India among top 5 Bio-manufacturing Hubs by 2025: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that India is poised to be among top 5 Global Bio-manufacturing Hubs

The Science & Technology Minister said, Biotechnology has the potential to become an important instrument of global trade and bio-economy contributing to India's overall economy.

The Union Minister said this while launching the website of "Global Bio-India - 2023", a mega International congregation on Biotechnology, to be held at Pragati Maidan from 4-6 December, 2023.

Dr Jitendra said that our Bioeconomy witnessed double digit growth rate year-on-year in the last 9 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India is now being rated among top 12 biotechnology destinations in the world, he said.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after launching the website of "Global Bio-India - 2023" at the Curtain Raiser event, at New Delhi.

"In 2014, India's bioeconomy stood at just about \$10 Billion, today it is \$80 Billion. In just 8/9 years it has gone (up) 8 times and we look forward to having \$300 Billion by 2030," he said.

Dr Jitendra said Bioeconomy is going to be a hugely lucrative source of livelihood in the times to come.

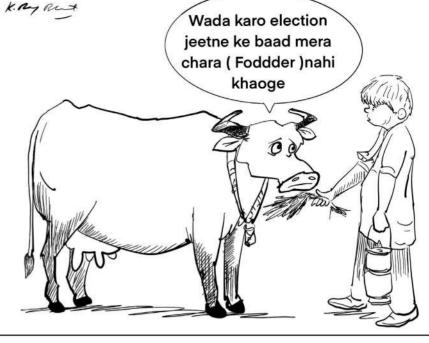
"India has a huge wealth of bioresources, an unsaturated resource waiting to be harnessed and an advantage in Biotechnology especially due to the vast biodiversity and the unique bioresources in the Himalayas. Then there is the 7,500 kms long coastline and last year we launched the Samudrayaan which is going to dig the biodiversity beneath the seas," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, today there are over 3,000 Agritech Startups and are very successful in areas like Aroma Mission and Lavender culti-

"About 4,000 people are engaged with Lavender cultivation and earning lakhs of rupees, quite a few of them do not have high qualifications, but are very innovative," he said.

Dr Jitendra said, Department of Biotechnology has been supporting R&D innovations in Advanced Biofuels and 'Waste to Energy' technologies.

"In the future, garbage will be reduced to Zero. Everything will be recycled," he said, citing the recycling technology developed by the Dehra Dun based Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) by designing a van that collects waste cooking oil and converts it into biofuel.



IGP Jammu Zone reviews law & order, Security scenario

Urges civil society members to help police in better performance of duties



IGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting at DPL Udhampur. trict interacted with all offi-

Congress will stage come back: Bhalla made it a strong nation in

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: JKPCC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani has said that BJP wants to crush every voice of dissent but will be routed out due to it's authoritarian style of governance and anti people policies.

Addressing a massive Congress rally at Katra on Saturday alongwith AICC Jt Secretary I/C J&K affairs, Working President Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice President Ravinder Sharma besides other senior leaders, JKPCC Chief hit out at the gag orders against government employees is a series of such attempts to crush

hide it's failures.

Vikar Said that it was Congress will fought to free this nation from the slavery of Britishers & it was made a progressive & strong power in the world

JKPCC leaders addressing a public meeting at Katra on Saturday. He appreciated the newly appointed DCC President Bhupinder Singh for the massive rally and said that Congress will support all the genuine demands of workers linked with pil-

Rakesh Wazir, Rajesh Sadotra, Tantrey, Arshad Chairman MC Katra Ambrish Magotra, PYC President Akash Bharat, DDC Mahore Israr Ahmed and AP Lucky also attend-AICC Jt Secretary co-

Vaishnodevi ji

PCC General Secretaries

I/C J& K affairs Manoj Yadav said that BJP has ruined demonstrate atmosphere in the country and has abolished democracy in J&K, for which Congress is fighting for its restoration along with snatched status of state-

He said that it was Congress party which brought all round development in the country and

He said that Congress has emerged stronger again everywhere in the country and it will emerge victorious in the state assembly elections.

every sphere.

President Working Raman Bhalla said, "It Congress brought about all round development in the country and Jammu & Kashmir but BJP is making tall claims without doing much for the people."

Senior Vice President JKPCC Ravinder Sharma said that it was Congress which gave district status to Reasi, university & Hospital besides train service to Katra besides initiation of train link project to Kashmir and Baramulla besides tunnels on highway for overall progress of J&K.

Bhupinder Jamwal highlighted the burning issues pithu, pony walas & others linked with pilgrimage and tourism and the approach of the administration towards them.

He said that only Congress can work for the progress and property of

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, on Saturday visited district Udhampur and reviewed Law/Order, security and crime scenario in the meeting chaired in DPL Udhampur.

Joginder Singh, SSP Udhampur, Anwar Ul Haq Addl. SP Udhampur, all supervisory officers, SHOs and other Police officers were present in the meeting.

