

India targets \$300 Billion Bioeconomy by 2030: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday called for a wider public understanding and inclusive participation in India's biotechnology mission, stating that every Indian is a stakeholder in the country's bioeconomy. Speaking here during the nationwide celebration of World Bioproduct Day - The BioE3 Way, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment to realising a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030.

The event, organised by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its agencies BIRAC and iBRIC+, marked a novel national experiment - 'Voices Across the Cities: A Synchronized National Hourly Dialogue Series'. Over eight hours, select institutions across Indian cities hosted theme-based discussions on marine biomass, industrial valorisation, forest resources, and agri-residue innovations, reflecting the regional diversity of India's bioproduct capabilities.

Calling the format a "beautiful hybrid model," Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the decentralised and inclusive outreach. "This is more than a science event. It's an outreach movement," he said, adding that involving students, startups, and industry leaders was essential to make



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the nationwide Dialogue series held to mark the "World Bioproduct Day" at New Delhi on Monday.

the mission sustainable. "It is easy to start a startup. What's difficult is to keep it started," he said, underlining the need for early industry partnerships and financial support for biotech ventures. The Minister highlighted that India's biotechnology ecosystem has grown from just around 50 startups a decade ago to nearly 11,000 today - a leap made possible by policy backing and institutional partnerships. Referring to the recently launched BioE3 Policy, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that it lays the groundwork for India to lead in sustainable biomanufacturing by aligning bioeconomy goals with environmental sustainability, economic growth, and equity.

Bioproducts aren't limited to laboratories anymore. They're about livelihoods - from biodegradable packaging to eco-friendly personal care, from rural employment to green jobs," he said. He also emphasised that the

future industrial revolution will be driven by bioeconomy, and India, he believes, has taken the lead.

The Minister acknowledged the challenges faced by young scholars in biotech, pointing out the mismatch between parental expectations and individual aptitude in career choices. He termed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 a "game-changer" that would allow students to pursue disciplines of interest with flexibility. "We are seeing a new generation with real aptitude and capacity to learn," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also drew attention to the disparity in India's past policy priorities, especially in agriculture, which he said was historically informed by western models. Stressing the untapped potential of India's natural resources and traditional knowledge systems, he said, "Foreign researchers come to India for what they don't have - our resources and diversity.

We should learn to value them first."

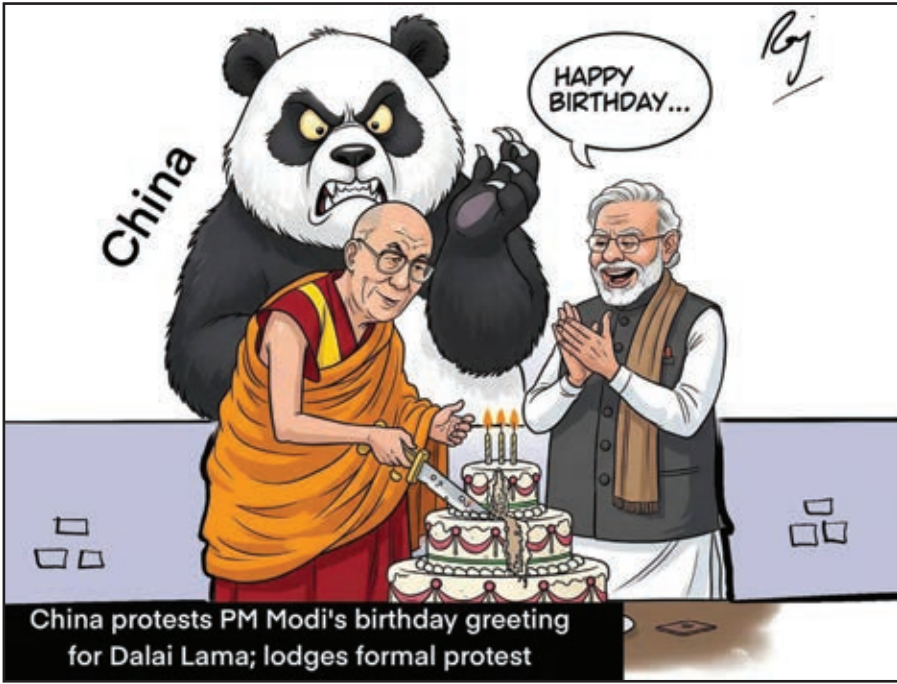
In his address, Secretary, DBT and Chairman of BIRAC, Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale outlined steps being taken to operationalise the BioE3 Policy. These include support for pilot manufacturing, region-specific innovation missions, and strengthening the pipeline from research to market. He underscored DBT's role in catalysing collaborations among academia, startups, and industries for scalable biotech solutions.

