

SAJ to host landmark Surgical Conference in Jammu from Nov 14-16

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Surgeons Association of Jammu (SAJ) is set to host its inaugural three-day national surgical conference, SAJCON-2024, from November 14 to 16, 2024, in collaboration with the Department of Surgery, GMC Jammu and ASCOMS Jammu.

The conference, which aims to enhance surgical knowledge and practice, will bring together over 30 esteemed faculty members and around 300 delegates from across the country.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean, Government Medical College Jammu, expressed pride in hosting the event, emphasizing that the conference would cover a wide array of topics including oncology, laparoscopic and invasive surgeries, robotics, and the latest surgical techniques.

"We are honored to host some of the best surgical minds in the country, and this conference will provide a unique opportunity for our students and faculty to interact and exchange knowledge



Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean and Dr Ratnakar Sharma, Head of the Department of Surgery, GMC Jammu addressing a press conference.

with these experts," Dr Gupta told reporters here on Tuesday.

The conference, themed "Stepping towards Surgical Excellence," will feature hands-on workshops, live surgeries, paper presentations, and poster sessions.

On the opening day, November 14, a live operative workshop will be held in GMC Jammu's state-of-the-art operation theatres, where renowned surgeons from across India will collaborate with local faculty to perform surgeries.

These procedures will be broadcasted to an audience

of approximately 1,000 students, providing invaluable learning opportunities for postgraduate students (PGs) and surgical professionals.

Dr Ratnakar Sharma, Head of the Department of Surgery, GMC Jammu and Chairperson of the Surgeons Association of Jammu, noted that the idea for this conference emerged in January 2024, following the formation of the SAJ.

He explained that the establishment of this association aims to provide local PGs with more accessible opportunities to present research, attend CMEs, and

engage in academic discussions, thus reducing the need for students to travel outside Jammu for such events.

"This conference marks a major milestone for our association and the medical community in Jammu," Dr Sharma said.

According to Dr Sharma, the conference will also feature presentations by distinguished guest faculties and local experts on November 15 and 16.

On November 16, he said, a special session will be dedicated to the presentation of papers and posters by PGs and senior residents, which

are essential for their academic progression and eligibility for examinations.

"SAJCON-2024 has been accredited by the State Medical Council, offering 12 credit points for faculty members. These points are crucial for their professional development and career advancement," he said.

Dr Zahur Hussain, Organizing Secretary of the conference, highlighted the significance of the event, noting that it represents the first of many such gatherings planned for the future.

"We aim to make this an annual event, fostering continuous learning and collaboration among medical professionals in Jammu and beyond," Dr Hussain stated. The conference is expected to leave a lasting impact on the surgical community, not just in Jammu, but across the country.

According to Dr Ratnakar Sharma, the future editions of the conference will rotate among different institutions, further strengthening the ties between surgical professionals in the region.



Yudhvir lays foundation stone of Panchayat Ghar at Pargalta

Says Modi Govt strengthened democracy at grass roots level in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East Constituency, on Tuesday laid foundation stone of Panchayat Ghar at Pargalta. ACP RDD, Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali was also present.



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating development work.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi said that the construction of new Panchayat Ghar at Pargalta marks a significant step towards reinforcing local governance and bringing administrative services closer to rural communities.

He highlighted that Panchayat Ghars serve as essential centers for community engagement, decision-making, and the effective implementation of development programs at the village level. He emphasized that these structures not only empower Panchayats but also foster a sense of unity and participation among the residents.

Sethi praised the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led central government for strengthening democracy in Jammu and Kashmir through the implementation of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system.

This model has empowered the people by granting them direct access to decision-

making bodies at the Panchayat, Block, and District levels.

Sethi noted, "The active participation of the people in local governance is critical to ensuring that development initiatives reflect the genuine needs and aspirations of every village and community in Jammu and Kashmir."

The BJP leader asserted that under the Modi government's initiatives, the three-tier system has opened new avenues for development, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, and rural connectivity, as elected representatives are now empowered to take key decisions in the interests of their localities. He reiterated that the BJP remains committed to further strengthening the foundations of democracy in the Union Territory, ensuring that every citizen, irrespective of region or back-

ground, benefits from the government's developmental schemes.

Sethi assured the people of Pargalta for continuous support in addressing their needs and emphasized that the BJP remains dedicated to the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from local Panchayat representatives, who commended Yudhvir Sethi's commitment to fostering inclusive growth and strengthening democracy in the region.

Prominent among those who were present included DDC Member Shamim Begum, Mandal President Ajay Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Mohan Lal Verma, Varinder, Nand Kishore, Sham Singh, Jagdish Singh, Dheru Ram, Subash Chander, Rehmat Ali, Khalid Hussain, Ashok and Amit.

