

# AIIMS Jammu performs landmark HIPEC Surgeries, offers new hope to cancer patients

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** In a significant milestone for cancer care in the region, and marking its distinction as the only government centre in the region currently offering HIPEC, the Department of Surgical Oncology at AIIMS Jammu has successfully performed two advanced HIPEC procedures, marking a major leap forward in complex oncological surgery within the government health-care system.



AIIMS Jammu doctors with patient after surgery.

The two patients from Doda and Muthi, Jammu have been discharged and have now initiated their further systemic treatment. This achievement marks a significant advancement in delivering highly specialized and resource-intensive cancer treatment within the public healthcare system.

The surgeries were led by Dr. Paras Khanna, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, with critical intraoperative support provided by Dr. Raksha Kundal, Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, and her team.

Dr. Paras Khanna explained that HIPEC (Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy) is an advanced treatment used for select abdominal cancers that spread within the peritoneal cavity, such as ovarian, colorectal, gastric, appendiceal cancers, and pseudomyxoma peritonei.

The procedure is typically performed in two stages during the same surgery: Cytoreductive Surgery (CRS): Onco-surgeons first remove all visible tumor deposits from the abdominal cavity.

Heated Chemotherapy Bath: A heated chemotherapy solution is then circulated inside the abdomen for 60-90 minutes. The heat enhances drug penetration and effectiveness while limiting systemic side effects.

Unlike conventional chemotherapy, HIPEC delivers high concentrations of

chemotherapy directly to the tumor site, improving outcomes in carefully selected patients.

HIPEC procedures are among the most complex and long-duration oncological surgeries and require seamless coordination between Surgical Oncology, Anaesthesia, Critical Care, and perioperative nursing teams. The success of these cases reflects the growing multidisciplinary strength of AIIMS Jammu.

Until now, patients from Jammu and surrounding regions often had to travel to metropolitan cities for HIPEC, incurring significant financial and emotional burden. The availability of this treatment at AIIMS Jammu represents improved access to advanced cancer care in the public sector;

Reduced need for out-of-state referrals; Financial relief for economically vulnerable patients; and Strengthening of tertiary oncology services in North India.

Dr. Sumaina Gupta, Additional Professor and Officiating Head, Department of Anaesthesia, highlighted that meticulous preoperative optimization along with comprehensive perioperative critical care played a key role in ensuring successful outcomes in such complex procedures. She congratulated the ICU staff, residents, and consultants for their dedicated efforts and seamless teamwork.

Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, said it is heartening to witness the Surgical

Oncology and Anaesthesia teams successfully performing such complex HIPEC procedures, expanding the frontiers of cancer care. He further underscored the fact that HIPEC is not suitable for all cancers and requires strict patient selection. When carefully selected, it can significantly improve survival and quality of life compared to conventional treatment alone.

He noted that the surgeries were completed within a short span, reflecting the efficiency and expertise of the multidisciplinary team, and added that the availability of such advanced procedures underscores AIIMS Jammu's commitment to delivering comprehensive cancer care. The successful execution of these initial cases signals AIIMS Jammu's readiness to expand advanced oncological services and establish itself as a regional referral hub for complex cancer care.

With continued multidisciplinary collaboration and infrastructure development, AIIMS Jammu is steadily advancing toward delivering cutting-edge cancer treatment closer to home for patients across Jammu, Kashmir, and neighbouring regions.



## Jammu Police, South Zone holds Iftar gathering, emphasizes brotherhood

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Jammu Police, South Zone, organized an Iftar gathering on Thursday at Police Station Gangval, in an atmosphere of communal harmony, unity, and mutual respect.

