

'Best time' to invest in India, Dr Jitendra tells Indian diaspora



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacting with Indian diaspora during the Community Reception hosted for him at New York.

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NEW YORK: Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday told Indian diaspora in New York that this is the "best time" to invest in India, as India is fast becoming the world's most preferred investment destination.

Interacting with eminent diaspora over Community Reception hosted for him at

New York, Dr Jitendra pointed out that the pro-business reforms unleashed by Prime Minister Modi in the last eight years like reduction in compliance requirements, removal of retrospective taxation, simplification of the corporate tax rate structure, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have improved India's "rank in ease of doing business from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2022, as per the World Bank report.

The Minister was speaking to the Indian diaspora in New York after returning from the Joint Ministerial Plenary of

Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM13) and Mission Innovation (MI-7) at the "Global Clean Energy Action Forum- 2022", at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr Jitendra also invited the NRIs (Non-resident Indians) and PIOs (Persons of Indian origins) to come and explore the great Start-up boom in India, the success of which has become a global talking point. He said, with over 77,000 start-ups and 105 unicorns, our innovators, incubators, and entrepreneurs are making a mark for themselves and this may inspire and

encourage you to look at opportunities in India. Referring to the National Education Policy 2020, Dr Jitendra Singh says, it opens myriad avenues to enhance our university-to-university links, joint academic programs, credit portability and research partnership. He said, India is now open to foreign universities setting campuses in the country and we are hopeful that US Universities will take advantage of these opportunities. Dr Jitendra said, as two democracies with shared values, open exchange of knowledge remains key to our strong partnership.

The Minister felt happy that today, so many of the fortune 500 companies, be it Google and its parent company Alphabet, Microsoft, Adobe, IBM, Alphabet, Twitter, FedEx, NetApp and Starbucks have Indians either heading them or playing an important role in the senior management.

Dr Jitendra said that Indo-US ties have emerged as the

defining partnership of the 21st century and as per government data, merchandise exports from India reached a new high at US\$ 417.81 billion during the financial year (FY) 2021-22, marking a surge of 43.18 percent over the US\$ 291.18 billion recorded in the previous fiscal. He said, this is the first time India has achieved its ambitious target of crossing the US\$ 400 billion mark in merchandise exports and this also shows that India has started to emerge as a trusted partner as global firms are looking to diversify their supply chains and reduce their dependence on China. Dr Jitendra concluded by saying that we, in India and around the world, are celebrating 75 years of India's independence and its incredible journey as a vibrant democracy and a thriving economy.

The Minister told the Indian Diaspora that they represent the aspirations of a new India, an India that is on the march towards 'Amrit Kaal'.

40th 'Chhari Mubarak' leaves for Katra

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JAMMU: Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir Unit's 40th Chhari Yatra on Sunday left from the famous Raghunath Ji Temple Jammu in the form of a colourful procession with a huge crowd of devotees for having the first Darshan at Kol Kandoli Temple.

It is pertinent to mention here that before commencing the Yatra procession the devotees including the Shiv Sena party leaders worshipped the 'Akhand Jyoti' and the 'Chhari Mubarak' as per the traditional rituals. Thereafter the procession passed through Bikram Chowk, Dogra Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Purani Mandi and Parade before boarding the buses which proceeded to Kol Kandoli where the Mata Vaishno Devi used to live in the form of Kanjak. Soon after arriving at Kol Kandoli the devo-



Shiv Sena leaders leading 40th Chhari Yatra from Jammu.

tees along with the Shiv Sainiks had the first Darshan of Mother Goddess paying obeisance at the holy Darbar. A Vishal Bhandara was also organized at Kol Kandoli after which they left for the abode of Mata Vaishno Devi in beautiful Trikuta Hills.

Addressing media persons here today, Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit Manish Sahni informed that 'Charri Puja' shall be held in the holy cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on the first day of Navratra

besides the 'Darshan' of Maa Bhagwati at the sacrum sacrosanct of the Shrine. He said that Akhand Jyoti and Chhari Poojan will continue at the Shiv Sena Bhawan Jammu where Kanjak Poojan will also be done and finally the Holy Saakh immersion shall be done with full sanctity on the ninth Navratra. Along with prosperity, peace restoration, economic progress in Jammu and Kashmir and the country, Shiv Saniks would also pray to Maa Vaishno Devi for wisdom to the rebels.

FANS celebrates Haifa Libration Day



Former Dy CM, Prof Nirmal Singh speaking at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Forum for Awareness of National Security (FANS) celebrated Haifa Victory Day on Sunday to pay respect to gallant Indian Soldiers who showed their valour during 1st World War.

