

PMAK, Ayushman Bharat aimed at providing affordable healthcare to all: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) and Ayushman Bharat like initiatives, started by the Modi Govt, are aimed at providing affordable healthcare to all.

On the occasion of Jan Aushadhi Divas today the Minister visited the newly built Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) at AIIMS New Delhi. Interacting with the patients and their attendants at the Kendra, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra and Ayushman Bharat are testimonies to the Prime Minister's pro-people governance, providing accessible and cost-effective medical care to citizens across the nation.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh interacting with patients during his visit to PMJAK at AIIMS New Delhi on Friday.

Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also a renowned endocrinologist, took the opportunity to personally inspect the medicines available at the Kendra. He compared their prices with market prices and was delighted to see significant savings, with medicines costing up to 90% less than their commercial counterparts. He also expressed satisfaction with the well-maintained stock, including essential medicines and affordable sanitary napkins, which are priced at just Rs.1 each.

During his visit, Dr. Jitendra Singh spoke from his

experience as a medical professional, recalling how many individuals used to skip necessary medications for diabetes and blood pressure due to unaffordability. However, with the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, accessible healthcare has become a reality for the masses. Dr. Singh also interacted with people who had benefited from these affordable medical services, noting their positive feedback on the efficacy of the medicines.

Dr. Singh met several citizens who shared their experiences of receiving treatment

under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Many mentioned undergoing cashless surgeries under the scheme and subsequently accessing affordable medicines at PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

The Union Minister also lauded the Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Napkin, priced at Rs. 1 per pad, as a significant initiative to ensure menstrual health services are accessible to women across India. He highlighted that such efforts are vital for improving the health and well-being of women, especially in rural and underserved

areas.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also acknowledged the remarkable growth of PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which has expanded from just 80 centers in 2014 to over 15,000 centers today, covering 765 out of 766 districts in the country. He directed officials to incorporate modern technology to streamline inventory management and ensure real-time monitoring of stock to maintain consistent service delivery. Dr. M. Srinivas, Director of AIIMS New Delhi, accompanied the Minister during the visit.



Fix timelines for each project under SBM (U) Action Plan:CS

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, while reviewing the action plan framed under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) here on Friday, impressed upon the concerned officers to fix timeline for each of the projects proposed under this plan.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Chairman, JK Pollution Control Committee; DG, Rural Sanitation and MD, SBM- Urban along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary had component wise review of the actions proposed for management of waste anticipated to be generated till 2035. He said that the action plan thus framed is worth applicable so demands further thought process to delineate the timelines for its successful implementation.

He took note of the quantum of waste generated in each of the ULBs along with that of the capital cities. He called for having an end to end solution for effective treatment and management of each kind of the waste generated here.



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

Dulloo maintained that funds for such a crucial activity would never act as a stumbling block. He observed that the proposed costs are well within the range to be arranged over next few years. He advised the Department to enhance their capacity simultaneously for fructifying these projects within the set deadlines.

He said that besides the facilities for treatment of legacy waste, solid waste, grey water, used water, plastic waste and Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste the department should take into account inclusion of integrated sewerage network to take such waste to the sites of their treatment and processing.

In addition, the Chief

Secretary asked them to explore the option of taking up projects under AMRUT 2.0 wherever feasible as per its guidelines. He also suggested to include projects under Capex where there is no other scheme to support the activity.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, while speaking in the meeting, said this action plan is in consonance with the NGT directions besides a roadmap for scientific disposal of urban waste for the next 10 years. She made out that the action plan had been framed after taking into account the decadal growth rate of the population and the waste expected to be generated by this population on daily basis.

The remediation of legacy waste besides other aspects of processing, treatment and disposal had been considered while framing this updated plan, she added.

MD, SBM (U), Devansh Yadav, informed the meeting that it is expected that the population of the urban areas of the UT would reach to about 51.50 lakh till 2035 generating 2481 TPD. He also mentioned about segregation of each ULB and Cantonment Board as per the quantum of waste to be generated and facilities required for its management till 2035. He presented details of the existing facilities in Municipal Corporations, ULBs of Jammu/Kashmir and that of Cantonment Boards in

both Jammu and Srinagar.

The meeting was also apprised of the facilities required for door to door collection and transportation of waste. Its processing in different municipalities of the UT and those proposed under clusters of towns together was divulged along with costs for operation and maintenance of assets for all these years.

