

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



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during the informal Media lunch hosted by him for print and electronic journalists at his New Delhi residence on Friday.

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. The event 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 informal feedback on different issues asked for joint effort to enhance governance and public service delivery. The gathering was marked by an atmosphere of constructive dialogue, where the Minister engaged directly with journalists on a range of topics concerning his Ministries. The interactive session allowed for

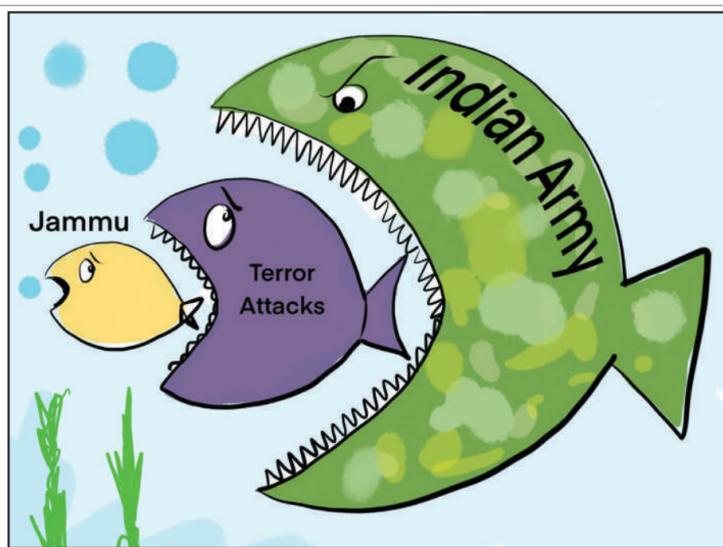
insightful conversations that delved into the government's initiatives, upcoming legislative priorities, J&K and the broader vision for the nation's development. Welcoming the guests, Dr. Jitendra said "I am delighted to have this opportunity to engage with all of you today. Your role as journalists 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. 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, Dr. Jitendra highlighted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) act 2024 enacted to tackle unfair practices in central recruitment and educational institution entrance exams and assured the zero tolerance by

the government in such cases and its aspiration for Meritocracy. The DoPT Minister also emphasised on the rule to role shift in governance by upgrading the skills and capacity building of Civil Servants. He also underscored the government's commitment to transparency and accountability, highlighting the importance of constructive criticism in the democratic process. 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. The Minister Made them aware of the current developments and highlighted that progress happened in S&T will continue even at a faster rate as Anusandhan NRF has been Brought in place to collaborate and converge the efforts of both Public and Private sector. He recalled the success in the

Space Sector after private participation was encouraged. He said in just two years 200 Space startups have started many with global capacity. The India's bio-economy has grown 13 fold in the last 10 years from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024.

In terms of energy security Dr. Jitendra said "India's Nuclear Power generation capacity to increase by around 70 percent in the next 5 years". On the Pensions and pensioners welfare, Dr. Jitendra Singh Said that Prime Minister Modi is quite sensitive to the concerns of the senior citizens and following his visions we have started Pension Adalats and empowered women. The unmarried and divorced daughters and widows are sought to be empowered through pensions. He also underlined the need for a humane approach in governance and shared the human feedback model adopted by the ministry after redressal of grievances.



Sufi shrines are places of love, harmony and communal bonhomie: Darakhshan Inaugurates Guest House Cum Administrative Complex at Peer Baba Satwari

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday inaugurated a Guest House Cum Administrative Complex at the shrine of Peer Baba Budhan Ali Shah (RA) at Satwari Jammu. Administrator Jammu Abid Hussain and Engineer incharge Er Asif Rather and others accompanied Waqf Chairperson during the inaugural event.



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurating Guest House at Peer Baba Budhan Ali Shah (RA) at Satwari Jammu.

This construction was completed by the Board well before the target date fixed for the completion of the project. Earlier the Board, during the past

Speaking on the occasion Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi said that it was pleasing to witness the speedy execution of developmental works by the Board as the whole working system within the organization has geared up as per the public aspirations and the collective resolve to upgrade our sufi shrines.

"These Sufi shrines are places of love and harmony and we see communal bonding and bonhomie at these shrines which is worth recognition and propagation. Our commitment is to make these sufi centres the ideal places of visit for the seekers of peace

and spiritual excellence", said Dr Andrabi.

Waqf Chairperson thanked the people of J&K for their support to the Board in curing the ailing system of the Board and upgrading the facilities at Sufi Shrines throughout the Union Territory.

She thanked the J&K administration for standing as a support system for the Board. Dr Darakhshan assured that the infrastructural development at the shrines will continue with much faster pace. Dr Andrabi paid obeisance at the shrine and prayed for the prosperity of all.

