

Dr Jitendra addresses ‘International Genetic Meet’, describes India as emerging global destination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI:

Addressing the "International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology" (ICGEB) Board Meeting of Governors here today, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions described India as the emerging global destination and said, this is the most appropriate venue for such deliberations at a time when India has much to contribute to the world community.

The Meeting is being attended by representatives from more than 60 countries of the world.

On the occasion, the Minister dedicated India's first of its kind public funded DST-ICGEB 'Bio-foundry' at the 31st Board Meeting of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in New Delhi.

Founded in 1983, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is a premier intergovernmental organization dedicated to advancing research in the life sciences. India is one of the founding members of ICGEB. The organization operates through three main centres: New Delhi (India), which focuses on research and biotechnology applications; Trieste (Italy), which serves as the headquarters and coordinates global operations; and Cape Town (South Africa), which functions as a key hub for research, development, and international collaboration.

ICGEB has 69 member countries and plays a key



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the "International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology" (ICGEB) Board Meeting of Governors at New Delhi.

role in biotechnology-led sustainable global development through research, training, and technology transfer.

Addressing the Board of Governors Dr. Jitendra Singh said "This milestone aligns with the Government of India's BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment), approved under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed that under the Modi Government, India's bioeconomy has seen an exponential rise - from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024, with a target to achieve \$300 billion by 2030. He emphasized that India is at the right time, in the right place, with a highly enabling political ecosystem to lead the next global biotechnology revolution.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's remarkable progress in the biotechnology sector. He noted that India now ranks 12th globally in biotechnology and holds the 3rd position in the Asia-Pacific region. The country has emerged as the largest vaccine producer in the world and is home to the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally. A testament to this growth is the exponential rise in biotech startups, which have surged from just 50 in 2014 to over 10,000 in 2024.

Recalling the success of Mission COVID

Suraksha, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the development of the world's first DNA-based vaccine. He proudly stated that India gifted these vaccines to the world under the Vaccine Maitri initiative, showcasing its commitment to global health equity.

Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned the development of India's 1st of its kind Indigenous generation antibiotic for monotherapy in bacterial pneumonia Nafithromycin, backed in part by DBT-BIRAC. He also cited the creation of diagnostic kits for Dengue and HIV.

Emphasizing the national importance of biomanufacturing he lauded the BioE3 Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2024, as a game-changing step to build a resilient ecosystem for bio-based products and promote high-performance biomanufacturing. He stated that India is now poised to lead the next wave of industrial revolution with sustainable biotech-driven manufacturing practices.

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed pride in ICGEB New Delhi's pioneering role in implementing the BioE3 Policy, especially through the newly dedicated Bio-foundry. The facility will serve as a platform for scaling up bio-based innovations in collaboration with startups and researchers.

He shared that 105 international students from 29 countries have

earned PhDs, along with 112 postdoctoral researchers, reflecting its global academic excellence. He also highlighted the signing of an MoU between DBT and IN-SPACE for advancing space biotechnology and space medicine. Dr. Singh underscored the importance of maintaining a strong focus on five key sectors to drive the next phase of India's biotechnology growth. These include bioenergy, bio-industrial, bio-plantation, biomedical, and biomanufacturing. He emphasized that strategic development in these areas will not only strengthen India's bioeconomy but also contribute significantly to sustainable development and global competitiveness.

The Minister reiterated, "India has the most enabling milieu today for biotechnology. The time is right, the ecosystem is ripe, and we have visionary leadership steering us toward becoming a global biotechnology leader."

The ICGEB Board was represented by Dr. Jelena Begovic, President of the ICGEB Board of Governors, who underscored the critical importance of biotechnology in addressing the needs of today's rapidly changing world.

Dr. Lawrence Banks, Director General of ICGEB (Italy), lauded India's exceptional commitment and impressive strides in the biotech sector.

proud of their government and their forces. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for their bravery and commitment," he said. The yatra was flagged off by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader Indresh Kumar, who is also the outfit's patron, in Delhi's Motia Khan in Paharganj area.

Muslim outfit's Bharat Yatra concludes in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

The RSS-affiliated Muslim Rashtriya Manch's Bharat Yatra, carried out in the memory of Pahalgam terror victims, culminated here on Wednesday.

The yatra, which was flagged off in Delhi and was aimed at promoting peace and unity, concluded at the

historic Clock Tower at the Lal Chowk.

The outfit's national convener Abu Bakr Naqvi said the April 22 attack was shocking for the entire world.

"I think it was the first time that a terror attack took place in the name of religion. It has left 140 crore Indians grieving. Every citizen wanted action

against Pakistan. The terrorists attacked our brothers because of their identities. The world mourns this tragedy," he said.

Naqvi expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for listening to the voice of the people and taking strong action against Pakistan.

