

Dr Jitendra hails universal Ayushman health cover for all citizens above 70

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANDHRA PRADESH: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has hailed the introduction of universal Ayushman Bharat Health Coverage for all citizens above the age of 70, regardless of their socio-economic status.

Dr. Singh described this initiative as a cornerstone of the government's highly sensitive policy planning, under the personal guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The announcement comes as part of his ongoing three-day visit under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).

The Aspirational Districts Programme, launched in 2018, aims to transform underdeveloped areas into models of inclusive growth.

Dr. Jitendra Singh's visit underlined the government's unwavering commitment to these objectives. He began his visit with a comprehensive briefing on the district's development progress, particularly focusing on issues like healthcare, nutrition, education, and infrastructure. He emphasized the transformative potential of collaborative governance and the role of accountability in



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh handing over Ayushman Health Cards to above 70 years elder citizens at Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh on Thursday.

bridging the developmental gaps between regions.

During the visit, Dr. Singh inspected the Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Nagireddipalle (C.K. Dinne Mandal), a health and wellness clinic that serves as a model for rural healthcare. He interacted with healthcare workers and beneficiaries, appreciating the facility's role in improving preventive and primary healthcare services. The visit showcased the government's dedication to ensuring

accessible medical care for all, especially in remote areas.

Dr. Singh also visited the Anganwadi Centre in Buggalapalli, where he reviewed nutrition programs aimed at combating malnutrition among women and children. The Centre's initiatives, including midday meals, health check-ups, and nutritional education, were emphasized as key to fostering healthier communities. The Minister engaged with Anganwadi workers and local women,

stressing the importance of maternal and child health for the future generation.

Further highlighting the government's commitment to rural prosperity, Dr. Singh observed progressive farming practices in Buggalapalli, including tissue-cultured banana plantations and chrysanthemum cultivation. These innovations exemplify how modern agricultural techniques are enhancing productivity and improving farmers' incomes.

In his discussions with beneficiaries of the Nano Drone Didi scheme, Dr. Singh noted the empowerment of women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through the use of drone technology for agricultural services. This initiative aims to equip 15,000 SHGs with drones, providing new income avenues and contributing to agricultural sustainability.

Throughout the visit, Dr. Singh reiterated the goals of the Aspirational Districts Programme: reducing disparities, empowering local communities, and promoting inclusive growth. The visit serves as a reaffirmation of the government's commitment to fostering sustainable development in rural India.



Div Com, ADGP review Republic Day arrangements

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JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for UT level celebration of Republic Day-2025.

The meeting was attended by IGP Crime, DG Youth Services and Sports, senior officers from Police and HODs of different departments including Culture, Science and Technology, Health, Co-operative, Traffic and Security.



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting on Thursday.

The meeting focused on finalizing the Tableaux to be made by different departments. The theme based Tableaux of each department will promote the respective initiatives and schemes launched by the government for the welfare of the people.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the departments to appoint nodal officers to coordinate the arrangements with different departments. He stressed seamless execution of the themes and concepts approved for the respective departments.

It was informed that the Tableaux of Jammu Kashmir Police will showcase the unrelenting efforts against Drug abuse and Narcotics. The Health department will

display its efforts towards implementation of TB Mukht Bharat in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Culture department will promote the cultural diversity and folk culture of Jammu Kashmir. The Tableaux based on PM Suryaghar Yojna, Fit India movement, Swachh Bharat Mission, Cooperative Credit Societies shall be other features of the celebration of Republic Day 2025.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the departments to complete their respective Tableaux by 20th of January. He further issued necessary directions with regards to preparations and arrangements of the UT level celebration of the National festival.

DC reviews establishment, working of Kisan Khidmat Ghars



Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting on Thursday.

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JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of Kisan Khidmat Ghars in the district.

The meeting focused on issues related to the issuance of licenses and the overall functioning of the KKGs. Discussions also encompassed their transactions and earnings, aiming to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in delivering

services to farmers.

In the first phase of the initiative, 100 KKGs have been made functional, serving as one-stop service centers for agriculture and allied services at the panchayat level.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Vinod Kundal, Assistant Director Fisheries Munish Sharma

and other officers.

Later, the DC chaired the District Level Committee meeting on the Holistic Agriculture Development Program. The committee scrutinized applications seeking benefits offered under HADP in agriculture and allied sectors. After thorough verification of documents and emphasising the timely delivery of benefits to beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner asked stakeholder departments to encourage a max-

imum number of farmers to take advantage of the program for diversifying their farm activities.

The meeting for HADP was attended by ADDC Sher Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam

Singh; AGM NABARD Jammu Sonika Rana; Chief Agriculture Officer Vinod Kundal; Lead District Manager Romesh Chander, Assistant Director Fisheries and other officers.

