

CJ visits Muskan 'Home for Children' at Channi Rama; reviews facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Aiming enhanced care and protection of children residing in various Child Care Institutions across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Tashi Rabstan, accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Ansuva Jamwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Jammu, who also serves as Executive Secretary, District Red Cross Society, Jammu, on Wednesday visited Muskan, Home for Children at Channi Rama, Jammu.

During the visit, the Chief Justice interacted with the children and distributed sweets and gifts among them. This interaction provided an opportunity to



Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, Tashi Rabstan during visit to Muskan 'Home for Children'.

understand the children's living conditions and their specific needs. The Chief Justice interacted with the staff members of the Children Home and issued directions for enhancing the amenities and facilities being provided to the inmates. He emphasised the importance of a supportive and nurturing environment for holistic development of the children.

The ADC Jammu assured the Chief Justice that the

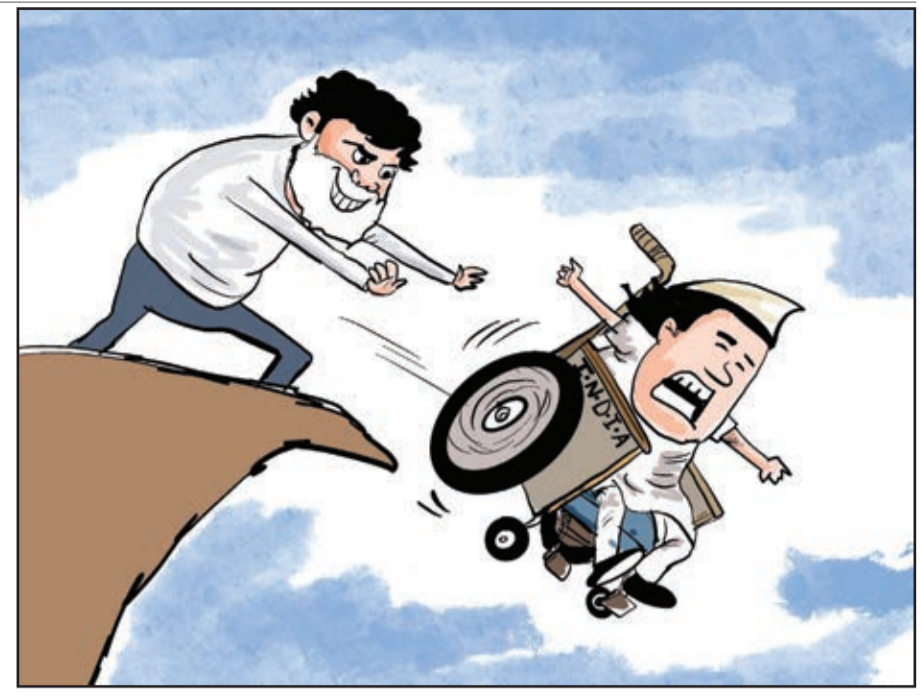
suggestions for improvement would be implemented promptly. She highlighted the current facilities being provided at the Children Home, which included regular medical check-ups, special education classes facilitated under Samagra Shiksha initiative and physical and motor development activities organised by the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu. Additionally, weekly visits by physiotherapists and psychol-

ogists are being conducted to ensure the mental and physical well-being of children, reflecting a comprehensive approach towards their care

and development.

The Chief Justice appreciated the efforts of the administration and staff in ensuring welfare of the children. He commended their commitment for addressing any shortcomings and called for continued efforts to uphold the dignity and rights of the children residing there.

This visit underscores the commitment of the judiciary and the J&K Legal Services Authority to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable sections of the society and ensure that their needs are met with compassion and care.



2025 to witness India assuming critical role in Global Bioeconomy revolution: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: On the first day of the New Year on Wednesday, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, gave an exclusive interview to Doordarshan News, in which he exuded confidence that the year 2025 will witness India assuming a critical role in Global Bioeconomy revolution and that India's 1st Biotechnology policy- BIO-E3 brought by Modi Govt 3.0 has already paved the way for it.

The Minister highlighted India's significant strides in biotechnology and the nation's growing global leadership in Biotechnology.

Reflecting on the past decade of progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the pivotal role of biotechnology in India's future, particularly as the country continues to embrace innovation, technology-based interventions, and startups. "Prime Minister Modi's vision has consistently prioritized innovation and technological advancement, driving India's evolution into a global biotechnology powerhouse," said Dr. Singh. He added that biotechnology is poised to be at the forefront of the Fourth



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an exclusive New Year interview to DD News at New Delhi.

Industrial Revolution, with India playing a central role.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the newly launched BIO-E3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Employment, and Environment) Policy, which was recently approved by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. "This forward-thinking policy marks a significant milestone for India's biotechnology sector, reinforcing its potential to shape the country's economy, employment landscape, and environmental sustainability in the years to come."

India's biotechnology sector has experienced extraordinary growth, skyrocketing from a \$10 billion industry in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024, with

projections to reach \$300 billion by 2030. As Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out, "India is not only a leader in biotechnology but is now at the center of a global biotech boom, which will foster innovation, create jobs, and strengthen environmental commitments."