Yasha Mudgal reviews key HADP projects

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP), Yasha Mudgal, conducted a comprehensive review of six pivotal projects of HADP at SKICC here on Friday.

The meeting was attended by the project grounding and monitoring committees of the respective projects including Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Floriculture Kashmir, Agrostologist Kashmir, and representatives from SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir while Jammu based officers participated virtually.

The reviewed projects, selected for their multi-stakeholder involvement, included Seed & Seed Multiplication



Mission Director HADP Yasha Mudgal at a meeting.

Chain, Farm Mechanization, Innovative Approaches in Agriculture Extension, Rainfed Area Development (RAD), Promotion of Floriculture, and Fodder Development in J&K.

The Mission Director assessed the

performance of each project, emphasizing the need to expedite establishment of various project activities. Key issues were addressed during the meetings, with immediate directives issued for their resolution.

Yasha Mudgal emphasized that in light of launch of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan III, there must be focused attention on the extension and outreach of HADP and JKCIP project activities. This ensures that intending beneficiaries across the length and breadth of J&K, including the remotest areas, are aware of the activities under both ambitious projects of the J&K Government.

Under the Rainfed Area Development project, the Mission Director reiterated the need to focus on interventions specifically designed to enhance rainfed area development, emphasizing that presentations must

clearly reflect these targeted activities.

For the Extension project, prioritization of establishing Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) as previously directed was highlighted.

Regarding the Fodder Development project, the Mission Director termed the involvement of Forest Department as crucial. She asked all stakeholder departments to collaborate and provide a prioritized action plan. She directed both Directors of Floriculture to review the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and suggest improvements for project implementation.

The review concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to expedite project activities and ensure effective collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the HADP and JKCIP.

AIIMS Jammu awarded "Best Project" on 170th CPWD Annual Day Honored by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "AIIMS Jammu" was awarded the "Best Project" on the occasion of the 170th CPWD Annual Day by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar. The celebratory event took place at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Friday, with the presence of Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu, Secretary of MoHUA, Anurag Jain, and Director General of CPWD, Rajesh Kaushal. Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, commented, "I am filled with immense pride and joy on this momentous occasion. Being awarded the Best Project on the 170th CPWD Annual Day is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence and our dedication to serving the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Besides extending his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inaugurating AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Gupta also thanked Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for his visit, which served as a source of immense pride and inspiration, he also expressed his gratitude to the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, for this prestigious recognition. Additionally, he thanked the Tokhan Sahu, Anurag Jain, and Rajesh Kaushal, for their continued support.

The Executive Director expressed gratitude towards "Arcop Associates Pvt Ltd" for their significant support in designing the project, ACIL [Ahluwalia Contracts



Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar presenting award to AIIMS Jammu representative.

(India) Limited] for outstanding contribution to the construction of AIIMS, and IIT Jammu for ensuring Quality Control at every step of its construction. The executive Director added, "This state-of-the-art infrastructure in Vijaypur Tehsil of Samba District is not just a building; it is a beacon of hope and a symbol of our commitment to providing the highest standard of medical care. We are dedicated to making AIIMS Jammu a centre of excellence in healthcare, research, and education."

When asked about the salient features of the project, Prof. Gupta responded, "AIIMS Jammu has been honored with the Best Project award in the Electrical & Mechanical Services category. This impressive project features a sprawling 227-acre campus along the Delhi Katra Expressway, encompassing a hospital, academic block, public buildings, and residential complexes for students and faculty. The campus includes a large sports complex, barrier-free environment under the Accessible India campaign, and rainwater harvesting system. AIIMS Jammu demonstrates its commitment by providing a "green and eco-friendly" comprehensive township with a 4 Star

GRIPA rating and has power backup for the hospital via DG sets. Advanced systems like high-efficiency HVAC, Building Management System, SCADA, fire fighting and alarm systems, CCTV, access control, and medical services such as a medical gas pipeline, modular operation theaters, nurse call bell, pneumatic tube transport, and automated waste & laundry transport enhance its functionality. The project also incorporates innovative technologies such as GRC cladding, use of recycled plastic in road construction, occupancy sensors, rooftop solar PV panels, solar poles, precision air conditioning, PoE technology, and BLDC motor ceiling fans."

The director fondly recalled his time on the "AIIMS Jammu Master Plan Committee" during his tenure at AIIMS Delhi, never imagining that he would one day become its Executive Director and concluded saying, "AIIMS Jammu is your institute, built to serve you and ensure that you have access to world-class medical care. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence, innovate, and provide the best healthcare services to our community. Thank you everyone for your trust and support."

