

# Dr Jitendra releases 'Association of Physicians of India' book on 'Pollution and Health'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday launched the monograph Pollution and Health, a comprehensive publication addressing the adverse effects of pollution on human health.

Edited by Prof. Dr. Vitull K. Gupta, Chief Editor and Chairman of the Association of Physicians of India (API), Malwa Branch, the book brings together contributions from 86 experts across India, offering a detailed exploration of pollution's impact on various systems of the body.

During the launch, Dr. Jitendra remarked, "It gives me immense pleasure and great honour to write the foreword for the monograph titled Pollution and Health, wherein adverse health effects of pollution on human beings have been highlighted. The growing pollution levels have raised a public health concern both in India



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, flanked by Chief Editor Dr. Vitull K. Gupta, releasing "Pollution and Health", a comprehensive publication brought out by Association of Physicians of India (API), at New Delhi on Thursday.

and globally. It has also generated interest amongst researchers to document the significant health burden of pollution on human morbidity and mortality. In this direction, this monograph comprising 34 chapters contributed by famous contributors from all over India and covering almost all aspects of adverse health effects of pollution on various systems of the body will definitely generate awareness and research interest amongst healthcare professionals and common people. I appreciate the idea of publication of a monograph on Pollution and Health and congratulate the entire editorial team for providing a comprehensive book on the subject."

Dr. Jitendra further emphasized the distinctive approach of Prof. Dr. Vitull K. Gupta in addressing social issues through a medical lens, which adds credibil-

ity to the narration of these challenges.

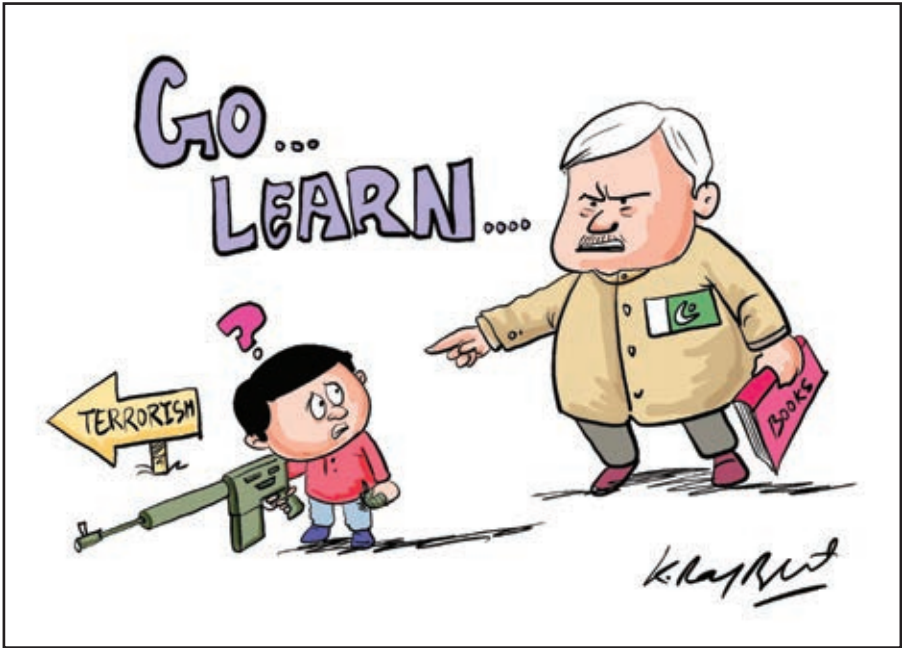
He stated, "The monograph is a unique effort, possibly the first of its kind, which will be useful for both physicians and researchers. Being a medical professional himself, his perspective on social issues through the lens of health makes this work particularly impactful."

The editorial team, led by Executive Editor Dr. Meghna Gupta and Assistant Editor Dr. Manpreet Singh Brar, worked tirelessly to refine the content, ensuring its utility for both medical professionals and the wider public. Dr. Gupta, dedicating the book to his family, noted that the monograph aims to raise awareness and encourage collective efforts to reduce pollution's impact on human health.

The monograph is the result of the combined expertise and guidance of several notable contributors, including Prof. Dr. Gurpreet S. Wander, Director of the Physicians Research Foundation of API, who authorized and supported the project. Prominent figures such as Padma Shri Prof. Dr. Shashank Joshi, past President of API; Prof. Dr. Milind Nadkar, President of API; and Padma Shri Dr. V. Mohan, a renowned diabetologist, has also contributed to the monograph.

