

# ISRO's 100th launch marks quantum leap in India's Space journey: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In his first response to the Indian Space Research Organisation's successful 100th launch from Sriharikota this morning, Union Minister of State for Space Dr Jitendra Singh said, "the launch of GSVL-F15/NVS-02 Mission is not simply another landmark milestone but this launch, being the 100th one, marks a quantum leap in India's Space journey."  
Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed his deep sense of privilege in being associated with the Department of Space at such a momentous time when the world is amazed by a series of extraordinary achievements registered by the ISRO one after the other and highlighted the remarkable transformation of ISRO under the visionary leader-

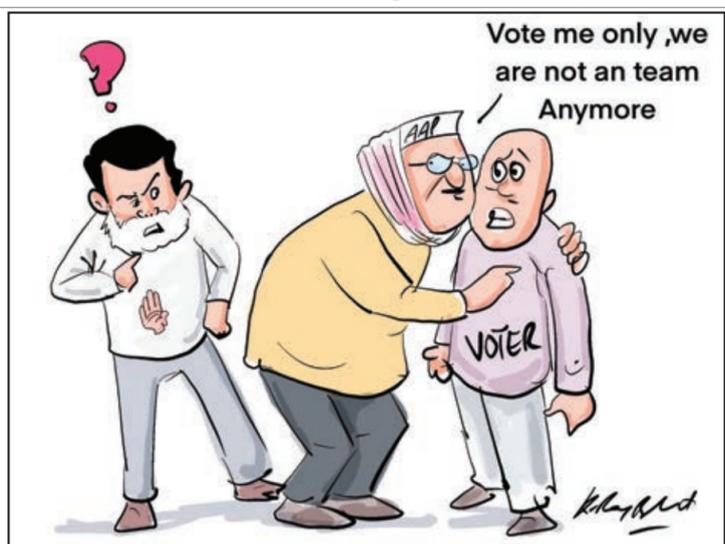


ship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.  
Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that while ISRO was established in 1969, it took more than two decades to set up the first launch pad in 1993. The second launch pad came up only in 2004, marking another decade-long gap. However, in the last 10 years, India's space sector has undergone unprecedented expansion, both in terms of infrastructure and investment. "This 100th

launch marks a quantum leap in the space sector, which did not happen in the last six decades. We are now building a third launch pad in Sriharikota, and for the first time, expanding beyond Sriharikota with a new launch site in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district, where the foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Modi last year in February," he stated.  
The Minister also underlined the rapid rise of private sector participation in space. "In 2021, we had barely a single-digit number of space startups. Today, we are nearing 300, many of which are world-class enterprises and entrepreneurial success stories. India is positioning itself as a frontline player in the global private space sector," he noted. This growth has translated into real eco-

nomie impact-investment in the sector has surged, with Rs 1,000 crore invested in 2023 alone. The space economy, currently valued at \$8 billion, is projected to reach \$44 billion in the next decade, further cementing India's role as a global space powerhouse.  
Dr. Jitendra also highlighted India's growing dominance in commercial space launches. "Today, 90% of foreign satellite launches are being carried out through ISRO, reflecting the global confidence in our capabilities," he said. The reforms initiated in the past decade, including the unlocking of the space sector for private players, have led to greater innovation, investment, and international collaborations.  
"Taking to social media, Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO) for its unwavering commitment to excellence and its ability to consistently raise the bar in space exploration. He stated, "100th Launch: Congratulations ISRO for achieving the landmark milestone of 100th launch from Sriharikota. It's a privilege to be associated with the Department of Space at this historic moment. Team ISRO, you have once again made India proud with the successful launch of GSVL-F15/NVS-02 Mission."  
Reflecting on the remarkable journey of India's space program, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the visionary contributions of early pioneers like Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan, whose efforts laid the foundation for India's burgeoning space sector.



## Director Tourism Jammu conducts tour of Suchetgarh Border to review ongoing developmental works

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism, Jammu, conducted a whirlwind tour of the Suchetgarh Border, R.S. Pura, to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works aimed at enhancing the region's tourism appeal.



Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism, Jammu, conducting tour of Suchetgarh Border, R.S. Pura to assess progress of developmental works.

He was accompanied by Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu and Neha Mahajan, Deputy Director (Plg.).  
Also accompanying during the visit were Rajesh Gupta, Chief Engineer, Jammu, Devender Dugesar, Deputy Commandant BSF 165 Bn and Baibhav Kumar, Assistant Commandant (Coy Commander, BOP Oetroi) 165 Battalion BSF, along with other officials from the Tourism Department and BSF.  
During the visit, Vikas Gupta inspected the construction of the Welcome Gate, parking facilities, and beautification of the Zero Line and BOP Oetroi, emphasizing high-quality standards and timely com-

pletion to enhance the visitor experience.  
A major highlight was the development of the Suchetgarh corridor, with key projects underway, including a salubrious base, pathways, gender-based toilets, a security post, retractable motorized awnings, and upgraded seating arrangements.  
Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Gupta reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening border tourism infrastructure.  
He stated that these initiatives will not only enhance Suchetgarh's appeal but also

position it as a premier tourist destination, offering visitors a unique blend of heritage, patriotism and cultural richness.  
Sunaina Sharma Mehta emphasized the holistic development of Suchetgarh, focusing on enhancing visitor amenities and driving local economic growth through border tourism.  
She highlighted the importance of promoting the region's cultural heritage and local tourist destinations, with handcrafted souvenirs that offer visitors authentic mementos, reflecting the unique essence of the site.

