

# Dr Jitendra launches India's first indigenous antibiotic 'Nafithromycin' for resistant infections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a groundbreaking step for India's biotechnology sector, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the first indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin, designed to combat drug-resistant infections, particularly antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The antibiotic, developed with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and brought to market by pharmaceutical company Wockhardt under the trade name Mignaf, targets Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a severe illness caused by drug-resistant bacteria, affecting vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals.

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for providing researchers the support they needed to explore their potential in biotechnology. He described Nafithromycin as a "game-changer" in



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking after formally launching antibiotic Nafithromycin (Mignaf) at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

addressing drug-resistant pneumonia, which causes over two million deaths globally annually. India, bearing 23% of the global pneumonia burden, faces growing resistance to existing antibiotics like azithromycin. Nafithromycin, however, is ten times more effective than these current options, offering a faster, safer, and more tolerable treatment regimen of just three days, with minimal gas-

trointestinal side effects.

The development of Nafithromycin marks the first new antibiotic in its class in over three decades, representing a historic breakthrough in the fight against AMR. The drug's ability to target both typical and atypical pathogens positions it as a potent solution to combat multi-drug-resistant infections. Supported by BIRAC's Biotechnology Industry Partnership

Program (BIPP), the project has involved 14 years of research and Rs 500 crores in investment, with clinical trials conducted in the US, Europe, and India.

The Minister emphasized the urgent need to tackle AMR, a growing global health crisis, and hailed the collaboration between the public and private sectors as essential for innovation. He called for continued efforts in research, diagnostics, and surveillance to ensure India remains a leader in biotechnology. The Nafithromycin launch is a testament to India's commitment to fighting AMR and advancing global health solutions.

The event was attended by prominent leaders in the scientific community, including Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, DBT and Chairman, BIRAC; Dr. Habil Khorakiwala, Chairman, Wockhardt; Dr. Jitendra Kumar, MD, BIRAC and Dr. Y.K. Gupta, President, AIIMS, Jammu.



# Div Com flags off Amul Clean Fuel Rally 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday flagged off the Amul Clean Fuel Rally-2024 here from Dairy Plant JKM-PCL Satwari.

Organised by Amul in partnership with Maruti-Suzuki and Bajaj Auto, the Rally will cover 783 Kilometre distance passing through Jammu and Kashmir, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Karnal, Rohtak and culminating at New Delhi.

The Bike Rally aims to introduce young people with different institutions established by Dr Verghese Kurien across the country and raise awareness about sustainability, promoting the use of Bio CNG to create a circular economy that benefits farmers and improves the environment.

The main program is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on November 26, marking the birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar flagging off the Amul Clean Fuel Rally-2024.

observed as National Milk Day in honour of his remarkable contribution towards India's dairy sector.

The Divisional Commissioner highlighted the role and contribution of Dr Kurien in the field of milk Revolution and his contribution towards boosting India's rural economy.

He also appreciated the role of the organisers for

organising the mega awareness event to pay tributes to legendary Dr Kurien, who is known as Milk man of India.

Earlier, Chairman JKMPCL, Ashok K. Angurana and CEO, JKMPCL, Chirag Bhinsadia also spoke and highlighted the objectives of the program.

The event also featured a colourful cultural program presented by the local artists.

# Academic Council of JU: Deliberations on key academic matters

Introduction of Ph.D in Journalism and Mass Communication from 2025-26  
VC highlights skill development, student feedback as key drivers of excellence



Vice Chancellor JU, Prof. Umesh Rai chairing Academic Council meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Academic Council of the University of Jammu, the highest decision-making body for academic affairs, convened today under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai.

The meeting focused on important academic initiatives and policies designed to enhance the quality of education and research at the University.

Prof. Umesh Rai began by expressing gratitude to the Chancellor, Manoj Sinha, and Pro-Chancellor, Omar Abdullah, for their visionary leadership and continuous support, which have been crucial in steering the University toward excellence.

He acknowledged their encouragement in promoting innovation, academic growth, and infrastructural development, which have significantly

elevated the University's standing on national and international platforms.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma was appointed as the Registrar, Sanjeev Mahajan as Controller of Examinations, and Dr. Jitender Khajuria as Finance Officer. Prof. Rai expressed confidence in their dedication and the crucial role they will play in the University's continued pursuit of academic excellence.

Addressing the Deans, Rectors, Heads, and Directors, the Vice Chancellor stressed the importance of integrating student feedback into both academic and administrative processes.

He encouraged them to lead by example, nurturing a culture of innovation and prioritizing student-centric policies to create a dynamic and responsive learning environment. He also urged depart-

ments to align their objectives with the University's strategic vision and encouraged proactive contributions toward trans-disciplinary research initiatives.

