

Sakeena emphasises wider awareness, improved accessibility at AIIMS-J

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, on Thursday emphasised on improving public accessibility and aggressive outreach campaign to aware people about wide range of medical care services being offered at AIIMS Jammu.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held to review the functioning of AIIMS Jammu. Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Rajesh Sharma; Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta; Director Coordination New GMCs, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad; HoDs of different departments of AIIMS Jammu, Professors, doctors and other concerned officers were present in the meeting. During the meeting, Sakeena assessed the current operational status of AIIMS Jammu besides reviewing progress on several ongoing works at the facility. She also discussed strategies for maximising awareness among the public about the facilities available at this premier health institution.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the transformative role that of AIIMS Jammu in the healthcare landscape of the region, adding that it is one of the finest institutes in terms of healthcare in North India after AIIMS Delhi. "AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital or an academic institution, but it is a symbol of hope, a



Health Minister Sakeena Ito chairing meeting at Vijaypur on Thursday.

beacon of advanced healthcare for the people of Jammu and Kashmir", Sakeena stated. "Aware public about facilities and services available here so that they can utilize them to the fullest without moving outside for treatments", she said.

The Minister added that from state-of-the-art diagnostic labs to specialized treatment units and digital patient care systems, AIIMS Jammu is equipped to handle complex medical needs, yet maximum people are unaware of how to access the services being offered here.

Highlighting the role of AIIMS in acting as guiding force for other medical institutes of J&K, Sakeena Ito called upon the Principals of all GMCs, including SKIMS Sura and other hospitals to maintain synergy with AIIMS Jammu for sharing ideas in terms of advanced medical care facilities for the benefit of common masses.

The Minister, on the occasion, also assured the administration of AIIMS of all possible support and assistance

from the government. She assured the CEO AIIMS that all the new proposals will be looked into for necessary approvals in due course of time. Earlier, in his presentation, Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, informed the Minister that this institute is providing advanced medical care facilities to the people of J&K. He informed that till date, AIIMS Jammu has successfully catered to healthcare needs of over 1,70,000 patients and the daily footfall of patients currently stands at approximately 1200 to 1500.

He also informed the Minister that a Poison Information and Management Centre has been established in the institute to provide round the clock poisoning and Management services to the people. He added that Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine has also been established here which is a first of kind facility in Northern India.

It was also given out that

AIIMS Jammu is equipped with 20 Specialty Departments and 12 Super-Specialty Departments besides the institute has implemented advanced systems like Patient Navigation System, Patient Referral System, Walk-in Patient Services, Swasth App Integration for seamless healthcare and other advanced facilities for the ease of common people.

It was also informed in the meeting that the Blood Bank at AIIMS Jammu is being developed as a state-of-the-art facility, envisioned to be one of its kind in the region, with cutting-edge, high-end technology, all aimed at delivering patient-centric and quality-driven care.

Later, Sakeena Ito undertook a comprehensive round of the different sections of the institute. She visited the Academic Block, Convention Centre, Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine, Library, Outpatient Department (OPD), Inpatient Department (IPD), Emergency Department,

Radiodiagnosis unit including MRI, X-ray and Fluoroscopy section. She expressed satisfaction at the world-class standards being upheld in medical education and training at this prestigious institution.

She also commended the hospital administration for establishing digital library having modern setup which is offering students and faculty access to global medical journals, interactive learning modules other research databases. She interacted with the students present at the facility, encouraging them to take full advantage of the resources to excel in their academic and professional journeys.

While inspecting other infrastructure, Sakeena directed the officers to ensure that infrastructure gaps, if any, are addressed promptly and that periodic maintenance of both academic and clinical wings is carried out efficiently.

During the round of the institute, Sakeena highlighted on the importance of integration between AIIMS Jammu and peripheral healthcare centers to ensure seamless referral systems and better patient outcomes across the region. She reiterated the Omar Abdullah led government's commitment towards enhancing healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir, while expressing optimism that AIIMS Jammu will soon emerge as a model healthcare and teaching institution across North India.

BJP KDD highlights key community concerns in meeting with Relief Commissioner

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Kashmir Displaced District (KDD), under the leadership of its president Rajiv Pandita, held a comprehensive and result-oriented meeting with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Dr. Arvind Karwani. The meeting focused on several urgent and long-standing issues concerning the welfare of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

One of the first matters discussed was the delay in the release of monthly cash assistance for the month of April.

Dr. Karwani clarified that the delay was a one-time issue specific to this month and assured that the Treasury is set to release the pending payment within the next couple of days.

