

J&K's StartUp potential yet to be fully explored: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that J&K's StartUp potential is yet to be fully explored.

Addressing a Volunteers and Influencers Meet organised by the Social Media department of Jammu & Kashmir BJP, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the StartUp movement picked up relatively late in J&K but will move faster in the years to come.

The meet was also addressed by BJP J&K Working President Sat Sharma, CA. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Social Media Incharge, Ankit Gupta Social Media Head also spoke on the occasion while Manjeet Jasrotia, Social Media Co-Incharge was on the dias. Nitish Mayan conducted the programme.

Giving credit to Prime Minister Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it was he who created awareness of this concept when he gave a call of "StartUp India, StandUp India" from the ramparts of



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing Influencers Meet organised by BJP Social Media Department.

the Red Fort. The result of this was that the number of StartUps which were just 350 to 400 in 2014 has gone upto to more than 1.5 Lakh today and India is rated number 3 in the world in the StarUp Ecosystem.

Referring to Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Jitendra said, here the process took off only five years back, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370, and from the number of 30 StartUps, it has gone up to 350 to 400.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the world today is recognising the youth potential of India and in the Global Innovation Index it has risen

from Position 81 to 40. He said, this proves that there is no dearth of talent in the Indian youth but what they were lacking was an enabling milieu which is expected from the policy makers and political dispensation and this was provided after Prime Minister Modi came in 2014.

Dr Jitendra said, the best example of the quantum upsurge that took place because of the patronage provided by the Modi government in the Space Sector where there was single digit StartUp and today we have gone up upto about 200 particularly after the space sec-

tor was opened up to the private sector and some of our StartUps in the space sector today are rated as world class.

Similarly, he said, in the Biotechnology sector, we were only 50 StartUps in 2014, we have now gone up to more than 6000. He said, this is important because the next industrial revolution in the world is going to be Bioeconomy driven and India with its vast bio resources will have to play a major global role. In this context, he credited Prime Minister Modi for having recently given a nod to the Cabinet decision to come out with BioE3 policy in India.

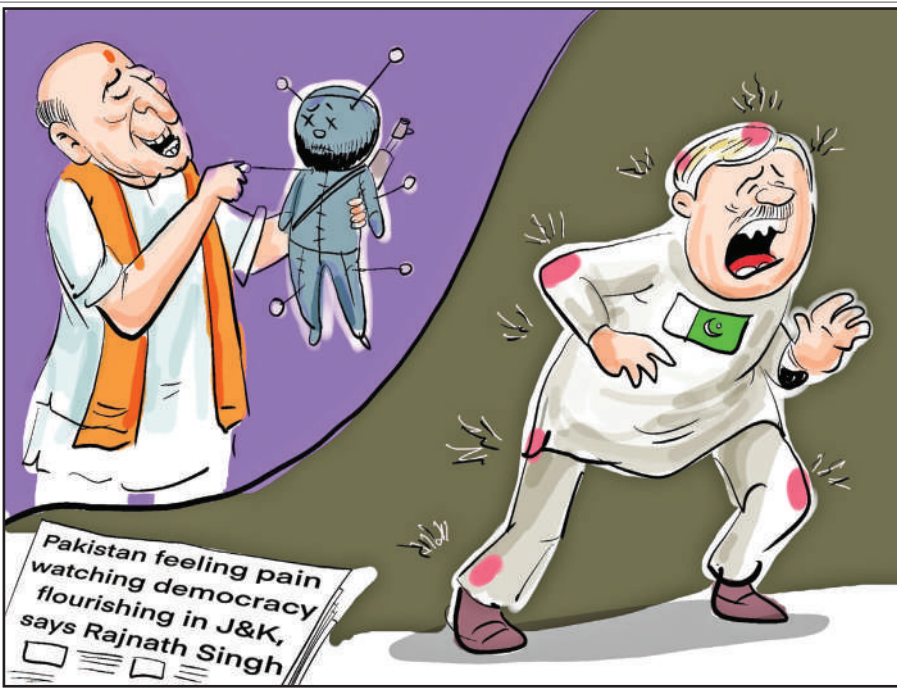
Dr Singh said, in the first 100 days of Modi 3.0 government also, Rs. 1000 Crore has been earmarked for StarUps and more than Rs 2600 Crores to make industrial notes.

