# India no longer follower, offering leads to other countries: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh has asserted that India is no longer a follower but is offering leads to other countries, for them to follow.

In an interesting podcast conversation, Dr Jitendra Singh also dwelt on several versatile aspects of his personality including his hunger for literature and poetry, his encyclopedic knowledge of cinema and films, his treasure repository of lesser shared anecdotes about well known personalities etc, but most importantly, he shared the pride of seeing India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, setting global benchmarks, offering ideas and pioneering innovations across

He highlighted the remarkable advancements India has made in recent years, in the fields of Space, Biotechnology and Nuclear energy etc., positioning itself as a key player on the world stage.

Dr. Jitendra pointed out that India's Space sector has witnessed an unprecedented transformation, with a surge in ambitious missions and international collaborations.

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(HPB) cancer surgeries at

its state-of-the-art facility. In

a groundbreaking develop-

ment for cancer treatment in India, AIIMS Jammu has

successfully conducted its

first-ever colon cancer sur-

gery, marking a significant

step forward in enhancing

healthcare capabilities in the

Union Territory (UT). This

milestone ensures that

patients now have access to

advanced cancer treatment

options within their local

community, reducing the

need to travel to distant

The introduction of cancer

surgeries is expected to sig-

nificantly alleviate the

Healthcare burden on resi-

dents of Jammu and

Kashmir, providing them

with critical care at the early

stages of diagnosis. This new

service addresses a long-

standing need for specialized

GI and HPB oncology care

in the region, offering surgi-

cal treatment for various

types of GI and HPB can-

Colon cancer, one of the

most prevalent forms of can-

cer in India, has been a grow-

ing concern due to the

increasing number of diag-

noses annually. The lack of



Experiment (SpaDeX) is a testament to India's technological progress, paving the way for future space missions, including Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Bharativa Antariksh Station. India's upcoming international space station, he said.

India has also emerged as a preferred destination for satellite launches, earning global credibility, said the Minister. The nation has successfully launched 433 foreign satellites, of which 396 were deployed in the last decade alone, generating \$157 million and over €290 million in revenue from 2014-

The world's leading space agencies, including NASA, are now awaiting India's findings from the Moon's southern pole, a milestone that

AIIMS Jammu marks significant milestone

with initiation of cancer surgeries

early detection and special-

Sahil Sandal, Head (Offg.),

Department of Surgical

Gastroenterology, assisted by

Dr. Vinay and Dr. Ayush.

The anesthesia team com-

prised Dr. Sandipika Dogra

and Dr. Manpreet. The

patient underwent a left

hemicolectomy with a cover-

ing ileostomy for descending

colon cancer and was dis-

charged uneventfully on the

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar

Gupta, ED & CEO of AHMS

Jammu, stated, "This is a

proud moment for all of us.

Cancer treatment is often a

long and daunting journey

for patients, and we are com-

mitted to providing them

with the best possible care

right here in Jammu. The

initiation of cancer surgeries

will not only save lives but

also reduce the financial and

emotional burden on families

who would otherwise have to

AIIMS Jammu, with its

world-class infrastructure

and highly trained medical

staff, is poised to become a

hub for cancer treatment in

the region. The hospital

boasts modern operating

theaters, cutting-edge diag-

nostic equipment, and a

team of experienced sur-

travel far for treatment."

fifth postoperative day.

ing dominance in space research.

The Minister also highlighted India's pioneering role in biotechnology and bioeconomy. India became the first country to develop a DNAbased COVID-19 vaccine, demonstrating its leadership in vaccine research and development.

Furthermore, India has introduced the first herpesvirus vaccine for cervical cancer, reinforcing its position as a leader in preventive healthcare, he said

Dr Jitendra said, India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to nearly \$140 billion today, with projections to reach \$250 billion in the coming years.

The number of biotech startups has skyrocketed from just 50 in 2014 to nearly 9,000 today, making India a global hub for biotech innovation. In bio-manufacturing, India now ranks third in the Asia-Pacific region and 12th globally, with its influence expanding rapidly, he added.

The country has set an ambitious target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 50%, a commitment that is

geons and support staff to

Chandigarh, where many

residents of Jammu and

Kashmir previously had to

seek treatment. With cancer

rates steadily rising across

the country, the launch of

this service comes at a criti-

"By bringing cancer care

to AIIMS Jammu, we aim to make life-saving treat-

ments more accessible and

affordable for everyone.

particularly those in rural

and remote areas," added

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar

Gupta. "This initiative is a

advanced healthcare a reali-

ty for all sections of society.'