The Minister also urged for stronger social media outreach, using success stories, local languages, and relatable formats to communicate biotech's relevance to common citizens. "If we want to attract young talent, we must link biotechnology to profitability and livelihood, not just academics," he said.

The day-long event also served as a reminder of

biotechnology's reach beyond urban laboratories - into farms, oceans, forests, and industries. Dr. Jitendra Singh proposed future editions of the programme include voices from farmers, fishermen, and non-scientist stakeholders. "Let them tell us what they need from science and what science needs to deliver for them," he said.

As India positions itself for a greener, innovation-driven economy, today's event reflected a shift in how science communication, policy, and public participation intersect. And at the heart of it lies a broader message: biotechnology is not just for scientists - it's for everyone.



Empowering voices of justice: National Gurjar Advocates Conference held in Dehradun

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DEHRADUN: A historic and vibrant gathering of legal minds from the Gurjar community took place in Dehradun as the All India Veer Gurjar Advocates Council hosted its National Conference of Gurjar Advocates on Sunday, July 6, 2025. The prestigious event was held at the Grand Legacy Prime Hotel, GMS Road, near Gurjar Bhawan, and brought together over 50 distinguished advocates and legal professionals from 12 states across India.

The conference was graced by several eminent dignitaries. Justice V. S. Siradhana, Former Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, served as the Chief Guest, while Balbir Singh and Neetu Singh, both former Judges, contributed with their judicial experience. Also present were G. S. Awana, former Deputy Commissioner, Delhi Police, and Advocate Rashid Azam Inqlabi, former District Magistrate of Jammu and Kashmir, who was the Guest of Honour.

Justice Siradhana encouraged young lawyers to approach the profession with integrity, deep legal insight, and a service-oriented mindset. He also guided participants on judicial exam preparation and professional ethics.



Former Judges along with advocates and judicial officers during the conference.

Awana enlightened attendees with a session on the challenges of cybercrime and the evidentiary nuances of the Indian legal system.

Advocate Rashid Azam Inqlabi delivered a powerful address emphasizing the urgent need for legal aid in rural and underprivileged communities. He also highlighted the significance of engaging youth in the legal and social development of regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

Sessions by Judges Balbir Singh and Neetu Singh focused on gender justice, the POCSO Act, and the role of legal professionals

in safeguarding women's rights. In a compelling tribute, Prof. Tanvi Bhati and Yasvir Bhati presented a scholarly reflection on Vijay Singh Pathik, the legendary freedom fighter and reformer, showcasing his literary contributions and revolutionary ideals.

In his keynote address, Advocate Bharat Bhushan Gurjar made a strong pitch for the enactment of the Advocate Protection Bill, citing over 728 advocate deaths due to violence. The call for legal safety and dignity for practitioners was unanimously supported by the house.

The event marked the third national conference after successful meets in Jaipur and Chandigarh. The Council also announced the

compilation of a national directory of 7,000 Gurjar advocates, aimed at fostering connectivity and collaboration.