STD conducts drive to curb recycling of B2C bills, Input Tax Credit mismatches, other GST violations

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: State Taxes Department (STD) on Thursday conducted inspections and enforcement drives across various district of Jammu division to curb the menace of recycling of B2C bills, Input Tax Credit mismatches and other GST violations. The inspections were carried under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra. Based on inputs generated by various AI tools like Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal, the department constituted special teams headed by SIOs. The teams visited various business premises to

investigate violations under GST Law. Based on the inputs, teams specifically inspected dealers who were found engaged in the recycling of B2C invoices into B2B invoices, thereby passing on ITC to other dealers and contractors. The ITC was being used to settle GST output tax instead of being paid in cash. The STD urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC. Furthermore, the department appealed all taxpayers to practice invoice-based business and report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

AIIMS Jammu welcoming New Year with hope, purpose, prosperity: CEO Dr Shakti

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As we bid farewell to an eventful year 2024, and welcome the New Year 2025, we reflect with immense pride and gratitude at the incredible progress AIIMS Jammu has made, said Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

"Continuing the journey of excellence in Infrastructure, AIIMS Jammu launched its patient care services including OPD, Inpatient, Emergency & Trauma and OT in August 2024 in a phased manner," Dr Shakti said.

"AIIMS Jammu's journey, right from its inception, is guided by 'Trinity of Mission', of Medical Education Research, and Patient Care. We firmly believe that medical education must be rooted in strong values, research should aim for the highest quality, and patient care must be driven by evidence-based practices. At AIIMS Jammu, we integrate clinical and community care to impact lives profoundly, ensuring our benchmarked healthcare initiatives reach every corner of soci-

ety with dedication and excellence," Dr Gupta said.

He added, "As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of 2024, we feel proud and happy to highlight the exceptional strides AIIMS Jammu has made in patient care, marking a milestone in patient-centric healthcare. Since launching our OPD services on August 1, 2024, we have successfully catered to over 87,497 outpatient cases, including 65,993 new patients and 21,504 follow-ups, achieving an outstanding 99.61 per cent patient satisfaction rate. This remarkable achievement reflects our collective dedication to excellence and the trust our patients place in us."

"In Inpatient and Emergency care, AIIMS Jammu has already managed 679 patients in our 100 operational beds, and we are set to expand to 250 beds within a month and 750 beds within six months. The Trauma and Emergency Department has efficiently managed 3,135 cases, with 289 ICU admissions and 54 dialysis sessions performed to date. These efforts signify our commit-



ment to being a pillar of effective and holistic healthcare for the region," Dr Shakti added.

"Surgical services have also shown remarkable progress at initiation, with 281 successful surgeries performed across multiple specialties since the launch of OT services on September 17, 2024. Our professional & committed teams continue to deliver high-quality interventions, and the future looks even more promising as we continue to expand our capabilities," he said adding that the state-of-the-art diagnostics at AIIMS Jammu, including 3 Tesla MRI, 128-slice CT, and advanced

screening technologies, have supported over 3,409 USG scans, 554 MRI scans, 896 CT scans, and 5,926 X-rays, ensuring that our patients receive timely and accurate diagnoses.

"We welcomed the 5th Batch of MBBS students raising the strength from 62 to 100 students, launched the B.Sc. Nursing program and initiated postgraduate and super specialization medical courses. Our institution has reached significant milestones in medical education, research, and clinical care. Together, we have achieved remarkable strides, from pioneering diagnostic services to introducing patient-centric innovations that are transforming healthcare in our region," CEO said.

In 2024, he said, AIIMS Jammu achieved remarkable strides in research, leading to sanction ICMR funded multi-centric projects and advancing 95 research initiatives.

"In 2025, we aim to further enhance innovation and collaborative research in actual patient care settings to set new bench-

marks in healthcare excellence. We are committed to innovation, and our digital Indoor Patient Navigation System and other patient-centric initiatives, like smart payment cards and shuttle services, further enhance the patient experience, ensuring convenience and accessibility," he said and added, "Looking ahead, 2025 holds immense promise for AIIMS Jammu. Our vision includes operationalising 750-beds, achieving complete healthcare digitalization, and expanding our patient care services to manage 2,500 daily OPD cases. With continued collaboration, we will set new standards of excellence, facilitating healthcare transformation in the region and beyond. We aspire to establish a Centre of Excellence in Precision Medicine with Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology, serving as a referral hub for Northern India."

"AIIMS Jammu is also enhancing the residential complex with thoughtful additions such as a cycle track, soft music, and a crèche. This will, ensure a comfortable, healthy & a friendly liv-

ing environment. Focused on promoting wellness and physical fitness, AIIMS Jammu has world-class sports facilities, including a fully equipped gym, indoor sports complex, multiple outdoor courts, and dedicated play areas, aiming to foster a healthy and active lifestyle for our community," Dr Gupta said.