The event was attended by the Superintendent of Police, South Jammu, Dr. Ajay Sharma along with the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), South Jammu, and the Station House Officer (SHO), Police Station Gangval. All ranks and staff of the police station were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ajay Sharma underscored the importance of maintaining peace, harmony, and brotherhood, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. He appreciated the dedication, discipline, and tireless efforts



SP South Jammu, Dr. Ajay Sharma with cops at Iftar party.

of police personnel in maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety and security of the public. The officers highlighted the importance of community policing and encouraged all personnel to continue serving with professionalism, integrity, and a people-friendly approach. Emphasis was also laid on strengthening public trust and fostering better coordination between the police and the community to ensure a peaceful environment.

On the occasion, the Superintendent of Police extended warm Eid greetings to all officers and personnel and conveyed his best wishes for their health, happiness, and prosperity, as well as for the well-being of their families.

The event concluded on a positive note, reinforcing the spirit of unity, motivation, and collective responsibility among the personnel of Jammu Police, South Zone.

## From Iran relief to global missions, India leads by action: Gaurav

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** BJP spokesperson and Convenor International Affairs Gaurav Gupta on Thursday said that India has once again demonstrated its role as a global first responder, citing its recent humanitarian assistance to Iran amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.



Referring to the latest development, Gupta said Iran has expressed heartfelt gratitude to India and its "kind people" after receiving the first shipment of medical aid from New Delhi, a gesture that underscores India's commitment to stand with friendly nations during times of distress.

He noted that the aid reached Iran at a crucial time when conflict in the region has disrupted supply chains, strained healthcare systems, and created an urgent need for essential medicines and medical support.

Highlighting the broader context, Gaurav Gupta said India's engagement with Iran has remained constructive and humanitarian, even amid geopolitical tensions affecting maritime routes, trade flows, and regional stability.

Shifting focus to economic resilience, Gupta welcomed the Centre's Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme, terming it a timely and decisive intervention to safeguard Indian exporters from the fallout of the West Asia crisis. He said the Rs 497 crore initiative will help offset rising freight costs, insurance premiums, and logistical disruptions caused by tensions in the region.

Emphasizing India's consistent global outreach, Gupta said the country has repeatedly stepped forward during international crises. He cited

## Satish reiterates zero tolerance for black marketing, hoarding, overcharging

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** In a decisive move to safeguard consumer interests and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma on Thursday led an extensive and high-intensity market checking drive across multiple locations from Katra to Jammu, focusing particularly on the distribution and availability of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Demonstrating proactive governance and on-ground monitoring, the Minister conducted surprise inspections at several LPG godowns, distribution outlets, and retail points. He thoroughly reviewed stock positions, distribution records, booking and delivery systems, and compliance with prescribed norms.

During the inspections, Satish Sharma issued a stern warning against black marketing, hoarding, overcharging, and any attempts to create artificial scarcity of LPG. He made it unequivocally clear that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards such malpractices. "There will be no atonement for those found indulging in black marketing or exploiting consumers. Anyone violating the law, be it an LPG distributor, delivery agent or any intermediary, will face strict legal action without exception," the Minister asserted. The Minister emphasized that ensuring the availability of LPG at regulated prices

remains a top priority. He assured the public that there is adequate stock of LPG and that the government is closely monitoring the supply chain to prevent any disruption.

Satish Sharma further directed the concerned officers of the FCS&CA department to intensify market checking drives across all districts, maintain strict vigilance, and take immediate punitive action against violators. He stressed the need for a robust monitoring mechanism, including regular inspections and real-time reporting, to curb any malpractice effectively. He instructed them to ensure continuous enforcement of regulations and strengthen coordination with law enforcement agencies to maintain discipline in the markets.

## Zorawar flags NC's 'Blatant Bias' as Jammu CAPEX Funds face lapse risk

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** BJP J&K UT Spokesperson Zorawar Singh Janwal on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Omar Abdullah-led Government, accusing it of deliberate bias against the Jammu region by withholding crucial development funds meant for the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). He said that out of the total Rs 160 crore CAPEX budget allocated for JMC for the current financial year, only Rs 119 crore has been sanctioned so far, raising serious concerns over the fate of the remaining funds with barely days left before the financial year closes.



