

Centre to help J&K students returning from Ukraine to complete their studies: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the Centre and his administration are deeply concerned about the future of students evacuated from war-hit Ukraine and working on a policy to facilitate completion of their studies in the country.

Sinha was interacting with a group of MBBS students of the union territory, who have returned from Ukraine, at Raj Bhawan here.

Met MBBS students of UT who have returned from Ukraine at Jammu Raj Bhawan. Assured the students that GOI & UT govt is deeply concerned about their future and working on a policy so they can complete their studies in the country, he tweeted and



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha during meeting with J&K students evacuated from war-hit Ukraine.

shared a picture with the students who included both boys and girls.

A BJP spokesperson said the group of students was led by party secretary Arvind Gupta and submitted a memo-

random expressing gratitude for the concern shown by the government for their evacuation from Ukraine.

Through the memorandum, the spokesman said they expressed their

gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the successful conduct of Operation Ganga', which led to the safe return of Indian students who were struck in Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

The students also expressed their gratitude towards Sinha for the unconditional support in managing the crisis, he said.

They were also thankful to the local administration for working as a bridge between parents and the government, the spokesman said.

He said the students shared their worries about future studies due to the prevailing situation in Ukraine and requested the Lt Governor to help them to continue their studies in India.



3 days NABH workshop starts at GMC Jammu



Principal & Dean, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma addressing a workshop.



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three days workshop of programme on implementation on National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Health Care providers (NABH) 5th edition Hospital Standards started at GMC, Jammu as per the directions and guidance of Additional Chief Secretary HME Vivek Bhardwaj.

The workshop was inaugurated by Principal & Dean, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, who said that GMC being a tertiary care hospital is providing best healthcare services to the public and under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary HME Vivek Bhardwaj, the institute is progressing further and we are constantly trying to improve the healthcare services and this training shall definitely help in adoption of

best practices in the Hospitals.

She highlighted the role of standardized training by NABH and impressed upon the participants that the intent of programme is to improve the healthcare quality and patient safety in the hospitals with the aim of being recognized nationally & internationally at par with other healthcare accredited Hospitals accredited by International Society for Quality Assurance (ISQUA) in Healthcare.

She exhorted the participants to learn the best practices and implement the same on daily basis in their working.

The training is being attended by 42 participants from different departments which includes Faculty & Nursing Staff.

The Course faculty of

NABH headed by Dr. Punam Bajaj, Director NABH shall train the participants on 5th Edition of NABH Accreditation Standards for Hospitals in the 3 days training programme.

In the welcome address Dr Seema Gupta HoD, Pharmacology, GMC Jammu & Nodal Officer for this training said that the focus of accreditation standards for hospitals is not only to provide patient safety and quality of the delivery of services by the hospitals but it also brings Credibility, responsiveness, transparency and innovation to the system.

HoDs, Administrator AH, Medical Superintendents, Faculty Members and paramedical staff attended the inaugural function. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shafiqat Khan, OSD, H&ME Deptt of J&K.

Congress is like a sea, no end to it: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Monday claimed that party recognizes the hard work of grass-root workers who alone can take party achievements and programmes to the people and bring the party back to power to serve the masses.

He was interacting with prominent persons of various areas of RS Pura constituency as a part of his mass contact programme to mobilize public opinion against BJP's wrong policies and programmes on Monday.

He said that Congress is only political force in the country consistently playing role of



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla chairing a meeting.

healthy opposition to highlight the issues of each section and opposing anti-poor, anti-farmers and anti-people policies of BJP. He claimed that Congress would emerge as single largest party in next elections in J&K.

AJKLTF seeks early resolution of issues faced by teaching fraternity



General Secretary AJKLTF, Rattan Sharma talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seeking early resolution of numerous long pending issues faced by teachers across twin Union Territories, the All Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Teachers Federation (AJKLTF) affiliated with Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) J&K has urged the Government for initiating necessary measures in this regard. Speaking during a press statement here on Monday, General Secretary AJKLTF, Rattan Sharma along with other office bearers demanded immediate restoration of Old Pension Scheme. "The provisions under NPS are discriminative in nature, keeping in view financial insecurity to employees in future. As such AJKLTF demands that old pension scheme be restored at the earliest," he added. AJKLTF leaders further demanded holding DPC for teachers to promote them to Master grade besides regularisation of Incharge Lecturers/ Headmasters. They also sought revision of pay scales of teaching fraternity at par with other UTs. The leaders also urged for formulation of a transparent/ rational/ uniform transfer policy for all cadre of teaching fraternity including erstwhile RREts. Prominent among others present on the occasion included Rakesh State Executive Member, Pawan Seh-Media Prabhari, Rahul Sharma Secretary District Jammu and Jasmeet Singh Madaan Vice-President Jammu District.