BJP for consolidating peace in J&K, isolating divisive forces: Slathia

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to foiling the divisive and discriminatory mindset of the Congress-National Conference combination, saying consolidation of peace, progress, and development registered in Jammu and Kashmir during the past five years will not be allowed to be derailed.

Continuing his Vijay rallies across the Samba Assembly Constituency, BJP Pradesh Vice President and MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia said while addressing Karykarts in Block Sumb here this afternoon that there will be no compromise on the region's stability. This is the message sent out by the politically sagacious people of the Jammu region by delivering huge mandate of 29 seats for the BJP to end the decades old discrimination by successive governments



MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia laying foundation of improvement and augmentation of Water Supply Scheme for the Samba.

which was bade farewell post abrogation of Article 370, he added.

Slathia said the BJP's focus remains firmly on promoting growth initiatives and strengthening public welfare initiatives as per vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to empower youth, boost local businesses, and enhance infrastructure development, the main plank of the centrally sponsored schemes.

He referred to the initia-

tives of the Prime Minister in creating a self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir by fostering economic opportunities and bringing about discernible turnaround in the overall situation, saying these cannot be sabotaged by encouraging elements disrupting harmony. He cautioned the people against the machinations of the separatist ecosystem by maintaining unity and isolating elements inimical to peace and national integration.

During his visit to the area, MLA Slathia also laid the foundation of Improvement and augmentation of Water Supply Scheme for the Samba town under UT CAPEX Budget, estimated to cost Rs 213.7 lakhs. Of this Rs 191.49 lakhs have been allocated for the construction of 10000 Ghns capacity sump tank at Sangvali, two tube well pump room building at Sangvali mandi and filtration plant, construction of

tubewell cum pump room building near filtration plant, construction of four compound walls around civil structures and providing, laying and fitting of rising main and distribution system and other allied works.

Slathia stressed the need for maintaining quality control of the work and completing these in stipulated time frame so that its benefits percolate down to the designated population expeditiously.

Those who accompanied Slathia during the Vijay Rally included Mandal President Balvinder Singh, Vice President BJP Samba Mohan Lal Sharma, Vijay Singh DDC Balwan Singh, Stae General Secretary Choudhary Mukhytyar, OBC Ex BDC Ramesh Lal, Ex Sarpanch Puran Chand Sharma, Ranjeet Singh, Suraj Parkash Verma, Baldev Singh, Sardar Singh, Pritam Chand and others.

ADGP Jammu Zone for round-the-clock vigilance, swift response strategies to counter any security challenges

Conducts operational preparedness review of Basantgarh, Udhampur



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, conducted a comprehensive review of operational preparedness in Basantgarh, Udhampur district, in light of recent security developments.

The visit aimed at evaluating the readiness and effectiveness of local forces in responding to emerging threats and ensuring the

safety of the residents. During the review, the ADGP conducted an inspection of the Police Station Basantgarh and met with officers from various units, including Special Operations Group teams, to discuss ongoing security measures and assess equipment, resources, and training levels.

The ADGP emphasized the need for round-the-

clock vigilance, proactive intelligence gathering, and swift response strategies to counter any security challenges in the area.

Addressing the officers, the ADGP underscored the importance of community engagement in strengthening security and urged the teams to work closely with local communities to build trust and gather real-time intelligence. He also instructed the personnel to ensure seamless coordination with other security and intelligence agencies operating in the region.

The ADGP acknowledged the dedication of the forces stationed in Basantgarh. He assured that additional resources and support would be provided to enhance operational effectiveness and address any logistical needs.

CSIR-IIIM inks pact with LAHDC to set up MAPs Farm

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: In a significant step toward promoting the cultivation of medicinal, aromatic, and flowering plants in Ladakh, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh. This initiative aims to establish a demonstration farm at Palam, Leh, for the cultivation of high-value Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs).

The MoU was signed by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, and Stanzin Choshpel, Executive Councillor (Agriculture) of LAHDC, in the presence of Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh.



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, and Stanzin Choshpel, Executive Councillor (Agriculture) of LAHDC after signing MoU.

Key figures like Er. Abdul Rahim, Head of RMBD & IST Division, and Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor (Animal/Sheep), also attended the event.