Prof. Rai highlighted the need for skill-based education to meet the evolving demands of the professional world. He called for the revision of course structures to enhance employability and transition students from job seekers to job creators.

Advocating for a problem-solving approach to teaching, he encouraged moving beyond traditional classroom methods to more innovative, experiential learning strategies. These measures, he stated, would help the University align its programs with global standards and provide students with a holistic education.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma, the newly appointed Registrar,

presented several important proposals during the meeting, including curriculum revisions, the introduction of new academic programs, and policies aimed at promoting research and infrastructure development. The Academic Council engaged in extensive discussions and approved key proposals to strengthen the University's academic framework. These included the introduction of Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUGP) in BCA and BBA with Data Science as a major at Kathua Campus, the launch of a Ph.D. program in Journalism and Mass Communication, and a one-year PG Diploma in Museology and Conservation. The Council also endorsed the introduction of a 5-year Integrated M.Sc. Electronics program and two new PG Diploma programs in Sanskrit.

The Council also agreed in principle with the proposal for granting of one-time special chance for Reappear/Failure candidates in University of Jammu and also for division improvement in various programs.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Rai reaffirmed the University's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity and innovation. He urged all

stakeholders to collaborate in fostering a vibrant academic ecosystem that prepares students to become global leaders and changemakers.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Anju Bhasin (Dean Academic Affairs), Prof. Meena Sharma (Dean, Planning & Development), Prof. Neelu Rohmetra (Dean Research Studies), and other Deans, Rectors, Directors, Heads of Departments, and college principals. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sumita Sharma, Joint Registrar, Academic Affairs, who expressed gratitude to the Chair and members for their valuable insights and contributions.

# Dy CM outlines multi-pronged strategy to eradicate illegal mining in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Wednesday chaired a high level meeting to deliberate on the pressing issue of illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy CM issued clear directives for stringent measures to eradicate illegal mining activities, stressing the importance of night-time vigilance and frequent inspections. He emphasised that no mining



Dy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary chairing a meeting.

operations or hot mix plants should be allowed to function without proper permissions, asserting that accountability at every level of administration was essential to achieving this goal. The officers were instructed to provide updated and comprehensive data on mining activities and ensure consistent coordination with the police to enhance field-level monitoring. The Deputy CM noted that

robust data management would not only expose irregularities but also strengthen the overall governance of mineral resources.

Surinder Choudhary ordered immediate seizure of machinery and vehicles involved in illegal mining. He highlighted the need for imposing substantial penalties on violators, stating that such measures would serve as an effective deterrent against

unauthorised activities.

Highlighting the environmental consequences of illegal mining, the Dy CM expressed concern over pollution in water bodies and called for concerted efforts to address ecological damage. These measures, he noted, align with the government's broader commitment towards sustainable resource management. Regarding recurring mismatch between field data and records on the J&K Mining Web Portal, Surinder Choudhary asked the officers to rectify this issue promptly, underscoring the importance of transparency and accountability in mineral resource governance. The meeting was attended by Director Geology & Mining Puneet Sharma and all District Mining Officers, among others.

# CS reviews achievements of Agri Dept in advancing farmer welfare initiatives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday held a meeting of Agriculture Production Department (APD) to review progress achieved on different initiatives being taken for advancing farmers welfare and growth of agriculture sector in J&K.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, APD, MD, HADP, Deputy Commissioners, HoDs, Convenor, UTLBC and other concerned officers of the department.

Dulloo, while assessing progress on establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) across different districts of the

UT, emphasised upon the concerned to keep increasing services being extended through these KKGs. He observed that such steps would accentuate the impact of these centres besides bringing efficiency in their functioning and utility for the farmers. He enjoined upon the Department to establish rest of the KKGs by January this year and make a dashboard to monitor the transactions regarding necessary advisories, sale of seeds and fertilisers by each of them.

The Chief Secretary also enquire from the respective DCs about the functioning of KKGs in their districts. He called upon them to make these

centres active by establishing kiosks for each of them in the villages of their operation. He also took note of the hardware received by each DC and its distribution among the Kisan Udhyanis (KUs) of their districts. He stressed on exploring ways and means to make all those KKGs functional for which KUs had not been made available till date.

Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, emphasised upon the field functionaries to ensure that all the 2000 KKGs are made functional before February this year. He directed for taking the registration numbers to at least 500 per KKG. He also enjoined upon them to

convert the ongoing events of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan 3.0 and Block Divas as the major camps for registration of farmers besides creating awareness among them.

It was further given out that under phase first a total of 501 KKGs had been established across different districts of the UT and 1499 are going to be made functional in phase 2. It was added that for each of the KKGs a science graduate is selected by the district administration as Kisan Udhyanis for running these centres here.