As far as Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, Dr Jitendra said, it is for the first time that the mines and Himalayan resources are being explored in the last few

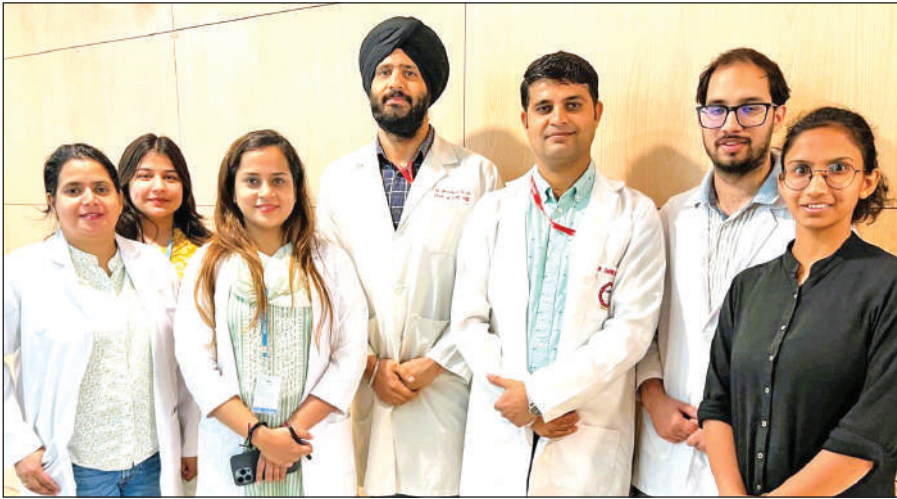
years under the Modi government. In this context, he made a special mention of the Purple Revolution and the Lavender Agri StartUps originated from Bhaderwah which found a mention in Prime Minister Modi's address during the public rally in Doda. He said, it is only in the last few years that the vast stores of Lithium mines and Sapphire mines in J&K are being planned to be explored.

Dr Jitendra said, the value addition of India when it rises from fifth position to higher position will be done by the hill States like Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, he said, Jammu & Kashmir has to play an important role in India's ascent to the 2047 pedestal.

The Minister called upon the young influencers to study these emerging avenues and translate them into effective versions to influence youth who comprise more than 70% of India's population today.



AIIMS Jammu expands ENT surgical services



AIIMS Jammu's ENT Department operating team after performing surgery.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu has made a significant leap forward in enhancing healthcare services with the launch of a comprehensive range of ENT surgical procedures.

A submandibular gland tumor and ear canal tumor was excised on Friday by ENT department operating team comprising of Dr Amardeep Singh (Associate Professor), Dr Darwin Kaushal (Additional Professor), Dr Akriti Mahajan (Senior resident) and Dr Nikhil Bhatti (Junior resident), under supervision of Anaesthesia team comprising of Dr Shruti Sharma (Additional Professor), Dr Bindu (Senior resident), Dr Deeba (Senior resident) and Dr Ajay Shankar (Junior resident).

This expansion not only signifies a vital improvement in patient care but also addresses a pressing need for advanced medical services within the region.

The importance of newly introduced surgical options in ENT field cannot be overstated. Head and neck tumors and other serious diseases in ENT often present unique challenges that require intricate surgical techniques and a multidisciplinary approach. By offering these specialized procedures, AIIMS Jammu is committed to improving early diagnosis, timely intervention, and overall

treatment outcomes. This is particularly crucial as many patients with these conditions may experience significant symptoms that impact their daily lives, making timely access to care essential.

In addition to improving patient outcomes, the availability of advanced ENT surgical services at AIIMS Jammu will significantly reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to seek treatment in larger cities. For many residents in Jammu and the surrounding areas, accessing specialized care has often meant facing not only the physical toll of travel but also financial burdens associated with out-of-town healthcare. This new initiative will enable local patients to receive high-quality treatment closer to home, fostering a sense of trust and reliance on local healthcare facilities. As a result, patients will be encouraged to seek timely medical attention for ENT issues, potentially leading to better health outcomes and reduced complications.