About the legacy waste, it was said that a total of 26,11,102 MT of waste has been reported by the municipal bodies. Out of the same, 3,91,604 MT had already been treated and rest of the 22,19,498 MT needs to be treated under this plan for which works stand awarded or tenders floated at most of the locations.

Different models for management of solid, liquid, ISWM, plastic and legacy waste were discussed in the meeting. It was added that tender has been floated for hiring of PDMC for preparation of detailed estimates for all the 75 ULBs and 4 responsive bids have been received for this purpose, as was informed in the meeting.

Poonch-Tangmarg road project to be taken up with MORTH afresh: Dy CM

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Friday said that Poonch-Tangmarg road project will be taken up with Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MORTH) afresh.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Farooq Ahmad Shah and subsequent supplementaries raised by Aijaz Jan and Mohammad Akram Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the Poonch-Tangmarg road via Loran has not been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Addressing the concerns



raised by the legislators regarding change in alignment of road, the Deputy Chief Minister said that an inquiry will be conducted to resolve the road change issue. He also added that a committee will also be constituted to look into the matter which will be comprised of the concerned

officers and authorities.

He further said that it is an important road to connect the Pir-Panjal to Kashmir valley and will boost tourism besides creating employment avenues for the youth. He also added that the road has cultural and societal significance for the people of both the regions.

Chugh targets Omar & NC for their failed Budget

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh launched a scathing attack on Omar Abdullah and the National Conference, calling their budget a "failed document" that offers nothing substantial for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He criticized the budget for being completely devoid of vision, innovation, or any real solutions to the pressing issues faced by the people of the Union Territory.

Chugh pointed out that the only notable elements in the budget are Prime Minister Narendra Modi's centrally sponsored schemes, which continue to uplift the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "This budget is nothing but an attempt to repackage the Modi government's people-centric initiatives while failing to introduce anything of its own," he said.

Slamming the National Conference for failing to deliver on its election promises, Chugh said, "The National Conference made tall claims during the assembly elections, but none of those promises are visible in this budget. This is a complete betrayal of the trust of the people of



Jammu and Kashmir."

Highlighting the dire situation of unemployment, Chugh stated that the budget offers nothing to curb rising joblessness in the UT. "The youth of Jammu and Kashmir had high hopes for job opportunities, but the National Conference's budget has completely dashed their expectations. It is nothing but a document filled with hollow promises," he added.

Further slamming the National Conference, Chugh said that daily wage workers have been given false hopes yet again, as no concrete steps have been taken to improve their conditions. "The daily wagers have been waiting for years for justice, but this budget has completely ignored their plight," he remarked.

Chugh also exposed the hypocrisy of the budget's announcement of free bus rides for women, questioning its feasibility. "In rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, there are no buses available. When there are no buses, how will women benefit from free rides? This is nothing but another empty promise by Omar Abdullah and his party," he asserted.

Terming the budget a complete failure, Chugh said that the National Conference has once again exposed its lack of vision and governance capability. "This budget proves that the National Conference has no roadmap, no plan, and no will to serve the people. It is nothing more than a deceptive piece of paper with no real benefits for the common man," he concluded.

Chugh also exposed the hypocrisy of the budget's announcement of free bus rides for women, questioning its feasibility. "In rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, there are no buses available. When there are no buses, how will women benefit from free rides? This is nothing but another empty promise by Omar Abdullah and his party," he asserted.

Terming the budget a complete failure, Chugh said that the National Conference has once again exposed its lack of vision and governance capability. "This budget proves that the National Conference has no roadmap, no plan, and no will to serve the people. It is nothing more than a deceptive piece of paper with no real benefits for the common man," he concluded.

Chugh also exposed the hypocrisy of the budget's announcement of free bus rides for women, questioning its feasibility. "In rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, there are no buses available. When there are no buses, how will women benefit from free rides? This is nothing but another empty promise by Omar Abdullah and his party," he asserted.

Delegation of Shakti Udghosh Foundation, others call on LG



Delegation of Shakti Udghosh Foundation calling on LG Manoj Sinha on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Shakti Udghosh Foundation led by its Convenor Preeti Choudhary called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

The delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the Women Bike Expedition for "Nasha Mukht Seemayin" in J&K, organised by the Shakti Udghosh Foundation, ahead of the International Women's

Day. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and lauded the female bikers and everyone associated with the Foundation for their courageous efforts dedicated to accelerating action against drug abuse.

