

# Chief Justice inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic at GMC&H Jammu

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards integrating legal aid services with the jails across the UT of J&K for ensuring access to justice for all, a Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre was inaugurated today by the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan, Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority in the presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority at Government Medical College & Hospital (GMC), Jammu.

On their arrival, the Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan who were accompanied by M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary were warmly received by Y. P. Bourney, PDJ (Chairman, DL&A), Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal & Dean, GMC Jammu, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K L&A, Mr. Anoop Sharma, Registrar IT, Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP, Jammu, Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, Medical Superintendent of other HOD's, senior faculty members of GMC Jammu as well as police officers. Following the inaugural ceremony, a video conference session was held between the HODs in GMC with the Medical Officers of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu rendering medical advice to three jail inmates in presence of the Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan.

The event proceeded with a formal gathering at the Faculty Lounge, GMC Jammu, where Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal & Dean, GMC Jammu, in his welcome address, emphasized the importance of legal awareness in the medical field, which was followed by an insightful presen-



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre at Government Medical College & Hospital Jammu.

tation by Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, HOD, Orthopedics, GMC Jammu, who highlighted key areas where legal intervention is crucial in healthcare.

In his Special Address, Justice Atul Sreedharan underscored the critical role of legal aid in healthcare institutions, ensuring that marginalized patients and their families receive necessary legal support. Justice Sreedharan reiterated that the Legal Services Authority remains committed to expanding legal outreach to all sections of society, particularly vulnerable groups.

Welcoming the Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan, the Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta said that it is a historic occasion as the first legal aid clinic and support center in the UT of J and K is being established in GMC Jammu which provides all possible medical aides to the society because it not only serves the population of district Jammu but also caters to the medical needs of

nearby districts and even the other province of our UT. Thank the Chief Justice for establishing such a support center to ensure better coordination between the medical officers posted in different jails and the specialist doctors working in GMC Jammu. Dr Sanjeev Gupta, HOD Orthopedics in his presentation eloquently showcased the benefits and advantages of legal aid clinic and support center in GMC Jammu. He also recalled that the necessity of establishing a legal aid clinic in GMC Jammu was felt during the Mega Medical Camp organized in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal last year and the idea of such establishing such a support center was the brainchild of the Chief Justice while he was heading the legal services authority as Executive Chairman that has materialized today with the opening of first such clinic in any hospital in UT of J&K.

While addressing the gathering

Justice Sreedharan thanked the Chief Justice for conceptualizing legal aid support center which would not only reduce the expenditure on the Govt. but would also save the doctors from unwanted exposure of risk from the inmates not having good past record. Justice Sreedharan also emphasized that a little more infrastructure such as document readers would be useful and doctors can also use the facility for recording their evidence in Courts without physical appearance that would take away a lot off load from the doctors and they would be available to the patients in the hospital itself. He further said that connecting to specialist doctors in other parts of the country having more experience would be easier now.

Justice Tashi Rabstan in his said that address commended the initiative, stressing the need for stronger collaboration between the legal and medical fraternities to safeguard the rights of the underprivileged. Chief Justice further said that such initiatives play a vital role in bridging the gap between jail inmates and essential medical services through telemedicine and e-consultations. Justice Tashi also appreciated the efforts of J&K Legal Services Authority in enhancing access to justice through such innovative means. The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Smriti Sharma, Secretary, DL&A Jammu, who expressed gratitude to GMC Jammu for their collaboration in establishing the Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre and for hosting the awareness program.



## Fight against drugs another political gimmick of AAP post-Delhi defeat: Chugh

### Demands dope test on committee members, CM Bhagwant Mann

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CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday described the formation of a cabinet sub-committee to fight drugs in Punjab as yet another political gimmick, being played by the AAP government.

Talking to media persons, Chugh said it took 36 months for the AAP government, led by Bhagwant-Kejriwal duo, to take this step which should have been taken within 36 hours of assuming power in 2022.

Chugh ridiculed how cabinet ministers would perform the task of police to check drug peddlers.



