

US State Delaware Governor calls on Dr Jitendra, seeks pharma collaboration

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India and the United States should move towards a structured India-Delaware partnership in advanced biomanufacturing, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Monday, proposing the creation of a small working group to translate discussions into concrete collaborations in research, manufacturing and startup ecosystems.

The proposal came during a meeting of the visiting US delegation led by Delaware Governor Matt Meyer who called on the Minister at Seva Teerth here today. Both the sides focused on bilateral collaboration in Pharma, biotechnology, clean energy and innovation-led industrial growth. Dr. Jitendra underlined that science, technology and biotechnology form a key pillar of the India-US comprehensive strategic partnership, and said India sees "good potential for deeper engagement" with US states that have strong innovation ecosystems. He highlighted India's emergence as a global hub for biotechnology and pharmaceutical innovation, with capabilities spanning research and devel-



USA State Delaware Governor, Matt Meyer calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at Seva Teerth, New Delhi on Monday.

opment to large-scale, cost-efficient manufacturing.

Pointing to India's integrated innovation architecture linking government, academia, industry and startups, the Minister said the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), with 37 laboratories and over 7,500 scientists, anchors much of the country's industrial R&D effort. He noted CSIR's role in national missions ranging from Green Hydrogen and Quantum Technologies to biosciences and biopharma,

and its contributions to process development for key drugs.

Referring to Delaware's bio-science ecosystem, including the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Bio-pharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), Dr. Jitendra Singh said there was "strong potential" for collaboration in advanced biomanufacturing, AI-enabled processes, rapid scale-up technologies and next-generation biologics and vaccines. He suggested that India's strength in cost-

efficient manufacturing, combined with Delaware's proximity to major US pharmaceutical companies, could support co-development of affordable biologics, biosimilars and vaccines for global health needs.

The Minister also outlined specific avenues for cooperation, including joint advanced biomanufacturing platforms, translational research bridges linking Indian institutions and Delaware research centres, startup and incubation linkages, and workforce co-training in GMP manufacturing, regulatory science and quality systems. Collaboration on regulatory science, standards alignment and resilient supply chains for critical biopharmaceutical inputs was identified as another priority area.

During the interaction, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that India's Ministry of Science and Technology directly supports around 150 incubators across academic institutions and universities and that the government has established a Rs 1 lakh crore research, development and innovation fund to catalyse private-sector and deep-tech investment. He said these plat-

forms could be leveraged to deepen engagement with Delaware's research, manufacturing and startup ecosystem.

Governor Meyer described Delaware as a state with a long-standing science and industrial heritage and highlighted its bio-pharmaceutical manufacturing base, expanding port infrastructure and business-friendly environment. Members of the delegation, which included representatives from government, universities and industry, discussed opportunities in clean hydrogen, workforce development, startup incubation and corporate incorporation frameworks.

Concluding the meeting, both sides agreed that a structured working group mechanism would help carry forward discussions into actionable programmes, including joint research calls, startup exchanges and institutional partnerships. The engagement adds a state-level dimension to the broader India-US strategic partnership, with biotechnology and advanced manufacturing emerging as priority areas for the next phase of cooperation.

Holi celebrated with zeal at Home for Aged and Infirm



Inmates and officials of Home for the Aged and Infirm during Holi celebration.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The festival of colors was celebrated with remarkable warmth and heartfelt enthusiasm at the Home for the Aged and Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, where inmates and members of the Managing Committee came together in a spirit of joy, harmony, and togetherness.

The celebration was graced by Er. Pankaj Gupta, President of the Home; Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary; and Sh. Satpal Sharma, Member of the Managing Committee, whose presence and participation added dignity and affection to the occasion. Adding vibrant energy and youthful charm to the celebration were enthusiastic college students who played a commendable role in beautifully coordinating and uplifting the programme. Ms. Bhoomi Sharma, Ms. Shakshi Khajuria, and Ms.

Amelia Aishwarya from Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; Ms. Esha Sharma from Central University of Jammu; and Ms. Simran Naug from M.A.M. College extended their wholehearted support in organizing and managing the celebration with dedication and grace. Their active involvement infused the atmosphere with positivity and ensured that every resident felt included and cherished. The inmates joyfully

applied colors to one another, exchanged warm greetings, and shared moments filled with laughter and nostalgia. The festival became a bridge between generations, as young students and elderly residents celebrated side by side, creating bonds of affection and mutual respect. The programme was thoughtfully conducted, keeping in mind the comfort and well-being of the residents. Songs, cheerful interactions, and heartfelt conversations made the celebration deeply meaningful. For many inmates, the occasion rekindled fond memories of past Holi celebrations, making the day emotionally enriching and truly special.

On this auspicious occasion, the office bearers conveyed their warm Holi greetings and reiterated the Home's commitment to fostering not only physical care but also emotional fulfillment and social engagement. They appreciated the sincere efforts of the students whose presence transformed the celebration into a vibrant and memorable gathering.