Janwal pointed out that even the Rs 119 crore was sanctioned only after the BJP raised the issue during October-November last year, questioning the intent and urgency of the government. In contrast, he said, Rs 138 crore has already been sanctioned to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, leaving only Rs 22 crore pending, which, he added, can still be utilised. However, he warned that the remaining Rs 41 crore meant for Jammu is unlikely to be used in the limited time left, effectively leading to its lapse.

Calling it a clear case of political discrimination, Janwal alleged that the government is intentionally choking development in Jammu despite the district being severely affected by recent flash floods that damaged roads, drains, water supply systems, and other civic infrastructure. "This is not administrative delay but a calculated move to deprive Jammu of its rightful share," he asserted.

He further alleged that out of the Rs 1700-1800 crore provided by the Centre for flood relief, only a fraction has been allocated for essential works, while several affected areas in Jammu city-including Gujjar Nagar, Gole Gujral, Pouni Chak, Bahu, Khandwal, and Karnaila Chak-have been ignored in the preparation of DPRs for relief and rehabilitation in municipal limits. "Hundreds of affected families have been left out. This exposes the hollow claims of equitable development," he said.

Janwal questioned whether the government is diverting

funds from Jammu to Kashmir Valley or acting out of political bias against BJP. "With just 11 days left, how does the government expect these funds to be utilised?" he asked, terming the situation as administrative failure coupled with political prejudice.

Highlighting the ground impact, Janwal said that due to non-release of funds, JMC is unable to clear pending payments to contractors, resulting in liabilities running into crores. "Contractors are on the verge of starvation and have stopped work due to non-payment. This has brought development activities in Jammu city to a standstill," he said.

He accused the Omar Abdullah Government of even holding back funds sanctioned by the Centre for Jammu's development, calling it a betrayal of public trust. "This stands in stark contrast to the government's repeated claims of balanced and equitable development," he added, reminding that such promises were also part of the National Conference's election manifesto.

Demanding immediate release of pending funds, Janwal urged the government to end what he termed as "politics of discrimination" and ensure justice to the people of Jammu.

## Sainik Colony deputation calls on Registrar Cooperative Societies, highlights concerns affecting residents of colony



Deputation of citizens from Sainik Colony Jammu after meeting with Mohd Shafi Chak, Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** A deputation of respected citizens from Sainik Colony, Jammu, called on Mohammad Shafi Chak, Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, to highlight pressing concerns affecting the residents of the colony.

During the meeting, the deputation apprised the Registrar of a growing and deliberate vertical divide among residents, wherein civilians are being discriminated against and subjected to undue harassment in comparison to fauji residents. The delegation emphasized that such practices are creating unrest and disturbing the harmony of the community.

The citizens also raised issues related to denial

of participation in decision-making processes, unfair practices in administrative matters, and unequal treatment being meted out to civilian residents despite their majority presence in the colony. The Registrar patiently heard the concerns put forth by the deputation and assured them that the matter would be examined thoroughly. He further conveyed his commitment to ensuring fairness, transparency, and the removal of any form of discrimination against civilians.

The deputation expressed hope that necessary corrective measures will be taken at the earliest to restore equality, justice, and unity among all residents of Sainik Colony.

# Why there are not even 20000 Jan Aushadhi Shops in India, a country of over 650000 villages when JA medicines are costing so less?

MRP of Jan Aushadhi medicines are about 50% to 80% cheaper than those of leading 'Branded' medicines  
**Prescription writers not writing prescriptions by Generic/ Chemical name has been main reasons for so less turnover of Jan Aushadhi medicines**

**DAYA SAGAR**  
 The medicines that are sold through Jan Aushadhi Kendras are sold under 'generic name' & by any 'brand' name and their technical material is not under patent rights of some individual or a company where as most of the manufacturers in India market same medicines under their 'brand' name (often referred as branded generic). There has been very less achievement in enforcing writing prescription by generic / chemical name and has been one of the main reasons the number of Jan Aushadhi Stores having not increased in proportion to so high a cost benefit that the Jan Aushadhi medicines carry with the level of efficacy no way less than anyone else selling the same medicine under a company specific 'brand' name. The Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJAP) are now nearly over 17 years old and going by the press releases and reports in support of the programme there is utmost need to examine

how far this scheme which covers the interests of the common citizen of India for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been taking very personal interest since 2015 itself has been on ground conducted by the concerned ministries and particularly those in bureaucracy / implementing agencies like Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPPI) / Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMDBI) to yield the benefits as could have been drawn from such a high yield potential scheme.

