

Indian to land on Moon in 2040, announces Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a momentous celebration marking the first-ever National Space Day, Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced here on Friday that an Indian will land on the surface of Moon, fifteen years from now, in the year 2040. Addressing the nation in the august presence of President of India Droupadi Murmu, Dr. Jitendra Singh reflected on India's remarkable achievements in Space exploration and its ambitious future goals in a majestic programme held at Bharat Mandapam.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking on the occasion of National Space Day at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Friday.

The theme for this inaugural celebration, "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga," resonated throughout the event.

"In the last six decades, India has not only touched the lives of its citizens but also reached the Moon," said Dr. Jitendra Singh. He emphasized the significant progress made in the past decade, including the successful Mars Orbiter Mission, the launch of AstroSat, Chandrayaan-2, and Chandrayaan-3, and the upcoming Aditya-L1 solar mission, and the XPOsat, an X-Ray astronomy mission.

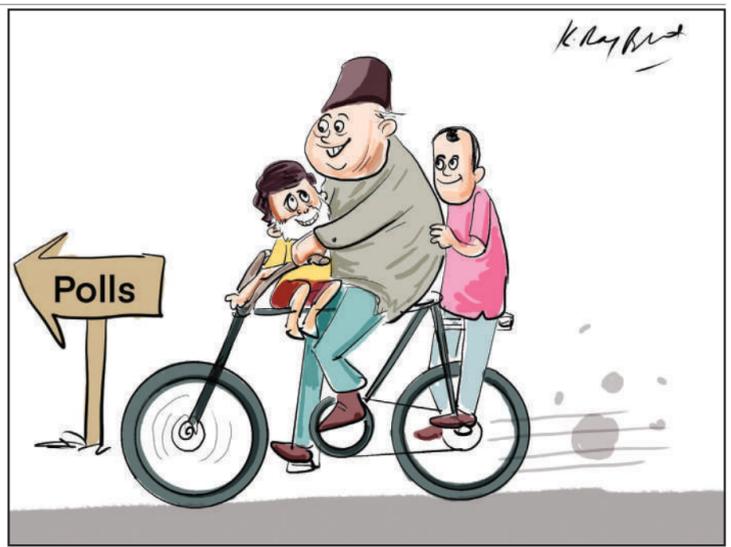
Dr. Jitendra Singh traced India's Space journey beginning only 55 years back in 1969 when the US astronaut Neil Armstrong had already set his foot on the Moon. He lauded the scientific community for their unwavering dedication, which culminated in India becoming the first nation to land on the Moon's South Pole. The Minister of State for Space credited the policy support and leadership provided by Prime Minister Modi since 2014 for accelerating scientific missions and unlocking the potential of India's scientific community. He also noted the significant increase in Space startups, now numbering nearly 300,

following the opening of the Space sector to private participation. He echoed the Finance Minister's projection that India's space economy will grow from \$8 billion to \$44 billion in the next decade. Dr. Jitendra Singh praised PM Modi for "unshackling" the space sector and making it more accessible to the public, as evidenced by the over 5,000 spectators and nearly 1,000 media personnel who witnessed the Chandrayaan-3 launch live at Sriharikota. Looking ahead, Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined the Space Vision 2047, which includes the commissioning of the Bharatiya Antariksha

Station (BAS) by 2035 and Indian astronauts landing on the Moon by 2040. He expressed confidence that what begins with human spaceflight in Low Earth Orbit will expand to India's own scientific activities onboard an indigenous space station, leading to further lunar exploration and beyond. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's end-to-end capabilities in Space transportation, platforms, and ground stations were highlighted as a key aspect of the country's self-reliance in the space sector. Dr. Singh also underscored the impact of space applications on sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, natural resource management, disaster management, and satellite communication, which have all benefited from India's space advancements.

As the nation celebrates its first National Space Day, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that this annual event will inspire greater awareness and enthusiasm among citizens about India's space journey and its future endeavours.

In the final session of the day, Pradeep Chavda, Senior Director - Global HR Transformation at Sodexo, spoke about the importance of embracing diverse behaviors and setting clear milestones for personal and professional growth. He encouraged students to develop a problem-solving attitude to achieve their entrepreneurial goals. Dr. Vivek Mishra moderated this session. Shailesh K. Lohiya, Librarian at IIM Jammu, introduced students to the "Knowledge Management Center," showcasing the library's resources and digital tools. His session guided students on leveraging these assets to enhance their research and academic experience.