## Satish inaugurates medical camp at Railway Station

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Transport and IT, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday inaugurated a Medical Camp at Railway Station, Jammu.  
The camp was organised by the Motor Vehicles Department in collaboration with Health Department and Taxi Operator Union Railway Station Jammu to promote health awareness and well being among the transport workers.  
During the camp, more than 450 drivers participated and underwent BP, sugar and eyesight check-up for colour blindness and other eye sight related issues.  
The Minister was accompanied by the DIG JKS Range, Transport



Transport Minister, Satish Sharma speaking after inaugurating a Medical Camp at Railway Station, Jammu on Wednesday.

Commissioner; SSP Railways; Joint Transport Commissioner; RTO Jammu; CMO Jammu and other senior officials from the respective departments.  
Addressing the gathering, the Minister appreciated the dedication of drivers who, despite their demanding schedules, participated in the camp, prioritizing their health over

daily earnings. He urged the participants to develop a sense of responsibility by adhering to road safety measures, including wearing seat belts and helmets and avoiding mobile phone use while driving.  
The Minister highlighted that drivers play a crucial role in building a responsible and progressive society, as their behaviour influences young minds travel-

ling in their vehicles during their struggle time.  
Satish Sharma also expressed concern over the rising number of road accident fatalities, which claim around 1,70,000 lives annually, stressing that this number surpasses casualties from some diseases. He called upon all stakeholders to come forward and contribute towards road safety and

accident prevention.  
The Minister assured that monthly health check-up camps would be organized for drivers in collaboration with the Transport and Health Departments. Additionally, efforts will be made to establish dormitories, toilets and a "Driver Sarai" at major transport hubs for the welfare of drivers and their helpers.  
Earlier, the Transport Commissioner and DIG spoke at length about the significance of road safety and the measures needed to curb the accidents.  
"This initiative reaffirms government's commitment towards enhancing road safety, ensuring the wellbeing of transport workers, and fostering a responsible driving culture in Jammu & Kashmir", maintained the Minister.

## IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity and Inclusion Commended for BGA Business School Impact Award 2025

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has been highly commended for the BGA Business School Impact Award 2025, recognizing its commitment to fostering positive change for students, graduates, communities, and economies.  
Conferred by the Business Graduates Association (BGA), this prestigious recognition honours institutions that align with BGA's vision and charter by driving transformative initiatives that promote responsible management, continuous improvement, and societal betterment through both quantitative and qualitative impact.  
IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity & Inclusion, the first of its kind in India for underprivileged communities, was specifically commended for its role in advancing equity and inclusivity. Originally established as "The Diversity Cell" in collaboration with the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Centre was inaugurated on 9th June 2022 by then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of Minister

of State (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh, Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir; Manoj Sinha, Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.  
Since its inception, the Centre has been instrumental in empowering entrepreneurs from the SC & ST communities, providing them with essential resources, mentorship, and training to thrive in the business world.  
Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, emphasized that this recognition underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable society. He highlighted that the Centre for Diversity & Inclusion serves as a model for academic institutions, reinforcing the importance of diversity in shaping the future of entrepreneurship and leadership.  
Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, expressed happiness for this recognition, stating that the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion is a testament to IIM Jammu's pioneering efforts in social responsibility. This award reaffirms IIM Jammu's dedication to social responsibility and impact-

ful leadership. He emphasized that the institute would continue to create a safe and supportive environment for underprivileged communities, equipping them with the necessary tools for entrepreneurial success.  
Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, underscored the critical role of academia in driving meaningful societal change. He reiterated that IIM Jammu remains committed to integrating diversity, inclusion, and responsible management into its core academic and outreach programs, shaping future leaders who can drive sustainable impact in an evolving global economy.  
The BGA Business School Impact Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in the global business education community. This year, the awards featured 12 categories, providing numerous opportunities for AMBA & BGA accredited business schools, students, and graduates to showcase their accomplishments. This recognition further cements IIM Jammu's position as a leading institution and global B-school dedicated to academic excellence, social impact, and nation-building.