The impact of this expansion extends beyond patient care; it is also a strategic investment in the local healthcare workforce. By training local surgeons and medical professionals in these advanced ENT techniques, AIIMS Jammu is cultivating a pool of expertise that will benefit

not only current patients but also future generations. This commitment to education and training helps ensure that healthcare providers in the region are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to deliver top-notch care.

Furthermore, this initiative aligns seamlessly with national health objectives aimed at improving access to specialized medical services across India. By establishing a center of excellence in ENT care, AIIMS Jammu is contributing to the broader goal of reducing healthcare disparities and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their geographic location, have access to the care they need.

The ENT Department, AIIMS Jammu is soon going to start all advanced ENT surgical procedures like Head neck cancer surgery, Skull base surgeries, Cochlear implant surgery, Voice and airway surgery, Snoring and sleep apnea surgeries, Rhinoplasty surgery, ear reconstruction surgery.

Under the visionary guidance of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO AIIMS Jammu, The Department of ENT, with consultants Dr Darwin Kaushal (Additional Professor) and Dr Amardeep Singh (Associate Professor) is committed for excellence.

'It is an election for stability of J&K and to make India strong': Nadda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister and BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are pivotal not just for the security and stability of the region, but for the stability of India as a whole.

The BJP president also emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has transformed India's political landscape by rooting out corruption and delivering pro-people governance.

"This is not just an election for the BJP or any other party. It is an election for the stability of Jammu and Kashmir and to make India strong. It is not the election to make an MLA. It is not an election to give blessing to J&K. It is to bring Jammu and Kashmir mainstream of development. It will give Jammu and Kashmir stability," Nadda told a road-show rally in Jammu city this evening.

Nadda, who has hit the campaign trail in support of Yudhvir Sethi contesting the elections in Jammu East, said "it is an election between the nationalist forces and disruptive forces". "I am confident that nationalist forces will win and disruptive and divisive forces will face a crushing defeat. This election will ensure stability of not only Jammu and Kashmir but of the entire country," he added.

Nadda said it is also an election to end decade-long injustice with Jammu and Kashmir and bring it into the national mainstream of development.

"In the first phase of elections, 60 per cent polling was recorded. The polling took place without any fear. Where eight per cent polling used to take place and the army was taking them (people with security) for voting, it was sixty per cent this time. How people are enthusiastically voting. We hope that it will be higher in other phases. This is the change," he said. Highlighting the struggles

faced by certain communities in the past in the wake of Article 370, Nadda recalled the plight of the Valmiki community and West Pakistan refugees, who had been denied basic rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Valmiki were only allowed to be scavengers. They couldn't vote or be recognized as state subjects. West Pakistan refugees who came here in 1947, like former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, couldn't vote in assembly elections," he remarked.

"It was the BJP and Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) that demanded 'one nation, one Constitution, and one flag.' Under Modi ji's leadership, that resolution was fulfilled. Now, Gujjars and Paharis have reservation, and Valmiki children can attend medical and engineering colleges. They can now aspire to government jobs," he said. Asserting the BJP has deep connections with Jammu, Nadda said the hero of the region -- Pandit Prem Nath Dogra -- was first national president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which was later called as the BJP. "The BJP is today world's biggest political party. The first agitation was launched by Sham Prasad Mukherjee against 'do vidhan, do nishan, do pradhan' in Jammu and Kashmir in 1953, a year after the BJS was formed. He was arrested in June 1953 from Lakhampur. He laid down his life in a jail in Srinagar," he said.

Nadda said the BJP gave reply to such an act on August 5, 2019 under the command of Prime Minister Modi by scrapping Article 370 in the Parliament of India.

The BJP president condemned the 'royal dynasties' of Kashmir, accusing them of corruption and hindering progress in the region.

"These dynasties - Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis - promoted scams in banking, power sectors and even the cricket association. They want to bring back

Nadda welcomes Ankur Sharma to BJP

JAMMU: The BJP on Sunday got a boost after the Ekam Sntan Bharat Dal, National President, Ankur Sharma, joined the party and was welcomed into the party fold by BJP National President, JP Nadda.

BJP Working President, Sat Sharma, and other BJP leaders were also present.



BJP National President, JP Nadda welcoming Ekam Sntan Bharat Dal, National President Ankur Sharma in party fold.

has a connect with common masses. "We are assured that he will continue his good work for society's welfare and to strengthen the party," he said.

