



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Thuringia Minister-President Mario Voigt Discuss Quantum Communication, Photonics and Industry-Led Deep-Tech Partnership

Germany Proposes Expanded Researcher Exchange and Dual-Degree Partnerships with India

Discussions cover quantum communication, quantum satellite communication, optical ground stations, EuroOGS network, space technologies, startups and research-industry collaboration

Dr Jitendra Singh Showcases India's Innovation Ecosystem During Talks with German State of Thuringia

Thuringia's Photonics Expertise Opens New Avenues for India-Germany Technology Cooperation

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India and Germany today explored a future-oriented partnership in quantum communication, photonics, quantum satellite communication, space technologies and deep-tech innovation when Mario Voigt, Minister-President of the Free State of Thuringia, Germany, currently on India visit, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh.

The meeting brought together representatives from government, research institutions and industry from both sides to identify pathways for connecting innovation ecosystems and accelerating collaboration in frontier technologies.

The meeting was attended by Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General, CSIR, along with senior officials from the Department of Science & Technology, Department of Space, DRDO and other scientific institutions. The German delegation was led by Mario Voigt and included Christiane Kilian, Member of the Executive Board, Foundation for Technology, Innovation and Research Thuringia, besides representatives from government, research organisations, industry and technology institutions.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr Jitendra Singh said India and Germany share a strong partnership rooted in science, technology, innovation and people-to-people ties. Recalling the celebration of 50 years of India-Germany Science and Technology Cooperation in 2024, he said scientific collaboration has emerged as one of the strongest pillars of bilateral engagement and continues to create new opportunities in frontier areas of research, innovation and industrial development.

Recognising Thuringia's emergence as a major European hub for photonics, optics, quantum technologies and advanced manufacturing, both sides explored opportunities for long-term institutional partnerships in frontier technologies. The discussions focused on leveraging the complementary strengths of India and Germany and promoting deeper engagement among governments, scientific institutions, startups and industry to accelerate the translation of research into globally competitive technologies, products and innovation-driven enterprises.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the major initiatives undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen India's research and innovation ecosystem. Referring to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and other measures aimed at promoting industry-linked research and innovation, he said India is increasingly creating platforms that connect academia, research institutions, startups and industry, enabling scientific knowledge to be translated into practical solutions and economic value.

The Minister said that India today hosts the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and offers significant opportunities for international collaboration across biotechnology, healthcare, water technologies, artificial intelligence, clean energy, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and space technologies. He said India's innovation landscape is increasingly driven by collaboration between public institutions, industry and entrepreneurs, creating new opportunities for global technology partnerships.

A major focus of the meeting was cooperation in quantum technologies and photonics, areas identified by both sides as critical to future technological competitiveness. Particular attention was given to opportunities in quantum communication, quantum satellite communication, optical ground stations, quantum networks and advanced photonics technologies, where India and Thuringia possess complementary strengths and capabilities.

The German side shared details of ongoing European initiatives relating to quantum communication infrastructure and optical communication systems, including developments under the EuroOGS network, which seeks to advance standardisation and interoperability in optical ground station technologies. Discussions also covered possibilities for scientific engagement, exchange of expertise and future collaboration involving research institutions, technology organisations and innovation ecosystems from both sides.

The discussions reflected the growing strategic importance being attached globally to quantum technologies and the increasing need for international collaboration in the field. Dr Jitendra Singh shared the progress achieved under India's National Quantum Mission, including advances in secure quantum communication and related technologies. Both sides exchanged perspectives on emerging developments in quantum computing, quantum communication and associated infrastructure and recognised the potential for deeper cooperation in research, standards development, talent exchange and technology partnerships.

Dr Jitendra Singh also highlighted India's expanding portfolio of mission-mode programmes in frontier technologies, including the National Quantum Mission, IndiaAI Mission, National Green Hydrogen Mission and biotechnology initiatives. He said these programmes are creating new opportunities for collaborative research, innovation-led growth and technology partnerships.

In the context of future technology partnerships, discussions also touched upon opportunities for mission-oriented collaboration in photonics and allied frontier technologies, drawing upon the complementary strengths of India and Germany in optics, photonics, quantum technologies and innovation-driven manufacturing.

The meeting also deliberated on strengthening cooperation in the space sector, building upon the long-standing partnership between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted India's growing space capabilities, recent policy reforms encouraging private participation and international collaboration, and the increasing contribution of startups to the country's expanding space economy.

The Minister noted that India has successfully launched eleven German satellites through Indian launch vehicles and reiterated India's commitment to expanding international cooperation in space research, technology development and commercial applications. The two sides discussed potential collaboration in satellite communications, optical communications, human spaceflight, microgravity research, Earth observation, drone technologies and future exploration missions.

Recognising that future technological leadership will increasingly depend on stronger partnerships between governments, research institutions and industry, both sides discussed collaborative frameworks bringing together public institutions, universities, scientific laboratories, startups and private enterprises. The discussions emphasised the importance of translating research outcomes into deployable technologies, scalable products and globally competitive deep-tech enterprises.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's scientific progress is increasingly being driven by integrated partnerships involving academia, research laboratories, startups and industry. He added that India welcomes collaborations that facilitate the exchange of researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and doctoral scholars while creating pathways for joint technology development, industrial innovation and commercialisation.

The Minister also highlighted the contribution of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) and other bilateral mechanisms that have supported industry-oriented research projects, innovation partnerships and researcher exchange programmes over the years. He said the next phase of India-Germany scientific cooperation offers significant opportunities in quantum technologies, photonics, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, space technologies and deep-tech entrepreneurship.

The two sides expressed confidence that closer engagement among governments, scientific institutions, industries and startups would further strengthen the India-Germany strategic partnership and create new opportunities for innovation-led growth, technological advancement and solutions to global challenges.



PHOTO - A high-level delegation led by Mario Voigt, Minister-President of the Free State of Thuringia, Germany calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at Kartvaya Bhawan, New Delhi.



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