

Dr Jitendra chairs India-US bilateral meeting, highlights cooperation in critical areas

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a pivotal bilateral meeting on India-US Civil Nuclear Commerce, highlighting the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas of science, technology, and clean energy at Prithvi Bhavan here.

Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that an Indian astronaut from the Gaganyaan Mission is set to join the International Space Station, marking a significant milestone in Indo-US Space collaboration. He emphasized the importance of this partnership in securing global supply chains, especially in sectors like semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy technologies, which are increasingly vital in today's interconnected world.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the Green Hydrogen Mission as a cornerstone of India's strategy to decarbonize heavy industry, transportation, and power generation. He highlighted that this mission is crucial for driving innovation



A high level US delegation led by John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President of USA for International Climate Policy and David Turk, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

in clean technologies and achieving global climate goals. Through robust policy frameworks and international collaborations, India is poised to lead the transition to a sustainable and resilient energy future.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also revealed that the Indian government is exploring international partnerships, investing in research and development, and considering regulatory frameworks to support the deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). He stated that SMRs would play a significant role in India's clean energy transition, contributing to energy self-reliance and meeting climate commitments.

Drawing parallels between India's "Anusandhan" National Research

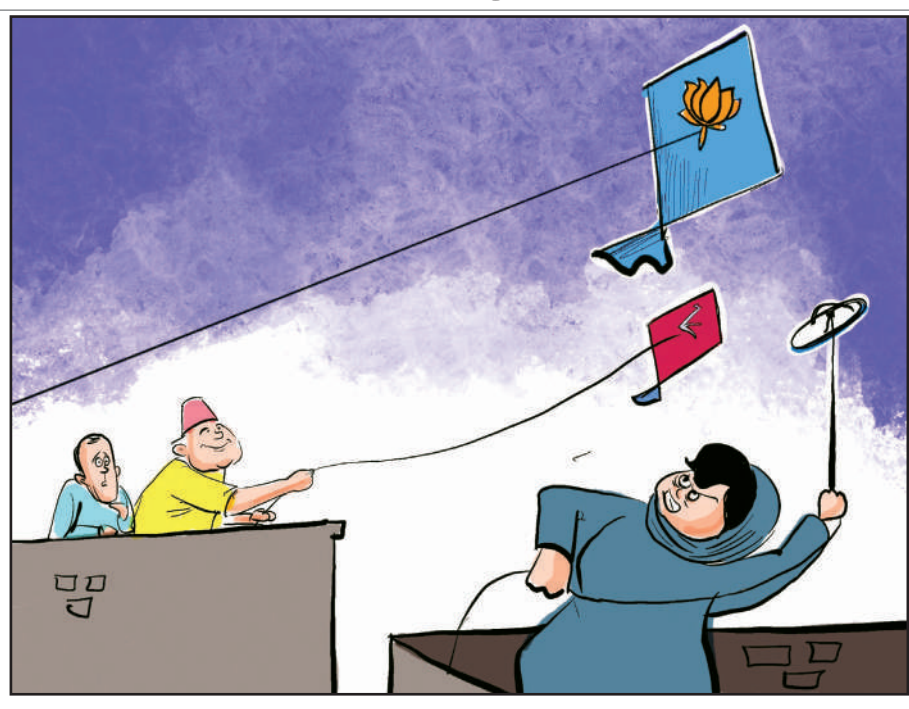
Foundation (NRF) and the United States' National Science Foundation (NSF), Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the critical roles both organisations play in advancing scientific research and innovation. He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Panchamrit" climate action plan, reaffirming India's commitment to increasing non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, reducing carbon emissions by 1 billion tons and finally achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Dr. A. K. Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, echoed the significance of the Indo-US partnership, stating that it is not just about exchanging knowledge but about co-creating solutions that will

shape the future. He emphasized the collaboration's potential to pave new paths for sustainable development and economic prosperity.

Dr. Ravi Chandran, Secretary of Earth Sciences, highlighted the partnership's progress in ocean energy and Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) technologies, while Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, underscored India's focus on biomass to energy conversion and the successful implementation of first and second-generation biofuels.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar shared insights into India's progress in emerging technologies, including data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and machine learning, emphasising the strategic importance of innovation in these fields. Dr. N Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR, discussed India's advancements in Lithium-Ion Battery development and indigenous battery manufacturing, stressing the importance of creating sustainable and circular energy storage solutions. The meeting concluded with both nations reaffirming their commitment to strengthening their cooperation in emerging technologies, with mutual interests in enhancing economic growth, national security, and global leadership in technological advancements.