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## CS emphasises result oriented action plan to prevent drug abuse

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Reiterating Government's commitment towards complete eradication of drug abuse, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday emphasized the need to devise a result oriented action plan to prevent and eliminate drug menace from the society through massive awareness.  
The Chief Secretary was addressing a high level meeting held in this regard at the Civil Secretariat.  
Among others the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary RDD; Director, Information; Drug Controller; Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officers.  
The Chief Secretary directed the Information Department to collaborate with other departments in raising awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse. He emphasized the importance of public awareness campaigns, including posters, slogans, advertisements on social media, pub-



lic transport and outdoor spaces. He further instructed the department to produce a short film highlighting the ill effects of drugs and ways to protect individuals and society from this growing threat.  
Stressing a multi-pronged strategy, Atal Dulloo stated that by implementing stringent measures, we aim to dismantle drug networks, reduce drug demand and create a healthier, safer society.  
The awareness program will focus on educating students on prevention strategies, emphasizing the role of mental health support, engaging youth in anti-drug campaigns.  
"To ensure widespread outreach, the

Chief Secretary directed the Police, Health, School Education, Social Welfare and Rural Development Departments to prepare a calendar of activities covering every Panchayat. This will accelerate the momentum of the Drug-Free Campaign, especially among the students and young people. He also asked all the stakeholders to develop a comprehensive action plan to reach every village across Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring that no community remains untouched by the anti-drug awareness initiatives. "Youth are the future of our nation, and it is our collective responsibility to protect them from this serious challenge," he added.

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## Javed Rana calls on Union Forest Minister, HP CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Wednesday called on Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, in New Delhi to discuss key environmental and tribal welfare issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir.  
Emphasizing the ecological significance of Jammu & Kashmir, which has over 52% of its land under forest cover, Javed Rana sought greater financial assistance and policy support from the central government to protect J&K's biodiversity and strengthen sustainable development efforts.  
During the meeting, Javed Rana highlighted the urgent need for increased funding for forest conservation, soil and water preservation and afforestation programs. He submitted a proposal seeking Rs 75 crore for soil and water conservation in the Kandi region over the next three years, Rs 100 crore for development of migratory routes for nomadic grazers and Rs

50 crore for conserving medicinal plants in the Shivalik region.  
Highlighting the increasing risks posed by forest fires, he urged for release of Rs 10 crore at the beginning of the financial year for fire prevention and management. Additionally, he demanded Rs 50 crore for conducting a comprehensive study on the ecological and economic value of J&K's forests, as well as expedited approval for a JICA-backed training facility in Jammu and Srinagar to enhance forest management expertise.  
Recognizing the role of technology in modern forestry, Javed Rana sought Rs 4 crore under a centrally sponsored scheme to leverage AI and remote sensing for forest resource management, afforestation monitoring, fire prevention and water harvesting. He also pushed for a Rs 300 crore allocation over the next five years under the Climate Change Action Plan to strengthen J&K's environmental resilience.  
Besides, special funding of Rs 100 crore was also



Forest Minister J&K, Javed Ahmed Rana calling on Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav and Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

requested for conservation of key water bodies including Wular Lake and Gharana Wetlands.  
Additionally, he called for enhanced financial allocations under the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and the Green India Mission to support large-scale afforestation and ecological restoration efforts in the region.

Apart from conservation funding, Rana raised several concerns regarding the forestry sector's human resource challenges.  
The Minister particularly pushed the induction of SF's officers recruited in 2011 into the Indian Forest Service (IFS) to strengthen mid-level management and requested increased allocation of IFS officers under the AGMUT cadre to support J&K's grow-

ing forestry needs.  
He further recommended upgrading the Kashmir Forest Training Institute in Bandipora to an academy at par with Tamil Nadu Forest Academy and Kundal Academy in Maharashtra to provide advanced training for forest officers across the country.  
The discussion also covered critical policy interventions including the need to restore

the powers of the Chairman of J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.  
Rana urged the Union Minister to expedite clearance of over 400 pending cases under the Forest Conservation Act related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, which are awaiting approval at the regional office, so that water infrastructure projects in forested areas can be implemented without further delay.  
The Union Minister acknowledged the concerns raised and assured full cooperation from the central government. He reiterated the Centre's commitment towards strengthening conservation efforts, enhancing financial support for afforestation projects and ensuring that tribal communities receive the benefits they rightfully deserve.  
Both leaders agreed on the need for a collaborative approach between the central and J&K governments to implement long-term solutions that balance environmental conservation with economic growth.

The Union Minister assured that the proposals would be considered on priority and necessary steps would be taken to expedite approvals and fund allocations.  
Speaking after the meeting, Javed Rana exuded confidence that proactive policy-making and sustained government support would lead to meaningful environmental reforms. He reaffirmed the commitment of J&K Government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for policies that safeguard J&K's natural heritage while ensuring the welfare of its tribal and forest-dependent communities.  
Meanwhile, Javed Rana also called on Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, at New Delhi today and discussed issues of common public interest.  
The Minister enquired about the strategies employed by Himachal Pradesh for protecting and conserving natural water resources and practices being employed to mitigate soil erosion and landslides.

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