Priya slams freebie politics; calls on voters to reject gimmicks & support BJP's transformative agenda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Priya Sethi launched a scathing attack on political parties that rely on distributing freebies to manipulate electoral outcomes. She warned that the practice of promising unearned rewards is eroding the foundational values of society, comparing it to a termite that weakens the very fabric of the nation.

In a statement issued here today, former minister Priya Sethi strongly condemned regional parties like the National Conference (NC) and others, accusing them of doing nothing to uplift or empower women during their 70-year-long rule in Jammu and Kashmir. "For decades, they had the opportunity to bring change, but they did nothing for the women or the marginalized sections

of society. Now, with elections approaching, they suddenly resort to handing out freebies to sway voters," she stated with force, criticizing NC's last-minute attempts to gain public favor.

In contrast, the senior BJP leader highlighted the achievements of the Modi government, asserting that in just 10 years of leadership at the Centre, the BJP has brought transformative changes to Jammu and Kashmir. "The Modi government's decisive actions have put an end to the culture of stone pelting and hartals that once paralyzed the Valley. Today, schools and colleges no longer shut down due to unrest; normalcy has returned, Valley flourishing with tourists and people are empowered to build their future," she remarked.

Sethi emphasized that while the BJP has worked tirelessly to implement welfare policies that uplift women and other deprived sections through targeted schemes, rival political parties continue to engage in "Revdi" culture. "Revdi culture is all about handing out lollipops to win votes. It does nothing to improve the quality of life for people or drive real transformation," she said sharply.

Urging the public to see through these political ploys, Priya Sethi said, "People must understand the hidden motives behind these freebies. They are not in the country's best interest but are short-sighted tactics aimed at grabbing power. Such offers are harmful to the nation's progress and the future of its people."

Priya Sethi asked voters to reject the deceptive tactics of opposition parties and instead rally behind the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections. "Only the BJP, with its track record of development and transformation, can ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for Jammu and Kashmir."

Support the party that delivers real change, not empty promises."

Day 2 embraces global perspectives, corporate insights, digital transformation at IIM Jammu's Orientation Program

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IIM Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, kicked off the second day of its orientation program for the fourth batch of the Integrated Program in Management (IPM) at the Vivekananda Classroom, Jagti Campus.

The day began with a refreshing session titled "Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness," led by renowned Yoga Guru Sahil Mehra and coordinated by Team Anandam.

Held at the Canal Road Campus, this early morning session emphasized the importance of mental and physical well-being as students begin their academic journey.

Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Chairperson of International Relations at IIM Jammu, highlighted the significance of global perspectives through the International Student Exchange Program.

He encouraged students to embrace cross-cultural competencies and international collaboration. Following this, Mr. Asif Khan and Avinash from the IT & Systems



A resource person addressing students at IIM Jammu.

Department provided an overview of the institute's IT infrastructure, policies, and future plans, ensuring students understood the technological resources available to them.

Industry leader Akbar Jafri, Director at Deloitte, delivered a strategic session on the "Future Roadmap for Budding MBA Graduates," discussing the evolving business landscape and essential skills for future leaders. This session was moderated by Dr. Praveen Kumar, IIM Jammu faculty.

The focus then shifted to digital innovation with Tarun Kapoor, VP

of Digital Transformation at Mankind Pharma, who led a session on "Enabling Business with Digital Transformation," exploring the crucial role of digital advancements in business growth. Dr. Sarbjit Singh moderated this insightful discussion.

Prashant Kalra, Senior Director at Delhivery, provided an in-depth look at the logistics sector with his session on "Understanding Logistics: The Journey from Warehouse to Delivery." His insights into the logistics and supply chain emphasized the impor-

tance of staying ahead of industry trends to ensure operational excellence. This session was moderated by Dr. Sundar R., IIM Jammu faculty.