Maj Gen S.K Sharma, AVSM (Retd.), President FANS J&K, welcomed all the guests and stressed on the importance of carrying out activities to enthuse nationalism and patriotism among the citizens, especially the youth.

Prof Nirmal Singh, former Dy Chief Minister, J&K and Chief Guest of the function gave the historical perspective of the event in a very systematic way. He called upon the society to learn from such events

and participate to take the nation to newer heights. He said that our culture and tradition was destroyed with a planned manner and need is to carry out our tradition and culture among people.

Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, AVSM (Retd.) presided over the function. He became emotional while recounting the contributions of the brave Dogra soldiers and especially of JAK Rifles or Indian Army. He also recounted the days he spent with Maharaja Hari Singh during 1954.

Brig Dr. Vijay Sagar Dheman (Retd.), Vice-President FANS, was the main resource person. He highlighted details of the complete oper-

ation at Haifa. He told that the British Forces, during 1st World War, suffered heavy casualties while trying to capture Haifa, a vital port city in Israel.

That time, the Indian troops were called, who with their gallant actions liberated Haifa.

Advocate Prem Sadotra, General Secretary FANS and Dinesh Gupta, General Secretary cum Treasure delivered the vote of thanks.

Lalit Aggarwal, Vice President, FANS along with other functionaries, Opinder Sharma, Advocate Gourav Jamwal, Ravinder Jamwal, MP Singh Palli, Deepak Sharma, Diwakar Sharma, Deepali Sharma provided all the logistic and administrative help.

Prominent personalities of Jammu who attended the function include Parshotam Dadhichi, Kshetriya Vayavastha Pramukh, RSS, Advocate Raghu Mehta, Member SMVDSB, Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma, AVSM, (Retd) , Dr. Sudershan Sharma, former DG DRDO.

Leh Gobas make recommendations to strengthen local-level governance

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LEH: In a gathering of Gobas (nambardars) from various parts of Leh district, several recommendations were made to strengthen local-level governance including the Goba system.

The two-day gathering was organised by Snow Leopard Conservancy - India Trust (SLC-IT), Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Ladakh Media and Arts Organisation (LAMO), Local Futures, and Kalpavriksh. About 35 Nambardars/Gobas participated in the gathering. The meeting was graced by the Chief Executive Councillor Tashi Gyaltsan and the Ladakh Buddhist Association Vice-President Chering Dorjay Lakruk, both of whom supported the need to strengthen and recognise the 'Goba system'.

The meeting was based on a detailed study led by Kalpavriksh (a Pune-based organisation active in Ladakh), in coordination with the above-



Gobas (Nambardars) from various parts of Leh district posing for a photograph.

mentioned Ladakhi organisations.

The study found that the goba system is still highly relevant for Ladakhi society. Across the Leh district, people continue to have faith in this system, and insist that it should continue along with the Panchayat system.

The meeting noted that since the goba performs many important functions for the community, it needs to be given legal recognition in the Lambardari Act or in a new Goba Act, as also in laws relating to the panchayat, Council and UT Administration.

This includes land and water management, resolution of disputes, organising of religious and cultural functions, announcing sowing and harvesting time or migration time for livestock herders, providing character certificates, representing the village to the government, keeping population and livestock figures, ensuring compliance with customary rules (thims), and others.

It also recommended that Gobas need to be given incentives for their role, including higher honorarium from the government, and social recognition such as rewards for good

work. Office space should also be created for gobas in each village. But such incentives should not lead to treating gobas/nambardars as government servants, but as representatives of the people, just like sarpanches, Councillors, MLAs etc who are also given an honorarium by the government.

"The functions of gobas need to be clarified in relation to the panchayat, the Council, and the UT Administration. Gobas must be part of any decision by these bodies in decisions relating to land and other issues of villages, including development

projects, extraction of sand/rocks etc, and allotment of lands.

Ladakh needs to be urgently granted constitutional status to enable the goba system to be given strong formal recognition (such as what is given to the Dzumsa system in Sikkim). This could be under the 6th Schedule, and if possible also the 5th Schedule, to strengthen the powers and role of the yulpa (village assembly)", reads a recommendation handout released to the media.

"The age limit of 60 recently imposed by the government, should be withdrawn, as often the people with the most relevant experience to be a goba are above that age," it added.