The presence of legal luminaries like Adv. G.S. Thind (Patiala), Adv. Karan Singh (Delhi), Adv. Devender Tiger (Noida), Adv. Ravindra Singh (Dehradun), Adv. Vikas Awana (Delhi), and a strong delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, including Adv. Zaffar Iqbal and Adv. Mehmood Rizvi, added immense value to the deliberations.

With renewed commitment to unity, advocacy, and social justice, the All India Veer Gurjar Advocates Council reaffirmed its mission to strengthen legal awareness and uplift the Gurjar community across India.

BRO CE calls on Dy CM; discusses road infra in Jammu province

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BRO Chief Engineer Jammu Province, Brigadier R K Mishra, called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary and apprised him regarding the road projects being executed under Border Road Organisation (BRO) in Jammu Province.

The meeting was aimed to ensure that the road infrastructure development in Jammu province progresses efficiently, contributing to improved connectivity, economic growth and overall development of the region.

The CE provided key updates on various road



BRO Chief Engineer Jammu Province, Brigadier R K Mishra calling on Dy CM Surinder Choudhary.

works being executed in the Jammu division especially in Pir Panjal area including Mughal Road.

In depth discussion was held on several issues like forest clearance, compensa-

tions, removal of structures obstructing the alignment, quality assurance and others.

During the discussion, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized on removal of bottlenecks hindering the

progress of projects.

Underscoring the importance of preventing delays in execution of these vital projects, the Dy CM said that removal of structures obstructing the alignment of roads is crucially important. He also exhorted upon the concerned to expedite land acquisition process, with emphasis on timely disbursement of compensation among the landowners.

Stressing the urgency of timely project delivery, the Dy CM asked all the executing agencies to work in tandem, ensuring prompt completion of these essential infrastructure initiatives.

Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee delegation calls on LG



Delegation members of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, District Baramulla calling on LG Manoj Sinha on Monday.

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SRINAGAR: A delegation of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, District Baramulla led by its President S. Paramjit Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The members of the delegation put forth various issues pertaining to welfare and empowerment of Sikh Community in the UT of

J&K including extension of benefits under SRO 425 to non-migrant Sikh community members, grant of ST Status based on language and ethnicity, political representation of Sikh Community, constitution of J&K Sikh Development Board and special recruitment drive for Sikh Youth.

The delegation also requested for the grant of lease for Guru Nanak

School, run by District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee in Baramulla and allocation of land for a memorial in honour of Sikh community members martyred during the tribal raids by Pakistan in 1947.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the members of DGPC Baramulla that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues projected by them.

Govt to establish MRI, Cath Lab worth Rs 37.50 cr in GMC Baramulla this year: Sakeena Itoo

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SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the healthcare infrastructure and other facilities across Baramulla district.

MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; MD NHM; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Finance, Health and Medical Education Department; Director Coordination New GMCs; Principal GMC Baramulla; CMO and BMO Baramulla besides other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The Minister emphasized on the critical importance of strengthening the healthcare delivery system at grassroots level. She highlighted that health sector is an important sector for societal develop-



Cabinet Minister Sakeena Itoo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

ment and wellbeing, therefore there is no room for any compromise.

Highlighting that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is ensuring prime focus on development of health sector, Sakeena Itoo said that an MRI (3 Tesla) worth Rs. 25 crore and Cath Lab worth Rs. 12.50 crore will be established in GMC Baramulla during current financial year. She added that these facilities will revolutionize the healthcare outreach in the North Kashmir

district and its adjoining areas.

She said that around 50 kanal of land has been transferred to GMC for establishment of separate OPD block and Diagnostic Block, mortuary, which will improve the quality of healthcare at this prestigious health facility of North Kashmir.

The Minister added that Dialysis facilities at SDHs and CHCs besides AI based X-Ray machines and other facilities will also be established in various hospitals and centres of Baramulla.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena also directed the officers to establish digital X-Ray facility at the GMC Baramulla. She also asked them to provide 104 Ambulance vehicle to the institute.