"The people of India felt

Tara Chand visits Suchetgarh, Pargwal sector, migrant camps of border areas



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Working President Pradesh Congress Committee and former Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand on Wednesday visited Suchetgarh, Pargwal and migrant camps of border areas and access the ground realities post ceasefire by India and Pakistan. Tara Chand accompanied by senior Congress leaders, Ex Minister Bushan Dogra, General Secretary PCC Narinder Sharma, Spokesperson PCC Sahil Sharma, Vijay Shastri Secretary, Ricky Dalotra, Vijay Chib, Block President Ramesh Kumar, Block President Daljeet Singh, Harnam Singh Manhas, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Balwadar Singh, ex Sarpanch Ratan Lal, Jagdish Singh and others. Tara Chand urged to the Central and UT government to immediately sent survey teams to access the loss of life, property and livestock. He promptly demanded 10 Marlas plots with Rs 5 lakh for construction of their small houses in safer places, so that they can save their families at the time of tension on borders. Tara Chand appealed to the residents of border areas not to shift in their respective houses by their own till the government order for this. He also showed gratitude towards the various spiritual organisations which came forward at this crucial time to help the border migrants by establishing camps in their Ashrams and providing three time meal and also milk to their infants. Tara Chand thanked to the Spiritual leader and head of Sahib Bandigri organisation for providing shelter and meal to migrants of Pargwal area.

Former Deputy CM appreciated the bravery and valour of Indian armed forces which retaliated every single bullet came from other side.

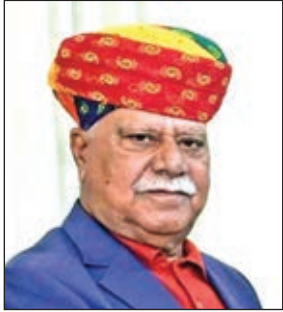
Paying rich tributes to army personnel, civil officers and innocent people who lost their precious lives during this war like situation, Tara Chand said that the whole nation will remember their supreme sacrifices in years to come.

Ex-Minister Ch Sukhnandan demands bunkers for all border residents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to the growing crisis along the International Border (IB) in the Jammu region, senior BJP leader and former minister Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar has made a strong appeal to the government for the immediate construction of individual bunkers for all families living in border villages. The demand came after he met a delegation of distressed villagers who shared their experiences of living under the shadow of relentless cross-border shelling.

Residents from several severely affected villages - including Border village Treva, Changia, Nandpur



Abdullian chanana, Gole Pattan and Pangore Chagralim the former minister and narrated the trauma they face daily.

A villager told Ch Sukhnandan Kumar that his family had just brought home his 95-year-old father after heart surgery when the area

Marianna Maculan, Secretary of the ICGEB Board of Governors, was also present during the proceedings. Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), highlighted India's growing leadership in the biomedical and bio-industrial sectors, emphasizing recent initiatives that are shaping the future of these domains. Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Adviser at DBT and Dr. Ramesh Sonti, Director, ICGEB were also present at the 31st Board Meeting.

BJP hails success of operation Sindoor, call it a turning point in India's national security doctrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP highlighted the impact and significance of Operation Sindoor, the successfully carried out strategic military operation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a press conference held at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, here on Wednesday.

The press conference was addressed by Arun Gupta, spokesperson, J&K BJP, accompanied by Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson of J&K BJP and flanked by Dr. Tahir Choudhary and Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, spokespersons, along with Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP.

Speaking to the media, Arun Gupta described Operation Sindoor as a watershed moment in India's journey towards asserting its national interests with pride and determination.

He emphasized that the operation has reshaped the national psyche, strengthened the spirit of nationalism, and redefined how Indians perceive their role in the nation's progress.

"This operation has not just been a military success; it has transformed the environment across the country. It has taught us the true value of sacrifice and rekindled the pride in our identity as Indians. The sense of unity and strength that has emerged from this operation marks a new beginning," said Arun Gupta.

He further stated that India is now more resolute in defending its sovereignty. The idea of nationalism is now firmly rooted in action, unity, and commitment to the motherland.

"Our leadership has clearly stated that the nation stands above all, and every citizen



Spokesperson J&K BJP, Arun Gupta addressing press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

must internalize this message. We must confront any internal or external force that seeks to harm our country's integrity," he added.

Adv. Sunil Sethi underlined the strategic and symbolic importance of Operation Sindoor, noting that it sends a clear message to the enemies of peace. He said the operation reflects the changing posture of India, which has evolved from appeasement to active defense.

"This is a transformed India. We have moved beyond symbolic gestures like flying pigeons, and have embraced strength, symbolized by the deployment of BrahMos missiles. This change reflects our maturity and preparedness to strike when provoked," he stated. Adv. Sethi reiterated that India's fight is not against any specific nation or civilians, but strictly against terrorism and those who nurture it. "The new India will not allow borders to act as constraints in eliminating terror threats. Whether within the country or beyond our borders, we will strike at the heart of terrorism," he declared.

