

India today global player in life sciences, biomanufacturing; J&K needs integrated ecosystem: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: India today has emerged as a global player in life sciences and biomanufacturing, driven by groundbreaking advancements in medical research and cost-effective healthcare, said Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, adding that Jammu & Kashmir needs to develop an integrated ecosystem so that it can also be a part of the India growth story. Dr. Jitendra emphasised the need for an integrated approach to further strengthen the sector; urging greater collaboration between government, private industry, and research institutions. Highlighting India's strides in biotechnology, genomic sequencing, and indigenous drug development, the Minister underscored the importance of fostering a dynamic ecosystem that accelerates medical research and enhances healthcare accessibility. Reiterating the government's commitment to innovation in the health sector, Dr. Jitendra spoke about the potential of biotech and medical research in shaping the future economy. He noted that India's bi-manufac-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after felicitating Medico MLAs of J&K at a programme organised by "Friends of GMC Jammu" Society at Jammu on Sunday.

turing sector now ranks among the top three in the Asia-Pacific region, further attracting global collaborations, including interest from figures like Bill Gates. Dr. Jitendra felicitated medico MLAs from Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledging their contributions to both the healthcare sector and public service here today. Addressing a gathering in Jammu, he emphasized the unique role of medical professionals in governance, stating that their background equips them with a deep sense of responsibility, ethics, and service-mindedness essential for leadership. Dr. Singh, a medico-turned-politician himself, highlighted

that many of India's most successful doctor-politicians have earned public trust by maintaining professional integrity while in medical practice. Citing examples from history, he noted that doctors who transitioned into politics carried forward their commitment to public welfare, reinforcing faith in the system. Reflecting on his own journey from medicine to politics, Dr. Jitendra shared how public faith in a practitioner often translates into electoral success. "If you are a popular, sincere and trusted medical practitioner, people are more likely to support you in public life," he remarked. The Minister urged the

medico MLAs to take up pressing health and governance issues, particularly in rural areas where medical professionals can play a pivotal role in shaping policies that directly impact people's lives. He emphasized that their presence in legislative bodies gives them a unique opportunity to advocate for health reforms and better medical infrastructure. Dr. Jitendra also stressed the need to reduce dependence on government-driven solutions and encourage private participation in healthcare.

He pointed to the success of India's space sector privatization, which has spurred innovation and investment, as an example of how the healthcare sector can also benefit from reduced bureaucratic hurdles. He added that initiatives like medical research startups, private healthcare facilities, and public-private partnerships could significantly boost the healthcare system in regions like Jammu and Kashmir. In his speech, Dr. Jitendra lauded the recent medical advancements spearheaded by India, including the first indigenous antibiotic, Nafthromycin,

and the country's pioneering work in gene therapy for haemophilia. He also highlighted India's strides in genomic sequencing, which he described as a game-changer in personalized medicine and healthcare.

The event saw participation from several eminent personalities, including senior doctors, policymakers, and healthcare professionals. Dr. Jitendra expressed confidence that the medico MLAs would use their expertise and leadership to bring about tangible improvements in healthcare policies and service delivery. The felicitation ceremony served as a platform to acknowledge the crucial role that medical professionals play beyond hospitals-in governance, policy-making, and nation-building. As more doctors step into public service, their ability to bridge the gap between healthcare and governance is expected to bring meaningful change to communities across the country.

Founder of the Friends of GMC Jammu, Prof. TR Raina, Principal GMC Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Prof. Pawan Malhotra also spoke on the occasion.

Security Forces corner Terrorists Near India-Pakistan Border in Kathua,



LG releases profile of IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu



LG Manoj Sinha and others releasing IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu's Profile.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday released IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu's Profile titled "IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu at a Glance: 2024-25", at Raj Bhawan. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the man-

agement and staff of IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu.

The Profile is a compilation of a series of activities and events that have been carried out at the IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu in 2024-25. It highlights the achievements and endeavours of the Regional Centre of IGNOU in taking the mandate of "Education at Doorsteps"

forward to remote corners of the region.

Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu; Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director and Dara Singh, Assistant Registrar were present.

DyCM urges youth to take inspiration from Martyrs in fight against drug menace



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary speaking during public Darbar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Sunday called upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to draw inspiration from the courage and sacrifice of young martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev in combating drug abuse.

Addressing a gathering at Ram Leela Ground here on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, he emphasized on the need for younger generation to resist the growing drug menace and learn from the devastating impact it has had in neighbouring state.

The event was attended by Former MP and Minister Lal Singh; Former MLA and Minister Babu Singh; Former MLA and Minister Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma and several other representatives.

Highlighting the supreme sacrifices made by India's freedom fighters, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that the youth must emulate their patriotism and commitment to the nation. He urged them to choose constructive lifestyles, stay away from substance abuse, and contribute positively to society. "We must honour our heroes by playing a constructive role in nation-building, raising our voices against all challenges, and striving to take our country to new heights," he said. Calling for collective action

against social evils, he urged the public to reflect on the direction in which society is headed and work together for a healthier, drug-free community.

Reaffirming India's rich heritage upheld by Saints, Rishis, Peers, and Pajris, he encouraged future generations to preserve the nation's integrity and diversity, which will make India a unique and thriving democracy.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the urgent need to curb drug trafficking, particularly in border district Kathua. "The threat of drug abuse from neighbouring State is looming large over Kathua. We must take a united stand and uproot this menace from our society," he said. He called upon all sections of society to pledge their commitment to fighting this crisis.

He also underlined the government's resolve to curb illegal mining in Jammu and Kashmir. "Illegal mining will not be tolerated, and strict action will be taken against those who attempt to exploit our resources," he asserted.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister accompanied by senior officers of R&B inspected the ongoing construction work on the Juthana Bridge, a crucial infrastructure project under the Central Road Fund (CRF).

The 500-meter prestressed concrete double-lane

bridge, along with its 1,875-meter approach roads, has been allotted a cost of ₹3,120 lakhs. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining high-quality standards, he directed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to the approved Detailed Project Report (DPR) and warned that any deviations or irregularities would not be tolerated.

Once completed, the bridge is expected to benefit approximately 10,000 to 15,000 people, significantly improving connectivity and easing transportation in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Sanji Morh-Khanpur road, where residents raised concerns about water logging and the need for proper drainage. In response, he instructed XEN Hiranagar to construct an adequate drainage system, incorporating suitable land as agreed upon by the local community.

The Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to infrastructure development and ensuring transparency in public works while urging citizens to remain vigilant and actively participate in building a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish announces launch of trials for DL, fitness certificates at Khour Block



Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma addressing gathering.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&A, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma on Sunday presided over a Public Darbar at Sainth to address the grievances and developmental concerns of the local population.

During the Darbar, the locals brought several issues and demands before the Minister like construction and upgradation of link roads, compensation, mining-related issues, repairs to irrigation canals and irregular water and power supply, repair of lane drains, inclusion and deletion in ration cards, upgradation of schools and health centres. The Minister gave patient hearing to the grievances and issued on-spot directions to concerned officers for redressal. While speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the importance of transparent governance and directed the officers to conduct field visits to ensure grievances are addressed effectively. Reaffirming government's commitment to provide better facilities to people at their doorsteps, Satish Sharma announced that trial for Driving Licence and Fitness Certificate will be stated in Khour Block and a separate slot for Khour will be introduced for applying in online portal. He also assured that separation, inclusion and deletion in ration cards will be initiated soon to resolve this genuine public issue. The Minister asked the officers for speedy redressal of grievances, particularly for welfare schemes and public utilities. He asserted that providing relief to downtrodden, poor and needy people shall be our prime motive. The Darbar was attended by senior officers, including RTO Jammu Jasmeet Singh; SDM Satish Kumar Sharma; Tehsildar Rajjit Singh; BDO Sahil Abrol besides other senior officials of line departments, besides huge gathering of locals were also present on the occasion.