The Minister also underscored the fact that India currently accounts for 60% of global vaccine production and is home to the second-largest number of USFDA-approved manufacturing plants outside the United States. With growing investment opportunities across sectors such as Bio-Pharma, Bio-Agri, Bio-Industrial, Bio-Energy, Bio-Services, and Med-Tech, India is emerging as a global leader in biotechnology.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further compared the ongoing "Bio-revolution" in India to the IT revolution driven by the West, highlighting that the country's rich natural and biodiversity resources are key to its biotechnology success. He also praised the efforts of Indian startups leveraging biotechnology to create innovative solutions such as non-human milk and other sustainable products. The Union Minister recalled the launch of the

Mission Suraksha initiative, which led to the development of indigenous DNA-based vaccines and the world's largest vaccination drive during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, India's biotechnology sector has also seen notable achievements, such as the development of the world's first HPV vaccine and the breakthrough creation of the antibiotic 'Naphthromycin,' which has proven effective in treating respiratory diseases. Furthermore, the Department of Biotechnology has successfully developed a gene therapy experiment for hemophilia.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also commended the collaboration between 14 institutes that had previously operated in silos, emphasizing the importance of a "whole of Science, whole of Government, and whole of Nation" approach. He highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the Deep Sea Mission, which Prime Minister Modi has referenced on multiple occasions, and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), which was passed in 2024 and is set to foster innovation with a 60% contribution from the private sector. In 2024, the Indian government has

already sanctioned 1000 crores to further accelerate innovation in biotechnology.

Additionally, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that India's leadership extends beyond biotechnology to other cutting-edge fields, such as quantum technology, where India has emerged as a global leader. He also celebrated the significant progress made in space exploration, revealing that an Indian-origin individual will soon be sent to the US Space Station, as part of a broader effort to position India at the forefront of space technology.

As Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded, "In the past, India would often take cues from other countries in terms of technology and innovation. Today, times have changed. Other countries are now looking to India for guidance and inspiration. India is proud to be leading the way, particularly in areas such as quantum technology, where the country is making significant strides with the Quantum Mission."

India's remarkable advancements in biotechnology and other emerging technologies position it as a key player on the global stage, driving the future of innovation, sustainability, and economic growth.

DC Jammu reviews progress of District Capex budget development works



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget across various sectors.

The meeting reviewed the status of ongoing projects undertaken by the Public Works Department for

departments including School Education, Health and others.

During the review, challenges in the execution of projects were discussed, with the DC emphasising the need to adhere to timelines and ensure the timely delivery of projects. Stressing the importance of efficiency, he directed officers to overcome hurdles and maintain the

highest standards in project implementation.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, SE PWD, ExEn Jal Shakti Rajesh Sharma, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Chief Education Officer JK Padma, Chief Medical Officer Dr Harbaksh Singh, besides other district officers.

NC running visionless, directionless government: Sunil Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference party is running a government that is visionless and directionless government, said Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP during a press conference at BJP Headquarters, Jammu. Adv. Sunil Sethi, was accompanied by Spokespersons Dr Tahir Chowdhary, & Balbir Ram Rattan and Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra.



J&K BJP Chief Spokesperson, Adv. Sunil Sethi talking to reporters.

failed miserably on all the fronts of public importance. It failed in delivering to its poll promises mentioned in its manifesto. In the past 2 months, the NC government has not paid any heed towards the public issues, be it water, electricity, jobs, tourism, or projects to be undertaken in Jammu & Kashmir. It lacks commitment and will to do work. Instead of working for the welfare of the people, NC is making lame excuses and jeopardizing the security and development progress in J&K.

NC has developed a leadership crisis in these times and may break down in the coming time. The CM has lost the faith of its senior leaders as it miserably fails in its promises which were made without any roadmap to fulfill them. Promises without financial planning are doomed to fail like in Delhi and Punjab.

They tried to give a political angle to certain public issues like that of ropeway, and the role of Dy CM is questionable in these matters.

In 2025, the BJP will emerge as an even stronger

force and popular among the people as it stands with them in all even-odds. The BJP will be victorious in all the upcoming polls like ULB, and Panchayat. BJP is taking many new steps for the development in Jammu & Kashmir like to ensure more tourists in the region with the increasing work on the roads and railways network. A Train develops many villages, towns, and cities in its course. The Katra-Delhi Road will help to improve the transport of people as well as the goods.

Regarding youth, the BJP is also working with the Union government on increasing jobs in the region and making efforts for more recruitment drives. BJP has worked for the socio-economic welfare of women through a multi-pronged approach. The people support the party for its pro-people approach and have given massive vote shares in all the elections in 2024 and the party will ensure that this faith increases in 2025.

