

Dr Jitendra convenes DoPT meeting with other Ministries, emphasises ‘ease of procedure’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday convened a joint meeting of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) with Secretaries of different other Ministries.

The meeting aimed to iron out, face to face, on the spot, long-standing administrative and personnel-related issues confronting various Ministries and departments. The Minister's emphasis was on "ease of procedure".

Simplification of administrative rules is crucial for India's innovation driven economic growth through ease of R&D, said Dr Jitendra.

Emphasizing the simplification of procedures, Dr. Singh observed that many of the issues plaguing scientific institutions are rooted in inconsistencies in recruitment rules, service conditions, retirement ages etc - which often vary in comparison to other civil servants and line ministries. This ambiguity, he noted, leads to administrative conflicts, particularly since members of the scientific fraternity are engaged through a variety of



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing a high-level joint meeting of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) with Secretaries of different other Ministries at North Block, New Delhi on Thursday.

modes such as national and international institutes, lateral entry, and deputation frameworks.

He stated, "These administrative roadblocks must be addressed if we are to promote ease of doing research and innovation in India. Science and Technology, coupled with research and innovation, are going to be the harbingers of India's economic growth, he said.

Recognizing his dual role as the Science and Technology Minister and the Minister of DoPT, Dr. Singh said he was fully aware of the administrative issues being faced by scientific departments.

He took the initiative to bring all concerned ministries

onto the same page to resolve systemic bottlenecks and lay the groundwork for future policy reforms.

"This is a very important meeting," Dr. Singh remarked, "because it sets the tone for inter-ministerial collaboration, the whole of the Govt approach to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. We must shift away from the orthodox route, which takes a long time to channel solutions, and instead use such breakthrough meetings to resolve issues in real time."

Dr. Jitendra referred to DoPT's recent drive to weed out more than 1,600 obsolete laws and simplify procedures for the benefit of citizens and

the scientific community alike. The Minister emphasized, "Administrative procedures should be as simple as possible. We need to move from rule to role, from rigidity to responsiveness, from delay to delivery."

The high-level meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India; Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General and Secretary, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT); Dr. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and

Technology; Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; and Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. Other senior officers from the respective departments also participated actively in the deliberations.

Dr. Jitendra concluded the meeting with a strong message, "India's future lies on ease of science and ease of innovation, but its foundation must be built on administrative clarity, simplicity, and synergy. Today's meeting is a significant step in that direction."



AIIMS Jammu launches Endovenous Laser Ablation Services for varicose vein patients in Interventional Radiology

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has marked a significant milestone with the successful commencement of Endovenous Laser Ablation (EVLA) services for the treatment of varicose veins patients under the department of Radiodiagnosis & Imaging.

The first case was recently performed in the state-of-the-art Interventional Radiology (IR) suite, signalling a new era of minimally invasive vascular care at the institute with the support of ED and CEO, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta.



AIIMS Jammu doctors with team after performing surgery.

Varicose veins are the enlarged, twisted veins often affecting the lower limbs - can cause considerable discomfort and complications if left untreated. EVLA, a minimally invasive, ultrasound-guided procedure used by interventional radiologists, uses laser energy to close off these problematic veins, offering patients a safe and effective alternative as a day-care procedure. It is almost a scarless and sutureless procedure with good treatment outcomes and quicker recovery time.

The procedure was performed by a team of skilled radiologists led by Dr Ankit Prabhakar, Assistant

Professor, Radiodiagnosis & Imaging with other Faculty members, Senior residents, nursing officers and other staff members.

Speaking on the development, the Radiologist's team at the Department of Radiodiagnosis & Imaging emphasized the importance of such advanced interventions in addressing vascular health issues in the region. Varicose vein patients are now being routinely evaluated in IR OPD at AIIMS.

Patients with symptoms such as leg swelling, pain, skin changes, or visible varicosities are encouraged to consult the Interventional Radiology OPD at AIIMS Jammu for assessment and eligibility for EVLA.

The new service is expected to benefit a large number of

patients suffering from chronic venous insufficiency, particularly those seeking modern, non-surgical treatment options.

The dedicated EVLA lab within the IR suite is equipped with cutting-edge technology, ensuring high standards of patient care and procedural safety. This is the first IR care centre in Jammu offering such minimally invasive treatment options to patients. Moreover, the commencement of IR OPD is first of its kind in whole union territory of J&K with AIIMS Jammu pioneering the same. Patients requiring minimally invasive treatment options for various diseases are encouraged to consult for the same.

The Head of the

Department/Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging, Dr. Gita, said that Radiology at AIIMS, Jammu, is equipped with and will be advanced with more imaging intervention services in the very near future.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu added that "The introduction of EVLA marks a significant leap forward in the range of interventional radiology services offered at AIIMS Jammu. This initiative is part of AIIMS Jammu's ongoing commitment to bringing world-class, patient-centered medical care to the region and establishing itself as a hub for advanced interventional procedures in future."