The gathering also decided to form a Leh district level Goba Association, in consultation with all gobas, to take forward the above recommendations, to have a collective voice for demands, to learn from each other, etc. This will also federate various regional or block level associations that already exist, or can be formed.

NCC cadets of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar conduct cleanliness drive at Har Ki Pauri



NCC cadets along with faculty members during cleanliness drive at Har Ki Pauri, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Banner of Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan, the NCC cadets of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Govt PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu, on Saturday conducted a cleanliness drive here at Har Ki Pauri near Bahufort. The drive was conducted as the part of series of activities under the action plan from 19th

Sept to 25th September to sensitize the general public about the importance of keeping the water bodies clean and surroundings green. Around 53 cadets and 03 Alumni, ex-NCC cadets along with ANO Lt. Suman Bala and Officials from 2 J&K Girls Bn NCC Unit - Subedar Sonam and Hav Tek Raj actively participated in the drive and collected 35 kg Garbage and

Plastic waste. The enthusiasm and zeal of cadets was the source of motivation for the locals around.

The cadets not only cleaned the surroundings and bed of river Tawi but also raised alarm among locals about the repercussions of not keeping our water bodies clean and how we are depriving the future generations of this elixir.

The collected waste was

properly disposed of in the municipality garbage bins.

Prof. Minu Mahajan, the Principal of the College applauded the cadets & ANO for their active involvement in the activities dedicated to social causes. Major Preeti, Adm Officer, 2 J&K Girls Bn NCC also appreciated the zeal of cadets and provided all the necessary support to conduct the drive smoothly.

The activity concluded on a positive note where cadets were feeling happy and satisfied as they contributed their bit in saving mother earth.

The whole programme was coordinated by the ANO and Officials of 2J&K Girls Bn.NCC Jammu.

JKGLTF holds protest seeking immediate implementation of ATD 2022



General line teachers raising slogans during a protest at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU:Demanding implementation of the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) 2022 with immediate effect, a number of Government teachers and Masters under the banner of J&K General Line Teachers Forum (JKGLTF) staged a protest in Jammu on Sunday. The protesters under the leadership of President GLTF, Neeraj Sharma highlight a number of other pending demands and urged for fulfilling the same at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that transfer process is still in dormancy despite submitting various memorandums to concerned officials. "Almost all District

Presidents of JKGLTF have submitted memorandums to the Director School Education Jammu and even to the LG, but nothing concrete has been done in this regard.

Congress holds one-day convention in Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh Territorial Congress Committee on Sunday organised a convention at Indus hotel Choglamsar, Leh. Hundreds of party leaders and workers participated in the day long convention which was presided over by Gen Secretary In-charge, Ladakh UT, & Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Rajni Patil. In all, 80 new members from different villages officially joined Congress Party who were later felicitated and welcomed with Khataks. The convention was addressed Congress leaders including Rajni Patil, former Minister Navang Rigzin Jora, DCC Leh President Rigzin Ursi, Working president Rigzin Tsering, Councillor Lower Leh

Tsering Namgyal, President MC Leh Dr Ishey Namgal, all Councillors, Mahila Congress President Stanzin Dolkar, Youth Congress President Smanla Dorjay, District Youth President Tundup Cheetah and other leaders. Rajni Patil assured workers that she will raise all important issues of Ladakh in the Rajya Sabha including 6th Schedule for Ladakh. She also assured to plan Rahul Gandhi's visit to Ladakh next summer. Speakers highlighted issue of Ladakh such as constitutional safe guards in the form of 6th schedule, job security, land security, environmental protection, safe guarding Ladakh's unique identity, border incursion, inflation etc.

J&K Bank REWA organises health check-up camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the aegis of core committee members of J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu, a meeting with the agenda of conducting a full body health checkup of all the retired employees & officers who are members of the association was held.

The health checkup was undertaken in partnership with Atulya Lab.

The competent technical medical team conducted the requisite full body checkup of the members of the association.

More than 150 members of various districts of Jammu and Kashmir participated and benefited from this full-body checkup which is unique as the initiative is the first of its kind



A Doctor examining a patients during a camp.

encompassing 58 parameters and is being spearheaded by executive committee members consisting of Mohinder Singh (President), R.K. Bhan (General Secretary), P.P Gupta (Vice President), Ved Prakash Gupta (Cashier), Arun Kumar Gupta (Secretary) and venerated members of the association.

The full body test was free of cost for all the members and the expenses were borne by the association.

The association has further submitted that the left-out members whose full body checkups couldn't be undertaken due to their absence, will also be undertaken in the due course.