"As we continue our journey toward becoming a 'Global Village,' AIIMS Jammu is poised to welcome international students and establish a Counseling and Study Centre. We also plan to invite National and International renowned guest faculty to enrich our patient care, academic and research arenas. Our upcoming Centres of Excellence including Telemedicine, Nursing, Cancer Care, and Hospital Administration will position us as a leader in healthcare and education. AIIMS Jammu is indebted to the people of Jammu and Kashmir various stakeholders, well-wishers, State and Central Administrative authorities for their trust and unwavering support. We are thankful to our ded-

icated healthcare teams, whose relentless commitment have made these extraordinary achievements. None of these would have been possible without the collective dedication, hard work and collaboration," he said and added, "Our special gratitude to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership in sanctioning & commissioning AIIMS Jammu. Thanks are also due to Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Health Minister and the team at Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHF&W) for their invaluable guidance and providing unstinted support. We remain grateful to Lt Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha for the constant motivation and unwavering encouragement."

"We will continue to build on our successes and make AIIMS Jammu a beacon of hope, trust, and excellence in healthcare. We'll synergistically continue to achieve greater heights in the coming year. Together, we can & will create better and brighter healthcare systems for all," Dr Shakti asserted.

Enforcement of use of proper bulbs / tubes in head lights of vehicles must be ensured by MVD & Traffic police for safe driving

CMVR- 1989 as regards Headlights of Vehicles must be enforced on ground by MVD & Traffic Police for Safety on roads. Some good in Smooth & Safe flow of traffic as well as Safety on roads can be done without any additional Costs on Exchequer

DAYA SAGAR

The traffic during night/late evenings need be regulated for safe and smooth driving by MVD & Traffic Police so as to ensure that the vehicles using dazzling light for an observer approaching ahead of the vehicle /multiple lights are either made to use proper lights or made to go off road since such owners who do not use even dippers are increasing the possibilities of accidents, are making the travel time longer for others and particularly 'harassing' the senior citizens / elder drivers even when clear law exists for regulating such defaulters (Safety Standards No. 15.1 [Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 Notification S.O. No. 873 (E) dt December 15, 1997, item No. 20, of Ministry of Surface

Transport) like 4.3 Headlight - A lighting device providing an upper and/or a lower beam used for providing illumination forward of vehicle. 4.5 Meeting beam or lower beam or low beam - Beam illuminating only a specified limited part of the road, in order to reduce the dazzle for an observer approaching ahead of the vehicle. 5.2 The position of headlights on the vehicle shall be as per Rule No. 105 (3) of CMVR, The Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 106. Deflection of lights (1) No lamp showing a light to the front shall be used on any motor vehicle including construction equipment vehicle (whether fitted with single or dual head lamp) unless such lamp is so constructed, fitted and maintained that the beam of light emitted there from- is permanently deflected

downwards to such an extent that it is not capable of dazzling any person whose eye position is,- (A) at a distance of 8 metres from the front of lamp, 111. Prohibition of spot lights, etc. No spot light or search light shall be carried on the front of any vehicle except in exceptional circumstances with the prior approval of the registering authority.

Similarly in cities like Jammu one would hardly find people coming out happily from the government parking lots where some parking attendant may be found over charging / parking attendant may be hardly found in uniform with identity badge. May be in view of



A Look through the Mist Part-III

some parking lots being not that commuter friendly people avoid parking there and take risk of parking on road side.

Some Jammu city road are so often found used like self parking grounds by some (somewhere on both sides of road) for day/ night parking which gives bad look / environment to city as well as some time becomes reason for quarrels amongst the locals / commuters. Not only that often unknown vehicles can be found parked in lanes of some Mohallas which create problems for locals there, local disputes occur and such parking areas could be used by terrorists/ law offenders too. Places were such practices have become a common note must

be located and cleared.

Present traffic situation calls for more stringent enforcement at all levels, use of modern tools and technology for manning the roads and ensuring smooth flow of traffic on them. But the enforcement has to be done as a routine and in regular manner. While enforcing rules / practices inconvenience should not be cause even to a one disciplined commuter / citizen. Times demand enforcement of rules / codes/civic practices with seriousness as a routine work instead seeing solutions only in fear of law. Use of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on vehicles is in the greater interest of security of one and all. No vehicle owner should have any objection to that. But in case one using old plate has to run from place to place

/ wait for hours in open for depositing fee/ collecting plate/ getting plate fixed then simple 'strict' enforcement would not be fair. So the RTOs/ARTOs must see how the new plate can be fixed without much cost in time / convenience for which number of delivery points be increased or provision for taking time & date for fixation of plate can be given online. For new vehicles the dealers have been made responsible for delivering vehicle fixed with HSRP which is appreciable ..

The shortfalls / deficiencies like a few quoted here if managed with some more commitment would surely help in making roads free flowing without spending additional money by government. (The writer is Sr. Journalist, leading scribe on Kashmir affairs)