

India's Bioeconomy to touch \$300 billion by 2030: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIME NEWS

NEW DELHI : Marking one year of the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment)Policy, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh today launched the BioE3 Challenge for Youth and the country's first National Biofoundry Network, calling it a step towards making biotechnology a driver of India's economy, environment and employment.

"India's bioeconomy has grown from just \$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024, and we are now working towards a target of \$300 billion by 2030," said the Minister. He said that India's biotechnology sector has made rapid strides over the past year under the BioE3 Policy, achieving several key landmarks that are shaping the country's bioeconomy.

Speaking at an event marking One Year of BioE3: From Policy to Action, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), along with its stakeholders, has set up new institutions, launched joint research initiatives, and forged national and international partnerships in a short span of time.

Among the notable achievements, the Minister highlighted the inauguration of India's first Biomufacturing Institute at Mohali, the establishment of Bio-Artificial Intelligence hubs, bioman-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking at an event at New Delhi.

ufacturing hubs and biofoundries across the country, and the launch of more than a dozen joint research calls covering advanced areas such as cell and gene therapy, climate-smart agriculture, carbon capture, and functional foods. DBT has already received over 2,000 proposals under these categories.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also pointed to a memorandum of understanding signed between DBT and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for cooperation in space biotechnology and biomufacturing, as well as a joint working group to identify priority projects. Earlier this year, three DBT-backed experiments were carried out on the International Space Station by Gaganyatri Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla.

At the State level, DBT has initiated centre-state partnerships, including an MoU with Assam to establish a BioE3 Cell with an action plan for the state. On the global front, India's missions in 52 countries have

shared inputs on the BioE3 policy, with DBT and the Ministry of External Affairs working on follow-up actions.

As part of the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched the BioE3 Challenge for Youth-a nationwide call to young innovators under the theme "Design Microbes, Molecules & More". The initiative, explained by DBT Secretary Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, invites school students (Classes 6-12), university students, researchers, faculty, startups and Indian nationals to design safe-by-default biological solutions addressing challenges in health, agriculture, environment, and industry. The challenge will be announced on the first of every month beginning October 2025, with the top 10 winning solutions each receiving a cash award of ₹1 lakh along with recognition and mentoring support. In addition, 100 selected awardees will be eligible for funding of up to ₹25 lakh, provided in two tranches through BIRAC, to convert their

ideas into proof-of-concept solutions. These projects will also gain access to facilities and incubation support at BRIC+ institutions across India. The programme aims to empower grassroots innovators, foster youth-led change, and strengthen India's journey towards a sustainable and self-reliant bioeconomy. The BioE3 Challenge for Youth is anchored in the DESIGN framework, which guides participants to Define real needs, build Evidence-first solutions, ensure Sustainability by design, pursue Integration with other technologies and policies, develop strategies to Go-to-market, and create a Net-positive impact through measurable outcomes in jobs, inclusion, and equitable access.

The Minister also underscored the launch of the first National Biofoundry Network, involving six institutions to help scale up proof-of-concept developments, enhance indigenous biomufacturing, and create employment opportunities.



RBI, Crime Branch J&K hold sensitisation programme on NBFC frauds & BUDS Act in Srinagar



Sujit Kumar, IGP Crime Branch being honoured during the event.

■ STATE TIME NEWS

SRINAGAR: A one-day sensitisation programme on Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Frauds and Implementation of the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019 was organised today at Tagore Hall, Srinagar by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, in collaboration with the Crime Branch, J&K Police.

The programme was attended by around 100 officers from the Crime Branch, Kashmir Zone, CID J&K Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, and the Prosecution Department.

The event was inaugurated by Sujit Kumar, IGP

Crime Branch, who presided over the function as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he stressed upon the growing challenge of financial frauds and underlined the vital role of all stakeholders, particularly the police, in effectively investigating and curbing such crimes.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Ram Sarup, Deputy General Manager, RBI, highlighted the supervisory role of regulators and emphasised the need for strict implementation of special laws in tackling frauds committed by NBFCs. The valedictory address was delivered by Abdul Qayoom, IPS, DIG Crime Branch, while Laeeq Ahmad, Joint Director,

Crime Branch, elaborated on the key provisions of the BUDS Act, 2019 and the responsibilities of the police in its enforcement.

