

# Dr Jitendra urges employees to get vaccinated, DoPT organising camps

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday appealed to all the eligible employees of the age of 18 years and above to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest.

A circular in this regard was already issued by the DoPT on April 22, 2021. Earlier, in compliance with the OM of even number dated April 6, 2021, the Minister had appealed to all the eligible employees of the age of 45 years and above to get themselves vaccinated. He also expressed satisfaction that the DoPT has organized regular camps for vaccination at North Block and all officers above 18 are taking benefits of the same after registering on www.cowin.gov.in.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh convening a high level On-line meeting of the officials of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), on Tuesday.

Such government employees are also further advised to continue to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour even after the vaccination, like frequent washing of hands/sanitisation, wearing a mask/face cover, observing

social distancing etc.

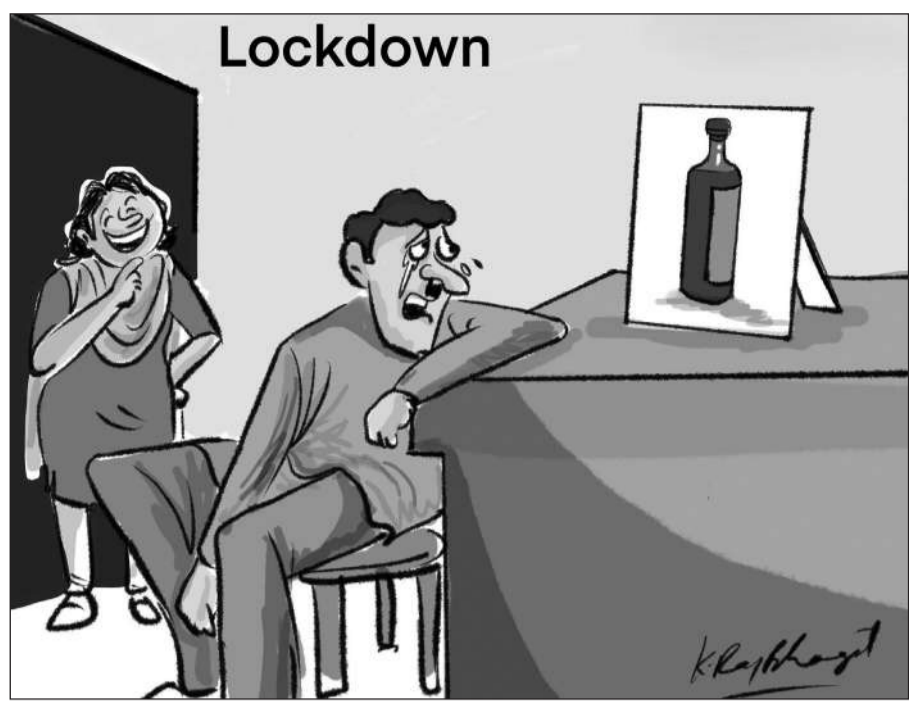
Dr Jitendra also drew attention to the recent OM issued on May 3, 2021, which is a reiteration of early order issued on April 19, 2021 regarding preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. These instructions/ guidelines have come into effect and will remain in force until May 31, 2021 or further orders, whichever is earlier. The Minister hoped that all these instructions will be followed in letter and spirit in the interest of the well-being of all the citizens and government employees and their families. He, however, reiterated that official work will not be allowed to suffer and all attempts will be made to minimise the loss of man-days on account of government employees falling sick on account of COVID.

Dr Singh also instructed the Department to write to all Chief Secretaries of States and

Administrators of UTs to issue guidelines on the model of DoPT and after taking into account the local circumstances and needs of the respective States and UTs. He said, the government has been monitoring the situation very closely and undertaking the review of the same from time to time.

Dr Jitendra recalled that during the last one year of the pandemic, DoPT had developed a set of guidelines to be followed in the government offices, which not only sought to contain the spread of Corona Virus but also aimed to carry on the office functioning effectively and without interruption.

He said, the Work from Home (WFH) protocol developed by DoPT had been so successful that many a time, the work output was even more than the normal circumstances because government functionaries were working online even on the weekdays or holidays.



# BJP protests against murderous attacks on party activists in Bengal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party led by its President Ravinder Raina protested against the TMC goons for continuous murderous attacks on BJP activists in Bengal.

BJP former State President & MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP former State President & former Minister Sat Sharma, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul, BJP Vice-President & former Minister Shakti Parihar, BJP General Secretary & former Minister Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta, Treasurer Prabhat Singh and senior party leaders paid tributes on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina said that deeply hurt by the



BJP leaders staging protest against TMC at Jammu.

unabated murderous scathing attack on the attacks on BJP activists in Bengal by the TMC goons, BJP is organizing nationwide protests against TMC.

He said that as soon as Bengal Assembly elections got over TMC goons did organized murderous attacks on BJP activists.