The festivities concluded on a colorful and uplifting note, leaving behind radiant smiles and cherished memories - a beautiful reminder that the spirit of love, unity, and compassion continues to flourish within the Home.

JKAACL releases two books for children

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Jammu on Monday organised a grand book release function here at K.L. Saigal Hall.

The two publications released are the Punjabi book "Tehakde Phull" authored by Balwinder Singh and "Rhymes for Kids" by Alka Sharma.

Principal Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Kulvinder Kour graced the event as the chief guest, while eminent writer and artist S. Jang Singh Verma presided over the function.

Among others present included Additional



Officials releasing two books for children at JKAACL, Jammu.

Secretary Arun Sunali Gupta; Additional Secretary Lal Chand; authors Balwinder Singh and Alka Sharma and Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, Popinder Singh Paras.

Welcoming the august gathering, the Additional

Secretary Arun Sunali Gupta extended a warm welcome to the chief guest and other distinguished guests and complimented the authors for their commendable literary contributions.

In her address, Dr. Kulvinder Kour lauded the

authors for their valuable contribution to children's literature in Punjabi and English. She appreciated the proactive role of the Academy in organising literary and cultural programmes to inspire the younger generation. She also expressed her willing-

ness to extend the collaboration of Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar to the Academy for organising joint programmes in the future.

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Additional Secretary, Lal Chand highlighted the significance of the twin books and appreciated the authors for enriching children's literature, saying that the Academy is committed to preserve and promote the Art, Literature and culture.

Dr. Kusam presented a detailed paper on the Punjabi book "Tehakde Phull" authored by Balwinder Singh, while Popinder Singh Paras presented a comprehensive

review of "Rhymes for Kids" by Alka Sharma.

Senior Writer and Journalist Jang Singh Verma applauded the Academy's consistent efforts in promoting language and literature.

Prof. Raj Kumar, Rattan Singh Kanwal and Suraj Singh Suraj hailed the publications noting that the books by such dedicated authors are the need of the hour and deserve due recognition and honour.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by S. Popinder Singh Paras, while the vote of thanks was presented by Chief Editor, Gojri, Dr. Javid Rahi.

Six Superintendents transferred in Prisons Dept

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on Monday transferred six Superintendents in the Prisons Department with immediate effect.

According to the order issued by Chandraker Bhatti, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, presently posted as Superintendent Central Jail Anantnag, has been repatriated to his parent department, Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The order further stated that three police officers have been deputed to the Jammu and Kashmir Prisons Department. Ch Iftikhar Ahmed, SP, DyCO 24 IR Bn, has been posted as Superintendent Jail, District Jail Poonch; Rayaz Iqbal Tantray, SP, DyCO 6 IR Bn, as Superintendent Jail, District Jail Anantnag; and Aejaz Ahmad Malik, SP, DyCO 2 IR Bn, as Superintendent Jail, Special Jail Pulwama.

Saba Shawl, Superintendent Jail, working as Staff Officer to DGP, Prisons, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Superintendent Jail, Central Jail, Srinagar; Mushtaq Ahmad Malla, Superintendent Jail, District Jail, Anantnag as Staff Officer to DGP, Prisons, J&K; and Sunil Kumar, DySP, deputed to the Prisons Department, J&K has been posted as Superintendent Jail, District Jail, Kishtwar.

Muskan Foundation celebrates Holi Festival



Children of Muskan Foundation with dignitaries celebrating Holi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Udaan Special School registered under Muskan Foundation, a special school for differently-abled children, celebrated Holi with great enthusiasm.

Foundation president Parveen Sangral attended the celebration, highlighting the foundation's efforts in empowering children with disabilities.

She emphasized the importance of Holi as a symbol of unity, positivity, and the triumph of good over evil, encouraging everyone to

embrace the spirit of harmony and inclusivity.

She highlighted how festivals like Holi not only bring joy but also strengthen the bonds among trainees and faculty, fostering a sense of community and shared learning.

The event was filled with laughter, music, and cheerful exchanges of colors as the students and staff applied gular (colored powder) to each other, symbolizing friendship and happiness. The atmosphere was further enhanced with traditional Holi songs

and cultural activities, adding to the festive mood.

The students expressed their delight in celebrating the festival together.

The celebration concluded with refreshments and group photographs, capturing the essence of happiness, togetherness, and empowerment.

