

National Education Policy 2020 Has Liberated Students from Being "Prisoners of Subjects": Dr. Jitendra Singh

Technology Has Democratized Educational Opportunities Beyond Metro Cities, Says Union Minister

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today described the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as one of the most transformative reforms in India's education sector and one of the greatest hallmarks of the 12 years of the Modi government, stating that it has enabled students to pursue education aligned with their aptitude and aspirations rather than being confined to predetermined academic pathways.

Addressing the The Week Education Conclave 2026, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that one of the greatest changes brought about in the last decade has been the introduction of NEP 2020. Explaining its impact in simple terms, he remarked that the policy had "liberated children from being prisoners of the subjects chosen for them by their parents." He observed that the earlier system often compelled students to continue with academic streams irrespective of their interests, limiting flexibility and individual choice.

The Minister said that the flexibility introduced under the new policy has enabled students to make course corrections based on their aptitude. He noted that students who may not wish to pursue conventional career trajectories now have the freedom to explore diverse disciplines ranging from biotechnology to literature and other emerging fields. He further mentioned that, this shift has resulted in learners entering professions by choice rather than by default, thereby improving the overall quality and motivation of the future workforce.

Referring to the impact of these changes on the scientific ecosystem, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the quality and orientation of young scientists entering research institutions today are markedly different from earlier generations. He observed that many are now choosing careers in science out of genuine interest and aptitude, leading to greater commitment and excellence in research and innovation.

Highlighting the role of technology in expanding access to education, the Minister stated that educational opportunities have undergone a process of democratisation over the past decade. He said that the optimum use of technology has helped make education more accessible and affordable, reducing barriers that previously restricted opportunities to a limited segment of society.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to emerging trends in competitive examinations as evidence of this transformation. He noted that several candidates securing top ranks in national examinations are increasingly coming from smaller towns and non-metropolitan regions, often without attending expensive

coaching institutions. He mentioned, this reflects the growing availability of educational resources through digital platforms and mobile technologies, which have helped level the playing field for aspirants across the country.

The Minister observed that success in today's educational landscape is increasingly being determined by perseverance, self-learning and effective utilisation of available resources. Recalling interactions with students from modest backgrounds who had excelled in highly competitive examinations, he emphasised that determination and disciplined effort continue to remain critical ingredients for achievement.

Describing the present period as one of the most promising phases in India's educational journey, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the current generation of students has unprecedented access to opportunities and resources. Referring to the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he expressed confidence that today's youth would play a defining role in shaping India's future and carrying forward the country's developmental aspirations.

The Minister urged students to recognise both the opportunities and responsibilities that accompany this transformative phase in India's growth story. He encouraged them to make the most of the enabling ecosystem available today and contribute meaningfully towards nation-building through excellence, innovation and public service. He also conveyed his appreciation to teachers and educators for their continued role in guiding and mentoring future generations.



PHOTO - Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing 'The Week Education Conclave 2026' at New Delhi on Wednesday.



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