The programme was organised in pursuance of the directions issued by the Chief Secretary of J&K (Chairman UTLCC) during the 35th UTLCC meeting. Other senior officers present on the occasion included Sudesh Kumari, Assistant General Manager, RBI, Abdul Waheed, SSP EOW, Faiesal Qureshi, SSP Staff Officer, and Muzaffar Hussain, SSP SCW. Experts from SEBI and RBI also delivered lectures on multiple aspects related to NBFC frauds and regulatory mechanisms.

Advocate B.S. Jamwal invited to International March for Disarmament in London

■ STATE TIME NEWS

LONDON: Advocate B.S. Jamwal, a jurist from Jammu and lifetime member of the Supreme Bar Association of India, was conferred the rare distinction of being invited to participate in the International Protest March for Disarmament and a Peaceful World at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London.

The event, organised by the International Council of Jurists, commemorated the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of

Hiroshima and Nagasaki and highlighted global calls for nuclear disarmament, peace, and international cooperation.

In recognition of his presence and support, Jamwal was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the President of the International Council of Jurists. He attended the march alongside legal luminaries, peace activists, bar leaders, social leaders, and religious figures from around the world, all advocating for a safer and more



peaceful global environment.

Hailing from an agriculturist family in the remote village of Tarlokpur, Tehsil

and District Samba, Jamwal has previously brought recognition to India and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through his legal and social contributions. Known for his dedication and belief in the principle "work is worship", he described disarmament as more than a legal term - a heartfelt plea for justice, human rights, and peace for millions affected by conflict.

Speaking at the event, Jamwal said London, with its own history of wartime devastation, stands as a

global forum for dialogue on peace. He emphasised that the march serves as a reminder of the catastrophic consequences of war and nuclear weapons and called for collective efforts to dismantle nuclear arsenals and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Jamwal's participation in this historic international gathering underscores his commitment to justice, human dignity, and nuclear non-proliferation, marking another milestone in his distinguished career as a jurist and peace advocate.

Azad expresses grief over flood losses in J&K; urges govt to ensure relief, safety

■ STATE TIME NEWS

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister, Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad has expressed deep sorrow over the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Jammu province.

He said the cloudburst in Bhalessa has caused massive destruction, damaging several properties, while in parts of Jammu many houses and shops have also been affected.

Azad said it is extremely unfortunate that precious lives have also been lost in Katra due to the calamity.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength to bear the irreparable loss. He said, "The loss of lives in Katra is deeply tragic.

The government must ensure proper relief and extend immediate assistance to the families who have lost their loved ones in this disaster."

He appealed to the people to remain vigilant and stay in safer places until the situation improves.

Azad urged the government to take all necessary

measures to ensure the safety of the people, provide immediate relief, adequate compensation to the affected families, and ex-gratia to the kin of those who lost their lives.

He further said, "Even in several parts of Kashmir the water level has crossed the danger mark. The government must take necessary arrangements to ensure the safety of the people. Shelter sheds must be arranged immediately for those who have lost their homes and they must be shifted to safer places."

Record rainfall batters Jammu; Khatana says relief in full swing

■ STATE TIME NEWS

JAMMU: Sr. BJP Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana expressed serious concern over the unprecedented floods that have hit Jammu and conveyed his sympathies to the people affected. He said the heavy rainfall of 380 mm in 24 hours, the highest recorded in Jammu since 1910, has caused widespread damage, including to the historic Madhopur bridge and several other key structures.

Khatana said Prime Minister Shri Narendra



Modi is closely watching and monitoring the situa-

tion, while Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah is also keeping constant track at the national level. He added that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is personally supervising operations in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that central and local authorities are working in full coordination to deal with the crisis.

Khatana said that NDRF, SDRF, paramilitary forces and the Indian Air Force are carrying out rescue and relief operations continuously. He informed that these agen-

cies, along with the civil administration, are evacuating stranded families, shifting them to safer locations and supplying immediate relief materials.

Khatana stated that the administration is working to restore essential services on priority. He said teams are already engaged in bringing back electricity, drinking water and mobile communication in the affected areas. He added that instructions have been given to expedite restoration so that people face minimum hardship.

Khatana appealed to the

people to remain calm and cooperate fully with the authorities. He said such cooperation will help rescue and relief teams reach every affected locality quickly and ensure that essential supplies are distributed without delay.

Khatana assured the people that he will continue to remain in touch with both the local population and the officials until normalcy is restored. He said every possible step is being taken to reduce the suffering of the people and to bring life back to normal in the shortest possible time.

Satish reviews post-flood situation, directs officers to ensure adequate relief measures

■ STATE TIME NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday undertook a comprehensive review meeting to assess post-flood situation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by senior officers from various departments, focused on assessing the relief efforts undertaken so far and planning for future eventualities.