Eighteen female bikers from different parts of the country travelled along the zero-border line area. The ride covered areas across the Ditch-cum-

Bandh (DCB), International Border (IB), and Line of Control (LoC), spanning from Kathua to Poonch.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Janta Dal United led by its J&K President GM Shaheen called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

A delegation of District Development Council Chairpersons called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various

development issues of their respective Districts.

The delegation was comprised of Col. Mahan Singh (Retd.) Chairman, DDC Kathua; Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman, DDC Samba; Shri Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, DDC, Jammu; Shri Lal Chand, Chairman, DDC Udhampur; Dhyanter Singh Kotwal, Chairman, DDC, Doda and Suraj Singh, Vice Chairman DDC Jammu.

Three civilians missing in Kathua, BJP MLA raises issue in LA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A BJP MLA on Friday raised in the Legislative Assembly the issue of three civilians missing from a village in Kathua district, and sought a response from the government.

Officials said the three, who were on way to attend a wedding, went missing on Thursday night and a massive search operation is underway in Lohai Malhar area of Kathua district to trace them.

As the Assembly session began for the day, BJP member Satish Sharma raised a point of order to inform the House about the missing civilians in Lohai Malhar area of Billawar constituency. "I want to inform you about the missing three civilians. We want to seek answers from the government," Sharma said.

In response, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said the Question Hour had begun and suggested the question be taken up.

Plantation drive carried out at official residence of Chief Justice

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a simple yet impressive function, the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA) on Friday organized a plantation drive at the official residence of Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging the plantation of fruit-bearing trees. During the event, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) alongwith Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to CJ, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Mayank Gupta, Joint Registrar (Judicial/ Protocol), Jammu, planted fruit-bearing saplings at the Chief Justice's Banglow, Jammu.

The saplings were provided by Dr. K. C. Sharma, a renowned surgeon and philanthropist, who has been instrumental in developing the Summer Zone Apple variety.



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan planting the sapling.

This unique variety, which can thrive in high temperatures of up to 48°C, has been successfully cultivated across multiple states, including J&K, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. It has the potential to revolutionize fruit cultivation by ensuring fruit production within just 13 months of plantation, even in warmer regions.

Dr. Sharma's research has led to the successful plantation of these apples in various pres-

efforts of J&K Legal Services Authority in promoting eco-friendly initiatives and emphasized the importance of afforestation and sustainable agricultural practices. He also lauded Dr. K. C. Sharma for his dedication to horticultural research and his commitment to environmental conservation.

On this occasion, Dr. Sharma also presented books authored by him, one of which depicts the problems and solutions of the Ladakh region. His literary contributions reflect his deep understanding of environmental and agricultural challenges, further reinforcing the need for innovative solutions to ensure sustainable development.

In addition, many saplings were also planted at the High Court Guest House at VIP-1, Ved Mandir Enclave, Jammu, further extending the green initiative. J&K Legal Services Authority remains committed to furthering its environmental initiatives and will continue to organize similar plantation drives across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice appreciated the

Power shutdown in Jammu and Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Hiranagar Town, Iandi, Sanyal, Jangi Chack, Chakra Bobiya, Mathrechak, Spalwan, Chann Tanda, Muri Chak, Hospital, CRPF Camp and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 09 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kathua Town, Hatlimorh, Kalibari, Ludanchack, Janglote, Patel Nagar, Sawan Chack, Shastri Nagar, Chack Pratap, PHE installations and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 09 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana, Kaluchak, BB Town, PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 09 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Bari-Brahmana, Teli Basti, Kartholi and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08, 10 and 12 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Old Mawa and its adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 and 09 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL, in order to facilitate branch cutting/pruning works, the shutdown of 33KV Shariefabad Narbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Narbal and Sanoor shall remain off while power supply to Narbal, Sanoor, Radbugh, Malpora, Kowoosa, Sozeith, Lawaypora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 11 March, 2025.

Also, the shutdown of 33KV Badampora-Lar Tullmulla line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Tullmulla, Kheer Bhawani and Lar shall remain off while power supply to Repora, Watlar, Waliwar, Lar, Tullmulla and Kheer Bhawani areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 09 March, 2025.