

# Dr Jitendra releases 'India Bioeconomy Report', 16 fold growth in 10 years

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: India's bioeconomy has witnessed extraordinary growth over the past decade, expanding 16-fold from less than \$10 billion in 2014 to an impressive \$165.7 billion in 2024. Announcing these achievements while releasing the India Bioeconomy Report 2025 (IBER 2025) at the BIRAC Foundation Day ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized biotechnology as a cornerstone of India's future economic growth. The sector now contributes 4.25% to the GDP, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.9% over the past four years, showcasing India's emergence as a global biotech powerhouse. This progress far exceeds the initial target of \$150 billion set for 2025, reflecting the government's focused efforts to foster research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in biotechnology. Dr. Jitendra also unveiled BioSaarthi, a global mentor-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after releasing "India Bioeconomy Report 2025" to mark the BIRAC Foundation Day at National Media Centre, New Delhi.

ship program designed to support biotech startups through structured, six-month mentor-mentee engagements. Leveraging expertise from the Indian diaspora, the initiative aims to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and position Indian startups for global success. The Minister credited the BIO-E3 policy-Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment-as a major driver of this growth, enabling the establishment of initiatives like Bio-AI hubs and bio-enabler hubs to integrate advanced technologies with biomufacturing.

India's biotech startup ecosystem has grown exponentially, from 50 startups in 2014 to over 10,075 today. Public-private partnerships and policy-driven support have created an enabling environment for innovation. Remarkable milestones include the development of India's first indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin, and successful gene therapy trials for hemophilia. Additionally, India's whole genome sequencing project, covering 10,074 individuals, promises to revolutionize precision medicine and healthcare. Collaborations between the

Department of Biotechnology and ISRO mark a significant leap in space biology and medicine, crucial for astronaut health as India prepares for its first space station. With Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) doubling from Rs 60,196 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,27,381 crore in 2024, India is well-positioned to lead the global biotechnology revolution. Dr. Jitendra hailed the bioeconomy's progress as transformative, akin to the IT revolution in the West, and called on stakeholders to harness biotechnology as a driver of

economic growth and global leadership. As BIRAC celebrates its 13th anniversary, India's bioeconomy stands poised to redefine the nation's future. The event saw the participation of dignitaries such as Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Chairman, BIRAC; Ms. Ekta Vishnoi, Joint Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Sh. Dharendra Ojha, Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau; Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director, BIRAC; and FCA Nidhi Srivastava, Director-Finance, BIRAC.



## Under 'Jawan se Awam tak' initiative, SP City South holds Darbar with officers, jawans of Sub Division East

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In an effort to strengthen the public service by increasing the communication and address the concerns of police personnel, SP City South, Jammu Ajay Sharma on Friday held a Darbar with the officers and Jawans of Sub Division East, Jammu. The interactive session, organized by SDPO East, was attended by SHOS, ICPPs and other officers and officials of the Sub Division. The Darbar was held at Police Station Bage e Bahu.



SP City South, Jammu Ajay Sharma along with cops during the Darbar.

The primary objective of the Darbar was to provide a platform for the Jawans to voice their grievances, discuss their wellbeing, and ensure an open dialogue with senior officers and thus enabling them to deliver more towards public service. During the session, SP City South acknowledged the dedication of the police personnel and encouraged them to maintain their commitment to public service. Key topics discussed included the implementation and understanding of the New Criminal Laws, ensuring efficient crime disposal, and enhancing the public image of the police. The prevailing security scenario was also reviewed, with a focus on proactive policing and maintaining public trust. Emphasis was laid on maintaining proper turnout and discipline. Personnel were encouraged to enhance their technical knowledge, particularly on the use of CCTNS. Additionally, the SP City South highlighted the upcoming exam on the New Criminal Laws scheduled for March 23rd and urged all personnel to prepare thoroughly. Other significant points of discussion included action against visible crimes to ensure a safe environment for the public, strengthening beat patrolling and ensuring proper maintenance of beat books, and effective utilization of e-Sakshya app and creation of SIDs.

The welfare of Jawans was prioritized in the Darbar, with discussions on issues related to family welfare, transfers, and leave. SP City South reiterated the department's commitment to addressing the genuine concerns of the personnel and enhancing their overall wellbeing. Jammu Police remains steadfast in its mission to ensure public safety, maintain law and order, and uplift the morale of its personnel through continued engagement and welfare initiatives.

