

Dr Jitendra inaugurates IIM Mumbai Incubation Centre, calls for collaboration among academic institutions

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: After inaugurating the new state-of-the-art Incubation Centre at IIM Mumbai, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, made a clarion call for closer collaboration among academic institutions of higher education and scientific research, such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, IIMC and CSIR, to nurture sustainable startups and innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

While interacting with students, Dr. Jitendra emphasized that "The age of working in silos is over." He asserted that the integration of academia, industry, and government is essential for India to meet its rapid development goals. "Greater synergy between the public and private sectors is not an option-it's a necessity," he remarked.

Dr. Jitendra highlighted the democratization of civil services and the growing

CS pushes forward J&K's IT revolution with BISAG-N



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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess progress on various digital initiatives spearheaded by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) across the government departments.

The meeting besides the Administrative Heads was attended by DG, Planning; Commissioner, State Taxes; Director, Employment; MD, JKTC; CEO, JaKeGA; IT professionals from BISAG-N and representatives from other departments.

The Chief Secretary took stock of the progress made on development of every new initiative taken-up with the BISAG-N along with the dates for their rollout for public usage. He observed that such IT measures would make lives of common citizens largely amenable.

Dulloo underscored the need for developing respective dashboards for people-centric interventions like Mission YUVA and Sehat Mobile app simultaneously. This will help in having peek into their uptake among the masses besides devising subsequent action plans as per the requirements on ground.

He also accentuated the importance of linking the learning of skill development courses with U-Dise data so that the trajectory of every student is known for chiselling his/her career in a better shape.

Earlier, the IT Secretary Piyush Singla gave a detailed overview of ongoing, completed and upcoming initiatives, outlining plans for collaboration with BISAG-N to drive project completion. He also detailed out the objectives that have to be achieved after the accomplishment of these projects.

Afterwards, the BISAG-N presented a detailed overview of its extensive portfolio of projects, emphasizing both the ongoing endeavours and new initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery.

The major IT projects related to Revenue Department reviewed in the meeting included ongoing digitization of Revenue Maps (5670 villages completed), development of Jamabandi portal, Mutation Register, Oracle Database Migration and a GIS portal for Ground Truthing (targeted for completion on June 30, 2025).

About JK Samadhan 2.0, it was informed that the progress is satisfactory, with the dashboard and heat map for the latter already developed. These systems empower the citizens to register and track their griev-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating the new state-of-the-art Incubation Centre at IIM Mumbai on Tuesday.

wave of women-led development over the past decade. Citing the Aditya L1 space mission, he proudly shared that it was led by women scientists, reflecting the inclusive and aspirational rise of India.

The Minister recounted a powerful story of a 16-year-old girl from a militancy-affected town who cracked the IIT entrance exam without coaching, using just a smartphone and determination—"12 hours a day for 8 months, powered

by the internet," she told him. "This is the new India, where dreams transcend limitations," said the Minister.

Dr. Jitendra also drew a contrast between the last 11 years and the preceding decade, noting that earlier generations had limited career choices. "Today's youth have a wide array of professional avenues, supported by a rise in national self-esteem, which is reflected in how Indian students abroad command

respect and better offers," he said. He also noted that in recent years, girls have consistently topped the Civil Services Examination, signaling a significant shift in the country's social landscape.

Charting India's rise in research and development, Dr. Singh said, "India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has doubled in the last decade-from Rs 60,196 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,27,381 crore today-under Prime Minister Modi's

leadership."

He underscored that the future of India's economy will be shaped by home-grown advancements in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. Key to this has been government support, like the launch of India's first indigenous DNA-based COVID vaccine, under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

He also hailed the BioE3 Policy-Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment-as a game-changer, propelling India to the forefront of global biotech.

With India rising to the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world, Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed that the number of startups has grown from 350 in 2014 to over 1.5 lakh in 2025. "Startups in space tech are adding significant value," he said, noting that the government has allowed 100% FDI in the space sector and set up a ₹1,000 crore venture fund for space-based startups.



Dist Poonch achieves 97 pc completion rate under PMAY-Gramin, tops Jammu Div

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Achieving a significant milestone in rural housing, District Poonch has recorded an impressive 97% completion rate under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), the highest among the districts of Jammu division. The initiative, being implemented under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, reflects the district administration's commitment to ensuring housing for all in rural areas. Out

of the sanctioned 49,265 houses, a total of 47,784 have been successfully completed so far, marking remarkable progress under the flagship scheme. The Deputy Commissioner commended the efforts of the concerned departments and field-level functionaries for their dedication and effective execution of the scheme. He further directed the concerned executing officers to expedite the completion of the remaining houses to achieve 100% PMAY-G saturation in the district.

