

Modi Govt committed to affordable healthcare: Dr Jitendra

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JAMMU: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh On Sunday said , the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to provide affordable healthcare and over the last 10 years , a series of steps have been taken in this direction.

Addressing the "Doctors' Sammelan" organised by BJP here, Dr Jitendra Singh , who was chief guest on the occasion, said, one of the distinct examples of this is the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme, unique of its kind in the world, in the sense that it provides insurance even for a pre-existing disease.

Ashok Koul, Organising Secretary BJP, presided over the function. He explained about the party's campaign to gather inputs from different groups of professionals from consideration while making the party manifesto for the coming election. Anyone can dial 9090902024 and record his opinion which will be put up at the highest



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing "Doctors' Sammelan" organised by BJP at Jammu on Friday.

level up to PM Modi, he said. Rakesh Gupta, BJP Incharge Cells organised the function with Convenor Dr Puneet Mahajan.

Dr Jitendra said, to provide more accessibility to government sector medical colleges for affordable medical education, the number of MBBS seats increased has been increased by 79% from 51,348 to 91,927 while MD seats by 93% from 31,185 to 60,202 in less than 10 years.

In a quantum jump, Dr Jitendra Singh said, from 145 government govt medical colleges in 2014, India now has 260 such GMCs,

while the number of AIIMS in the country went up to 23 in 10 years, he informed.

Talking about India's vaccination programme, Dr Jitendra stated that India has emerged as a world leader in protective healthcare. Earlier, the country wasn't taken seriously as a health care provider, he noted. The Minister commended the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for freeing the healthcare sector of shackles and doing away with obsolete regulations, adding that a more enabling milieu has been created.

The Minister spoke about

incorporating telemedicine provision in mobile clinics to hospitals on the pattern of Doctors on Wheels facility. He called for an integrated health management protocol to add value to delivering medical services

in far-flung areas.

Dr Jitendra also spoke about the latest tools of medical practice like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum therapies etc and shared his experiences on the same.He also spoke about integrating clinical medicine with deep technology for drawing maximum outcomes. Dr Singh said, the priority in next two decades has to be preventive healthcare so that the energy and well-being of youth may be channelised to the maximum extent in realising Modi's vision for 2047 India.

On the occasion, prominent doctors and medicos were felicitated.



CGPWA visits Ambaran, urges LG to develop it as tourist & cultural site

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JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu on Sunday urged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to visit the ancient Buddhist site at Ambaran at Akhnoor and order its development as a cultural and tourist place.

A group of 22 Central Govt Pensioners today visited this important anthropological site, located on the right bank of river Chenab, nearly 30 km from Jammu, and was impressed by its panoramic view. This site is devoid of any facility for tourists and even the small length of approach road to the ancient Buddhist site is full of potholes, not befitting for such an important site.

The Buddhist Spiritual leader Dalai Lama had visited the site on November16, 2011 which reaffirmed Ambaran's rich historical and cultural importance. There is no qualified guide to explain the importance of the site.

The Archaeological Survey of India had conducted excavation at this site from 1999 to 2001 and 2008to 2010 f and found remains of Buddhist Stupa and



CGPWA Jammu members during visit to ancient Buddhist site at Ambaran at Akhnoor.

Vihara, burnt bricks structures of various periods. Buddhist monastic establishment and stupas were found at the site

Explaining the significance of the site, the General Secretary of the Association, K B Jandial said after the visit that studies after excavation have revealed the site's linkage with four cultural periods of Kushan, Gupta and Post-Gupta periods which ranged from first century to sixth century. From the photographs available there, it revealed that grey wares potteries and terracotta heads were also found. Terracotta heads represented Buddhist worshippers and princely figures which are influenced by the Gandhara art of Taxila and Gupta age.

"Other important antiquities

found in excavation included iron and copper objects, various shapes of red ware potteries, copper coins of Kushan rulers. A gold gasket containing some relics were found within a silver casket which was kept in a copper reliquary along with gold and silver foils, pearl beads and copper coins in the central part of the Stupa. All these antiquities and artifacts have been taken to Delhi and kept in an ASI's museum and a few artifacts of lesser importance are kept at the site for want of security. To meet this deficiency, their pictures have been kept here," Jandial said.

It is believed by historians that this excavation showed that Buddhism might have lived in Jammu about 1000

years before they went to Ladakh and Tibet, he said adding that with such a significant site available in Jammu, people of UT are not aware of it. It has a great tourist and cultural potential.

As an initiative the Central Govt Pensioners keep visiting important sites to know the area around them and promote these from a tourism point of view.

They also visited the historic Jia Pota where Maharaja Rangit Singh coronated Gulab Singh as Raja of Jammu. A beautiful mural narrates this historic event of Dogras. Adjoining this historic site is located a beautiful complex of J&K Tourism Development Corporation which caters to the needs of visitors professionally. This needs to be promoted among the tourists.

People are fed up with anti poor and anti common people policies of BJP: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing workers meeting in Ramgarh.

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SAMBA: The Congress on Sunday claimed that the INDI Alliance will win all the six Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the general elections.

This was stated by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla while addressing worker meeting in Ramgarh constituency organized by former Minister and JKPCC Vice President Yashpal Kundal.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Vice President and Treasurer JKPCC and incharge Samba District Rajnish Sharma Mian, General Secretary JKPCC Thomas Khokhar, District President Sanjeev Sharma, Working President Babbal Gupta,

Mahesh Sharma, Tanveer Singh, Vinod Kumar, Mandeeep Choudhary, Anita Devi, Uttam Chand, Balram Kundal, Sarpanch Krishan Kumar, Vinod Pardeep Vinay Sharma besides others.