"We appeal to Central Government and Governor of Bengal to take cognizance of the act and ensure the safety of our activists," he said.

Raina launched a

# Apni Party urges administration for patients' segregation at GMC Emergency

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Apni Party General Secretary Vikram Malhotra on Tuesday expressed his serious concerns over the non-segregation of patients in the emergency ward at Government Medical College Jammu.

In a statement issued here, Malhotra said that there exists a dire need for separating the patient inflow at GMC Jammu, as many of the patients admitted there have tested positive for COVID-19.

"There are patients coming from different parts of Jammu, some of whom come positive for COVID-19 after the tests. This has compromised the safety of the other non-COVID patients who are also present in the same emergency ward seeking treatment. There are reports that the

COVID-19 patient attendees, moving around in PPE Kits, are in close contact with the patients themselves. This should sound alarm bells for the hospital administration," he remarked.

Furthermore, he said that the assembling of these patients without any segregation poses a serious threat which if not taken care of can further make the COVID-19 crisis worse in Jammu.

He demanded that the administration must create a separate emergency cum testing facility at GMC Jammu for COVID-19 patients specifically, in order to halt the spread of this contagion.

"The administration along with the Health Department must take cognizance of the situation at the GMC emer-

gency ward and immediately make separate arrangements for COVID-19 patients or those who exhibit similar symptoms, so that this disease is not let loose on everyone," he urged.

Malhotra asserted that Jammu is already facing the wrath of this deadly viral infection due to which many precious lives have been lost from past week, suggesting that the current mortality rate is alarmingly on rise now.

"The infection is already wreaking havoc in other parts of the country. Unless the administration shuns a half-hearted approach for tackling the situation at GMC hospital, the repercussion of such negligence will have to be borne by the common people for which the government shall hold all the responsibility," he said.

# Mamata Banerjee-an inspiration for opposition: NCP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President JKUT Kamal Gupta along with his party activists congratulated the iron lady Mamata Banerjee on her victory in West Bengal assembly polls.

Kamal Gupta said that all top men and machinery were engaged by BJP ignoring COVID-19 pandemic to frustrate and destabilize Mamata Didi forever but God is great and the voice of people is the voice of God.

Mamata Banerjee boldly accepted the challenge of BJP and proved her mental by keeping TMC flag high again in West Bengal, Gupta said.

Kamal Gupta added that every citizen of India has right to speak but it is shame-



ful and ironic that during elections BJP forgets the code of moral conduct and decency while abusing the opposition.

Kamal Gupta, while showing concern on the surge of COVID-19 again in JKUT, appealed the Lt Governor; Manoj Sinha to assess the ground reality of his administration and the poor functioning of health care authorities.

Kamal said that the allegations levelled by various political leaders should be redressed (if any) and transparent enquiry may be conducted.

Kamal Gupta said that imposition of lockdown has put the poor people in trouble which needs modifications in a systematic way under proper directions.

# NC seeks judicial probe into alleged mining mafia involving Union Minister, senior J&K officers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday sought a high level judicial probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court into the allegations of a mining mafia involving a Union Minister of the Bharatiya Janata Party and senior officers of the Union Territory Administration.

"The allegations coming from none other than the Pradesh Secretary of the BJP and a former Member Legislative Council are

grave in nature and cannot be just brushed aside", a spokesperson of the National Conference said in a statement.

The spokesperson said that the truth can come to fore only after an independent and impartial probe is carried out in a time-bound manner.

Since the faith of the people in the system is at stake, the administration must order an inquiry forthwith, as the 'hafta-culture' is highly deplorable, he added.

# 'BJP leaders obstructing water pipeline work to drive political mileage'

Work started in W. No. 8 on minor boy's request letter to PM Modi

**AKHIL MAHAJAN**  
JAMMU: The infightings among the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in Jammu are becoming the topic of discussion in each and every corner of the City of Temples and the public is facing hardships to get their demands fulfilled.

It is the prime duty of every elected representative and government to provide basic amenities to every citizen at their doorsteps, but the situation seems to be totally opposite in Ward No 8, Old Rehari, Jammu where some BJP leaders including the Corporator were allegedly obstructing the



Jatin, who wrote letter to Prime Minister Office (PMO), New Delhi to get regular water supply for his locality.

work for laying of water pipelines just for driving political

mileage out of it. The residents of this locality are without water supply for the last two years.

The situation was so troublesome in the Ward, that a minor boy, Jatin, wrote letter to Prime Minister Office (PMO), New Delhi on 15th July, 2020 and requested Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to solve this issue so that the residents of the locality would be able to get drinking water.

After few months, the minor boy got reply from PMO and he was also felicitated for his initiative. The Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Deptt was directed by

PMO to sort-out the issue and work for laying pipelines was started in the locality.