Expressing concern over certain gaps, Salina Itoo called for immediate redressal of issues that hamper effective health service delivery. "Health is a fundamental right and remains top priority of present government. There is no scope for complacency or compromise in this

vital sector," she stated.

The Minister urged the officers to expedite pending upgrades, ensure proper staffing and maintain transparency in resource utilization.

While reviewing other aspects related to healthcare sector, the Minister directed the Principal GMC and other officers that Hospital Development fund should also be used for upgrading basic amenities in the hospitals. She also directed the hospital administration and other district officers of health department that any issue related to non-functioning of medical equipments in health facilities should be raised with the concerned quarters immediately for prompt rectification.

During the meeting, Associate Professor, GMC Baramulla, Dr. Shumail Bashir gave a detailed presentation on different aspects of functioning of the hospital.

IIIM celebrates World Bioproducts Day; pledges commitment to principles of BioE3 Policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, celebrated World Bioproduct Day today with a simple yet impactful event aimed at promoting awareness of bioproducts and their role in sustainable development. The event brought together scientists, students, startups, and key stakeholders to highlight the critical importance of bioproducts in achieving a cleaner, greener, and more economically vibrant future.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, emphasized the national importance of the BioE3 Policy-Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment. He noted that the policy provides a strate-

gic framework for advancing high-performance biomanufacturing and scaling up bio-based innovations across India.

Dr. Ahmed highlighted the unique advantage of the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh region as a biodiversity hotspot-often referred to as the 'Bio-mass State of India' due to its rich reservoir of medicinal, aromatic, floral, and microbial biodiversity. "With sub-tropical zones in Jammu, temperate zones in Kashmir, and cold deserts in Ladakh, this region offers immense potential for bio-based innovations," he said.

A key moment of the event was the BioE3 Pledge, led by Dr. Ahmed, where attendees including scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs, and media representatives



Director, CSIR-IIIM Dr. Zabeer Ahmed along with other dignitaries unveiling honey product on World Bioproduct Day.

committed to supporting sustainable bioproduct development. Dr. Ahmed reaffirmed CSIR-IIIM's continued support for innovation through its Bio-Incubation Centre, mentorship network,

and robust innovation ecosystem.

Dr. Saurabh Saran, In-Charge, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator (TBI), outlined the vision of the BioE3 policy and CSIR-

IIIM's thematic focus areas, including Aroma Mission, Phytopharmaceuticals, and livelihood-linked innovations. He noted that over 125 startups have been incubated through CSIR-IIIM's

TBI platform, resulting in the development and commercialization of more than 20 bioproducts.

A major highlight of the day was the launch of a new honey product by CSIR-IIIM

incubatee and entrepreneur Mr. Aditya Sumbriya, founder of M/s Pahadi Amrit. Sharing his startup's journey "from the Himalayas to national markets", Mr. Sumbriya showcased how the venture sources honey and natural products from the Himalayan belt while adhering to CSIR-IIIM's stringent quality and standardization protocols. Today, Pahadi Amrit distributes its products both across India and internationally.

The event reinforced CSIR-IIIM Jammu's leadership in the bioproduct domain and its strong commitment to the BioE3 mission, aimed at catalyzing economic growth, environmental sustainability, and employment generation through biotechnological innovation.

Organized under the patronage of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, the event was held under the overall supervision of Er. Abdul Rahim. The inaugural session proceedings were conducted by Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Scientist, while Dr. Suphal B. Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist and Nodal, Aroma Mission, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

The program was graced by several eminent scientists, including Dr. Dheeraj Vyas, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, PMC; Dr. Naveed Qazi, Sr. Principal Scientist & Head, NPC; and Dr. Raj Kishore, Sr. Scientist & Head, QMI Division, Dr. Shashank Singh, Sr. Pri. Scientist and many Senior Scientists and Students.