With its focus on medical

excellence and patient-cen-

tered care, AIIMS Jammu

is set to become a beacon of

hope for cancer patients in

the region. The successful

commencement of cancer

surgeries signifies a new

chapter in the institution's

commitment to advancing

healthcare in Jammu and

As AIIMS Jammu contin-

ues to expand its services.

the region can look forward

to more breakthroughs in

healthcare, further cement-

ing its role as a center of

excellence in medical care.

making

toward

cal time.

step

Jammu, along with BJP Purnima spokespersons Sharma and Balbir Ram Rattan. Gourav Gupta asserted that

internal failures. Instead of making false claims about to 10 times in the next decade, further solidifying its leadership. The nation's rapid economic ascent is evident in its global rankings, including its 12th position in bio-manufacturing and fourth place in scientific research publications.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by emphasizing that India's rise is no longer just about catching up but about setting the agenda for the world. "The clock has turned 360 degrees. Earlier, we learned from others: now, the world is looking up to us. The traffic is both ways," he



# BJP condemns Pakistan's baseless propaganda on Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

influencing global climate

strategies. The world has now

acknowledged India's nuclear

policy, which was envisioned by

Homi Bhabha for peaceful pur-

poses, as a model for responsi-

What could bring greater

pride to us, said Dr Jitendra,

than the prospect that the

country now ranked fourth

worldwide in scientific publica-

tions but by 2030, could sur-

pass the United States to

become the world's top-ranked

country in scientific publica-

Returning to Space sector

glories, Dr Jitendra said India's

ble energy development.

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta on Wednesday strongly condemned and rejected the recent resolution passed by Pakistan's Parliament unanimously regarding Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a desperate attempt to mislead the international community.

He was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar,

Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India, and no propaganda or baseless resolution can change this reality.



reporters at Jammu on Wednesday.

Kashmir, Pakistan should focus on addressing the grave human rights violations in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) and Gileit-Baltistan, where people are continuously denied basic rights. He further added that Pakistan is globally known as the epicenter of militancy, with groups like Lashkar-econtinue to face persecution and discrimination, yet the

country dares to lecture India on human rights.

He said that the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019, was a historic decision that paved the way for unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, the region has seen remarkable progress, with rapid infra-

Summit held in Srinagar clearly demonstrate how the international community has recognized the peace and development happening in J&K after the revocation of Article 370 and 35A. The successful hosting of such a prestigious event in the Valley is a testament to the fact that the world acknowledges J&K's transformation and rejects Pakistan's baseless claims. The international community not only participated in the G20 event but appreciated Government of India for successfully hosting it in Kashmir, recognizing the region's growing stability, prosperity, and global inte-

gration. Gaurav Gupta further stated that the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and J&K Assembly elections were held in an extremely peaceful manner, which proves that the people of Jammu and Kashmir stand firmly with peace, democracy, and development. The large voter turnout and enthusiastic participation clearly reflect that the residents of J&K have completely Pakistan's false narrative and are actively contributing to India's democratic process. This is a strong message to the world that Jammu & Kashmir is on a path of progress, and its people are looking forward to a brighter future under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

He further urged Pakistan to stop spreading lies, end state-sponsored terrorism, and focus on solving its internal problems. He reiterated that India remains committed to the peace, prosperity, and development of Jammu and Kashmir, and the people of the region have chosen democracy and progress over Pakistan's propaganda.

Gaurav Gupta said that Pakistan's repeated attempts to mislead the world will fail, just as they have in the past. He reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir is, and will always remain, an integral

#### JAMMU: The All-India ized treatment has conensure that patients receive Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Institute of Medical Sciences tributed to a low survival the highest standard of Gaurav Gupta said that at a structure growth, increased rate. However, the successful time when Pakistan is strug-Mohammed (JeM), and investments, record-breaking (AIIMS) Jammu has surgery at AHMS Jammu is This initiative is expected launched a major new healthgling with severe political and Hizbul Mujahideen, operattourism, and greater democare initiative with the initiapoised to provide hope to to reduce the pressure on economic crises, it is once ing freely from its soil. cratic participation. countless patients. The surtion of Gastrointestinal (GI) medical facilities in larger again using Kashmir as a Additionally, he pointed out He also highlighted that and Hepatopancreatobiliary gery was performed by Dr. cities like Delhi and diversionary tactic to hide its that minorities in Pakistan global events like the G20

### Rana co-chairs session on 'Flood Plain Zoning' in All India State Ministers' conference

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJASTHAN: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Wednesday cochaired a session on Flood Plain Zoning' in the second All India State Ministers' Conference on Water at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