While speaking on the occasion, Nadda said, "Joining of Ankur Sharma in BJP is in the interest of J&K and will also strengthen BJP which is committed to the welfare, development and peace of J&K".

Nadda said that Ankur Sharma is a nationalist and has always stood for the cause of J&K.

BJP Working President, Sat Sharma said that Ankur is a true leader and he will continue his good work for

the dark days of the 1990s," he charged. Nadda warned that these political forces were advocating for the resumption of cross-LoC trade, which he claimed had been exploited to smuggle arms and explosives into Jammu and Kashmir.

"In the guise of trade, terrorism was flourishing. You know how arms and explosives were being smuggled through the LoC trade route. In the name of trade, terrorism was making inroads into Jammu and Kashmir. But under Modi ji's leadership, terrorism has drastically reduced and incidents are down. Today, no terrorist can survive more than a week. Yet, they want to release terrorists and restore Article 370. If you want peace, elect Sham Lal Sharma," he urged.

"They are trying to sell hate in the shops of love. They are pitting one sect against another sect and one community against another community and divide society to fulfil their designs. But they will never be successful," he added. The BJP president also emphasized that the Modi government has transformed India's political landscape by rooting out corruption and delivering pro-people governance.

"When the Congress was in power; there was casteism, sectarianism, vote-bank politics, divide and rule and dynastic politics and corruption. This was the order of the day, then," he said.

Nadda said that Modi after taking over as the prime minister in 2014 brought major change in the politics and gave birth to the politics of pro-people, good governance, responsive governance and accountable governance and politics of report card. "This was done by the BJP under Modi ji. He finished dynastic rule, challenged caste-based politics and brought in the politics of good governance, accountability and development for all - 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. Modi has changed the definition and culture of politics in India. That is why we need your support," he said. Nadda cautioned against those calling for the return of Article 370 and warned that they would push Jammu and Kashmir back into the hands of the terrorists.

"Today they are saying they will bring back Article 370. They want to release terror-

ists. They want to bargain with terrorists. They want to push J&K back into terrorism. We are holding the elections in J&K and Pakistan is putting pressure. India is giving them a befitting reply. There is peace," he said. Taking a dig at Pakistan, Nadda said that today terrorism has been given a befitting reply.

"You are seeing how Pakistan is keeping an eye on these elections. How they are trying to disrupt these elections. So this is an election of security of Jammu and Kashmir and making forward movement on the path of development. It is an election for the development of Jammu. Jammu has changed a lot," he added.

On release of the terrorists and resumption of talks with Pakistan, the BJP president said "this will never happen under the rule of Modi and they will never be released".

On the restoration of statehood, Nadda said the government is committed to restore Union Territory to state again.

"The prime minister has himself assured us about it. But the NC and Congress are doing politics over it," he added.

Will those aspiring for holding reins after LA elections work for honouring PVC Awardees?

Dedicate Srinagar & Jammu Airports to 1st PVC Major S N Sharma & 2nd PVC NK J(Y)adu .N Singh before Prakram Divas-2025
23rd January is Prakaram Divas (Netaji's Birthday) and also Hari Singh Ji Birthday

■ DAYA SAGAR

Government of India in 2021 decided that 23rd January, the birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, shall be celebrated as Prakram Divas at national/international level. The 23rd January 2023 was observed as the 3rd Prakram Divas, the day was, the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, unveiling the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (on the newly inaugurated statue of Netaji at Kartavya Path in New Delhi), to be set up in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and declaring that 21 islands of the UT of Andaman and Nicobar will be named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said "The message is the message of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat; this message is the message of the bravery of our Armed Forces." Just like an ocean connects different islands, similarly, the feeling of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' ignites the spirit of Bharat Mata and India First". Present at the same ceremony Mr. Amit Shah (who was later scheduled to also hoist the national flag and deliver a public speech at Netaji Stadium, the place

where Netaji is said to have unfurled the Tricolour on December 30, 1943) Andaman and Nicobar; had paid gratitude to Prime Minister saying < PM Narendra Modi's initiative to name islands after Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees will ensure they are remembered forever;>. No doubt the gestures were very earnestly appreciated / welcomed by Indian people. No honour can fully pay back what the PVC decorated soldiers had done for the nation but still the country men everywhere do desire to express very very special gestures towards the PVC decorated soldiers and their families, K*K is no different.

