

# AIIMS Jammu initiates laparoscopic surgeries, performs first Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

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JAMMU: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has taken a significant step towards advancing medical care by initiating laparoscopic surgeries at its state-of-the-art surgical facility.

In yet another major milestone for the institution, the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology successfully performed its first laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a minimally invasive procedure for gallbladder removal.

The laparoscopic cholecystectomy, which involves small incisions and the use of a camera and specialized instruments, is a highly preferred method for gallbladder surgery due to its reduced recovery time, minimal scarring, and quicker return to daily activities compared to traditional open surgery.

The procedure was carried out by a team of surgeons which included Dr. Vijay Kundal, Dr. Abhinav Mani, Dr. Sahil Sandal, and Dr.



Vikas along with the supporting staff.

The patient, a middle-aged woman suffering from chronic gallbladder issues, was discharged on the second postoperative day.

This breakthrough marks a turning point for AIIMS Jammu as it continues to expand its capabilities and provide advanced medical treatments to the region.

The introduction of laparoscopic procedures is

expected to alleviate the burden on patients by reducing hospitalization costs and improving surgical outcomes.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sahil Sandal, Head (Offg.) of the department,

emphasized the importance of such procedures in providing patients with high-quality care while minimizing their physical and emotional stress. "Laparoscopic surgeries are a game-chang-

er in modern medicine. With the successful initiation of laparoscopic cholecystectomy, AIIMS Jammu is now on par with leading healthcare facilities in the country, offering the latest in medical advancements," he said.

The Department plans to extend laparoscopic surgery options to a variety of other conditions, including Gastrointestinal (GI) and Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) malignant and benign disorders, providing patients in the region with access to world-class healthcare without having to travel long distances.

In addition to the medical benefits, laparoscopic procedures offer the advantage of a faster recovery, allowing patients to resume work and daily activities sooner, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life.

AIIMS Jammu, which has become a beacon of excellence in the region, is committed to providing cutting-edge healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that

patients receive the best treatment options available.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, ED and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, said, "This is a proud moment for all of us. AIIMS Jammu, continues to expand its capabilities and introduce new services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the local population. The introduction of laparoscopic surgery is expected to benefit patients requiring procedures for gallbladder issues, hernia, appendicitis, and other conditions, reducing hospital stays and recovery times significantly."

As the institution continues to expand its surgical offerings, the introduction of laparoscopic techniques represents a major leap forward in improving healthcare delivery in the region. The medical community at AIIMS Jammu is looking forward to future advancements, as they continue to provide exceptional care to the growing number of patients seeking advanced treatments.

# Dr Darakhshan chairs Imam Conclave in Jammu before Ramzaan Religious Scholars should collectively raise voice against hateful sectarian speakers: Andrabi



Chairperson Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi at the conclave of Imams & Khateeb.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday chaired the conclave of Imams & Khateeb of the Board at Jammu. This congregation was organised in connection with the Ramzan month. Prominent Imams & Khateeb of Jammu were present in the conclave including Mufti Anyatullah Qasmi, Mufti Tabraiz Ahmad, Mufti Manzoor Ahmad, Molvi Mushtaq Ahmad, Molvi Rafiqi, Maulana Ubaidullah Tahir, Maulana Rashid Bashir, Maulana Nazakat Ali, Maulana Javed Mohammad & Mufti Farooq Ahmad. Detailed deliberations about special prayers & Ramadan arrangements were held during the meeting. Waqf Board officers were also part of the meeting. Dr Andrabi appealed to the religious preachers to deist from the sectarian remarks and focus on the religious spiritual teachings & the importance of Ramadan during the regular addresses and interactive speeches in Mosques and shrines.