2-day Programme on POCSO, POSH Acts concludes



Senior Advocate U.K. Jalali and others at a programme.

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JAMMU: The two-day program titled "POCSO Act and POSH Act with Special Reference to SAMVAD's Training Manual and Combating Gender Stereotypes" concluded on Sunday. The first session on the second day was led by U.K. Jalali, Senior Advocate of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and former Advocate General. Jalali discussed the impact of gender stereotypes in judicial decision-making, emphasizing that reliance on such stereotypes undermines impartiality and distorts justice. He stressed that even if stereotypes do not alter a case's outcome, they can reinforce harmful societal norms. Jalali highlighted the importance of using unbiased language in legal proceedings, reflecting a fair interpretation of the law. He introduced the Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes, which offers a

glossary of gender-unjust terms and suggests alternatives for drafting legal documents. Additionally, Jalali explored the interplay between the POCSO Act and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach to protecting children's rights. The second session was conducted by Sonia Gupta, PDJ Reasi, who provided an overview of rehabilitation and compensation for child victims of sexual offenses. Gupta emphasized that the POCSO Act addresses both the legal and emotional needs of child victims. She outlined the criteria for determining compensation and the importance of balancing justice with child welfare. Gupta highlighted the necessity for collaboration among legal, medical, and psychological professionals to support the healing and empowerment of child survivors. Effective implementation of

these provisions requires a strong commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of child victims. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman of the Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, delivered the concluding remarks. He noted that while the POCSO Act addresses critical issues related to child sexual abuse, it is not a cure-all. The Act promotes humane methods for handling victims and prohibits judicial victimization. Justice Kumar emphasized the need for swift and effective handling of POCSO cases to safeguard children's interests.

Justice Shukla pointed out that approximately 28% of children experience sexual abuse or harassment. He stressed the importance of timely and precise action in reporting, investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating POCSO cases to protect children's well-being throughout the judicial process.

The program, concluded with remarks by Yash Paul Bourney, Director of J&K Judicial Academy, emphasized its significance in improving understanding and application of the POCSO and POSH Acts, fostering a more just and inclusive approach to addressing gender issues and child protection.

Massive bike rally for war against drugs Zorawar urges Govt to deal drug smugglers with iron hand

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JAMMU: Demanding death penalty for those who are proved guilty for smuggling and selling Narcotics among youth thereby spoiling careers and lives of younger generation, volunteers of Team Jammu headed by its Chairman, Zorawar Singh Jamwal today urged Jammu and Kashmir LG Administration to fulfil its commitment of dealing drug peddlers with iron hands.

An initiative undertaken by Team Jammu, in the shape of bike rally against drug abuse, received over-whelming response from Jammuites as people cutting across party ideology, caste, creed, colour and religion came forward to render their support to make Jammu free from drugs.

To wage a war against drug abuse rightly called as "Narco-Terrorism", the Team Jammu today organized anti-drug bike rally, which turned to a historic in a sense that members of the civil society, social organisa-



Team Jammu Chairman, Zorawar Singh Jamwal leading bike rally against drugs abuse.

tions and associations of all markets of Jammu city and its outskirts came forward not only to felicitate organizers but they themselves became part of the rally. In one of the historical anti-drugs motorcycle rally in Jammu city, Team Jammu, a group of youth from various walks of life today has given a strong signal against the menace of drugs in the region.

Thousands of Team Jammu volunteers riding on bikes including members of Bull Riders Motorcycle, Survivor Hill Riders and Himalayan Bulls Adventure

Clubs today morning thronged at Toph Sherkhania Bridge on Akhnoor Road and raised slogans like "Nashe Ki, Khatam Karo Bimari, Hamara Jammu, Hamaari Zimedaari", "Jammu Ko Bachaana Hai, Nashe Ko Bhagaana Hai" "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" "Vande Mataram", "Jai Jammu, Jio Jammu". The bike riders moved in the shape of mega bike rally headed by Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal. The rally passed through A G office, Shakti Nagar, Rajpura Mangotrian,

Rehari, Sarwal, Mian Deedo Chowk, Shaktuntala Crossing, K C Crossing, Bus Stand, Jewel Chowk, GGM Science College and SPMR Commerce Road, Talab Tillo, Gole Pully, Gole Gujral Crossing, Patta Chungi, Akhnoor Road and finally concluded near Toph Sherkhania Bridge.