In the final session of the day, Pradeep Chavda, Senior Director - Global HR Transformation at Sodexo, spoke about the importance of embracing diverse behaviors and setting clear milestones for personal and professional growth. He encouraged students to develop a problem-solving attitude to achieve their entrepreneurial goals. Dr. Vivek Mishra moderated this session. Shailesh K. Lohiya, Librarian at IIM Jammu, introduced students to the "Knowledge Management Center," showcasing the library's resources and digital tools. His session guided students on leveraging these assets to enhance their research and academic experience.

IIM Jammu concluded the second day of orientation, setting a robust foundation for the IPM 04 Batch. The program reflects the institute's commitment to excellence, collaboration, and holistic development.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Ghar Colony, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar, Patoli Brahmana, Purkhoo, Mishriwala, Barnai, Kailash Nagar, Gajan Singh Pura, Sangam Theer, Doordarshan, TV Tower PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 24 from 6 am to 8 am.

Is voting really a power for common masses?



Raman Sharma, Businessman
People are very enthusiastic because many of their pending tasks are now expected to be addressed. People believe that with their chosen MLA and CM, their aspirations will be fulfilled. Just as Article 370 was removed and stone-pelting has stopped here, holding these elections will bring more peace to Jammu and Kashmir. The elected MLAs will help complete our pending projects.



Rohit Gupta, Businessman
In Jammu and Kashmir, assembly elections had not been held for many years, but they are finally going to take place. The people are also happy with this decision. I believe that stability will surely come to Jammu and Kashmir now, as this is good news for the people. Whichever Government comes to power, we just want the decisions to be made in favor of the public.



Suresh Lagotra, Businessman
The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been waiting a long for assembly elections, but this time their wait is over, and the assembly elections are set to take place in the Union Territory. I believe that after the elections, all the pending works will be completed, and I hope that whichever government comes into power, it will work for the welfare of the people.



Sanjeev Jain, Businessman
Voting is a significant power that ordinary citizens possess, but people need to ensure they use their vote wisely. We are pleased that after 10 years, assembly elections are being held in Jammu and Kashmir. We just hope that whichever government comes to power, it will focus solely on the welfare of the people with peace and normalcy completely dawning in the Union Territory.



Shashi Gupta, Teacher
Assembly elections are happening in Jammu and Kashmir after a long time, which we welcome. People now need to vote wisely. Unemployment is also at an all-time high right now, and we all hope that once the Government is formed, all the issues in Jammu and Kashmir will be resolved. "Now, all the pending work for the people in Jammu and Kashmir can be completed because, after a long time, a Government will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir. This has brought a lot of happiness to the people, as elections are being held here after such a long period. We can expect to see further changes in Jammu and Kashmir as a result."



Ashutosh Gond, Lawyer
This is a very good step because there was no one here to listen to our problems. After the elections, pending issues in Jammu and Kashmir might be resolved, which will provide significant relief to the people. "Everyone has been waiting for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir because it has been several years since elections were last held. Now, the people have the right to decide whom they want to vote for, and it is up to the public to make that decision. We all should ensure that we use our vote wisely."

Will Dr Farooq tell "Why with Art 35A there, still rights of even ST & Woman PRs of J&K were 'violated'"

■ DAYA SAGAR

Issuing a manifesto at the time of General Elections to legislature is a regular custom but a few common people (voter citizen) carry the contents of the election promises for test on ground after the governments are installed, particularly w.r.t those who hold the reins of governance. No doubt those out of power keep on using the manifesto promises of those in power to criticize them which is not taken that seriously by common masses till next elections come since non-political social groups/organizations who are expected to work in an unbiased manner are a rare identity in today's times.

Even after 7 decades of Indians having lived in a socialist democratic republic still many from all segments could be professing that the benefits of welfare schemes of governments have very less reached the real target beneficiaries of depressed classes of Indian people standing in the last row and instead 'they' have been more victims of the political gimmicks. But now the times demand that the voter citizen must take the political manifestos seriously and even ask some questions/clarifications before going to vote and the political party too need to answer.