"The holy month of Ramadhan shows us the path of righteousness and sacrifice which helps in spiritual & moral growth of individuals and the society. The Imams and Khateeb have to be responsible and cautious while addressing from the pulpits so that a harmonious, peaceful and serene atmosphere prevails at the places of worship at all costs", said Andrabi. She said that it was unfortunate to watch some very rude people speaking divisive and derogatory language in some places of worship and then uploading the same on Social media platforms which is very dangerous for the society. Taking serious note of such indecent and hurting content by some persons using religious platforms, Dr Darakhshan said that we all need to collectively contest such moves of creating divide in society. "Religious preachers have great responsibility to raise voice collectively against some of such rude and uneducated and irresponsible preachers who are creating dents in harmony within our society", said Waqf Board Chairperson.

# J&K UT Open Lawn Tennis Championship takes off at M A Stadium Jammu



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After the successful conclusion of three-day Veterans event, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Open Lawn Tennis Tournament started on Monday here in the courts of Maulana Azad Stadium.

Players in various age groups from across the Jammu and Kashmir are participating in the three days event.

General Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA), B S Jaggi inaugurated the tournament amidst the presence

of other officials.

On the opening day of the competitions, in Men's Doubles, Vikram Gupta- Raghav Sabharwal pair beat Arush Padha-RaghuNandan pair 8-0 and Deepak Chib-Col Pradeep pair beat Ashish Bali-Rakesh Kumar 8-1.

Meanwhile in Round-I of Men's Singles, Vinayak Raina beat RaghuNandan Sharma 8-0, Saksham Amla beat Aarush Padha 8-2, Paras Kachroo beat Aarav Sharma 8-3, Shaurya Pratap Singh beat Prithviraj 8-0, Soujanya Thappa beat

Mir Jameel 8-6, Divyansh Chahal beat Aryan Jamwal 8-5.

In the Round-II matches, Shaurya Pratap Singh beat Deepak Chib 8-5, Paras Kachroo beat Harshit Sadhotra 8-6, Vikram Gupta beat Saksham Amla 8-2, Gurleen Singh beat Soujanya Thappa 8-6 and Shivansh Kohli beat Divyansh Chahal 8-3.

However, previously in Veterans Singles category of the Veterans Championship, Vikram Gupta outclassed Amar Jyoti 6-1, 6-1.

The Tournament is being organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association (JKLTA) under the aegis of J&K Sports Council.

The tournament, as per the officials is specifically designed for all age groups providing them with an opportunity to showcase their skills.

# RBI launches Financial Literacy Week 2025 focused on women's prosperity

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today inaugurated the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025 with a special focus on women's economic empowerment. This annual initiative, which aims to promote financial awareness among citizens, will run from February 24 to 28, 2025. The theme of this year's campaign is "Financial Literacy - Women's Prosperity."

In line with the national event, FLW was also launched in Jammu and attended by government and banking dignitaries including Additional Chief Secretary, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu; General Manager, RBI Jammu Neeraj Kumar; Regional Director, RBI Jammu Chandrashekhar Azad; Executive Director, J&K Bank Sudhir Gupta and General Manager,



A section of dignitaries during the programme.

NABARD Vikas Mittal.

In his address, Shantmanu emphasized the critical role financial literacy plays in personal and community prosperity. He said that every citizen should understand the broader economic contours of the country and added that financial literacy begins at home and it greatly enhances financial management skills to handle economic challenges. Highlighting the inclusion of women and children in financial matters he said, "As women's participation in the workforce increases,

it's time to understand and apply essential money management skills. Additionally, educating young minds about financial matters is key to ensuring they make better financial decisions in the future."

Regional Director RBI Jammu, Chandrashekhar Azad, discussed the importance of women's financial planning, particularly for long-term savings. He said that it's crucial to encourage women to focus not only on consumption but also on financial planning for the future. He added that there are 2406 Centers for

Financial Literacy across India with 109 centers in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh providing a valuable opportunity to learn about financial matters. He said that the financial literacy week is also vital for working women and female entrepreneurs.