At the outset, Joginder Singh briefed IGP Jammu Zone about the law & order. crime and security scenario along with other initiatives being carried out by Udhampur Police in the dis-

He also highlighted measures adopted to strengthen security grid and improve policing.

IGP Jammu Zone, Anand

cers including IOs during an introductory meeting, reviewed crime pattern of the area and issued directions to them to improve Police working and better public relations.

The IGP Jammu directed the officers to augment measures for improving capability of personnel in dealing with Narco cases and UAPA cases.

He impressed upon the officers that they need to contribute more by conducting supervisory meetings and by ensuring closer supervision of important cases, especially NDPS/UAPA cases to get better results for the remaining period of the year.

He advised them to improve the quality of investigation and prosecution to increase the convictions.

While concluding, SSP

wholehearted efforts would be made by Udhampur Police Team to achieve the desired targets. The IGP Jammu also inter-

acted with the civil society members which were attended by a large number of prominent citizens, including ward members, Sarpanchs, Panchs, social workers.

The public was requested to help the department of Police in prevention and detection

It was conveyed that J&K Police are taking various programs to prevent the narcotics/drug menace from the society and special focus on the engagement of the youth by involving them in Sports activities.

The participants in the meeting were very appreciative of the role of Police in the area and ensured to extend their support to Police in better performance of duties.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of ACCB



Comm Secy Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department. Yasha Saturday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank (ACCB) here at civil secretariat.

The meeting was attend-Societies. Managing Director ACCB, BCCB, Director Finance, Cooperative Department, Joint Registrar Societies (Banking & Finance), branch heads of ACCB and BCCB and other concerned officials.

Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to focus on loan sanctioning and disbursement thereof for revival of branches of the banks. She also directed for redoubling efforts towards achieving the set

Yasha stressed that the bank should focus on vari-

attainment of minimum level of CRAR, reduction of NPA level, enhancement of deposits, building up strong management information system and implementation of core banking solutions to achieve the set targets of current financial

Registrar briefed the meeting that a those account numbers to target of Rs 12.84 crore repay the amount to the was allocated to the bank be recovered upto October 2023 against NPAs of Rs 16.6 for March 2023. He added that the bank was also given a target of fresh loan disbursement of Rs 44.77 crore upto October, 2023.

He further elaborated that the bank has released Rs 27.61 crore against a target of Rs 44.77 crore upto October of current financial year making 62 percent achievement with shortfall of Rs 17.16 crore.

MD ACCB also briefed the meeting that out of points including 264 NPA accounts, 14

NPA have been closed by the end of September 2023. He said that bank recovered an amount of Rs 4.73 crore upto October 23 making 37 percentage achievement.

MD,ACCB also said that the bank has taken up other recovery initiatives Director for physical possession of bank. He stated that the mentors personally visited those branches suffering loss shown as per the monthly report of bank to recover the amount from the defaulters.

Commissioner Secretary directed the Bank to increase profitability and focus on branches which still need to turn around. The MD informed that out of 34 branches of ACCB. 26 are currently under profit and he assured that necessary steps are being taken to make the remaining branches profitable as

Justice Sindhu inspects Dist Court Complex Budgam

STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for District Budgam) on inspected Saturday District Court Complex Budgam.

During her visit, Justice Sindhu was received by Principal District & Sessions Judge Budgam, Khalil Ahmed Choudhary. She interacted with the

judicial officers posted at District headquarter, Budgam and gave patient hearing to all judicial officers viz-a-viz infrastructure and other issues faced by them in their respective

BUDGAM: Justice Sindhu Judge directed all the judi-Sharma, Judge High cial officers for early disposal of cases both civil and criminal. She instructed the judicial officers that old cases pending for more than 10 years shall be listed twice a month and under trial cases be listed twice in a month.

She assured that steps will be taken to redress all the grievances at large. She also assured that all the courts within District Budgam shall be at par with the best courts of the UT based on the National Module.

During the visit, the Administrative Judge was accompanied by Registrar

Udhampur assured him that Sharad Mahotsav Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir

Dharmesh with his team enchants devotees with soulful Bhajans



Dharmesh Nargotra and his disciples singing Bhajans at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On second day of on-going Sharad Mahotsav at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Dharmesh Nargotra, along with his disciples, enchanted devotees, with his soulful Bhaians on Saturday. Dharmesh known for his Gazal Gayki in Jammu, pleasantly surprised the audience by displaying his adept mastery over devotional singing. He took the devotees along on an ecstatic trip to spiritual odyssey of musical notes.

He set the tone for the spiritual flight to higher realm by singing Soordas Bhajan and contin-

ued with Bhajan of Meera and concluded with Ram Dhun. It was a mesmerising experience for everyone present in the audience.

Brilliant support and performance by Guru Parshotam ji on Pakhwaj, Rakesh Anand on flute, Amarjeet Singh on violin, Aarav Nargotra and Vinay on Tabla transformed the performances to a transcendental level leaving the devotees spell bound.

