

Continuous upgrade of GMC services Govt's prime concern: CS

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Sunday had a detailed review of the critical infrastructure and services being provided across the associated hospitals of medical colleges besides assessing the status of faculty and courses offered in each of these colleges.

The Chief Secretary, while chairing a meeting held in this regard, thoroughly analysed the progress achieved in introduction of specialisation courses (MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB), increase of 50 MBBS seats in new medical colleges, status of faculty recruitment and strengthening of the tertiary care services in all the newly established GMCs. The meeting besides Secretary, H&ME was attended by Director, SKIMS; Principals of GMC, Srinagar, Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Doda, Rajouri, Udhampur, Handwara; MD, JKMSCL; Director, Coordination (Medical Colleges); Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to continuously endeavour to upgrade their services especially the tertiary care services like critical care, emergency, neurological, cardiac care, cancer care, kidney care and radiology services by these health institutions.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

He impressed upon the Principals of the medical colleges to create a timeline on the basis of infrastructure and manpower available to introduce such high-end services in these colleges. He advised them to dovetail their available resources to meet such requirements along with taking the much needed assistance from SKIMS and GMCs at Jammu and Srinagar.

He stressed on taking swift measures to augment services in the identified critical care services to save lives of the patients by making timely interventions. He impressed upon them to receive the requisite handholding from the SKIMS or GMC Jammu/Srinagar with respect to training of staff besides acquiring the small equipments, necessary consumables to deal with such exigencies. The Chief

Secretary further enquired from each Principal of the medical college about the new specialized courses like MD/MS, DM/MCH, and DNB successfully introduced in their colleges along with the applications made to NMC this year. He called for serious perusal of these applications as per set norms to secure the NMC approval before the next academic year.

As far as the introduction of additional 50 MBBS seats are concerned, the Chief Secretary stressed on securing the requisite faculty. He urged them to fill all the entry level posts of Assistant Professors besides taking steps like hiring of staff on academic arrangement where there are no feasible candidates available to fill higher positions of Professors and Associate Professors through conduction of DPCs.

Dulloo also reviewed status of the functioning of each medical college besides availability of infrastructure in each college and the associated hospital. He also enquired about the completion of critical care infrastructure raised under PM-ABHIM in each of them along with the newly established blocks in associated hospitals of these GMCs. Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while throwing light on the status and functioning of these colleges, informed the meeting that a total of 391 applications have been submitted to enhance the seat availability for MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB programs across various medical colleges. He elaborated that these included 234 applications for enhancing MD/MS courses, 129 DNB and 28 applications for introduction of DM/MCH courses across the GMCs.

He added that the approval has been received for two DM Neurology seats and 1 DNB seat each in Cardiology, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery by GMC Srinagar. He added that GMC Handwara has received approvals for 2 DNB seats in General Surgery and 5 DNB seats in General Medicine, he added.

Additionally, GMC Kathua received approvals in respect of 4 DNB seats in Anaesthesia while as IGGDC Jammu has received permission for

starting 3 seats in Public Health Dentistry, the meeting was informed.

Regarding enhancement of additional 50 MBBS seats in new medical colleges, he informed that applications have been submitted by all the nine medical colleges of the UT and a couple of them had been inspected recently while others are waiting for the NMC inspection for approval.

With respect to faculty recruitment in New Medical Colleges, the meeting was informed that the vacant positions of APs had been referred to PSC for filling while those of Associate Professors and Professors are being filled by making promotions wherever feasible and taking candidates on academic arrangement at other locations.

As far as the progress on major infrastructure and development projects is concerned, the meeting was informed that the work on key infrastructure projects is being expedited.

It was further given out that the tendering and work allocation under the PM ABHIM scheme has been completed with work apace on these projects. He also mentioned that the work on all the critical care blocks including 2 100-bedded CCBs and 7 50-bedded CCBs, along with 20 DIPHLS and 236 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) is in progress.