The people / subjects of the erstwhile State of J&K / UTs for expressing earnestly special gratitude to the PVC decorated soldiers, more particularly since 16 out of 21 PVC decorated soldiers had made extreme sacrifices / demonstrated extra ordinary valour while fighting the enemy on the borders/ LOC of erstwhile State Jammu & Kashmir and 15 out of 16 PVC soldiers had been non state subjects of J&K have been suggesting to award the rights of Permanent Resident of J&K to the families of all the PVC decorated soldiers

but the demands had not been entertained by the governments all these years what to talk for all 21 PVC decorated soldiers not even for the 15 non permanent resident soldiers who fought on J&K border. It is not out of place to mention here that suggestions have also been made for naming Srinagar / Badgam International Airport after the 1st PVC Awardee Major Som Nath Sharma (Dogra from today's Himachal Pradesh) and the Jammu Airport after 2nd PVC awardee NK J(Y)adu Nath Singh (from UP). No doubt no extreme sacrifice can be graded less than the other one but the time / occasion of valour / commitment / sacrifice of Major Som Nath Sharma and NK J(Y)adu Nath Singh was very precious time for the then J&K State that had acceded to India only on 26th Oct 1947 after having been attacked by "Pakistan" & enemy having already made advances due to almost negligible local state forces there to defend and hence but for their valour / sacrifice the dimensions of today's



A Look through the Mist

POJK would have been much larger which could be well read from the texts of the citations / inscriptions / notes recorded by the then commanders in their favour and the same are being produced here in.

In reference to PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma (Battle of Badgam 03-11-1947 Indo Pak War) < Lt. Col.M. N. Khanna Commanding Officer 4 Komaon Regiment who recommended martyr Maj Som Nath Sharma O.C. 'D' Coy . Unit-4 Kumaon for HONOURS and Awards had written " But for this off's bravery and sacrifice of his own life it is most probable that the SRINAGAR airfield would have been over run by the enemy and jeopardised this whole KASHMIR operations">

Naik J(Y)adunath Singh guarded Taindhar Ridge and kept Pakistan away from Nowshera & Hence large part of J&K out from occupation by Pakistan (Battle of Nowshera Indo Pak War 06-02-1948)

The Yadunath Memorial Stone

at Taindhar Top near Naushera reads< No. 27373 NK Yadunath Singh PVC (Posthumous) 1 Rajput (4 Guards) Born 21 November 1916 Died in Action 6 February 1948 " Your God is both your Cause, Your Battle and Captain, Come Life or Death, Your God will Bear Your Company, And Ever Keep This Field, This Place and This Days Service In His Grateful Remembrance" This Memorial is Erected in Solemn Tribute to A Warrior Legend Who Sacrificed His Mortal Being to A Greater Glory of Indian Nation on This Very Spot . NK Yadunath Singh Single Handedly Killed 230 Men of the Enemy And sacrificed His Yesterday so That Citizens of Naushera may live Their Tomorrow. Inaugurated on 6 Feb 1996>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always been taking leads over all other leader. Hence demands for naming the Srinagar/ Badgam International Airport after PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma and Jammu Airport after PVC NK J(Y)adu Nath Singh were very hopefully made again after 23 Sep 2023 by the subjects of J&K hoping that atleast now J&K UT administration would make necessary moves in that direction for impressing

upon aviation ministry to concede the demands.

Those impressing upon GOI to demonstrate gestures towards PVC decorated soldiers still hope that any proposals if formally placed before the Prime Minister Modi would surely get his approvals.

It is not out of place to mention here that J&K UT Administration had declared 0n 15th September 2022 the 23rd September, the birthday of the then Maharaja of Princely State of J&K as a gazetted holiday for government offices & education institutions to honour his decision to accede (though late) to India.

So it is no wishful thinking to hope that t Srinagar Airport and Jammu Airports would be dedicated in the names of 1st PVC Awardee Major Som Nath Sharma (Dogra from today's Himachal Pradesh) and the 2nd PVC Awardee NK J(Y)adu Nath Singh (UP) before we celebrate the 2025 Prakram Divas and 23rd September as birth anniversary day of Maharaja Hari Singh ji.

(The writer is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs)