digital exhibition

Film screening on the life of Ahilyabai Holkar

Cultural program

31st May 2025 | 10:30 am | Venue: Jamburi Maidan Bhopal

In august presence

Shri Mohan Yadav

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

Shri Mangubhai Patel

Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh

Watch the live telecast on DD

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