Army's Tiger Division celebrates 80th Raising Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu-based Tiger Division of the Indian Army's Rising Star Corps on Monday celebrated its 80th Raising Day with a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial here to pay homage to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation, a defence spokesperson said.

General Officer Commanding, Tiger Division, Maj Gen Neeraj Gosain extended warm greetings to all personnel and their families. He exhorted all personnel to rededicate themselves to the service of the nation, the spokesperson said. Deputy General Officer Commanding Brig Gautam Segan laid a wreath at the Tiger War

Memorial along with Lt Col Rishma Sarin. Junior Commissioned Officers and other personnel also paid homage to the slain soldiers, he said.

A two-minute silence was observed for the fallen soldiers of the division, he added.

The Tiger Division was initially raised in 1942 and participated in World War II. After WW II, it was de-mobilised and was re-raised in March 1948 during the first India-Pakistan war. Since then it has participated in the wars of 1965 and 1971, and in various operations including Operation Vijay, Operation Parakaram and Operation Zafraan, where it earned laurels for its valour; the spokesperson said.

Drugs sold by Generic name are not cheap drugs for poor but are genuinely priced drugs for all

►► To make Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna a success make atleast Government doctors prescribe by generic name ◄◄

►► Drugs sold by JA stores should not be 'referred' by authorities as cheap/ affordable & for the poor ◄◄

■ DAYA SAGAR

Prime Minister of India Narendra P.D. Modi has been always expressing publicly his first intimate concern for the cause of the economically poor/ underprivileged/under represented masses and he has refurbished some programmes of earlier governments, even conceived many new programmes & schemes for common cause irrespective of region/religion/caste/creed/sex/age segment. Jan Aushadhi Drug Store programme is one such scheme which was first conceived by Lt Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Petroleum and Chemicals Minister in 2008 after he was convinced that some pharma companies were fleecing the patients with the help of prescription writers by selling under their brand name even those allopathic drugs that were not bound by any patent rights to the extent of marking the drugs with 500 to 600 % higher MRP than what could be labelled with a genuine margin. Not only that one company had marked it's Brand - say-A for salt Amlodipine 5 mg with MRP of Rs. 11/ 14 Tab and another company had marked its Brand-say-B with MRP of Rs.57 / 15 Tab but many doctors were still prescribing Brand-B and not Brand- A, why? Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals hence with Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) as the nodal agency had decided to promote the custom of prescription writing and use & supply of allopathic drugs by chemical name / generic name & ensure that the drugs are also sold labelled with

genuine MRP through/ by member pharma CPSUs of India (Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL),Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL),Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)) so as to dislodge the prevailing unfair system of marking the drugs with unreasonably inflated MRPs. First store was opened in Amritsar somewhere in 2008. But the progress was very dismal and even after nearly 7 years when Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister of India the total revenue receipts of the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) from Jan Aushadi Stores (Kendra) was just of Rs.11 Cr (Rs.11,05,39329.91) in 2015-16 in India , a country of 6.5 Lakh villages (638365 villages- Census-2001)where annual turnover of pharma market must be then more than Rs. 2 lakh crore. It could be said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken serious note of that and had put the programme on his immediate priority just like 'his private' mission and programme was even renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojna (PMJAY) and handling body BPPI too has been by now renamed as Pharmaceutials and Medical devices Bureau of India (PMBI).Prime Minister has been referring this programme in almost every 3rd of his public meeting and also in the 'Man Ki Baat'.