While speaking on the Javed occasion, emphasized the need for adoption of flood plain zoning approach for comprehensive flood management and minimizing flood damage, ensuring a safe and more resilient region for the peo-

"In Jammu and Kashmir, work on Flood Plain Zoning is being pursued vigorously aligning with the guidelines issued by the Ministry for Water Resources. It is a big step towards achieving the goal of effective flood management through a combination of structural and nonstructural measures." main-



Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at session on 'Flood Plain Zoning' in second All India State Ministers' Conference on Water at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

tained the Minister. The two day conference from February 18 to 19 "Water themed Vision@2047- A Water Secure Nation," was organized by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The session deliberated on the need for integrated river and coastal areas manage-

ment highlighting strategies for basin level planning, integrating water and land use planning besides flood plain development and other measures

Rana highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir witrecurrent floods which gave rise to formulation of a comprehensive flood management plan to tackle

the problem. He said that there is a need for judicious use of land, reducing the impact of floods and balancing the risk with the need of land for public good simultaneously. "Flood plain zoning" is not just about restrictions but regulating so that protecting people, property and nature is accorded top most priority," he said. "The Governments both at the Union and at the UT level have to keep a focused approach on basic objectives flood management like minimizing damage, protecting natural flood defense, encouraging sustainable development and lowering economic costs," he added.

He also highlighted the initiatives being taken up by the government of Jammu and Kashmir for mitigating the impact of floods. He said that the government has installed modern gauge stations which transmit real

holders including the general public through a mobile app. Another, important forecasting tool known as the Integrated Forecasting System (IOFS)

time flood data to all stake-

has also been developed under the World Bank funded JTFRP. It also provides forecasted flood inundation maps with extent and depth that help identify vulnerable areas so that the administration can take proactive actions, including evacuation of communities, if necessary

Rana also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Water Resources for holding this important conference to strengthen the collaboration with the states and UTs. "We can collectively work towards a future for minimizing the devastating impact of floods and achieving the vision of Water Secure India @ 2047", asserted the Minister.

# Jammu Smart City, but not so smart planning!

Public Bicycle Project left to rust-lack of awareness, maintenance raises questions on Rs 6.50 Cr investment

Jammu's much-hyped public bicycle-sharing project, launched under the Smart City initiative, appears to be faltering. With an investment of Rs 6.50 crore, the project introduced 800 bicycles-720 unisex and 80 pedal-assisted electric bikes-spread across nearly 100 docking stations in the city. These GPS-enabled bicycles were integrated with an app-based checkout system that required Aadhaar authentication through the JSCL (Jammu Smart City Limited) app.

However, the on-ground reality presents a starkly different picture. Many docking stations are abandoned, bicycles are rusting due to lack of maintenance, and public engagement remains minimal. While the initiative aimed to provide an eco-friendly transportation alternative, citizens argue that it has become an example of poor planning and mismanagement.



Chitra Gupta, a local resident, expressed frustration, saying This is a complete waste of money. People in Jammu don't use bicycles for commuting. Instead of randomly placing these cycles all over the city, they should have been stationed outside parks and recreational areas where people might actually use them." She believes the concept

s flawed from the beginning and that the lack of dedicated zones for bicycles has led to their neglect. She suggests that placing them in controlled areas, such as parks or jogging tracks, would have been a more practical



Somdutt Verma similar concerns: "These No one is using them. What's the point of having them scattered all over the city when demand?"

questioned the feasibility of the project and suggested that the Rs 6.50 crore investment could have been better utilized to improve public transport or other civi-



Pritam Sharma acknowledged the idea was good but criticized the execution. He said, "Many people are unaware of how to use the system. Without awareness, this project is just a waste of time and resources." He pointed out a major flaw-the lack of public awareness Despite the technology-driv-

en approach, many residents are unfamiliar with the JSCL app, the check-in/check-out process, and the overall benefits of the system. He believes that unless the authorities actively educate the public, the project will remain underutilized.



Vikas Gupta, another agreed that the project had potential but was ultimately hampered by poor execution. people were

informed about the service and encouraged to use it, the outcome could have been different," he said, supporting the idea but criticizing the lack of aware



Thakur Karnail **Singh** emphasized the need for education and promotion, saying: People don't use the bicycles because they don't know how to. The government should focus on raising awareness and making the system user-friendly."

He suggested that the government conduct campaigns to familiarize people with the bicyele-sharing system and its benefits, stressing that a lack of education and promotion was a significant barrier to the project's success.