## BJP committed to address people's day-to-day problems: Yudhvir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Friday held a public grievance camp at Purani Mandi Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public. The camp witnessed a huge rush of people including Taxi Union, OBC community people, bus stand hawkers, transporters, member of Sain Samaj and people from all sections of society from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leader.



MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public grievances.

Various deputations, including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues

such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other develop-

ment-related topics, as well as personal issues. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured to resolve their issues by taking up the authorities concerned. Sethi said that the BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people. The senior BJP leader also stated that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

## Govt making every effort to fulfill commitment towards betterment of J&K: Satish



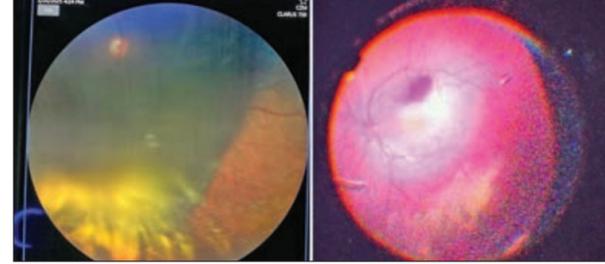
**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Friday held two public outreach camps at Selyote and Rah-Selyote Panchayat, far flung areas of Chamb Constituency. The Minister assessed the issues and concerns of the people of these remote areas besides launching blacktopping, drainage and protection wall work on 800 m long link road to Hardumalwara. This development work is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), at an

estimated cost of Rs 46 lakh. The Minister also inaugurated augmented 100 KV transformer in the area. The outreach camps witnessed a significant turnout of people from all walks of life, highlighting numerous issues ranging from infrastructural development to basic amenities. The people apprised the Minister of various issues pertaining to road connectivity, water supply, unscheduled power cuts, updation of ration cards, shortage of staff in health centres and schools and other development mat-

ters. The Minister patiently heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them of swift redressal. He emphasised the unwavering commitment of the government towards addressing the pressing issues facing the common people. Satish Sharma also highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government, including measures to improve road connectivity, strengthen the healthcare system, promote educational opportunities, 200 free unit and 10kg ration to AAY beneficiaries, free ride to women, increase in pensions and many more. The Minister stated, "the government is making every effort to resolve public issues and fulfil its commitment towards betterment of Jammu and Kashmir." He reaffirmed the government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister, to deliver governance at the people's doorsteps.

## AIIMS Jammu's Eye Department achieves milestone by initiating vitrectomy services

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has marked a significant milestone by successfully initiating operative services in the vitreo-retina specialty. The Ophthalmology Department at AIIMS Jammu recently performed vitrectomy surgeries on two patients, becoming the first government healthcare facility in Jammu to provide such advanced surgical care. A vitrectomy procedure was performed by Dr. Nitin Kumar, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, yielding successful outcomes. Another patient, diagnosed with vitreous hemorrhage following trauma, underwent a successful vitrectomy under the expertise of Dr. Ridham Nanda, Assistant Professor in the



department. The successful completion of these complex surgeries underscores the expanding capabilities of the Ophthalmology Department at AIIMS Jammu. Dr. Bhavani Raina, Head and Additional Professor of the Ophthalmology Department, has been instrumental in driving this initiative, ensuring meticulous

planning and execution. Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, expressed his appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the ophthalmology team. He emphasized that this achievement reflects the institute's commitment to offering specialized healthcare services to

the community, making advanced ophthalmic procedures accessible to the people of Jammu. "This is a remarkable achievement for AIIMS Jammu, showcasing our dedication to delivering quality healthcare and expanding our expertise in specialized fields. Such surgeries will now become a regular part of our services," stated Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta. The introduction of vitrectomy services aligns with AIIMS Jammu's mission to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art healthcare services while enhancing patient outcomes. The institution aims to further strengthen its capabilities in ophthalmology, offering more advanced treatments and reducing the need for patients to seek specialized care outside the region.