Bhalla said "Like in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections, INDI Alliance will sweep the forthcoming Lok Sabha election in J&K and Ladakh. It will emerge victorious in these elections elsewhere in the country too."

He said that the Congress is ready for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, and it will contest the poll together with others in the INDI Alliance.

He said, "I feel Congress is now a good and strong party in J&K".

He claimed that Congress will come back to power in J&K after emerging as single largest party will form government with likeminded secular parties.

Urging party workers to gear up for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections and strengthen booth and village committees to defeat BJP, Bhalla said Congress believes in Hindu-Muslim unity and religious brotherhood for peace and harmony in the country.

Expressing confidence that the Congress will bounce back in a revitalized form on the J&K's political scene, he said that the party will continue to push for peace with dignity and will form next government in the Union Territory.

DEO Jammu gears up officers for implementation of MCC

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JAMMU: In view of the ensuing Lok Sabha elections 2024, District Election Officer, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Sunday issued a circular detailing the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct to maintain the sanctity of the electoral process. The circular, directed to all dis-

trict officers and officials, outlines essential measures to ensure a level playing field for all political entities. The circular mandates non-partisanship among government officials, prohibits the use of government resources for electioneering and details the permissible use of government facilities. It empha-

sizes the importance of impartiality in government conduct, especially concerning the display of political figures' photographs and messages in government buildings and on official websites.

The circular also addresses other issues to ensure that the Model Code's integrity is upheld.

Azad urges EC to hold LA election in J&K one month after LS polls

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JAMMU: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday urged the Election Commission (EC) to hold the much-awaited Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir a month after the completion of the Lok Sabha election process.

"The EC has stated that it is not holding the Assembly polls with the Lok Sabha election because of security considerations. It is true that if 10 candidates fight from each parliamentary seat, we have five seats and the number of candidates will be 50. Similarly, if we have 15 candidates from each of the 90 Assembly segments, the number of candidates will be around 1,500. It is difficult to provide security to 50 candidates," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

"The Assembly election should be held after a month's rest post the Lok Sabha polls," he said.



Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Secretary, Hira Lal Abrol addressing public meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

Azad, who was a member of a high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind to look into the feasibility of the "one nation, one election" concept, said the report has been submitted to the President and it is now for the government and the EC to take a call on the recommendations.

Asked about the opposition's criticism over holding the Lok Sabha polls in seven phases, the former Union minister said

even during the Congress rule, elections used to take place in seven or eight phases.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting in the heart of the city here, Azad said a legislation is needed to protect Jammu up to Samba.

"Our land and jobs were protected by Article 35A of the Constitution but after its abrogation with Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu has become vulnerable as anyone

coming from outside will prefer the city rather than going to the hilly districts of Jammu or the Kashmir valley. People from the 22 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are living in Jammu and we have to protect the city up to Samba district," he said.

Azad sought the people's support in forming the next government in Jammu and Kashmir and said he will give top priority to mitigating the problems

being faced by them due to lack of electricity and water; besides ensuring development.

He also asked people to wisely vote in the parliamentary polls so that the elected candidates become their voice and highlight their issues.

He emphasized the importance of voting based on merit, policies, and track records rather than religious affiliations.

Azad urged the people to

transcend religious lines when casting their votes.

He highlighted the need for unity and inclusivity in the electoral process, stressing that candidates should be evaluated on their ability to serve the people and uphold democratic values. "We have to vote for a candidate for Parliament, who can raise our voice, not based on religion, just as I have done on various critical issues. Many MPs remain silent in

Parliament, but my candidate will be the one who truly represents you and speaks up for your concerns," he said.

Azad promised holistic development including more districts, schools, hospitals, and roads. He said, "In two and a half years, I sanctioned districts, roads, hospitals which no government could provide. My mission is solely dedicated to achieving development at a large scale. The other parties have exploited the people while we remain committed solely to development. They have divided people along regional and religious lines with fake slogans that have now been exposed. My slogan is 'kaam bolta hai'."

"It was me who fought for statehood in Parliament, pressuring the government to promise the return of statehood", he said and expressed dismay over widespread lack of electricity and power. He vowed to work tirelessly to ensure that every region, regardless of challenges, has access to reliable electricity

infrastructure.

Azad underlined Jammu's rich heritage of secularism and unity and called for a collective effort to uplift the region, prioritizing progress and peace.

He said, "Jammu has been renowned for its social cohesion and unity for many years. It is imperative that we preserve these values for the promotion of peace and progress."

Among others present on the occasion included G.M.Saroori Vice Chairman, R.S.Chib Gen Secretary, Jugal Kishore Sharma Provincial President, Ab Majed Wani Gen Secretary, Arvind Singh Mickey Gen Secretary, Vinod Mishra Gen Secretary, Salman Nizami Chief Spokesperson, Ch Gharu Ram Zonal President, Secretary Hira Lal Abrol, Adv Maheshwar Singh Gen Secretary, Gourav Chopra Distt President, Gurmeet Kaur, Sunita Arora, Sobat Ali, Kulwant Singh, Kirtan Singh, Vishal Chopra, Ashok Sharma, Mohinder Sharma and others.