He also criticized Pakistan for continuing to sponsor and protect terrorist elements, noting that the Pakistan Army itself has been complicit in terrorist activities, including attending funerals

of militants. "This blatant support for terrorism justifies our tough response. The world must know that India will no longer tolerate provocations," he said.

He praised the Indian Armed Forces and scientists for their exceptional performance during the operation. They highlighted how India's advanced defense systems neutralized multiple threats, including Pakistan's drone incursions, and protected civilian areas effectively.

"Our forces have destroyed Pakistan's drone missions mid-air, right in front of the people of Jammu. This is a testament to the strength of our technology and preparedness," said Adv. Sethi.

Sunil Sethi clarified that Operation Sindoor has been suspended, not concluded, and that India reserves the right to resume military action should further provocation arise. "This is not the end. We are committed to completely eradicating terrorism and its infrastructure," he said. "Pakistan has been forced to kneel, despite its alliances with nations like China and Turkey."

He also emphasized that India would not accept interference from any third country. "Any future talks with Pakistan will solely focus on two issues - terrorism and

Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK)," he asserted.

Dr. Tahir Choudhary took a strong position against international narratives, particularly those coming from the United States.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Modi has made all actions under Operation Sindoor transparent to the public, showing India's commitment to democratic accountability.

He said the resilience of India's defense systems has made the world uneasy, showcasing India as a formidable power.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia acknowledged the role of opposition parties that stood united with the Modi government. "The entire country has seen that India conducted this operation responsibly, without harming civilian areas. In contrast, Pakistan targeted innocent people. This moral high ground strengthens our position globally," he noted.

Dr. Pardeep denoted the Operation Sindoor as the portrayal of unity, strength, and national pride. "This is a new India, and we all must stand with it. Our nation, our forces, and our leadership have shown the world that Bharat will not bend, and will always rise stronger in the face of adversity," Dr. Pardeep stated.

freedom, our Indian forces would have completed the mission and wiped out terrorism from the face of the earth," they said. "Pakistan has become a safe haven for terrorists. We want PoK back, and if Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided on a ceasefire, we are with him. We are always ready to stand with our country."

Moved by their issues, Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar assured the villagers that he would take up their concerns with higher authorities, particularly emphasizing the need for concrete bunkers for every family in the border areas. He said such protective structures were no longer a luxury

but a necessity to ensure the safety, dignity, and psychological well-being of the border residents.

He also praised the BJP leadership and lauded the efforts of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for swiftly making arrangements for border migrants who had to abandon their homes during times of extreme shelling and crisis. As villagers continue to live in fear, the demand for individual bunkers grows louder. With rising tensions and repeated shelling, safety infrastructure is critical not just for physical protection but for restoring a sense of normalcy.

Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar's intervention and the villagers' courageous voices highlight the urgent need for central and UT authorities to act swiftly and provide lasting relief and protection to the border residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

Other who were present included ex-Sarpanches Vijay Kumar, Jyoti Kumar, Surjeet Singh, Balkar Singh, Ch Papu Abdullian, Ch Khanna, Ragubir Singh, Ashok Choudhary, Balkar Kour Treva, Ex Chairman MC Arnia Romesh Saini, Basant Saini President Bishnah Cooperative Marketing Society.

CS takes stock of relief efforts in Jammu's border areas post shelling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a move aimed at assessing the ground situation and ensuring the well-being of affected populace, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday visited the border subdivisions of Akhnoor and Khour, that had witnessed unrelenting cross border shelling over the past few days.

Accompanying the Chief Secretary were Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, along with other senior officials from the local



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo interacting with border residents during visit to border subdivisions of Akhnoor.

administration.

The Chief Secretary inspected the local Higher

Akhnoor, which had been converted into temporary shelters for the residents displaced due to cross border shelling. He interacted with the affected families to assess their concerns and issues. He reviewed the arrangements made for their stay, including the provision of food, water and power supply.

CS also assessed the medical facilities available to the sheltered villagers. He took note of the adequacy of medical aid being provided to the inmates. He directed the health officials to enhance medical services, ensuring that

these distressed families receive proper treatment without the need to travel elsewhere.

While interacting with the inmates, the Chief Secretary sought feedback regarding the arrangements. He instructed the local administration to remain in constant touch with the affected people, ensuring their needs are met without any disruption.

Later, the Chief Secretary toured the villages impacted by the shelling, inspecting the damage inflicted upon the residential houses and

public infrastructure. He asked the administration to promptly assess the damages and initiate relief measures for the affected population. He also emphasised the need for long-term safety measures, including construction of community bunkers, to safeguard the residents from future incidents.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting the border residents and ensuring their safety and well-being amidst such challenging circumstances.