Advocate Tashi Gyalson emphasized the importance of job-oriented training and skill development for local farmers and unemployed youth, highlighting the potential for income generation and

employment through CSIR's initiatives. He urged CSIR-IIIM to prioritize these programs alongside their research and development efforts.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed outlined CSIR-IIIM's ongoing projects under the Agri-Nutri Biotech theme, citing successful case studies such as the "Purple Revolution" in Jammu and Kashmir and

the "Golden Revolution" in Himachal Pradesh. He stressed the region's vast potential for transforming barren lands into productive agricultural zones, benefiting local farmers and promoting economic growth.

He further commended the local government's efforts in supporting medicinal plant cultivation and assured the pro-

vision of scientific and technological guidance. This includes expanding crop varieties, enhancing processing and value addition, and developing marketing strategies to improve economic self-reliance in Ladakh.

CSIR-IIIM's experimental initiatives at Palam Farm focus on introducing and developing protocols for high-value crops such as Lavendula angustifolia, Rheum emodi, and Podophyllum hexandrum. Notably, CSIR-IIIM has also achieved success in growing saffron (Crocus sativus) in open fields, a first for Ladakh, and is working to stabilize saffron production. The institute plans to develop modern nurseries for quality planting material and establish necessary research facilities, pending land allocation.

Need to mitigate risks linked with glacial lakes for safer future: Principal Secy to PM

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Dr. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, highlighted the critical need for mitigating the risks associated with Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) during the 4th Workshop of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR). The workshop focused on strategies for GLOF risk reduction and was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources.

Dr. Mishra stressed the importance of proactive measures to safeguard communities from the devastating impact of GLOFs. He referred to the 2023 South Lhonak GLOF in Sikkim as



Dr. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, with other dignitaries at workshop of CoDRR.

a wake-up call, underscoring the urgent need to address the risks posed by glacial lakes in the Himalayan region. He quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who emphasized that "Disaster risk reduction is not just about responding to disasters but also about building resilience." Dr.

Mishra echoed the Prime Minister's words, stressing that the best approach to disaster management is prevention, not just reaction.

The Principal Secretary also highlighted the importance of international cooperation in tackling GLOF risks. He mentioned that India is collaborating with countries

such as Bhutan, Nepal, Peru, Switzerland, and Tajikistan, which have valuable expertise in glacial lake management. He emphasized that global knowledge sharing is vital in developing effective strategies to mitigate GLOF risks.

Addressing challenges in GLOF risk reduction, Dr. Mishra pointed out the confusion surrounding the number of glacial lakes and their risk factors.

He acknowledged past failures in mitigation efforts, such as those related to South Lhonak Lake, which had been limited to hazard assessments and geo-spatial monitoring. Dr. Mishra explained that the government has now established the CoDRR platform to streamline coordination and ensure more effective action.

India has made substantial progress, including the identification of 200 high-risk glacial lakes from over 7,500 surveyed. Dr. Mishra praised the efforts in Sikkim, where teams have visited 18 out of 40 designated lakes, and mitigation plans are already in place for five of these lakes. Looking forward, Dr. Mishra urged states and Union Territories to continue leading monitoring and mitigation efforts, with ongoing support from central scientific institutions.

He emphasized the need for strengthened State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and suggested the creation of a dedicated financial window for GLOF risk reduction, which would help protect both communities and India's water security.

Digital Life Certificate campaign camps to be held in Jammu today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0, the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW) is organizing DLC camps in Jammu tomorrow on 13th November 2024.

The campaign, aimed at assisting pensioners with the digital submission of life certificates, will be hosted at different places in Jammu including Arnia, Bari Brahmna, Miran Saheb, R. S. Pura and at India Post Payments Bank Mubarak Mandi near Old Court, Jammu.

Under Secretary from DoPPW, Praveesh Kumar will visit the camp locations to assist pensioners in using various digital methods for life cer-

tificate submission. Additionally, UIDAI representatives will provide support to update Aadhaar records as needed and address any technical issues.

DoPPW is organizing this countrywide campaign from November 1 to November 30 and its objective is to streamline the submission of life certificates for pensioners via Face Authentication technology. This approach allows pensioners to submit their certificates conveniently through Aadhaar-based face recognition on Android smartphones.

The objective of the campaign is to ensure that even pensioners in remote areas or with limited-mobility can benefit from this streamlined and accessible system.

Earlier, pensioners were required to visit Pension Disbursing Authorities to submit life certificates, which was challenging, especially for elderly individuals. In 2014, DoPPW introduced Digital Life Certificates (Jeevan Pramaan), followed by the launch of Face Authentication technology in 2021, which eliminated the need for biometric devices thereby making the process more accessible.

This year, Campaign 3.0 aims to cover 800 locations nationwide. Key partners include Banks, India Post Payments Bank, Pensioners' Associations, UIDAI, MeitY, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Railways and the Department of Telecommunications.