

Dr Jitendra briefed about human rights concerns of J&K's terrorism affected families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh was briefed on Tuesday by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Member, Priyank Kanungo about the human rights concerns of the terrorism affected families of Jammu & Kashmir, notably and particularly the Kashmiri Pandits.

Kanungo told the Minister that the NHRC is very conscious of its responsibility to safeguard the human rights of every section of society, particularly those like the Kashmir Pandit community who suffered killings and hardship for three long decades, but were denied their due or justice by the earlier governments.

Emphasizing the long-standing and tragic history of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated, "The plight of Kashmiri Pandits remains unique, as they were made refugees within their own country overnight." He praised the Modi government's commitment to the welfare of these families, citing the Prime Minister's over 35 visits to J&K, which had played a significant



NHRC Member, Priyank Kanungo calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi on Tuesday.

nificant role in implementing welfare initiatives, including the provision of separate accommodations for Pandit families and efforts to reintegrate them into the broader Kashmiri society.

In addition to these welfare measures, Dr. Jitendra also highlighted infrastructure developments in the region aimed at reducing physical and emotional distances. He pointed to expanded train networks and express corridors that have enhanced all-weather connectivity to ensure smoother travel and communication.

The Minister expressed confidence in the government's approach to improving the

human rights situation in the region and assured that both the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) along with NHRC would collaborate effectively.

He stated, "We will ensure an institutionalized mechanism to address citizens' grievances, working in synergy with the NHRC to ensure that the citizens' rights are safeguarded."

Dr. Jitendra spoke of the role of human rights in governance, reiterating that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, human rights governance has become a priority,

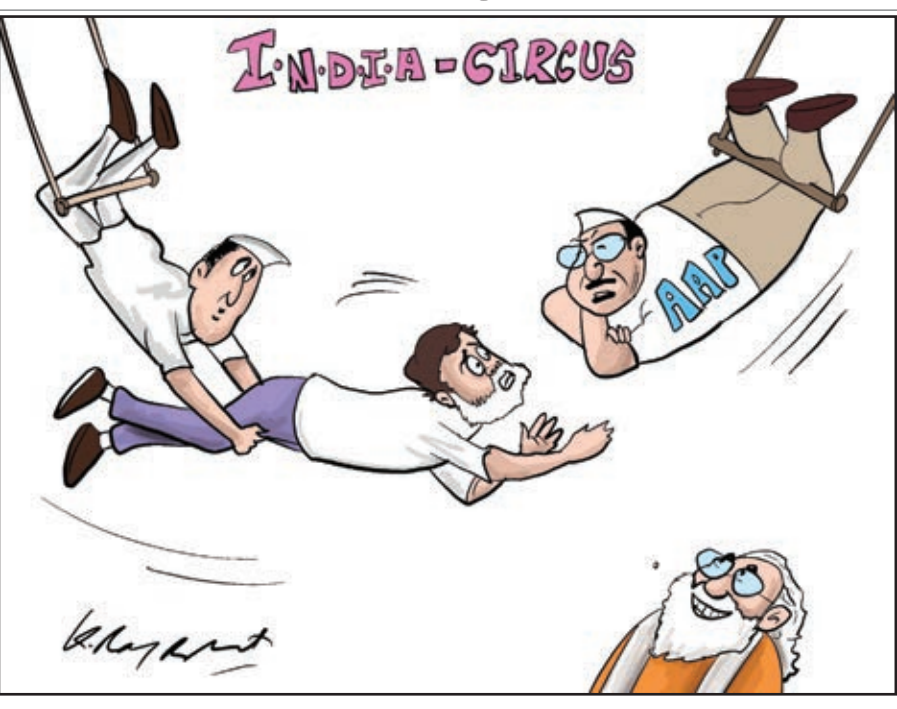
with the Human Rights Commission playing an active and responsive role. As a part of this, the DoPT seeks to integrate human rights values into its training programs for government officials.

Dr. Jitendra observed that sensitive officers, equipped with both emotional intelligence and intellectual capability, would be key to furthering the cause of human rights in India. These officers, once sensitized on human rights issues, could serve as patrons of human rights within their respective departments and communities, he added.

Dr. Singh expressed delight and confidence in the appointment of Priyank Kanungo as a member of the National Human Rights Commission.