KPs pay tributes to 2003 LeT attack victims in Nadimarg village

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A group of Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday paid tributes to their brethren killed by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists at Nadimarg village in Pulwama district in 2003.

While Kashmiri Pandits have been paying tributes to the 24 victims in Jammu every year; this was the first time that the community held the programme at the scene of the inci-

dent. LeT terrorists, dressed in combat uniforms, cordoned off the Nadimarg village on the intervening night of March 22 and 23. They rounded off all men and shot them dead after lining them up in the open.

Bhushan Lal Bhat, one of the natives of the village who migrated to Jammu, said the locals decided to hold the function in the village itself this year.

"We have been doing it in Jammu every year but it was decided that this year we shall do it at Nadimarg. There is no need to say what happened that night as the deserted houses are a testimony to the massacre," he said.

A large number of children accompanied the men and women who gathered to pay tributes as part of acquainting them with their roots.

Silent Threat-rising heart rhythm disorders and urgent need for awareness: Dr Sushil

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr. Sushil Sharma and his dedicated team of doctors and paramedics took a commendable initiative by organizing cardiac Awareness cum health check up camp at village Bhatyari area of Bishnah Jammu especially focused on heart rhythm disorders.

The event was strategically planned to coincide with Pulse Day, an initiative supported by the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), aimed at encouraging people to "Feel the Pulse" and recognize abnormalities in their heartbeat patterns.

The camp attracted a large number of participants, including patients with pre-existing cardiac conditions, elderly individuals, and even young adults who wished to assess their heart health

proactively. While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that heart health has always been a critical concern, but in recent years, the alarming rise in heart rhythm disorders, or arrhythmias, has brought new urgency to the discussion.

In an alarming revelation, Dr Sushil said, recent medical reports have indicated that one in three individuals worldwide is at risk of developing a serious heart rhythm disorder, a condition that remains largely under diagnosed and poorly understood.

"Heart rhythm disorders, medically known as cardiac arrhythmias, occur due to malfunctions in the heart's electrical conduction system, leading to irregular, too fast, or too slow heartbeats. While some arrhythmias are benign, others can escalate into life-threatening condi-



HoD Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr. Sushil Sharma and his team carrying out check up of the patients during the camp.

tions such as stroke, heart failure, or sudden cardiac arrest. Given the increasing prevalence of these disorders, medical professionals are raising urgent concerns about the lack of awareness and the need for proactive diagnosis and management. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the European

Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) has called for immediate action to improve early detection and prevention," Dr Sushil said.

He elaborated on the significance of heart rhythm disorders, their causes, symptoms, risk factors, and potential complications.

He emphasized that condi-

tions such as atrial fibrillation (AF), ventricular tachycardia, and bradycardia could often go unnoticed until they result in severe consequences. The highlight of his talk was the importance of early detection, lifestyle modifications, and regular heart monitoring.

In addition to medical

addressed the attendees with a powerful message.

He expressed his deep concern over the growing burden of heart rhythm disorders and emphasized that awareness, early detection, and timely medical intervention could significantly reduce mortality and morbidity associated with these conditions.

He urged everyone present to take charge of their heart health by adopting healthier habits, regularly checking their pulse, and seeking medical attention at the first sign of irregularities.

He concluded by stating, "Heart rhythm disorders are silent threats that demand loud awareness. Every heartbeat matters, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that we take proactive steps to safeguard our heart health. Let today be a turning

point-let us pledge to be more vigilant and committed to fighting this growing epidemic."

Prominent members of the area Mukesh Sharma, Ramesh Chander, Sanjay Ganpatya and Ghanishyam Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for accepting their request and conducted cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their area and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp included Dr. Yashwant Sharma, Dr. Dhaneshwar Kapoor and Dr. Aditya Sharma.

Paramedics and volunteers include Raghav Rajput, Rajkumar, Ranjeet Singh, Maninder Singh, Rohit Nayyar, Vikas Kumar, Gaurav Sharma, Rajinder Singh and Nirvair Singh Bali.