Election Commission of India has

announced (16-08-2024) elections to Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K to be held in 3 phases (18 September, 25 September and 1st October). Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), headed by a senior most & elder leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah has been the first to release the manifesto on 19th August for 2024 elections to Legislative Assembly of J&K UT. The manifesto is covered with a letter from party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah that begins with :- "Dear People of Jammu and Kashmir, As I reflect on the long journey we have traveled together, I speak to you today not just as a leader, but as someone who has witnessed the many trials and triumphs of our beloved land. I speak to you with the unwavering conviction that only the people of Jammu and Kashmir, united under the banner of the National Conference, can lead us out of the challenging predicament we find ourselves in today" and ends saying :- In this manifesto, we have addressed the major issues you face daily. Through these commitments, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference aims to fulfill the promises we make to you today. While our pride, politics, and status may have been challenged, our resolve remains unbroken. I humbly ask you to grant us a strong

mandate, so we may continue to serve you and restore what has been lost."

The NC manifesto has many claims/promises/guarantees but to start with let the voter citizen ask a few questions to Dr. Farooq Abdullah to answer. The manifesto guarantee 12 promises and the first is restoration political and legal status.

To start with Manifesto says "We strive to Restore 370-35A, and Statehood as

prior to August 5 2019." Point here is that Statehood was intact on 5th August 2019. Union Government has already said, even before the Supreme Court, that status of State will be granted to UT of J&K at the appropriate time, so it will come, when, could be only asked.

Guarantee says will strive to restore 370 (Art-370) but does not tell if voted to power in the UT Assembly how will NC Government restore / or get restored the original form to Article -370 which has been modified under Declaration made by the President G.S.R. : 562(E) notified under Notification No CO 273 on 06-08-2019. In case NC will keep on simply striving with demand for 'restoration' the local atmosphere in J&K

will remain disturbed.

Similarly the NC says will strive to restore Art- 35A. The point here is that Art 35A had lost its status with the issue of Presidential order G.S.R. 551(E). - The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) order, 2019 placed for general information: vide Notification C.O. 272 of 0508-2024. Here too, but in addition to the similar question was asked about Art 370, it could be asked after getting 'back' Art 35A like provisions from Parliament (

if at all it is possible) will the National Conference again give to people of J&K 'specials' like stripping the fundamental/human rights of the Women of J&K like no equal rights in property to her family in J&K 'State', like no right to choose her life partner of choice i.e. if she marries someone from outside the J&K State her husband & children will not be subjects of State worth buying property in J&K/ worth joining J&K state service / worth joining J&K State run professional colleges. It is not out of place to mention here that although there was no such reference / named provision in Art 35A but since Art 35A protected the

State orders/legislations from a review by Supreme Court in case J&K some made laws favouring some or all Indian citizens named as permanent residents of J&K but violating fundamental rights of other citizens where as in case women the state had made laws even violating fundamental rights of the woman permanent residents of J&K Not only that State was not making corrections even when demands were made for decades & the J&K Constitution had provisions for making changes. Why so? One may ask were the fundamental rights/human rights of woman stripped of just to show that J&K had 'special status' in the form of Art 35A and 'they' could not be questioned for any unfair acts even against the permanent resident of State? Similarly why had the earlier Governments/ Legislatures in J&K not created the provision for reservations for the ST (Schedule Tribe) in the Legislature (Legislative Assembly) when the Art-370 was in the earlier form and Art 35A and J&K Constitution were there. All other Indian states had ST reserved seats in the Legislative Assembly. Was the Schedule Tribe reservations in Legislative Assembly seats not given by earlier government simply to show that J&K had 'special status' and government may not do even

some good to even the Indian citizens in the category of Permanent Residents of J&K what to talk of other Indian citizens? Why was not provision of Art 35A truthfully used even for granting normal rights to permanent resident women and permanent resident schedule tribe Indian citizens in J&K, must be calmly replied by Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Such permanent residents could not even seek remedies from Apex court since Art 35A provided cover to the government / legislature.

In the cap of "Special Status" (which as was told in a written reply in Parliament on 11-03-2015 was constitutionally never there) many conflicts and myths had been cultivated amongst the common people all these years by those speaking for and also those speaking for stripping such 'cap' more to contest political ambitions for power sharing but people have suffered a lot. Let now the people of J&K stay away from conventional myths so that now on wards environment of peace & stability starts emerging. NC talks of peace & stability in manifesto and hope takes lead on ground in this direction truthful introspection.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist)



A Look through the Mist