CAT directs JKSSB to allow more 145 Overaged applicants to participate in Selection Process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a yet another significant order, a Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal, Jammu comprising Member (Judicial) Rajinder Singh Dogra and Member (Administrative) Ram Mohan Johri, in three different Original Applications (O.A.'s) filed by 145 overaged unemployed graduates seeking age relaxation for participating in the ongoing selection process undertaken by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the posts of Sub-Inspector in J&K Police, has directed the JKSSB to allow the applicants to participate in the process of selection to the said posts of Sub-Inspectors notified vide Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2024 dated November 24, 2024.

The Bench of CAT at Jammu after hearing Advocate Mohd Zulkarnain

Chowdhary with Advocates Sameena Kouser and Jamil Ahmed appearing for the 145 applicants further directed that the participation of the applicants shall be at their own risk and responsibility, however, the result of selection of the applicants shall be kept in a Sealed Cover and shall await further orders from the Tribunal.

When these Original Applications (O.A.'s) were taken up for hearing, Advocate M. Z. Chowdhary vehemently argued that the public employment is a National Resource and all eligible candidates have a fundamental right of consideration to participate in a competitive examination but in the instant case the maximum age for participation has been restricted to 28 years and 145 applicants before the Tribunal became overaged because of the inaction on the part of the

indenting department (Home Department) as the Advertisement was issued after the lapse of more than 03 years from the last selection process.

Advocate M. Z. Chowdhary highlighted SRO-166 of 2005 whereby all Administrative Secretaries of J&K Govt are entrusted with the responsibility to refer the vacancies every year upto 15th of January to J&K PSC/SSB but in the present case the Home Department failed to comply SRO-166 of 2005 with the result for 03 years the vacancies could not be referred to SSB and consequently the applicants became overaged by more than 03 years.

Advocate M. Z. Chowdhary also referred to an Order passed by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu in WP(C) No. 3049/2024 titled Dinesh Singh Chib &

Ors. v/s UT of J&K and Ors. whereby a Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Wani directed the JKSSB to allow the petitioners to participate in the process of selection at their own risk and responsibility.

After considering the submissions of Advocate M. Z. Chowdhary appearing for the applicants and Deputy Advocate General Hunar Gupta appearing for Home Department and JKSSB, a Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal at Jammu directed the JKSSB to allow the 145 applicants to participate in the process of selection to the posts of Sub-Inspector notified vide Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2024 dated November 24, 2024.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bishnah, Sarore, Chak Hals, Rehal, Pandorian, Kheri Nandpur, Ramgarh, Kamore, Rangoor, Abtal, Nanga, Apna Vihar, Kunjwani, Seora, Shahpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 04 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Rajouri Town, Thanamandi, Manjakote, Koteranka will remain affected on January 02 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ratnuchak, Birpur, MES, Kaluchak and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 03 from 11 am to 2 pm. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Sarore, Industry, Goyal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 03 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh to celebrate on Jan 5: DGPC

Nagar Kirtan to be taken out on Jan 3

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Parkash Utsav (Birthday) of the 10th Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, will be celebrated on January 5, 2025 at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Chand Kour Nagar, with traditional gaiety and fervour.

A Grand Nagar Kirtan is also scheduled to be taken out on January 3, 2025, from Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar, Jammu.

This was announced by Ranjeet Singh Tohra, President of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Jammu, during a press conference on Wednesday.

Balvinder Singh, Vice President, while providing

details of the Nagar Kirtan, said that it will commence from Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar at 10 AM and will pass through key locations, including Vivekanand Chowk, Gumat Bazar, J.P. Chowk, Dogra Chowk, Bikram Chowk, Asia Hotel, Green Belt Park Gandhi Nagar, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Gole Market, Bank of Baroda Chowk Gandhi Nagar, Sachdeva Boutique, Bahmiki Chowk, Shiva Chowk, Khalsa Chowk, and will culminate at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

Ranjeet Singh Tohra shared that besides local preachers, prominent

Parcharaks from outside the region, such as Bhai Harvinder Singh Ganga, Bhai Ganga, Bhai Dadi Jatha of Giani Kewal Singh Ji, Komal, and Prof. Gureharan Singh Ji Chann Panthak Kavi, will participate in the Nagar Kirtan.

Surjit Singh, General Secretary DGPC Jammu, detailed the Parcharaks and Ragi Jathas who will attend the Parkash Purab celebration on January 5, 2025, at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Chand Nagar, Jammu.

Distinguished participants include Bhai Mandeep Singh Ji Murid (Parcharak), Bhai Sukhpreet Singh Ji (Hazuri Ragi, Sri Darbar Sahib), and Bhai Gurbachan Singh Ji (Hazuri Ragi, Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar), along with

several local Parcharaks and Ragi Jathas.

Other DGPC office bearers and members who were present over there in the meeting were Ranvir Singh Joint Secretary, Jagpal Singh Treasurer, Harjit Singh and Gurmest Singh Incharge Dharam Parchar DGPC Jammu, Avtar Singh, Tejinder Singh, Balvinder Singh, Karan Singh Bali members DGPC Jammu.

The DGPC Jammu urged all residents, especially the Sikh Sangat, to participate enthusiastically in both the Nagar Kirtan on January 3, 2025, and the Parkash Purab celebration on January 5, 2025, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar, Jammu.