He praised Kanungo for his commitment to the cause of the welfare and protection of human rights of citizens and recalled his earlier stint as Chairman of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

In conclusion, Dr. Jitendra wished that NHRC would continue to work together to ensure that the rights of every citizen are safeguarded.



Govt committed to promotion of horticulture; welfare of traders, growers: Javed Dar



Minister for Agricultural Production, Javed Ahmad Dar during visit to Fruit Mandi, Narwal, Jammu on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Agricultural Production and Rural Development Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, on Tuesday reaffirmed government's unwavering commitment towards promotion of the horticulture sector with emphasis on welfare of fruit traders and growers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held with the members of Jammu Fruit Traders Association at Fruit Mandi Narwal.

The meeting had detailed discussion on key issues faced by fruit traders besides exploring measures for strengthening the horticulture sector.

The Minister said that the Horticulture sector is and will remain a priority sector for the government as it plays a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

He highlighted the significance of the horticulture sector in J&K, stating that around 70 to 80 percent of the region's population is directly or indirectly associated with this sector. "Thousands of people

earn their livelihood through horticulture activities and the government is highly sensitive to the challenges faced by the growers and traders. We are committed towards implementing welfare initiatives that will ensure the sustained growth and prosperity of this vital sector," emphasised the Minister.

During the meeting, the Minister acknowledged the pressing need for additional storage space for apple produce, especially during the peak season, to support Jammu based traders. Recognizing the genuine concerns of the traders, he directed the concerned authorities to identify a suitable patch of land to address this requirement at the earliest.

A delegation of the Fruit Traders Association, led by its President Parveen Kumar, presented a comprehensive list of issues and demands to the Minister. The issues included extension of existing leases, implementation of stringent quality checks on imported fruits to safeguard the interests of local

growers, proper grading facilities for dry fruits particularly walnuts and enhancement of marketing infrastructure to improve the competitiveness of local produce.

The Minister assured the association members that their concerns would be given due consideration, and necessary steps would be taken to address them in a time bound manner.

He stressed the importance of collaboration between the government and stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the horticulture sector to thrive.

During his visit to the Fruit Mandi, Narwal, the Minister took comprehensive stock of arrangements and facilities available to the traders.

The Minister assured all possible support to fruit growers and traders, ensuring their issues are resolved.

Among others the meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing besides other senior officers from the department.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Tuesday remarked that the present Government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all possible assistance to Cancer patients with creation of best advanced facilities in both the State Cancer Institutes at Jammu and Srinagar.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a day-long conference "Mission Cancer - J&K's Fight Against Cancer in the coming Decade" at Government Medical College here. The conference was organised by GMC Jammu in collaboration with 'BCPBF-The Cancer Foundation' and 'Friends of GMC Jammu', to commemorate the World Cancer day.

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganai; Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta; noted Oncologist of J&K, Dr. Sameer Kaul; Director ASCOMS Jammu, Dr. Pavan Malhotra; Deans of different specialities, HoDs, doctors and researchers



Health Minister, Sakeena Itoo with other dignitaries at a meeting.

besides large number of medical and paramedical students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo emphasised the urgent need for a multi-faceted approach to tackle the rising incidences of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted the significance of early detection, advanced treatment infrastructure and public awareness, in reducing the burden of cancer. "Cancer is not just a medical challenge; it is a social and economic crisis that affects thousands of families across J&K. We must work collectively to enhance screening programs, promote preventive healthcare, and ensure equitable access to modern treatment facilities across urban and rural areas for all patients," Sakeena main-

tained. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said that the disease demand not only medical surgical and radiation therapy but also demand social psychological and economical of the aspects associated within it. He said such patients need to be treated with empathy and sympathy. Further he said to make communications with patients and address of their every minor enquiry which is very important and can established a trust amongst the doctors and the patients as well as their attendants. Secretary Health and Medical Education called for organising maximum awareness camps in schools and colleges so that people are made abreast about the cancer disease and myths associated with

should be spent for the welfare of the people.

During the Public Darbar, the residents of JDA Colony, Roopnagar, demanded that the JDA Club, which was originally meant for the colony but was taken over by the IRP battalion during the COVID-19 period, should be vacated so that it can be utilized by the local community.

Taking serious note of their concern, Sharma assured them that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities and work towards getting the club restored for public use. ZALSO directed the VC JDA, to immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the issue is resolved at the earliest.

Later, Sharma visited Lower Roopnagar (Ward No. 66), where he instructed officials to construct a deep drainage system to prevent waterlogging and ensure efficient rainwater disposal.