Ever since the AAP government came to power in Punjab drug mafias have flourished as much as the liquor mafias in Punjab, he added.

"In fact a dope test is needed to be conducted on the cabinet committee members and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

to make sure if they mean business", Chugh said.

He said after the party's crushing defeat in Delhi Assembly elections, it has suddenly woken up to become hyperactive in Punjab.

"This is a cosmetic exercise which will expose the AAP inefficiency and lack of commitment once again in days to come," he said.

Chugh said it would be another pretext for the AAP government to splurge tax payers' money on fake advertisements.

"We have seen it in the field of employment and health as well and now a new gimmick would be played on the people of Punjab", Chugh added.

# GMC Jammu, UNICEF organise conference on Child Mental Health Awareness



Resource persons delivering lecture during the conference.

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JAMMU: The Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, in collaboration with UNICEF, successfully organized a one-day conference titled Child Mental Health Awareness: Bridging the Gap today. The conference aimed to foster awareness and initiate meaningful discussions on addressing child mental health issues in the region.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of Government Medical College Jammu, who also delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the need for greater awareness and intervention in child mental health. Dr. Pawan Malhotra, Principal of ASCOMS Medical College Jammu, graced the occasion as the special guest. The event also witnessed a vote of thanks from Dr. Manoj Kumar Chahalotra, Medical Superintendent of the Government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, who expressed his gratitude to all distinguished guests, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions.

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The conference was organized under the leadership of Dr. Manu Arora, Organizing Chairman and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at GMC Jammu, along with Dr. Rakesh Banal, Organizing Secretary. Dr. Abhishek Chauhan and Dr. Preeti Kour served as Joint Organizing Secretaries. Dr. Arora provided an insightful overview of the Child Guidance Welfare Clinic (CGWC), a vital initiative aimed at supporting child mental health in the region. He highlighted the clinic's role in raising awareness and providing essential support to children and families in need.

The scientific program of the conference featured lectures from prominent experts in the field. Dr. Abhishek Chauhan, Assistant Professor at GMC Jammu, delivered a lecture titled An Overview of Mental Health Problems in Children. His presentation focused on the importance of early identification and intervention for mental health issues, emphasizing that many mental health challenges in children remain

unnoticed until they begin to impact overall development.

Jasmin Kour, Clinical Psychologist, presented a session on Psychological Interpretation: A Holistic Approach to Child Mental Health Issues, shedding light on the role of psychological support in addressing mental health challenges in children. Shalini Sharma, Member of the JJ Board, discussed Establishing Community-Based Associations for Mental Health Support, highlighting the importance of creating local support systems for children facing mental health issues. Dr. Preeti Kour, Senior Resident at GMC Jammu, and Miss Rakshandha Thakur also spoke about the significant contributions of CGWC in raising awareness about child mental health in Jammu. Dr. Ronika Sharma, Director of CRC Samba, discussed Addressing Mental Health for Children in the Education System, stressing the role of schools and educators in recognizing and addressing mental health challenges among children. The conference also addressed the legal aspects of child

mental health, with Dr. Sheetal Manhas, Member of the JJ Board, providing valuable insights into the legal frameworks surrounding children with mental health issues.

The event concluded with a valedictory function where Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GMC Jammu, appreciated the successful organization of the conference and the active participation of all experts, healthcare professionals, and delegates. Dr. Gupta reiterated the importance of continuing efforts to spread awareness about child mental health and building stronger community support systems. He emphasized that such initiatives are essential in breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and ensuring better care and opportunities for children facing mental health challenges.

The conference marked a significant step toward bridging the gap in child mental health awareness and support, setting the stage for further initiatives to enhance mental health care infrastructure for children in Jammu and surrounding regions.

## DY CM emphasises need to undertake philanthropic activities to serve mankind



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary paying obeisance at Chandi Mata Mandir at Pacca Danga.