Pakistan, its Indian sympathisers enemies of J&K people: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday castigated rogue Pakistan and her Indian sympathisers, saying they were the enemies of the nation in general and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

Speaking at a homage giving function in the memory of Martyr Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh at Bhera Morh, Barn in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency this afternoon, Rana said the white collar terror supporters in different avatars like activists, politicians and self styled intellectuals pose larger threat to peace and civility.

The family members of the martyr, Hari Singh, father; Veena Devi, mother; Neha Devi, wife; Kajal Barna, daughter; Kartik Singh Barna, son besides Col Alok Mehta from Kumaon Regiment, Domana, SDPO Akhnoor Mohal Lal Sharma, Asha Gupta, mother of Martyr Capt Tushar



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and others paying tributes to Martyr Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh.

Mahajan, and prominent citizens of the area were also present on the occasion. They paid floral tributes to the son of the soil and the brave heart Martyr Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh.

Referring to spike in terror acts across the Jammu region, Rana said while the security apparatus is strong enough to meet the challenges, the people at large must rise and isolate the Pakistan apologists who are equally a grave threat to harmony in the sensitive Jammu and Kashmir, having a rogue

and failed state in its backyard. He said the narratives of Pakistan sympathisers are harming the peace initiatives and it is now for the people to marginalise them in the larger interest of peace and normalcy, he added.

Devender Rana said the fight against terrorism and the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir is a complex and ongoing battle that can be defeated by further strengthening the time tested unity and inclusivity.

He attributed the surge in terror activities to frustration across the border and Pak lackeys over peace and normalcy returning in Jammu and Kashmir with people overwhelmingly participating in the world's largest democratic exercise that resulted in mandate to continuity and stability under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the bold and effective leadership in Delhi has proved in the past over a decade that it has the will and capability to fight the menace of terrorism with its uncompromising zero tolerance policy towards terrorism. Terrorists and their sympathisers cannot get away for their crimes against humanity, he added.

Paying floral tribute to Martyr Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh of Baran, Kot Bhalwal, who offered supreme sacrifice in the line of duty at Kupwara in Kashmir this day in 2017, Rana said the sacrifices of the heroes in defending the integrity and sovereignty of the nation will not go waste. The indebted compatriots

have all along been bowing their heads with respect and deep esteem for the sacrifices made by warriors, he said, adding that martyrs will continue to inspire generations for serving the motherland in whatever capacity they can, he maintained.

He said the martyrdom of brave-hearts reminds the crucial need of working towards peace and striving for shaping a better future for humanity. The biggest tribute to great heroes is to create a world wherein people live in peace and harmony, he added.

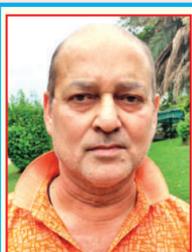
Devender Rana said the sacrifice of Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh has been a source of inspiration for young people, who yearn to defend the honour and dignity of the motherland. He said his martyrdom is a matter of pride for the entire area. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, like the compatriots across the country, have all along valued the valour of men in uniform, who have scripted sagas of valour while defending the nation.

How do you rate pace of infra development in Jammu, challenges ahead in monsoon?

Monsoon is not all about respite from scorching heat due to intermittent rains but the season is also a mute reminder of challenges ahead, especially in urban landscapes. Water logging, potholes on roads, chocking drainage system, transport woes, power outages, increased insects and pests are some of the challenges the residents face. Here is what they say:



Vimal Gupta
President Raj Tilak Road Traders Association
Jammu is only being called smart but it is not smart. A lot of money has been spent in the name of smart city but all the money is for the sake of it. Now every shopkeeper is in loss. The condition of infrastructure ahead of monsoon is very bad in our Jammu; nobody seems to be in resolving the challenges ahead.



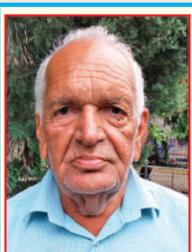
Sanjay, Trader
The Government should pay some attention to the condition of roads and other civic amenities because there is apprehension of lot of trouble during monsoon. I want the concerned departments to go to every street and resolve all the problems.



Ankita
Home Maker
Jammu is being termed as smart city but only a little attention is being paid to solving the problems of the people. I want that every park should be cleaned and along with that, in this monsoon season, the concerned agencies should also pay attention to the cleanliness.



Sunita
Home Maker
Jammu Smart City is taking a lot of efforts to make the City of Temples beautiful but they have failed. Every year, during monsoon streets get accumulated with water and this becomes a problem for everyone.



Darshan Sharma
Retired Head Master
I appreciate the government that Jammu and Kashmir is getting smart with each passing day but now the works undertaken under the Smart City Project is getting delayed. The pace of work on various projects is required to be stepped up, keeping in view the challenges of monsoon in ensuing weeks and months.