During the meeting, the Minister directed the officers to take proactive measures to mitigate the suffering of the flood affected people.

While asking the officers to work in synergetic manner, the Minister called for maintaining close coordination between the departments to ensure fool proof mechanism is put in place for proper distribution of relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. He said that the government is committed to ensure relief measures percolate to the people and no one is left behind.

The Minister also took stock of the vehicles used

in the evacuation of passengers during the recent floods and stressed the importance of mobilizing resources effectively to respond to such situations. Directing the officers to remain alert on the ground, the Minister emphasized that the administration's prompt response is crucial in minimizing the impact of such disasters on the people. He instructed the officers to work tirelessly to ensure that the affected populations receive the necessary support and relief.

The Minister, during the meeting, was informed that Transport Department has provided all the required number of vehicles to the rescuing agencies and District Administrations to safely evacuate the flood affected people. He directed the department to meet future requirement of vehicles as and when required.

Satish Sharma further directed the Oil Companies to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products including LPG is made available in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

Anantnag district judge reaches flooded court complex by boat to assess situation



■ STATE TIME NEWS

SRINAGAR: As heavy rains inundated Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district court complex, Principal District and Sessions Judge Tahir Khurshid Raina on Wednesday reached the premises in a boat to ensure the safety of judicial documents.

Judge Raina decided to take a boat to the court premises along with his staff to take stock of the situation.

Undeterred by the floodwaters that had entered the ground floor of the building, the judge toured around the court complex, seeing the extent of the inundation first-hand. He enquired from the court staff about the possible damage due to the flooding and especially called for saving the court records.

Judge Raina asked the staff to move the records, including documents and computer hardware used for storage, to safer places to ensure the safety of the court records. The judge also issued instructions to his staff to remain available in case of any need.

Several residential and commercial areas of Anantnag and Srinagar districts were flooded due to heavy rains on Wednesday. The district administrations and police in Anantnag, Kulgam and Srinagar had to evacuate people living in low-lying areas to safety. Police also launched a comprehensive response mechanism to ensure the safety and mobility of residents by providing frontline assistance to them.

LG Kavinder bats for beautification, new sites to boost Kargil tourism

■ STATE TIME NEWS

KARGIL: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta emphasised the ambitious beautification plan for Kargil town, aimed at transforming key public spaces into vibrant recreational hubs to attract more tourists and extend their stay in the district.

Chairing a review meeting with the Kargil Development Authority on Tuesday, the Lt Governor laid stress upon identifying new sites across the district that could be developed into tourist-friendly spaces. He said Kargil's tourism potential goes far beyond the existing attractions and there is a pressing need to explore and develop new locations-such as riverbanks, hill viewpoints, cultural landmarks, and heritage sites-so that visitors get a wider experience of the district.

The Lt Governor observed that creating multiple recreational and leisure zones across Kargil would not only disperse tourist footfall evenly but also generate new livelihood opportunities for the local population. He called upon the Authority to prepare a comprehensive roadmap that highlights



LG Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting at Kargil.

unexplored natural spots and integrates them into the broader tourism circuit of Ladakh.

Kavinder Gupta also called for expediting the beautification of Bul Bul Bagh, Sher Bagh, and the Riverfront at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, which are to be upgraded with landscaped parks, pedestrian walkways, gardens, and seating areas designed to blend modern amenities with the natural charm of the region.

"Tourists come to Kargil for its history and breathtaking landscapes, but we also need to provide them spaces where they can relax,

unwind, and engage with the local culture. The creation of such aesthetically appealing and functional spaces will not only enhance the beauty of the town but also encourage visitors to extend their stay," he said.

The Lt Governor further directed officials to ensure that the beautification projects reflect Kargil's cultural ethos while meeting sustainability standards. He underlined that Ladakh's tourism growth must be linked with environmental responsibility, creating a balance between development and preservation of its fragile ecosystem.

By focusing on urban aesthetics alongside adventure

and heritage tourism, he hopes to position Kargil as a more vibrant and tourist-friendly destination in the coming years.

The officials, comprising Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kargil, Shree Raam R, along with Engineering wing from KDA, discussed key projects in the town area of Kargil district for the promotion of tourism to ensure their maximum stay in Kargil. The officials also apprised the Lt Governor regarding the completion of the first phase of the River View Front at TFC, while the detailed project report for the second phase is ready.