The issue of road connectivity to the Maehbhawan Transit Accommodation in Mattan, which has been pending for quite some time, was also taken up. Dr. Karwani stated that he is planning an on-ground visit within the week and will coordinate with the concerned authorities to secure the necessary clearance and ensure progress.

Concerns were also raised regarding discrepancies in the accommodation allotment lists. Specific instances were pointed out where couples were allotted two flats, and several names appeared in incor-



BJP Kashmir Displaced District President Rajiv Pandita calling on Relief Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani.

rect gender-based lists. The latest Maehbhawan list was presented as a reference. Dr. Karwani assured that the discrepancies would be addressed, and future lists will be carefully verified before finalization. It was also strongly recommended that genuine medical cases be given preference in floor allotments. Furthermore, it was urged that the pending lists of transit accommodations across North, Central, and South Kashmir be released at the earliest.

The shortage of staff in various zone offices during the coupon issuance month of April was another pressing concern.

Dr. Karwani Ji informed that his department is already working on this issue and has requested deployment of additional staff to manage the workload effectively.

The delay in the allotment of shops at the Muthi

camp was discussed as well. Dr. Karwani responded positively and mentioned that the matter is in its final stages and should be resolved soon.

The discussion also included the completion of allied works in transit accommodations across Kashmir. Dr. Karwani shared that necessary funds have been received and that the work is expected to commence shortly.

While speaking on this particular meeting BJP KDD president Rajiv Pandita appreciated the proactive and constructive approach of Dr. Karwani in addressing these concerns and looks forward to timely action on all the fronts. He further added that party remains committed to continuously engaging with authorities to ensure that the interests of the Kashmiri Pandit community are safeguarded and advanced.

Ritika likens Congress protest against ED to a "thief crying foul"

Criticizes Congress for turning legal issue into political storm



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha Ritika Trehan briefing media.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha Ritika Trehan on Thursday criticized the Congress party for protesting against the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation into the National Herald case involving Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Trehan argued that the Congress party is built on corruption and lies, and its protests are merely an attempt to orchestrate propaganda against PM Modi government.

Ritika termed protest as an attempt to deflect accountability likening it to a "thief crying foul".

She asserted that the ED's charge-sheet is a legal consequence of the Gandhis' actions, rather than a political vendetta.

She dismissed claims of political bias, pointing out that the case originated during Congress's own rule. She criticized Congress for turning a legal issue into a political storm, suggesting that the Gandhi family's "greed" led to their current predicament.

Ritika reiterated that the

ED's investigation is a legal process, and Congress's protests are merely an attempt to deflect accountability. She said that the Gandhis should face the consequences of their actions rather than trying to politicize the issue.

She emphasized that wrongdoers will face the consequences of their actions through the legal system.

Ritika asserted that the ED's investigation is a legitimate legal process aimed at addressing financial irregularities. She said that individuals who have engaged in wrongdoing, such as corruption or financial misconduct, will be held accountable through the law.

She underscored BJP's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that those who violate it face the consequences. The party's stance is that the legal system should be allowed to run its course, without interference or attempts to politicize the issue, added Ritika.

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JAMMU: A one day block level workshop cum awareness programme on Awas Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna Gramin) was on Thursday organized by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at Block HQ Bhalwal to provide people valuable insights into the features, benefits and implementation strategies of the scheme (AWAS Plus 2.0).

The workshop was jointly inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan and Member Legislative Assembly Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma. Ex PRI members of Block Bhalwal and a large number of PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal participated in the workshop.

Block Development Officer, Dr. Sunil Sharma, in his welcome address informed that 221 PMAY-G houses have been constructed in



MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma being honoured during the programme.

Block Bhalwal upto 31 March 2025 and 931 households in all the 24 Panchayats of Block Bhalwal have been surveyed by the surveyors (Panchayat Secretaries & Panchayat Account Assistants).

Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma presented a detailed overview of PMAY-G of District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular and informed the participants that April 30, 2025 is the last date for registration under AWAS Plus 2.0 (Both

Self & Assisted Survey).

MLA Sham Lal Sharma, who was guest of honour, in his address congratulated 221 PMAY-G beneficiaries of Block Bhalwal for getting their houses constructed and also thanked Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for providing huge funds for homeless households. The MLA stressed upon the holistic development of the rural areas by providing them benefits under SBM-G, LPG

under PMUY and provision of functional tap water (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission. He appealed to the Ex PRIs to involve themselves for identification of eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries in their respective Halqa Panchayats and no houseless person should be left over.