Today, the residents protested and raised slogans against the Corporator and other BJP leaders of the same ward, alleging that they were obstructing the work for laying pipelines because of their infightings, as they all wanted to drive political mileage from it.

The residents urged the senior functionaries of the BJP to intervene so that the issue could be resolved in the shortest possible time and they can get regular water supply in the locality.

# J&K Congress seeks Union Minister Jitendra Singh's resignation



JKPC Chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma flanked by former Minister Raman Bhalla talking to reporters.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Tuesday demanded immediate resignation of MOS PMO Dr Jatindra Singh, following serious allegations by senior BJP leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa against him and several officers accusing them of patronage in collecting money through illegal mining and coercion besides seeking high level probe to bring the entire truth into public and expose the nexus.

Addressing a press conference on behalf of the party here today, JKPC Vice President and former Minister Raman Bhalla and Chief Spokesperson of the party Ravinder Sharma

demanding that MOS PMO should immediately step down in view of open allegations by his own senior party colleague and a former legislator and face the probe to come out clear.

"In view of open allegations of very serious nature, the Minister must step down on his own, otherwise the PM Modi should seek his resignation and order an independent probe into the matter," they said adding that the heads should roll and law should take its own course like in the recent case of a minister in Maharashtra.

The onus is on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, since the Minister in PMO is accused of serious allegations by a senior politician

of his own party who also heads a big industrial organisation involved in stone crushing and providing key building materials in Jammu and Kashmir, the prices of which have increased manifold in recent years beyond the paying capacities of common citizens.

Randhawa has levelled serious allegations and made startling revelations about the introduction of the system of loot and plunder of public resources and culture of hafta Collection, which earlier heard to be prevalent in some other states with involvement of politician-criminal and officers Nexus but has been introduced here in J and K also, as alleged by him, they claimed.

These allegations need a very high level independent and impartial probe by an independent agency but that is not possible unless the Minister steps down as he wields lot of political influence and clout being the trusted man of prime minister being in his office, said Bhalla.

These circumstances demanded that the Minister should be asked to tender resignation and face the probe, unflinched, to come out clear besides other heads should roll, till investigation is concluded and

law should take its course in such matters as recently seen in the same and similar allegations against a minister of Maharashtra, Bhalla added.

Taking strong note of the big disclosures and the serious allegations of "Hafta culture" by some officers in the administration under the patronage of higher ups in the government, the Congress party launched a

frontal attack on the BJP in view of the revelations of their own senior leader.

For the time being BJP seems to silence their dissenting voice but it is no longer their internal matter and is in public domain in a serious manner calling for bringing the entire truth in public in accordance with settled traditions of public life and democracy, said Ravinder Sharma.

They also expected that the LG and the UT admin-

istration to immediately take prima facie action and heads should roll to send a clear message otherwise people will further lose faith in the system if such a serious issue is brushed aside or put under carpet.

Referring to the worsening situation on COVID, the senior party leaders expressed their sympathies with the bereaved families who have lost their kith and control.

They also mourned the death of former governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jagmohan on his demise today who played a very significant role in the state and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Union minister Jitendra Singh and a high-level probe into allegations of corruption levelled against him by BJP leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa.

J-K BJP secretary Randhawa, who is the president of Stone Crusher Owners Association, has levelled serious allegations against Singh's office in Jammu over the issue of mining policy and also threatened to immolate himself.

The party's disciplinary committee served Randhawa a show-cause notice, hours after he went public against Singh.

On Tuesday, a group of Congress workers led by its youth wing president Uday Bhanu Chib assembled at the party's headquarters here and staged a protest to press for the Union minister's resignation.

"Randhawa's sensational disclosure removed the lid on the nexus between the



Congress councillor Gaurav Chopra briefing media persons.

mining mafia and the BJP. There should be a high-level probe into the allegations Chib told reporters.

Earlier, Congress councillor Gaurav Chopra alleged that the auctioning of minerals and wine shops was a well-planned conspiracy to loot the locals.

The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) also took strong exception to the allegations levelled by Randhawa and sought the resignation of Singh pending a high-level probe.

"The serious allegations of 'hafta culture' under the patronage of higher-ups need a probe. Let the law of land and propriety take its course," the JKPC said in a statement.

It said a high-level probe is a must to expose the alleged nexus.

"This is a test case for the Modi government and the

UT administration, and heads should roll to send a clear message, otherwise people will further lose faith in the system," the statement said.

JKAP provincial president and former minister Manjit Singh too said an impartial probe was imperative to uncover the alleged involvement of the Union minister and mining officials.

"A probe is must to expose the mining mafia and their associates which ultimately compelled a former legislator of the ruling political party to speak publicly against his own party leaders, mining department officials and police department, he said.

"Families of local miners have been suffering due to this nexus, which works in a well-organised manner. We will not allow the mining mafia to flourish in J&K," the JKAP leader added.