A large number of devotees thronged the ancient Mandir to be immersed in the spiritual

PVC Maj Som Nath & PVC NK Yadu Nath made extreme exemplary sacrifices to secure delayed Accession of J&K

Why not atleast in 2023 Name Srinagar (Badgam) & Jammu Airports in their name

DAYA SAGAR he Accession of J&K was delayed beyond August 1947 and the J&K L State acceded to India Dominion only on 26th October 1947 and that too after 'Pakistan" engineered open attack on J&K from Muzaffarabad side on 22nd Oct with limited state forces almost dismantled. The prince of Jammu& Kashmir had no option other than acceding to India , he signed and sent the Instrument of accession on 26th October 1947 under a covering letter to the then Governor General of India Dominion also mentioning reasons for delay <My dear Lord Mountbatten I have to inform your Excellency that a grave emergency has arisen in my State and request immediate assistance of your Government. As your Excellency is aware the State of Jammu and Kashmir has not acceded to the Dominion of India or to Pakistan. Geographically my State is contiguous to both the Dominions. It has vital eco-

nomical and cultural links with both of them. Besides my State has a common boundary with the Soviet Republic and China. In their external relations the Dominions of India and Pakistan cannot ignore this fact. I wanted to take time to decide to which Dominion I should accede, or whether it is not in the best interests of both the Dominions and my State to stand independent,

.....The wild forces thus let loose on the State are marching on with the aim of capturing Srinagar, With the conditions obtaining at present in my State and the great emergency of the situation as it exists, I have no option but to ask for help from the Indian Dominion. Naturally they cannot send the help asked for by me without my State acceding to the Dominion of India. I have

India had to move the forces with very remotely placed means of surface transport and primitive air force . But still it has been the sense of sacrifice and 'self'

accordingly decided to do so

troops & officers that still a very large part of J&K was saved from falling in the hands

of enemy before ceasefire. It may not be an over imagination to say that The 1st and 2nd PVC awardee soldiers had made extreme sacrifices defending territories in J&K and may be but for their valour much more territories of J&K in Jammu region, Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region would not have been saved from becom-

To be brief Lt. Col.M. N. Khanna Commanding Officer 4 Komaon Regiment who recommended martyr !st PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma O.C. 'D' Cov . Unit-4 Kumaon for HON-OURS and Awards had written " But for this officer's bravery and sacrifice of his own life it is most probable that the SRINAGAR airfield would have been

ing part of POJK in 1947/48,

the Mist Part-II

A Look through overrun by the enemy and KASHMIR operations"> Major Som Nath Sharma had made exemplary extreme sacrifice on 3rd November

1947 to protect the Srinagar Airport as otherwise there was no possibility for saving more of Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region from falling in the hands of Pakistani raiders like other areas of Indian state of J&K as were occupied by Pakistan in 1947-48.

Where as2nd PVC Naik J(Y) adunath Singh guardedTaindhar Ridge and kept Pakistan away from Nowshera & Hence large part of J&K out of from occupation by Pakistan. The Yadunath Memorial Stoneat Taindhar Top near Naushera (era reads< No. 27373 NK Yadunath Singh PVC (Posthumous) 1 Rajput (4 Guards) Born 21 November 1916 Died in Action 6 February 1948 " Your God is both your Cause, Your Battle and Captain, Come Life or

Death, Your God will Bear Your Company, And Ever Keep This Field, This Place and This Days Service In His Grateful Remembrance" This Memorial is Erected in Solemn Tribute to A Warrior Legend Who Sacrificed His Mortal Being to A Greater Glory of Indian Nation on This Very Spot . NK Yadunath Singh Single Handedly Killed 230 Men of the Enemy And sacrificed His Yesterday so That Citizens of Naushera may live Their Tomorrow.. Inaugurated on 6 Feb 1996>

The battle of Naushera (J&K), was a long drawn battle extending from late 1947 to 1948, needs to be remembered more for saving through valour and sacrifices of Indian soldiers a very large part of even the Jammu Province of the then just acceded Indian princely state of J&K , from Naushera through Rajouri to Poonch.1/7 Rajput Regiment was awarded in Independent India one Param Vir Chakra, two Maha Vir Chakras, nine Vir Chakras and eleven

Mention in Dispatches for battle of Nowshera action.

Demands have been made by some well meaning persons (writer also) for naming Srinagar international airport after Major Som Nath Sharma (1st PVC) and the new coming up international airport after Nk Yadu Nath Nath Singh (2nd PVC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had shown the path on last 23 January while in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in connection with Prakaram Divas celebrations and it was hoped that LG J&K Manoj Sinha too would take the path worth sending request proposals to Aviation Ministry for naming the Srinagar and Jammu airports also after the 1st and 2nd PVC decorated soldiers. But people are still hopefully hoping for conferring such like honours which the popular governments should have done long back but did not do.

> (The author is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).