Since 2019 even the 7th March is being observed as Jan Aushadi Divas. As per the information released by PMBI as on 31st March 2020 , even 5 years after Narendra Modi's taking over as PM , still there were only 6306 retail outlets in India and the annual sales at MRP was just Rs 433.60 Cr in India of 739 districts and 638365 villages- Census-2001. No doubt the numbers have grown after 2015 but with the prices of drugs being sold under JA banner with chemical / generic name being very much lower (some where even one fifth) than of drugs marked with brand names there should have been rush for taking retailer stores for these drugs as well as rush of buyers of these drugs but the number of stores and the value of drugs sold under JA banner as quoted here in above has been too insignificant even after 12-14 years of start of this programme when one looks at the balance sheet of (PMBI) ending 31-03-2020 where total revenue from operations has been just Rs,278 cr (Rs.278,01,49235) including surgical appliances in a country like India where the total Annual Turnover of Pharmaceutials was Rs. 2,89,998 crore for 2019-2020. Imagine how much money has been drained unfairly by drug sellers out of the pockets of common sick in India even when we go by the official sources reporting to PM that presently the turnover has been Rs.800 Crore and over 8000 JA Kendras (stores) have been opened ? So even by



A Look through the Mist

that standard the sales are nowhere near to a fair share about Rs 300,000 Cr Pharma trade (Rs. 2,89,998 crore for 2019-2020), imagine even if branded drugs sold are only 100% inflated common Indian is losing about Rs.1,50, 000 cr every year.

More so Jan Aushadi banner drugs offered under chemical / generic name can cover the needs of more than 95 % of the sick/ailing people but still very less people genuinely know about these stores, why? Not many people have come forward to open these shops when on face of it there can be huge rush on these shops , why ? This Jan Aushadi Divas it was the occasion to find answer to these questions and provide feedback to Prime Minister , but that did not happen except for some success stories gathered by the concerned 'departments'. Should not government of India / States / UTs have investigated into that and apprised the PM of the reasons for 'huge' short fall ? Modi interacted with JA store owners on 7th March but I could not find report of such like feed back to Modi.

To my fair wisdom one of the prime reasons, rather the immediate reason to be taken notice of , for fall back of the JA programme (inspite of Modi taking personal interest) has been that the doctors (not even doctors in government service/government hospitals) do not write prescription by chemical name / generic name even for the drugs that are patent free .No doubt it was in the year

2018 that J&K government had even ordered appointment of daily prescription audit cells in government hospitals but that too has remained only a formal order: Hope when such feedback reaches Modi he would surely express his unhappiness to those who 'simply' write success stories for such @functions.

As far as possible writing prescription by chemical name (generic name) should be strictly enforced on ground immediately on doctors in government service and in medical colleges which is very much needed to make patients believe that the medicines sold by generic name (chemical name) are equally effective and to make people shed the myth cultivated by 'other side' that generic medicines are not as good. Jan Aushadi shops should be on first priority targeted for opening atleast in all medical college hospitals, government hospitals at district, sub district hospitals and Community health centres.

Such actions would also create pressures on the pharma companies for lowering prices and with patients approaching shops with generic name prescription more & more people will approach for opening shops under JA banner. Ofcourse when shops are easily available in near vicinity the patients needing drugs in small quantity will not have to spend extra money / time for reaching a JA Shop.

Presently most of the patients visiting JA Shops for drugs are those who have got aware by catching on the 'information' at their own level or under the advice of some friends or very rarely

with advice of some doctors with caring heart and like those with diabetic / hypertension/Rheumatoid (arthritis joint pains)/ arthritis or any other non communicable disease which needs longer duration treatment.

But for making this great public welfare programme to succeed and also have check on unfair pharma sector trading the State/ UT Administrative Departments of Medical Education &Health, Directors of Health, Principals of Medical colleges will have to be there on day basis for enforcing directions on ground atleast as regards essential medicine category / non patent drugs.

Additionally as said earlier the drugs being sold by JA stores should not be "introduced " by authorities as cheap/ affordable and for the poor drugs since these drugs are neither subsidised by government nor are low priced drugs but are drugs which are genuinely priced and are for all sections of society. Yes, we may have many poor / low paid employees who may be at occasions avoiding taking drugs for self due to there being inflated MRP and drugs from JA Stores will surely enable them not miss a dose.

To some extent in States / UTs like J&K another obstacle in promoting Jan Aushadi Kendras / shops is private practice by government doctors and government should consider discouraging that as had been done at occasions in the past when State was under Governor rule.

(The Author is Sr Journalist, social activist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).