The publication further includes forewords from distinguished experts like Padma Shri Prof. Dr. Anoop Misra, Prof. Dr. Mangesh Tiwaskar, and Dr. H. K. Chopra, who collectively emphasized the importance of addressing pollution as a critical issue impacting public health and the environment.

The monograph, available in both print and online formats, will be distributed free of cost to ensure accessibility for all.



## TC flags off Road Safety awareness Rally



Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan leading road safety rally.

## Local industry pivotal in boosting economy, employment generation: Dy CM

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Thursday said that the local industry plays a pivotal role in employment generation besides helping in boosting the economy of a particular region.

"The role of local industrial sector is of significant importance in ensuring that the economy of a particular area gets the necessary boost and the present government is committed to ensure its proper growth by way of various interventions and industry friendly schemes" the Deputy Chief Minister maintained.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with the officers during his visit to Jammu



Dy CM, Surinder Kumar Choudhary interacting with officers during visit to JKI showroom.

& Kashmir Industries (JKI) showroom at Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu today.

Managing Director JK Industries, Vikram Gupta and other senior officers were present on the occasion. The visit

various stalls showcasing an array of products manufactured by JKI, related to renowned mulberry silk and local wool, which are integral to the region's cultural heritage and hold a special place in textile heritage as well.

While appreciating the quality and originality of the products on display, the Deputy Chief Minister commended JKI for its efforts in preserving the traditional skill especially those related to world famous Kashmiri mulberry silk. "In order to make the products of JKI more competitive, the management should focus on marketing of these products in a more scientific and rigorous manner" he added. He emphasised upon quality and design

up-gradation as per current market demands at national and international level.

"We are committed towards supporting the local industries to boost the economy and subsequently generate employment avenues in J&K. The present Government shall provide all necessary support to JKI and other local enterprises to ensure their sustainable growth and global competitiveness" the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised.

The visit concluded with Surinder Kumar Choudhary encouraging JKI officials to continue their efforts in promoting local crafts, which are vital for the region's economic growth and employment generation.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan on Thursday flagged off a road safety rally at Ranbir Higher Secondary School, Jammu as part of the ongoing Road Safety Month.

The event was organized in collaboration with the School Education Department and Traffic Department to raise awareness about road safety measures among students and the general public.

The rally was attended by SSP Traffic Faisal Qureshi; RTO Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra; Joint Transport Commissioner Vinay Samotra; Chief Education Officer Jagdeep Padha; Principal, Kishore Sharma;

ARTO HQ. Jammu Rehana Tabassum, officials of RTO Office Jammu and students of the school.

While interacting with the students, the Transport Commissioner, J&K emphasized the importance of adhering to road safety norms. He highlighted the necessity of wearing seat belts and helmets to prevent injuries in accidents. Vishesh Paul Mahajan also cautioned students against under age driving, warning that such actions could lead to legal consequences for their parents and bring them disrepute.

He further directed school principals not to allow two-wheelers within school premises, stating that it could endanger the lives of students.

Other officials present also addressed the gathering, underlining the significance of road safety awareness and encouraging responsible behavior on the roads.

The event concluded with a pledge by the participants to follow road safety rules and spread the message to others, marking a successful step towards fostering a culture of safety and responsibility among the youth.

Earlier a road safety pledge was also administered at the event.

Later, two minute silence prayers were also observed in remembrance of those who lost their lives in road accidents.

# Buyer-Seller Meet for Flower Growers held Sakeena inspects GMC, Associated Hospital, takes stock of medical facilities

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu on Thursday organized the Buyer-Seller Meet 2024-25 for flower growers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Baba Jitto, Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo.

Mission Director HADP/JKCIP, Rahul Yadav, the chief guest for the event, inaugurated the Buyer-Seller Meet and officially commenced the program with the lighting of the lamp. The program was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen.

In his inaugural address, Mission Director Rahul Yadav highlighted the key projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aimed at boosting floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Listing the project initiatives, he mentioned Project No. 4: Strengthening Agri-Marketing System in UT J&K, Project No. 5: Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants on a Commercial Basis, and Project No. 14: Promotion of Commercial Floriculture.