No doubt a programme that had 4 outlets in 2008 and had reached only to the level of just less than 100 outlets by 2014-15 had reached to the level of 17990 outlets with sales of generic medicines worth over Rs.1400 Cr by 31-12-2025 surely on face it appears very encouraging but it would be unwise to rest here-only without looking at (i) the market potential that existed/ exists (ii) the importance of the scheme in view of direct economic benefit that can happen to common/all Indian masses without any

economic load on any State Government or Central Government (iii) reduced financial burden on 'state' exchequer as regards the health services through the government hospitals (iv) the scope for providing enough demand & easily cultivable market to the Pharmaceutical Companies in Public Sector (v) reducing the out of pocket

expenses of common man substantially (going by the data that is given in the press releases of the Government / PMDBI on an average the medicines that would for same generic drug are sold under a brand name for Rs.100 would cost to individual without a brand name from a Jan Aushadhi stores just Rs.100/ only <. It has been that in an advertisement appearing in media on the eve of the 8th Jan Aushadhi Divas on 7th

March 2026 Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and PMBI has mentioned 18000 JAKs as operational across country, 2110 medicines & 315 medical devices/ consumables available, Jan Aushadhi has helped citizens save approximately Rs.40000/ Cr > (vi) of course there would be a possible check on the unfair earning (if there) by the trade (which was particularly kept in focus when the Jan Aushadhi like scheme was conceived in 2008 by GOI when Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan was the Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers) and (vii) above all that KEEPING IN VIEW the importance that Prime Minister has been IN PARTICULAR giving to the Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna ( RATHER WORKING SINGLE HANDEDLY AS 'BRAND AMBASSADOR' FOR the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna/ PMBJP, EARLIER JAN AUSHADHI SCHEME) before arriving at some independent opinion { in terms of reports like that of 2024-25 of Department of Pharmaceuticals that also outlines the

growth of JA Kendras ( shops / retail outlets has been 2008-09 ( 4 ) 2014-15 ( 80 ) 2015-16 ( 269 ) 2016-17 (1080 ) 2017-18 ( 3306 ) 2023-24 ( 11261 ) 30-11-2024 (14320).

The generic medicines sold through the PMDBI in a year are not even 0.5% of the market potential that exists even after the Jan Aushadhi scheme is 17 years old and the medicines are of quality & are with MRP tag upto 80% less than the MRP tag on the same medicines sold under a brand name. Yes one thing thing can be still said which is that it is only due to the personal interest shown by the Prime Minister that some progress has been there. One would ask why so low turn overspite of so many positives there to support? Among that may be pinned for so low a take off one very indicative reason that could be firmly named is that government has not been able to enforce prescription writing by chemical name / generic name at least for the patent free medicines and that too not even by government doctors while on duty

or sitting in there private clinic after/ before regular duty hours ( even retired government doctors should be included ). When doctors write medicines only by brand name the innocent patients get carried with false impressions about quality and many do not accept medicine from other source even with different brand name what to talk of a strip of same medicine with only chemical name. This importance to writing prescription by chemical name must be given first priority by govt.. No doubt PMDBI too could be named for not working in that direction & providing proper feed back to the Government in that direction including instances of non compliance. Had such feedback for so low a level of sales been provided to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi through PMO the Prime Minister would have surely ensured that sales / consumption of JA would increase many fold by this time.

To be continued  
 (The writer is Sr-Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs)