Khatana labels Pak as ‘Mother of Terrorism’, urges global action to dismantle terror networks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, speaking before an enthusiastic gathering of the Indian diaspora in Italy, on Thursday denounced the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the "Mother of Terrorism" and called for coordinated global efforts to isolate the country and dismantle its terror infrastructure.

Khatana underscored that under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism. Citing the recent Operation Sindoor, he said the mission was a direct warn-



ing to Pakistan and its sponsored terror outfits that any terrorist attack on Indian soil will be treated as an act of war and responded to accordingly.

"India has never been an aggressor," Khatana stated. "But we have every right to protect our citizens and defend our territory. The brutal killing of 26 innocent civil-

ians in Pahalgam is a stark reminder of the depths to which Pakistan has stooped, using terrorism as a proxy weapon to wage a war of a thousand cuts."

He said Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's precision and restraint, as it targeted terrorist infrastructure inside Pakistan without caus-

ing civilian casualties-showing both resolve and responsibility.

Khatana urged the international community to stop turning a blind eye to Pakistan's role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

"The time has come for the world to unite against terrorism and its enablers. We must isolate Pakistan diplomatically and economically until it is forced to dismantle the terror camps operating from its soil."

He called on global leaders to recognize the broader threat posed by terrorism and support India's efforts to combat this menace at every front.

Major breakthroughs in sensational cases, crackdown on drugs, illegal mining by Jammu Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Strong policing has been displayed by Jammu Police, South Zone by getting major breakthroughs in sensational cases, crackdown on drugs, illegal mining & MV Theft.

In a press conference held on Thursday at Police Station Bahu Fort, SP South Ajay Sharma briefed the media on a series of significant breakthroughs and law enforcement actions carried out by Jammu Police, South Zone over the last 10 days.

Under the overall command of SSP Jammu Joginder Singh and supervision of SP South, Ajay Sharma, SDPO East Sheezan Bhat and SDPO South Sunil Singh Jasrotia, South Zone Police has delivered resolute action across multiple crime categories-resolving two sensational cases, recovering stolen property, nabbing drug peddlers, seizing vehicles involved in illegal mining, and addressing crimes against vulnerable persons.

SP Ajay briefed the media about the sensational assault



SP South, Ajay Sharma addressing a press conference at Jammu on Thursday.

case of Bathindi in which 5 accused have been arrested, as per details, on Feb 18, 2025, in public attack in the Bathindi area, a man was beaten mercilessly with a sharp-edged weapon (Toka) and iron rods.FIR 59/2025 was registered at Police Station Bahu Fort under Sections 109, 110, 130, 131, 61, 351, 115(2), 118(2) BNS and 4/25 Arms Act. A total of 5 accused have been arrested in the case including Mohd Arif, resident of Kathua; Mohd Ibrar Choudhary, resident of Doda, at present Rahemabad; Mohd Abdulla, resident of Doda, at

present Parkanabad); Mukhtiyar Ahmed, resident of Doda and Mohd Usman, resident of Sunjwan.

One main accused Tahir Iqbal (R/O Reasi) remains absconding but is expected to be arrested soon. The case was investigated by ASI Rajesh Kumar of PP Bathindi, with significant leads developed through technical and human intelligence.

"A theft case solved in record time by recovering Rs 21 Lakh worth gold & diamond jewellery" SP said. In another high-profile case, Police Post Digiana successfully solved a

theft reported on May 9, 2025 by Gurjeet Kour of Preet Nagar: Her house was burgled on the night of May 7/8, leading to the registration of FIR No. 113/2025 at Police Station Gandhi Nagar under Sections 331(2), 331(4), 305 BNS.

Within a matter of days, three accused were identified, apprehended, and interrogated. The accused have been identified as Safar Ansari (23 yrs) resident of Bihar; Ibrahim (25 yrs), resident of UP and One minor (identity withheld).

On disclosure, stolen jewellery worth approx. Rs 21

lakhs was recovered from various locations, including gold chokers, rings, bangles, and diamond ear tops. The investigation was led by PSI Sanjeev Sharma (ICPP Digiana) and supervised by SHO Gandhi Nagar Arun Sharma and SDPO South Sunil Singh Jasrotia. In a particularly sensitive case, a deaf and dumb person was looted at knife-point with a Toka. FIR No. 165/25 was lodged at PS Bahu Fort. The accused was swiftly tracked and arrested, ensuring justice for the victim and reaffirming Jammu Police's commitment to inclusive safety for all citizens, regardless of ability or background.

As part of the ongoing war against drugs, 06 FIRs under the NDPS Act were lodged in the past 10 days alone which includes 04 FIRs alone in drug hotspot Rajiv Nagar. Recoveries include Heroin (Chittia); Ganja and Cash (275050). The crackdown is part of South Zone's targeted effort to dismantle local narcotic networks and ensure a drug-free environment, especially around sensitive areas

and vulnerable zones. In MV Theft; 1 vehicle recovered, 4 seized.