At several places, Chairman Team Jammu chief Zorawar Singh Jamwal addressing the rally cautioned the people to get united to wage a war against drug mafia that is moving youth dead end of their precious lives. "It was a beginning and an eye-opener for state administration and police that they have to be more strict against the drug menace in Jammu Region, otherwise the time has come when people of Jammu voluntarily under the umbrella of Team Jammu will come in the open against those who are selling the poisonous drugs," said Zorawar Singh Jamwal. Urging the youth to stay

away from drug abuse and play important role in nation building, Zorawar Singh Jamwal further demanded that JK UT administration must raise more infra-structure like open and indoor stadiums and promote sports activities in every district of J&K so that they remain physically fit.

Besides, the police department shall set an example exposing black sheep in its department involved with drug lords and evolve a mechanism to plug in all routes of narco smuggling to thwart all attempts of Drug Mafia, which is hell bent to ruin the lives of younger generation.

AIIMS Jammu launches Endoscopic Procedure Unit in Surgical Gastroenterology Deptt

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JAMMU: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu announced the initiation of a state-of-the-art Endoscopic Procedure Unit within the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology. This significant advancement marks a new chapter in our commitment to providing world-class healthcare services to the region.

On 24th August 2024, two patients underwent endoscopic procedures, which were performed by Dr Sahil Sandal and his team. The team was staffed by Harshita Sharma, Senior Nursing Officer, Madhusudan, Endoscopic technician, and Nursing Officers of the department.

One patient had dyspepsia and underwent an Upper GI Endoscopy, while the second patient had bleeding and mucus discharge per rectum who underwent a colonoscopy.

The Endoscopic Procedure Unit is equipped with the latest technology, allowing for minimally invasive procedures that enhance patient care and outcomes.

These advanced procedures will enable our Surgical Gastroenterologists to diagnose and treat a wide range of gastrointestinal conditions with greater precision and efficiency.

Dr. Sahil Sandal, Officer in Charge/ Assistant Professor of the Department



of Surgical Gastroenterology at AIIMS Jammu, stated, "The initiation of the Endoscopic Procedure Unit is a milestone for our department. It will not only improve the quality of care we provide but also expand the range of services available to our patients. Our team is trained to use the latest endoscopic techniques, which are less painful, faster recovery, and more cost-effective." He added, "The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Director of AIIMS Vijaypur, Prof. Shakti Gupta. His leadership and dedication have been instrumental in driving

the hospital's mission to achieve excellence in healthcare.

The new unit will offer various diagnostic endoscopic services, including diagnostic Upper GI Endoscopy, Sigmoidoscopy, and Colonoscopy in OPD on an appointment basis. Moreover, advanced procedures such as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and therapeutic endoscopic procedures will be introduced in the near future. These procedures are crucial for the early detection and treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, pancreatitis, and bile duct disorders.

AIIMS Jammu has always been at the forefront of adopting new technologies to improve patient care. The establishment of this unit is part of our broader vision to transform healthcare delivery in Jammu and the surrounding regions. By providing these advanced services locally, AIIMS Jammu continues to reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for specialized care.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, emphasized, "This initiative is a testament to our team's hard work and the collaborative spirit at AIIMS Jammu to bring the best healthcare practices to the people of Jammu and adjacent region. We are committed to enhancing our facilities and services to meet the growing needs of our community."