He also called for the proper

functioning of the lower canal to prevent potential damage to residential areas.

Additionally, he directed the concerned departments to focus on a robust waste management system to maintain cleanliness, repair and maintenance of roads and lanes for improved connectivity, and enhancing street lighting infrastructure in all sectors for better safety and security.

He stressed that his priority is to uplift every corner of the constituency by ensuring access to essential services and infrastructure improvements. Among those present during the visit were Mandal President Muthi-Paloura Pankaj Padha, Ex-Mandal President Suresh Sharma, Ex-Corporator Ward 62 Rekha Manhas, Ex-Corporator Ward 66 Tripta Devi, and President JDA Club Roopnagar Uttam Deep Sharma, along with several local residents.

Spend every penny for welfare of people: Sham Lal asks officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his commitment to the holistic development of Jammu North, MLA Sham Lal Sharma on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Wards 62 and 66, covering key areas from JDA Club, Upper Roopnagar to Lower Roopnagar and Muthi.

He was accompanied by Pankaj Kumar Sharma (VC JDA), Akhil Dutt (XEN JMC Works), Satish Bhagat (XEN R&B East Division), Rajesh Sharma (XEN City Div. 1 PHE), Vijay Manhas (XEN UEED), and Ravi Singh (AEE PDD).

During the visit, Sharma held a Public Darbar at JDA Colony, Roopnagar, where he listened to the concerns of local residents.

Addressing their grievances, he issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned authorities for immediate action on various civic issues, including road connectivity, drainage systems,



Jammu North, MLA Sham Lal Sharma visiting a Ward.

sewage management, and street lighting.

He emphasized the need for transforming JDA Colony into a model colony and directed JDA officials to identify and rectify all existing deficiencies to ensure that residents receive all basic amenities.

Stressing that it is the prime responsibility of JDA to ensure systematic development in all sectors of Ward No. 62, he urged officials to work proactively so that every resident benefits from improved infra-

structure and essential services. Sharma gave very strict directions to the officials that there must be proper utilization of funds for providing basic amenities to the residents.

He emphasized that every department should adopt a holistic approach towards the overall development of all sectors, ensuring transparency and efficiency in the execution of developmental projects.

He further stressed that no funds should be wasted or mis-allocated, and every penny

Sakeena addresses conference 'Mission Cancer-J&K's Fight against Cancer in coming Decade'

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it. Principal GMC, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, in his welcome address, gave a brief about the evolution of GMC Jammu. Principal GMC Jammu, who is also a renowned Oncologist, prepared the cancer policy and carried out the proceedings. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, while discussing the cancer policy for Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to combat cancer through various strategic initiatives. He laid down several key points aimed at improving cancer prevention, treatment, and care in the region. The first major focus was on the implementation of an effective cancer screening policy for preventable cancers. Dr. Gupta highlighted specific cancers that should be targeted for early detection, including head and neck cancers, breast cancer; lung cancer; cervical cancer; prostate cancer; and colon cancer. In addition to screening, Dr. Gupta also recommended the introduction of the cervical cancer vaccine into the Universal Immunization Program (UIP), introducing of oncology facilities in all new medical colleges as per NMC guidelines. These include Chemotherapy services, Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Gupta also called for the

strengthening of major tertiary care institutes, such as SKIMS, GMC Jammu, and GMC Srinagar; by ensuring they have high-end oncology facilities. This includes the availability of radiation oncology, medical oncology, and surgical oncology services. Furthermore, diagnostic tools such as PET scans and advanced molecular oncology labs must be made available to ensure comprehensive cancer care, from diagnosis to treatment. Dr. Gupta stressed the importance of introducing palliative care services in all district hospitals across the region. Dr. Gupta also suggested that the government consider the option of banning or restricting all tobacco products.

The conference saw insightful deliberations by top most Oncologists from across the country on early diagnosis, role of technology in cancer care, government initiatives and J&K's cancer policy. Prominent among them included Dr. Rakesh Jalali from Apollo Hospital Chennai, Dr. Dipenjan Panda from Apollo Hospital Delhi, Dr. Anusheel Munshi from Delhi, Dr. Vijay Patil from Mumbai, Dr. Vimal Pandita from Dehradun. More than 500 delegates within the State and outside the State attended the said National CME.