General Manager RBI Jammu, Neeraj Kumar, highlighted the significance of financial literacy for overall inclusion. He said that RBI's efforts over the last decade in promoting financial awareness have continued to achieve new milestones each year and which

has positive impact on awareness about financial stability and sustainability.

General Manager NABARD, Vikas Mittal congratulated the RBI for organizing the Financial Literacy Week and praised its dedication to enhancing financial literacy. "RBI's initiatives, such as training women on asset management, saving, and risk management, are instrumental in building financial awareness. We look forward to furthering this campaign and its positive effects on women's financial inclusion," he said.

The event was also attended by Executive Director Jammu Kashmir Bank, Sudhir Gupta; Assistant General Manager RBI, Meteesh Sharma, stakeholders from SIDBI, UTLCB convener banks, RRBs nodal officers of various banks and representatives of the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL).

# Speaker reviews security, other arrangements for Assembly Budget Session

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Monday convened a meeting to review security and other related arrangements for the ensuing Budget Session of current JKUT Legislature to be held at Jammu from 3rd March, 2025.

Present in the meeting were the officers from different departments including Commission Secretary, GAD, M. Raju; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu, B S Tuti; Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi; DC

Jammu, Sachin Vaishya; Commissioner, JMC, Dr Devansh Yadav; Director, Information, Nitish Rajora; SSP Traffic; CMO Jammu; SSP Security Secretariat besides Secretary, JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Speaker issued specific directions to the concerned departments for ensuring that all requisite arrangements are put in place for smooth and seamless conduct of the upcoming budget session.

Threadbare discussion was held on security arrangements, traffic regulation,



Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather chairing a meeting.

fire services, uninterrupted power supply, provision of sufficient and regular supply of water to the Legislative Complex, health facilities and media arrangements among other things.

Regarding the security arrangements, the Speaker directed the concerned officers for deployment of adequate staff well versed with Parliamentary traditions within the premises of J&K Legislative Assembly at Jammu. He asked them for ensuring adequate security arrangement for safety and

security of the Legislators within the MLAs Hostel, Jammu as well as outside.

To ensure proper regulation of traffic on roads leading to J&K Legislative Assembly Complex/Civil Secretariat Jammu and MLA's Hostel Jammu, the Speaker called for putting in place necessary measures for

avoiding inconvenience to general public on this account.

The Speaker also directed for provision of deploying adequate fire fighting tenders in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Jammu while also checking the fire extinguishers and fire hydrants already installed in JKLA and MLA hostel Jammu.

He directed the Estates Department to ensure completion of any pending work within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Jammu particularly in the Central Hall, House and VIP Chambers. He also directed to install intercom telephone facilities within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative

Assembly at Jammu, besides checking of telephones already installed within the VIP Chambers.

Regarding availability of space for implementation of National E-Vidhan in the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker asked the Director Estates Department to get the rooms vacated from other departments in the Assembly Secretariat.

The Speaker directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the course of the session. He also asked the JMC to ensure cleanliness in and around the entire premises and lawn of the legislature complex. He directed the JKTDCC to ensure canteen facility in the premises for the convenience of the legis-

lators and staff of Legislature. He directed the Medical authority to provide medical facilities during the entire session.

The Speaker also asked the Information department to ensure proper and due coverage of the proceedings of the House besides making available adequate PAS, mikes and other related things during the session. He directed the BSNL authority to install and restore the telephones in the chamber of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

The senior officers present in the meeting assured the Speaker that all the necessary arrangements will be put in place well before commencement of the current Budget session of JKLA.

# India's Agriculture Budget showed six fold increase in 10 years: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday lauded the remarkable strides made in India's agricultural sector, highlighting a six-fold increase in the Union agriculture budget, from Rs 21,933.50 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,27,290 crore in 2025-26, during 10 years of the Modi Government.