Ch. Sukhnandan urges J&K people to vote for BJP in upcoming Assembly Elections

Lauds Modi, LG Sinha's leadership, calls BJP only option for governance

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JAMMU: Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar, a former minister and senior BJP leader, has made a strong appeal to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming assembly elections. Speaking at a rally in Machine Domana within the Jammu North Constituency, Kumar highlighted the importance of the BJP in driving the Union Territory (UT) towards development and stability. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their leadership in bringing positive changes to the



Senior BJP leader, Ch. Sukhnandan Kuma speaking at public meeting.

region. Kumar emphasized that the BJP's governance under Modi has led to significant development across India, including in Jammu and Kashmir. He credited the BJP with delivering on its promises, particularly in infrastructure and social welfare, and stressed the need for continuity in govern-

schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which have greatly benefited the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his concluding remarks, Kumar urged the people to support the BJP, asserting that only a BJP-led government could ensure the continued progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was also attended by other prominent figures, including Retired Brigadier BS Samyal, Gagan Singh Slathia, Ex-Sarpanch Shamsher Singh, Suresh Janwal, Sham Lal Bhogia, Raghuvinder Singh, Tony, and Capt Prem Singh, among others.

He also lauded LG Manoj Sinha for maintaining peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir, noting the improvements in law and order, infrastructure development, and public services during Sinha's tenure. Kumar underscored the success of national welfare

ance to sustain this progress. He also lauded LG Manoj Sinha for maintaining peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir, noting the improvements in law and order, infrastructure development, and public services during Sinha's tenure. Kumar underscored the success of national welfare

Stroke and heart attack cluster of unhealthy traits: Dr Sushil

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: As whole of communities particularly those from rural areas are indulging in unhealthy eating practices leading to poor cardiovascular health Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma on Sunday held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Shri Datta Ranpat Ji Devstan, Birpur district Samba to educate people to shed sedentary lifestyle and adopt cardio protective food practices for a better and promising future.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are well established as leading contributors to the burden of diseases in the developing countries, as well

as the developed world. An estimated 29.2% of total global deaths, result from the various forms of CVDs, many of which are preventable by action on the major primary risk factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and smoking. Eight risk factors of CVDs account for 61% of cardiovascular deaths and they include alcohol use, tobacco use, high blood pressure, high body mass index/adiposity, high blood cholesterol and glucose, low fruit and vegetable intake, and physical inactivity.

He elaborated that metabolic syndrome is a cluster of risk factors, the level of each individual component does not have to be severely raised. In fact, most people live with slightly raised lev-



HoD Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma with his team examining patients.

els for many years before having symptoms that lead them to seek health care. Some studies show that middle-aged adults with metabolic syndrome had a heart attack or stroke 2.3 years earlier than those without the collection of

unhealthy traits. Blood pressure is the hazardous component highlighting the value of keeping it under control. There is a underline need for importance of early detection of risk factors through health screening programs so that pre-

ventive actions can be taken to prevent heart attack, stroke and premature death. As a golden rule, even if you feel well, check your blood pressure every year, avoid smoking, keep an eye on your waist circumference and last, but definitely not

least, be physically active every day.

He added that Small changes in the food eating habits and lifestyle can lead to a drastic improvement in the cardiac health of society as a whole thereby reducing the morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life. There are also huge political, economic and environmental challenges to changing the food system, not least the capacity of governments to implement change. Yet change is possible. It can start with a wider understanding of how the modern food system shapes dietary patterns and eating behaviors, as supported by education that makes clear the interrelationship between food systems, food environments, diets and

adverse public health and environmental outcomes, and the potential for better diets to lead to major improvements in public health and environmental sustainability. While individual choices play a part in these behaviors, government and policymakers also play an important role in ensuring people have access to the tools they need to live a healthy life, including clean air, affordable healthy food, and well-planned urban spaces that encourage an active lifestyle. Health policies that create environments where healthy choices are not only available, but also affordable, are essential for motivating people to adopt and sustain healthier lifestyles, He said. Management Committee

of the Devstan Sukhdev Singh, Dawarka Nath , Sohan Lal Sharma , Prem Sharma , Kartik Sharma , Ajit Singh , Ajay Sharma and Gautam Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their area and expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Venkatesh Yellupu. Paramedics and Volunteers includes Kamal Sharma , Raghav Rajput , Ranjeet Singh , Amnish Dutta , Rahul Sharma , Rohit Nayyar , Mukesh Sharma , Maninder Singh , Jatin Bhasin , Rahul Vaid , Makhhan Sharma , Vikas Kumar and Nirvair Singh Bali.