AIIMS Jammu celebrates its 1st Institute Day-Reflecting on a Year of Achievements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu celebrated its 1st Institute Day on February 3, 2025, marking a year of significant achievements in healthcare, research, and medical education.

The event was graced by V. Srinivas, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, and Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

V. Srinivas visited the AIIMS campus and was highly impressed with the infrastructure and facilities developed at AIIMS Jammu.

He particularly appreciated the state-of-the-art Digital Library, 1000 seating capacity Convention Centre, the Lecture halls, the Next-Generation Sequencing Lab, Radio-Oncology services, the Modular OT Complex and the Emergency & Trauma of AIIMS Jammu.

The occasion was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including Prof (Dr) Y.K. Gupta, President of AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) M. Srinivas, Director of AIIMS New Delhi, Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Managing Director &

Founder CEO of Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone Ltd. (AMTZ) and Members of Institute Body, AIIMS Jammu viz Prof (Dr) Yatin Mehta, Chairman Medanta Institute of Critical Care and Anesthesiology, Gurugram, Haryana, Prof (Dr) Omar Javed Shah, Former Director & Dean, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Ex- Prof. & Head, Surgical Gastroenterology, SKIMS, Soura, J&K, Prof (Dr) AK Bisoi, Professor, Department of CTVS, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Prof (Dr) Anil Gupta, President, AIIMS, Bathinda and Prof (Dr) R Chandrashekhar, Former Chief Architect, MoH&FW, GoI also attended the Institute Day Celebrations.

In his address, V. Srinivas reminisced his days as DDA at AIIMS Delhi and shared historical facts, anecdotes and his experience of the 'Exclusive AIIMS Culture' at the Institute of National Importance. He appreciated the outstanding efforts of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, and his dedicated team for creating a state-of-the-art infrastructure that is making a tangible difference in healthcare delivery and medical education in the region.

He stated, "Prof. Gupta has played a



V. Srinivas, Secretary Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, GoI lighting ceremonial lamp at AIIMS Jammu.

pivotal role in leading the Institution through its early stages of establishment and growth". Srinivas highlighted Prof. Gupta's visionary leadership and his commitment to build AIIMS Jammu into a world-class Institution despite the challenges of setting up a large medical Institute in such a short span of time.

Prof (Dr) M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS New Delhi, in his address, outlined the ongoing efforts and future plans for the

development of AIIMS Jammu as a Centre of Excellence in medical education, healthcare and research.

Dr. Srinivas emphasized the commitment to guide and support AIIMS Jammu, ensuring that it aligns with the high standards of AIIMS Delhi. In his address, he said AIIMS Jammu is designed to provide an appropriate platform for research, academics & patient care and AIIMS Delhi would continue to

be part of the development journey in all facets of AIIMS Jammu as Mentor Institute.

Dr. Jitendra Sharma, the Managing Director & CEO of AMTZ (Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone), addressed the audience and advocated to embrace the "Make in India" vision by stressing the importance for India to manufacture medical equipment, devices, and technologies indigenously.

He emphasized that 'Make in India' initiatives in medical devices will reduce the Country's reliance on imports and ensure cost-effectiveness and accessibility of healthcare solutions to wider population.

Prof. Y.K. Gupta, President, AIIMS Jammu, focused on the critical issue of antibiotics and its resistance and their use, misuse, and the adverse effects on public health. Prof. Gupta also emphasized on the importance of knowledge growth and research and shared his vision of making AIIMS Jammu a beacon of hope for the region and beyond.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, the Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, extended his heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries who had attended the event. He thanked them for gracing AIIMS Jammu with their

presence and sharing their valuable expertise with the institution. He expressed his gratitude for their contributions, support and guidance they provide to AIIMS Jammu.

Prof. Gupta stated that AIIMS Jammu will continue to work tirelessly to achieve excellence. His address reflected his unwavering commitment to ensure that AIIMS Jammu not only meets but exceeds the expectations of the people it serves.

The event thereafter transitioned into a lively and celebratory phase with the felicitation of winners from the inter-institute competitions (including IIMs and IITs) and cultural activities organized by the students and staff of AIIMS Jammu.

The cultural activities showcased by the students of MBBS and BSc Nursing, offered a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

AIIMS Jammu's Institute Day served as a platform to celebrate its achievements while reinforcing its commitment to improving healthcare and education in the region and beyond.

The Institution remains dedicated to shaping the future of medicine through world-class education, cutting-edge research and exceptional patient care.