Later, the Chief Secretary reviewed the progress made by the Department in seeding of Aadhar and land details on PM

KISAN portal. He directed the DCs to make all efforts to remove the pendencies with regard to completion of NPCL, e-KYC and land seeding pendencies.

He also enjoined upon the Revenue Department to synchronize their RoR data with that of the PM-KISAN details for generation of Agristack Ids in favour of all the farmers as per the GoI guidelines.

It was revealed that the IT has around 9.39 lakh active beneficiaries under PM-KISAN and these are also being given other benefits like KCC and services under Kisan Sathi portal developed in J&K.

# When Modi talks of UCC he is for fulfilling obligations of Govt as enshrined in Art-44 of Constitution of India

Better place the draft UCC Bill in public domain so that specific suggestions could be made by all stakeholders  
Had not been lost in political gamesmanship UCC would have been amicably in place long back

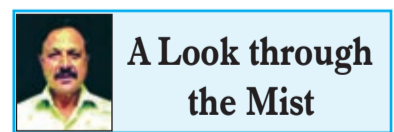
■ DAYA SAGAR

It is not out of place to mention here that generally the debates/discussions that are initiated as regards Uniform Civil Code (CCC) or Common Civil Code (CCC) are understood by common man as related to different laws related to Hindu and Muslim communities in India (may be that is the reason for controversies heating up whenever someone talks of UCC and the issue gets lost in political webs) where as it relates to all the religious communities that exist in India (even amongst different social sects/segments with a religious community). No doubt in recent years those demanding for UCC have made reference to Art-44, though a directive principle, which lays down that <Uniform civil code for the citizens.-The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.>. No doubt Art-37, though this too is a

directive principle, at the same time also says that the provisions contained in t Part-III of Constitution of India shall not be enforceable by any court, but the principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.>. Those who just oppose UCC for political reasons & not for technical reasons do quote Art 37 .

No doubt reference of Uniform Civil Code/Law has been there in Art-44 of COI the subject came more in debates after the April 23, 1985 judgement of Supreme Court of India in the Shah Bano Case (Mohd. Ahmed Khan Vs. Shah Bano Begum) . an old divorcee Muslim woman ( The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal and upheld the decision of the High Court. The Supreme Court explained this judgment by saying that, even if there is a conflict, section 125 of CrPC is a secular law,

and hence, applies to all women, irrespective of their religion. It further stat-



A Look through the Mist

ed that CrPC shall prevail over Muslim Personal Law in case of a conflict )The then Congress government at the Centre buckled under the pressures of a section of political leadership and in 1986 brought a law (The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 ) to overturn the decision of the Supreme Court of India.

But unfortunately the subject has remained only a 'bait' for playing vote games during elections for the political rivals and no unbiased community groups have tried to play some meaningful role in this regard.

Surely a uniform Civil Code /common

Civil Code would provide more cementing 'grits & yarns' to national spirits of any National and no one should oppose that. No doubt it has to be appreciated that India is a country multiple religions/customs/sects/geographical cultural engagements and preparing a UCC would require very intimate/passionate/ accommodating and analytic inputs. But still it has to be truthfully admitted that had the politicians in India been not taking the UCC issue more as a political gamesmanship issue there would have been either no need for a UCC in India or long time back UCC would have been installed.

\*The subject of UCC is very pertinent but has to be taken up with care since particularly over last three decades the subject has been discussed more with political vote bank considerations and mostly common understanding has been limited to only customs / social law related to marriages amongst dif-

ferent communities particularly amongst Hindu and Muslim communities only where as the scope of common civil code / UCC is to extend over many more subjects & even sects amongst different religious communities so it needs very careful & intricate working and we have to also see that no politician is able to use the issue of reforms in the name code of Uniform Civil Code for political controversies/ rivalries.

To working out a template for drawing a comprehensive acceptable UCC for citizen of India for Law Commission of India a vast sea of target beneficiaries / state holders will be there along with already existing social customs / laws like the Marriage Act, Succession Act, Minority and Guardianship Act, Adoptions and Maintenance Act, Married Women's Property Act of 1923, Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1928, procedures for Hindu mar-

riages, divorcees, adoptions and inheritance, tribal customs / tribal , etc.

All goods of the UCC when drafted will have to be taken amicably amongst all those who have been against such law code and have been pleading / will plead such actions against the secular ethos of Constitution of India and infringement of the beliefs and customs in individual religious communities /sects Hindu/ Muslim/ Christian/ Sikh.

Therefore it is very earnestly requested that if possible some draft of reform Doc/ Bill , if at all has been prepared by 22nd Law Commission of India based on the consultation paper on "Reforms of Family Law" prepared by 21st Law commission of India on August 31, 2018, may be provided/placed in public domain by 23rd Law Commission as early as possible .

(The writer is a Sr Journalist , social activist & analyst of J&K Affairs)