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JAMMU: While highlighting the need for undertaking philanthropic activities, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday said that it is necessary to serve the mankind and provide equal opportunities in life to all.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organized to commemorate the 29th Foundation Day of Chandi Mata Mandir at Pacca Danga organized by Shri Chandi Mata Trust, Jammu. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the real devotion to God is to serve humanity and we should collectively work for undertaking activities which would be beneficial to the people at large. "Our endeavor should be to work for upliftment of down-trodden and weaker sections of society. We should also channelize our activities for providing ample opportunities of education, housing and related things to marginalized sections of the society, which would be the real offering to the Almighty", the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized.

While speaking about the challenges being

faced by the society, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the present society is marred by various social evils and the need of the hour is to collectively work for their eradication. He said that the people should rise to the occasion and work for creating a civilized and a well-meaning social order. Appealing to the youth to contribute their bit in creating a social order free of social evils, the Deputy Chief Minister said that they should not fall prey to substance abuse. He exhorted upon the young generation to follow the teachings of Saints and Seers for spiritual and intellectual upliftment.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government has launched a comprehensive campaign for making Jammu and Kashmir a drug free region. He said that the issue of drug abuse has already been taken up with the law enforcing agencies for its eradication from society. Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated a free medical camp organized by Amar Shaheed Captain Gandharv Manhas Memorial Trust at Parade.

# CS for plugging gaps to achieve set objectives under SBM (G)

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JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to review the progress made under ensuing implementation plan and the one framed for the year ahead.

Besides ACS Jal Shakti Department, the meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information & GAD; Secretary, RDD; DG, Rural Sanitation; DG, Codes and other concerned officers.

Dulloo impressed upon the Department to have complete analysis of the works carried out in each panchayat under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) to find out gaps as per the objectives set under this mission. He made out that such gaps, once found, should be plugged at an earliest for achieving the objectives of this mission. He noted that the villages in essence should look clean and hygienic for the mission offers sufficient resources to manage every waste to obtain the desired results on ground. He directed for early



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

completion of the portal for regular monitoring of assets created under SBM (G). He maintained that all these assets were envisaged to make our villages clean and each of these community assets should be put to optimum use for the set purposes these had been created for.

The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon the Department to frame a proper mechanism for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of these assets too. He asked for certifying the utilization of these assets properly for their actual uses through independent bodies in these villages and panchayats.

ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen

Kabra also apprised of his insights for smooth implementation of this Mission. He advised the Department to analyse the observations carried out by the central government department funding this mission all over the country. Kabra underscored the need of studying few parallel models adopted by other departments especially the Jal Jeevan Mission as large number of public assets had been created under it. He also suggested maintaining proper accounts of the charges recovered and subsequently spent by the Department for O&M of these sanitation assets here.

Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Assad informed the meeting about the cumulative

achievements registered by the Department under SBM (G) till now. He also laid out the anticipated outcomes under Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2025-26 for which projects worth Rs 364.50 Cr (excluding 10% UT share) has been proposed before the Central Government.

He made out that the Department has been pivotal in ensuring the cleanliness in all the rural areas by creating assets for management of solid, liquid and plastic waste there. He also revealed that 16 Gobardan units are functional across the UT to generate clean energy from this waste available across our villages.

Meanwhile, DG Rural

Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra apprised the meeting that the Department has a plan for declaring around 1243 villages as ODF (Plus) Model category under AIP 2025-26.

She said that the Department envisages creation of 30,000 more Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), retrofitting of around 1,10,000 old units, 2744 new Community Sanitary Complexes, 23 Plastic Waste Management Units, 60 Faecal Sludge Treatment Units and 16 new Gobardan plants across different districts of J&K.

As far as Solid Waste Management is concerned, it was divulged that 44,730 individual compost pits, 2662 community compost pits and 1002 garbage collection units would be created.

Regarding the liquid waste management, the meeting was informed that 3770 community soak pits and 1,66,000 individual soak pits with kitchen gardens and other units would be established as part of AIP 2025-26 once approved by GoI for the UT.