The MD emphasized the crucial role of marketing and branding for the success of commercial floriculture, noting that effective marketing strategies and strong branding would enhance the value of floriculture products, open new mar-



Mission Director HADP/JKCIP, Rahul Yadav lighting ceremonial lamp.

kets for farmers and increase their income. He further stressed that these initiatives are designed to improve agricultural productivity.

Rahul Yadav also took the opportunity to engage with the gathering, reiterating the commitment to strengthening the floriculture sector under HADP, and providing vital insights on its role in Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural transformation.

The Mission Director noted the presence of buyers from other states, highlighting the growing interest in Jammu's floriculture products. He stressed the need for extending proper hand holding to flower growers and emphasized the importance of developing a reliable buyer chain for flower growers, ensuring that they have a consistent and profitable market for their produce.

Director Agriculture Jammu S. A.S Reen shared his

thoughts on the importance of floriculture for the agricultural development in the region.

He discussed the motive of area expansion of commercial floriculture under HADP in the Jammu region. He highlighted the key provisions in the Holistic Agriculture Development programme, including polyhouses, polycarbonate structures, cold storage units, pack houses, and refrigerated vans-all essential infrastructure that will support the growth of the floriculture sector. These facilities are designed to help flower growers extend the shelf life of their products, improve quality, and enhance their marketability. In addition, Director Agriculture A.S Reen emphasized the potential for flower seedling nurseries raised within polyhouses as a commercial business opportunity. By growing high-quality seedlings, farmers can sell them year-round, creating a sustainable

and profitable enterprise in the floriculture industry.

Dr. Punit Chowdhary, Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Jammu, highlighted the importance of scientific advancements and innovation in floriculture and shared his perspectives on the future of the sector. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern techniques for better yield and quality.

Earlier, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Vinod Kumar Kunal delivered the welcome address.

The Buyer Seller Meet also featured an interactive session where buyers, sellers, and flower growers engaged in fruitful discussions. This session allowed for the exchange of ideas, feedback, and concerns, and facilitated the establishment of vital connections between stakeholders in the floriculture supply chain.

A technical session was conducted by resource persons and experts.

Among the distinguished guests/resource persons/experts present were Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director Training, Department of Agriculture Jammu, Bhavishya Devgan, CEO, Salutem Ride Gear Apparel Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Dr. Anil Bhat, Professor, SKUAST Jammu, S. Tajinder Singh, Progressive Farmer and Kisan Board Member, Dr. Sourab Sangral, Area Marketing Officer, Jammu and others.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) and Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu to assess the medical facilities, evaluate ongoing works and ensure effective functioning of healthcare services for the people of Jammu and surrounding regions.



Health Minister Sakeena Itoo inaugurating ICU.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashed Shah, Principal and Dean GMC Jammu, HoDs of different specialties, Medical Superintendents of all Associated Hospitals and other concerned officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit. During the inspection at GMC and Associated Hospital, the Minister undertook comprehensive review of the infrastructure, equipment, patient care services and cleanliness standards maintained at the facility. She interacted with the hospital staff to gain first-hand insights into the challenges they face.

She also inspected BSL Lab, VRDL ICMR lab, Chopra nursing home and other sections of the hospital. She laid emphasis on availability of essential medicines, diagnostic tools and manpower so that the patients are ensured due advantage of these facilities.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Minister also chaired a meeting to review progress on various ongoing projects of GMC and Associated Hospitals. She also assessed the functioning of Bone and Joint Hospital, Jammu, SMGS Hospital Shalamar, MCCH Gandhinagar, State Cancer Institute Jammu, Chest Disease Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital Jammu.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of infrastructure upgrades, status of under-construction buildings, procurement of modern medical equipment as well as requirement of manpower for smooth functioning of these health facilities.

While appreciating the efforts of the hospital administration in providing quality healthcare facilities, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the need for continued improvements in healthcare services to address the existing

gaps. She stressed on the importance of timely completion of these projects to enhance the overall efficiency and patient care standards in the region. "Address any kind of bottlenecks in execution of works timely in consultation with other stakeholders and ensure that these projects are completed within the stipulated timelines", Sakeena directed the officers.

Highlighting the government's commitment towards improving healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister reiterated that patient-centric approach is priority of the current government. She asked the officers to work in synergy and ensure that every effort is made to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare facilities to all sections of society. Sakeena Itoo further underscored the need of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in

healthcare facilities. "Adopt stringent measures to maintain a sanitized environment in the health institutions. Use of modern technology should also be employed to streamline operations and improve service delivery in the hospitals", she asserted.