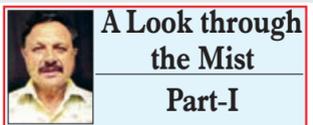
# Politicians first like British divided Hindu in castes & now are dividing Indians in name of Religion

### Let all Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist & Jain compete with each other as a Unit

**DAYA SAGAR**  
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has suggested in 2010 for reservation quota for Muslim also as unit and had also in a way hinted inclusion of 'some' Muslims in SC category while he was attending a Conference held by All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaz on 1st July 2010 in Patna. Similar demands / suggestions have been made regularly even after that but more for cultivating religion based controversies and less for meaningfully arriving at some genuine solution worth closing the topic once for all. Even some state governments have gone a step forward for ordering some reservation quota in services / education for Muslim as a religious community which surely has not been good & also not correct constitutionally since the reservations for the Schedule caste are not religion based but are more based on social discrimination which had been declared and accepted as a curse prevailing in Hindu society only where as other religious communities had declared that they had no social discrimination based on caste/ sect in them. So the Schedule Caste (socially

and educationally backward) were identified from amongst only Hindu (Sikh also accepted social discrimination and also included). As regards the Schedule Tribe where the question primarily was of only backwardness people from among all religions who qualify as a tribe are eligible for reservations in legislature as well as services/ education and there citizens carrying any religion/ sect are included. Nitish Kumar had then in 2010 also professed / said <"In India caste has deep root, people change their religions but not castes. So, persons belonging to SC category whether they are Muslims or other should be treated in the same manner. Discrimination on the basis of religion is not good for democracy. At the time when I was MP, I had raised the issue to remove the condition of religion from Article 341, but unfortunately it has not been done till date." One part of his statement as regards Art 341 was not surely correct since Art-341 no were refers to any religion and hence there was no question of removing condition of religion from Art-341 [Art 341(1) The President may with respect to any

State [or Union territory], and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State/or Union territory, as the case may be. (2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.] It will be pertinent to mention here that vide C.O. 19 -the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 issued in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 341 of the Constitution of India after consultation with Governors and Rajpramukhs of the



States concerned was pleased order "1. This Order may be called the C o n s t i t u t i o n (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. 2. Subject to the provisions of this Order, the castes, races or tribes, or parts of, or groups within, castes or tribes, specified in Parts I to XVI of the Schedule to this Order shall, in relation to the States which those Parts respectively relate, be deemed to be Scheduled Castes so far as regards members thereof resident in the localities specified in relation to them in those Parts of that Schedule. 3. Notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 2, no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste: Provided that every member of the Ramdasi, Kabirpanthi, Mazhabi or Sikligar caste resident in Punjab or the Patiala and East Punjab States Union shall, in relation to that State, be deemed to be a member of the Scheduled Castes whether he professes the Hindu or the Sikh religion."; and also The Constitution (Scheduled

Castes) orders (Amendment) A??, 1990 No. 15 OF 1990 where in Section -2 it was said " In paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1990 for the words "or the Sikh", the words, "the Sikh or the Buddhist" shall be substituted". It is not out of place to mention here that before 1947 the then India Indian Empire Government had named the caste based / profession based social discrimination officially in 1930s as 'depressed classes' / Schedule caste only amongst those practicing only Hinduism which had been questioned by no one and was accepted by Hindu society. What Nitish Kumar said regarding separate Muslim quota could be surely debated and need be debated. But one thing that need be well received from what Nitish Kumar had said in 2010 that those who change religion (hope he meant that those who moved to Islam had done that since they had been facing caste based discrimination / social backwardness in the religious society they abandoned) keep on facing discrimination even after change over in the new religion / society too. That means that it was wrong to attribute

the alleged curse of caste based / profession based social discrimination officially in 1930s by the British by naming 'depressed classes' only amongst those practicing as Hindu and even in 1950s by Government of India too in Hindu only. Had leaders of Hindu/Muslims / Christians/ Buddhist/ truthfully accepted in 1949 -50 (i) that the castes and social discrimination are not limited only to those who profess 'Hinduism' but could be there in any society; and (ii) had the leaders amongst the Muslims/ Christian/ Buddhists also named the socially discriminated castes (if there) amongst them; then the socially and educationally backward castes from amongst the Muslims / Christians (even Parsi / Buddhist) too would have been included in Schedule Caste (SC) category in 1950/ 1956 itself. So in that case reservation for SC would have been kept more than 12.5 % in 1950 itself, say 15% (say 17% now) and the politicians thereafter would have been checked from exploiting the Hindu & Muslim in the name of religion. (The writer is a Sr. Journalist and Social Activist)