In efforts to curb vehicle theft, South Zone in last 10 days has successfully recovered 1 stolen vehicle; seized 04 suspicious vehicles pending verification. In Operation Ploughing, 106 vehicles were seized, Rs 15 Lakh fine imposed in last 60 days.

The anti-illegal mining operation "Operation Ploughing", initiated by SP South and implemented vigorously across areas such as Phallian Mandal, Chatha, Gadigarh, and Belicharana, has resulted in 106 vehicle seizures and Rs 15 lakh in fines imposed in collaboration with District Mineral Officer (DMO), Jammu

SP City South commended the relentless efforts of his officers and personnel across various units, stating: "Our focus remains on community trust-building. Whether it's organized crime, narcotics, or environmental abuse, Jammu Police, South Zone will continue to lead with professionalism, resolve, and empathy."

Tara Chand lauds armed forces for their role & bravery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Working President of the Pradesh Congress Committee and former Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, praised the valiant armed forces, both during times of war and in peace.

He recalled the nation's unity and collective strength during the 1965 and 1971 wars, the Kargil conflict, and the ongoing proxy war initiated by Pakistan.

Emphasizing the unwavering public support for the armed forces during these critical periods, he stated that the people of India have always stood behind their defenders without hesitation.

In a sharp critique of recent controversial remarks made by certain leaders, especially from Jammu & Kashmir, Tara Chand expressed deep concern over what he termed as "directionless and immature statements" targeting the armed forces.

He warned that the country cannot afford such irresponsible rhetoric, especially in the current sensitive environment. "Such statements are purely for cheap political mileage and must be avoided in the national interest," he added.

Tara Chand welcomed the decision of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to visit the Jammu region, particularly the Poonch area, which has suffered immensely due to repeated shelling from across the border.

Referring to the damage during Operation Sindoor, he highlighted how Pakistani forces indiscriminately targeted densely populated civilian areas and even religious sites, creating an atmosphere of fear and devastation.

In this context, he demanded a comprehensive relief package for residents of border areas who have borne the

brunt of cross-border hostilities. The proposed package includes allotment of ten Marla plots and financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to facilitate the construction of homes in safer locations.

He suggested that this relief package be modeled on the one introduced during the UPA regime under Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, where a special reconstruction programme was rolled out for the residents of Chhamb.

That initiative, which saw the development of Naiwala and Kodewala migrant colonies near Akhnor, supported over 6,100 families from 21 affected border villages.

Additionally, Tara Chand called for a targeted employment drive for the youth in border areas of the Jammu region. He urged both the Central and State governments to create job opportunities for the unemployed and expedite the process of filling existing vacancies in various departments.

He stressed that such measures would not only support the economic well-being of border communities but also strengthen national integration and morale in these strategically sensitive regions.

Signatories to the statement include Jahangir Mir, Shabir Ahmad Khan, M.K Bhardwaj, Bushan Dogra, Narinder Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Subash Bhagat, Balbir Singh, Vijay Tagotra, Sahil Sharma, Vijay Shastri, Ricky Dalotra, Bodh Raj Bhagat, Nirmal Mehta, Ashok Dubey, Pradeep Bhagat, Vijay Chib, Kulbushan Nagri, Surinder Sharma, Rashpal, Bodh Raj Sharma, Devinder Chib, KK Bhagat, Tarsem Bhagat, Daljeet Singh and others Congress leaders.



CSIR-IIIM & Ayurvedic Medical College Jammu sign research pact

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In the efforts to enhance scientific, technical, medical, and societal support while strengthening research in drug discovery, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu and Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Akhnor on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

The MoU aims to foster enhanced academic collaboration, upgrade undergraduate and postgraduate students at GAMC, and create an interdisciplinary environment integrating traditional medicines



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed and Principal GAMC, Akhnor, Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta after signing MoU.

with modern drug discovery and pharmacology. Additionally, both institutions are committed to pursue the joint research and development (R&D) projects based on mutual research interests.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, elaborated on the significance of the partnership, stating that this MoU represents a milestone in combining modern scientific approaches with traditional

Ayurvedic knowledge. It will enable groundbreaking advancements in drug development and reinforce our commitment to improve healthcare through innovative research.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GAMC, Akhnor, added that "this collaboration will empower our students with opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research and hands-on experience in integrative medicines. It will also strengthen evidence-based practices in Ayurveda, building robust connections between modern and traditional medicines systems."

The MoU was signed by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GAMC, Akhnor; Jammu, for and on behalf of both the partner institutions, in the presence of Er. Abdul Rahim,

Chief Scientist & Head of RMBD & IST, Dr. Shashank Kumar Singh, Senior Principal Scientist and Dr. Ramajayan P., Scientist of the Pharmacology Division, Dr. Love Sharma, Scientist of RMBD & IST Division from IIIM side and Dr. Narinder Sharma, Dr. Poonam Gupta and Dr. Dheeraj Khajuria from GAMC.

This partnership marks a pivotal step toward integrating traditional and modern medical sciences, promising significant advancement in healthcare and drug development, which is also very important for the globalization of Indian knowledge.