The Minister, on the occasion, also called upon the hospital administration of GMC Jammu to decongest the emergency section of the hospital so that the patients are treated effectively.

Later, the Minister visited the Super Speciality Hospital and State Cancer Institute Jammu and took stock of medical care facilities available for the patients there.

At Super Speciality Hospital, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to cater the growing emergency needs of the patients at the hospital.

Interacting with the hospital administration, the Minister advised them to facilitate the public so that they can take due benefits of these advanced test care facilities. She asked them to notify rates of all the diagnostic tests for the ease of patients and attendants.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Principal and Dean GMC Jammu, HoDs of different specialties of Super Speciality Hospital and other officers were also present during inspection by the Minister at the hospital.

# Why is Pakistan unnerved by Modi's visit to Kashmir, Sonamarg tunnel

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh referred to the so-called Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq's statement while describing how Pakistan was misleading the people across the Line of Control to spew venom against India. The statement that PoJK PM made was a sheer reflection of the deep frustration in which Pakistan is caught after the abrogation of Article 370 and vast improvement in Jammu and Kashmir.

It is not only about the changes being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 abrogation of Article 370 that demolished all political, economic and psychological walls that characterized the pre-August 5 relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India, but also Pakistan has lost its narrative on Kashmir in the international community. An isolated Pakistan is left with nothing but to spread canards against India and its leadership.

Pakistan's mouthpiece POJK PM raised

objections to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir on Monday - January 13-when he inaugurated multi-billion rupees Sonamarg tunnel that has changed the connectivity landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and that of Ladakh. More than that, it has given a sense of empowerment to the peoples of the two union territories, particularly the Kashmir Valley as vagaries of weather would not hamper their movement and livelihood. In fact their economy is all set to get a boost beyond their imagination.

Sonamarg tunnel has been hailed as engineering marvel. It has made its way through Himalayas. This, in itself is a unique engineering victory against all odds of terrain and weather. This fight against the odds with a huge expenditure running into over Rs. 2700 crore is all meant to facilitate the people. Such developmental projects, which bring with them reduction in distances, boosting economy and opportunities of employment are the real source of empowerment.

Pakistan has a reason to feel sad about it. First, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is committed to reducing "Dil aur Delhi se dur" in Jammu and Kashmir manifested it by inaugurating the tunnel which has seen light of the day under his rule in its 11th year now. Pakistan has been in overdrive to besmirch the image of the Indian leadership of the day as it believes that Kashmiris are gullible and

## NEWS ANALYSIS

they would lap all its words. Here, Pakistan has lost all its understanding of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their psyche.

Prime Minister Modi has enamoured himself to the people of J&K both by his work and words. From the day one, he took over the office of Prime Minister of the country; he has paid an extraordinary attention toward Jammu and Kashmir. His first visit to the state (J&K was a state in 2014) was connected to the development project - he had flagged

off train in Katra railway station and also inaugurated the second phase of Uri hydro-electric project. Since then, he has continued to work for the development of J&K, silencing all critics, particularly Pakistan, who had engaged in propaganda that Kashmiris were more interested in political things rather than development - connectivity or others. PM has proved all of them wrong.

The abrogation of Article 370 marked a turning point. Pakistan and some of the vested interests within Kashmir rolled out a loud campaign that Kashmiris would not accept anything done by the Government that scrapped their special position within the Indian union. The reverse happened. People are welcoming all the development projects and have become partners in these without blinking even an eyelid.

There is another reason that Makes Pakistan jittery. It knows what it has done to the people in J&K- bullets were fired at the demonstrators who demanded flour at reason-

able rates and electricity generated through dams located on their soil. The civil liberties of the residents have been curtailed where right to demonstrate is curbed through the use of force. Pakistan army is used more often than not in quelling processions.

Pakistan army has also converted POJK into the land of terror-training camps, where terrorists from various parts of Pakistan, and other nationalities converged, to the dismay of the people whose lives have been shattered by the guns. Their lives have become unsafe, and they are worried about the dignity of their womenfolk.

And when the POJK residents see Jammu and Kashmir progressing, getting new projects and empowerment of the people, they develop a natural love for India and this is what makes Pakistan nervous, hence the anti-India propaganda. But the people have seen it all, and they refuse to fall into the misleading trap, because of which Pakistan's frustration is growing.