He also applauded the working of officers and officials of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj District Jammu in general and Block Bhalwal in particular. Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan, who was the chief guest, highlighted the initiatives of Government Of India. He said poor and downtrodden households are being provided financial assistance for construction of houses, toilets. He also appealed Ex-PRIs to assist field functionaries of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to identify all the eligible PMAY-G beneficiaries.

Ex- PRI members and PMAY beneficiaries also spoke on the occasion and described the event as a great platform for dissemination of information regarding registration of AWAS Plus 2.0 among houseless families.

Thsildar Bhalwal Monika Sharma presented the vote of thanks.

BJP holds protest against Cong, says ED chargesheet against Gandhis final nail in party's coffin

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP on Thursday held a protest against the Congress and said the ED filing a chargesheet in the National Herald case against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is the final nail in the coffin of the opposition party, whose leaders are "neck-deep in corruption".

The protesters also criticised the Congress for labelling the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action as an act of vendetta.

The ED has filed a chargesheet against Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and others before a special court here in the National Herald case,



BJP MLAs and workers burning effigy of Rahul Gandhi.

accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore.

The Congress on Tuesday alleged the ED action was "vendetta politics" and that seizing of assets in the case was a "state-sponsored crime

masquerading as the rule of law".

Hundreds of BJP activists and leaders, including MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Arvind Gupta, assembled at the Kachi Chawani Chowk and

held a protest march against the Congress.

They raised slogans against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and burnt their effigies. "This is the final nail in the coffin of the Congress, Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi. The protests by the Congress and allegations of vendetta politics are baseless given their involvement in the misappropriation of public properties allocated to the National Herald newspaper. They will be behind bars," MLA Sethi told reporters here.

He said the ED has taken this step based on ample evidence and the Congress leaders will face imprisonment for corruption and misappropriation of public funds.

Former minister Priya Sethi also criticised the Congress leadership. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should take responsibility for their involvement in the National Herald case and resign from the Congress, she said.

"Instead, they shamelessly use Congress cadres across the country to organise protests and portray themselves as victims. The mother-son duo are trying to deceive the people and conceal their seams by compelling their workers to hold protests," she said.

The Congress on Wednesday held protests outside ED offices across the country over the agency filing the chargesheet against its leaders.

Former Dy CM describes Guru Ravidas as torch bearer of social justice

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, described Guru Ravidas as a symbol of social justice, equality, and spiritual enlightenment.

He was discussing the teachings of Guru Ravidas with Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch General Secretary of British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation and

Member, Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha.

Kavinder Gupta lauded the revered saint's teachings that continue to inspire generations across the country.

He said that Guru Ravidas was a revolutionary spiritual figure who envisioned a society free of caste discrimination and inequality. His teachings promote universal brotherhood, compassion, and the dignity of labour. His message remains more relevant



Former DyCM Kavinder Gupta interacting with Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth.

than ever, he said.

philosophy of Guru Ravidas, Gupta emphasized

that the saint's poetry and spiritual vision advocated for a society, where every individual-regardless of caste or creed-has the right to live with dignity and respect.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that Guru Ravidas was a true reformer who challenged the social norms of his time with the power of wisdom and devotion.

He also commended the efforts of various organisations in India and abroad, which are preserving the

saint's teachings and contributing to the social and cultural fabric.

"Guru Ravidas' life is a source of immense pride for all Indians. His values have deeply influenced our constitutional principles of equality and justice," he remarked.

He urged the younger generation to follow the values taught by Guru Ravidas and play an active role in building a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Joint enforcement drive conducted in Marh to curb traffic violations

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To ensure compliance with traffic rules and promote road safety, a joint enforcement drive was conducted on Thursday in the Marh area by the District Administration involving Motor Vehicles Department, Traffic Police and local Police. The enforcement teams were led by ARTO Flying Squad Er. Bipen Singh Charak, DySP Rural Daljeet Singh and Thsildar Marh R. K. Rathore. They were accompanied by MVI Er. C. S. Billowria, DTI Anayat Hussain, MVTA Taranjot Singh and supporting staff from the police and traffic departments. During the drive, approximately 780 vehicles were checked at various locations. A total of 76 vehicles were e-challaned for violation of the Motor Vehicles Act and one vehicle was seized. The fine expected from the e-challans stands at Rs 1,62,000. The drive also included on-the-spot awareness for vehicle operators and commuters regarding traffic discipline and the importance of following safety norms.