Dr. Jitendra made these remarks while addressing the disbursement of the 19th installment of the PM KISAN scheme in Bhagalpur, Bihar. He virtually joined the meeting at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu. The Union Minister announced that the government would be disbursing Rs 22,000 crore to 9.8 crore farmers as part of this installment. With Rs 3.46 lakh crore already distributed in 18 installments, the PM KISAN program continues to play a pivotal role in supporting farmers' livelihoods. In a bid to further strengthen the program, Dr. Singh revealed that 30 lakh more farmers have been added as beneficiaries under the PM



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the function to disburse the 19th installment of PM KISAN NIDHI by PM Narendra Modi on Monday.

KISAN scheme.

The Union Minister also highlighted the increase in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, which will significantly improve access to credit for farmers, enabling them to invest in modern agricultural practices and equipment.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also unveiled the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, a new initiative aimed at identifying 100 districts for agricultural advancement, thereby ensuring that targeted resources and tech-

nologies are provided to boost productivity in these areas.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the transformation in India's agricultural ecosystem over the last decade, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi the champion of farmers' welfare. He recalled the Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' incomes and enhancing agricultural technologies to supplement their efforts.

"Over the past decade, we have witnessed a significant transformation in agriculture, with the government ensuring fixed support to farmers. Initiatives like soil health cards, Kisan Credit Cards, financial inclusion, and advanced technologies, such as drone usage for spraying pesticides and fertilizers, micro-irrigation in high-altitude areas, and the expansion of irrigation facilities, have played a crucial role," said Dr. Singh.

He emphasized that these efforts not only benefit agriculture but also contribute significantly to the Indian economy, with agriculture being the prime mover of India's growth.

# Dr Farooq, Surinder Ch pay tributes to Sheikh Nazir Ahmad Advocate on his 10th death anniversary

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JAMMU: Rich tributes were paid to former National Conference General Secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmed Advocate on his 10th death anniversary. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of JKNC and former Chief Minister and Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister were present on the occasion. Leading the party leaders and prominent workers in paying homage to the late leader at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan this morning, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said that Sheikh Nazir Adv had always inspired the National Conference cadre with his simplicity, honesty, selfless service, organizational capabilities, and political acumen. He added that Sheikh Nazir Adv stood by his cherished principles till the last without opting for any position of power. Dr. Abdullah further said that Sheikh Nazir Adv was one of the rare and front-ranking leaders across the



Tributes being paid to former National Conference General Secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmed Advocate.

country who lived a very simple life and served the people of Jammu and Kashmir most.

In his homage, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization who remained connected with the cadre at the grassroots level throughout his life.

Recalling the qualities of head and heart of the former General Secretary, Surinder Choudhary said, "The best tribute to Nazir Sahib would be to strive for steering the state towards peace and progress besides empowering the people at the

grassroots level."

Earlier in the morning, special prayers and Quran Khani were organized for eternal peace of the departed soul by G.H. Malik, Senior Leader; at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu. Dr. Farooq Abdullah also participated in the prayers.

Those who were present included Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu, Ajaz Jan MLA Poonch, Altaf Kaloo MLA, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President,

Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone, Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Pyare Lal Honble MLA Inderwal, Kh. Khurshed MLA Gulabgarh, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Deepinder Kour former MLC, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Arif Mir Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer; Dr. Shamsah Shan DDC Chairperson Ramban, Shamim Begum DDC Dansal, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Joginder Singh DDC Nagrota, Suriya Begum DDC Bari Brahmana, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Th. Yash Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Harshvardhan President NCSU, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghibir Singh Manhas

District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Abid Magrey District President Ramban, Abdal Qayoom Baghwan District President Doda Rural (Bhaderwah), Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, S. Tejinder Singh, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Nitish Gowsami, Mudrit Sethi, Majid Iqbal Naik, Muzmil Malik, Gandli Nagar, Mohinder Singh Block President Khour, Devi S. Gurnam Singh Block President West, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East S, Sandeep Wazir Block President Dyal Jogi Block Secretary Khour; Joginder Kour District Vice President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Aruna Thakur District President Women Wing Ramban, Sunil Sharma and others.