It is pertinent to mention here that Muskan Foundation, registered under The National Trust, provides education and support to children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Mahanpur, Raipur, Dhama, Chunera, Dambra, Palehal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Ramkot, Khoon, Ghar, Gujroo Nagrota, Lakhri, Gura Kalyal, Ludera, Ujh, Tyhara Kalyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 and 05 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Part of Gandhi Nagar, Part of Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Trilokpur, Talab Tillo, Seora, Gajansoo and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramanagar, Chowki Majpouri and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bali Gulaba, Chowki Choura, Maira Mandriani, Tanda and adjoining areas will remain affected on

March 03 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Main Bazaar, Chabutra Bazaar, Jakhani, Pakhlai, Pathi, Panchery, ITBP, Sansoo, Garhi, Railway, P.T.C Krimchi Mansard Army and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 03 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Majalta, Mansar, Battal, Dhema and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Dhar Road, Sangoor, MES & Cherry Sial and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 05 from 12 noon to 4.30 pm.

IIMC Jammu's 6-day CBP for DIPR staff concludes

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The six-day Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement Training Programme for officers and officials of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) concluded at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) here on Monday.

The training programme was attended by around 50 staff members of DIPR, who received intensive training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications and contemporary media practices.

Addressing the valedictory session of the programme, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Dilip Kumar congratulated the participants for successfully completing the training and encouraged them to apply the newly acquired skills in their professional responsibilities. He appreciated their enthusiasm in learning AI Fundamentals and Applications, Advanced AI & Practical Applications, Print Media Basics and Advanced Practices, as well as Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director (Hq) DIPR, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina congratulated the participants and expressed confidence that they would implement their learning in a professional and effective manner within the department.



Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Dilip Kumar honouring a participant.

Prof. Anil Saumitra and Information Officer DIPR, Alka Misra were also present at the valedictory session and extended their best wishes to the participants.

During the session, Course Coordinator of the training programme, Dr. Vinit Kumar congratulated the participants for successfully completing the training and comprehensive report.

The participants also received certificates during the valedictory session of the training programme.

Pertinently, the programme commenced on 23rd February, 2026 and was designed to strengthen the institutional communication capacity of DIPR personnel by equipping them with modern media skills aligned with evolving public information needs and governance requirements.

The training programme was structured into three batches. The first batch underwent training in 'AI Fundamentals and Applications and Advanced AI & Practical Applications'.

The second batch focused on 'Print Media Basics and Advanced Practices' while as the third batch received training in "Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices" between February 27 and March 2, 2026.

On the first day, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal spoke about the changing patterns of government communication. Bhawani Singh conducted sessions on fact-checking, digital verification tools, and AI-based multilingual drafting and speechwriting. Rajeve Kumar delivered a session on AI-enhanced multimedia and visual public relations. On the second day, Dr. Rajendra P. Misra delivered a lecture on government communication in an AI-driven digital media ecology. Divyvasu Sharma trained participants in AI-powered crisis communication and guided them in developing AI-based projects. Dr. Dilip Kumar concluded the day with a session on AI ethics and cyber safety in govern-

ment organizations.

The third day focused on content creation and print media practices. Divyvasu Sharma conducted a session on content creation and linguistic design using AI tools. Vishav conducted practical classes on print media basics, layout principles, and QuarkXPress. ulshan Kumar trained participants in graphics and image editing basics.

On the fourth day, Prof. Anil Saumitra delivered a lecture on press release writing with AI integration. Dr. Ravinder Singh discussed the basics of feature writing and success stories. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal trained participants in print production using MS Word, while Bhawani Singh conducted a session on fact-checking and verification in print media.

The fifth day was dedicated to electronic media. Ramesh Kumar Raina, former officer of Doordarshan Jammu, and Vinod Cheervi delivered ses-

sions on the introduction to electronic media and camera basics. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal trained participants in AI-assisted news packaging and editing. Bhawani Singh conducted a session on AI applications for social media reels and short videos.

On the sixth day, Dr. Rajendra P. Misra trained participants in government communication within an AI-driven digital media ecology, along with scripting, packaging, and voice-over techniques for electronic media. Divyvasu Sharma conducted sessions on fact-checking, deep-fake detection, and emerging trends such as live AI streaming and digital archiving.

The initiative reflects IIMC Jammu's continued commitment to enhancing professional competencies in government communication through structured, technology-driven training programmes.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR26-14	16.03.26 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14604/F1, 15136/F1, 14618/F1, 12422/F1, 15708/R1 & 12498/F1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.irps.gov.in		
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NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-PRK26-4	13/03/2026 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of Parking contract at Hoshiarpur Railway Station.
EAFZR-ATM26-5	16/03/2026 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for setting up ATM at Firozpur Cantt., Phagwara, Dhandari Kallian, Hoshiarpur, Nawana Shehar Doaba & Fazilka Railway Station.
EAFZR-CTG26-1	16/03/2026 at 11.00 Hrs.	Allotment of Catering Stall on contract at Phagwara Railway Station.
FZR-Linen-26-4	16/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for Procurement of Linen Covers with Advertisements rights for supply in AC Coaches of Mail/Express Trains having primary maintenance over Firozpur Division.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.irps.gov.in		
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