Modi Govt has clear focus on good governance, transformation: Jugal, Yudhvir



MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi addressing gathering.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu held a grand Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha at City Palace, Kachi Chawni in the Jammu East Assembly Constituency. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party workers, local citizens, and prominent leaders. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Jammu, Jugal Kishore Sharma, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East and BJP Vice President J&K, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Among the dignitaries present were BJP District President Rajesh Gupta, Mandal President Shaweta Sharma, Raman Sharma, and senior BJP leaders including Suneet Raina, Dr. Akshay, Dinesh Gupta, and Nidhi Magotra (former corporators). Several other prominent party members and citizens were also in attendance.

The program began with a keynote address by Suneet Raina, who shed light on the theme of the Sabha and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 - a developed and self-reliant India by the 100th year of independence. As a symbolic gesture of commitment and unity, all attendees took the Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge, vowing to contribute actively toward nation-building.

Addressing the gathering, Jugal lauded the Modi Government's transformative governance model and focus on "Sewa, Sushasan, aur Gareeb Kalyan."

He highlighted the success of initiatives like direct benefit transfers, last-mile delivery of welfare schemes, infrastructure growth, and transparent governance. "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country has entered a new era of progress. The face of Jammu region is changing rapidly with mega projects in roads, healthcare, and education," he said. Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the remarkable transformation witnessed over the past 11 years, citing unprecedented development under Modi's leadership.

He praised the Centre's role in uplifting marginalized sections and executing welfare schemes that have positively impacted the people of Jammu region.

The Sabha saw enthusiastic participation from citizens across all age groups, showcasing strong public support for the BJP's vision of a developed India. The event concluded with a resounding commitment from party leaders and citizens alike to contribute actively toward the nation's growth.

Senior BJP Leaders Bharat Bhushan, Omkar Singh, Rohit Gupta, Rajinder Tickoo, Rajesh Verma, Dilbahadur Singh, Suresh Salgotra, Dhian Saroop, Vickey Pandey, Chawla, Varun Jamwal, Karan Sharma, Mahila Moreha Asha Gupta, Pooja Sharma, Naveen Sharma, Tahir, Raju, Ashok Gandhi, Prithvi Raj Duggal, Ajay Kashyap, Rajesh Dogra, Janak Raj Verma, Satish Nargotra, Kant Sharma, Kartar Chand, Rohit Mehra and others were also present at the occasion.

Omar Govt dedicated to deliver effective governance: Dy CM



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary speaking at public grievances redress camp in Nowshera.

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: In an endeavour to take stock of local issues directly from the general public and bring administration at the door steps of the people, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, on Sunday conducted a public grievances redress camp at Panchayat Phata in Nowshera.

The camp witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life, highlighting issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities. These included road infrastructure, water scarcity, shortage of staff in various departments, augmentation of power infrastructure and related concerns.

Responding to people's grievances, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the genuine demands of the public will be redressed on priority basis. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt resolution of public issues.

Asking the officers to be responsive to public issues, the Dy CM cautioned the employees against any lackadaisical approach. He asked

them to perform their legitimate duties without any fail or shall have to face strict action.

He emphasised the unwavering commitment of the government towards addressing the pressing issues faced by the common people. He remarked that the present dispensation has always been at the forefront of championing the cause of the people. He asserted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the government is dedicated to deliver effective governance, ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority.

The Dy CM exhorted that the public darbar is not just a platform to voice grievances but a reflection of our commitment to participatory governance. "We believe in creating direct channels of communication between the government and the public to foster trust and accountability," he added.

ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; SE PWD(R&B) Tilak Raj; ACD Anqil Nuvaid; DDE, Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary besides other district and sectoral officers were present during the camp.

2nd Annual Day celebration at Tirupati Balaji Temple witnesses grand devotion

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu celebrated its 2nd Annual Day with great devotion and enthusiasm. The grand event featured special rituals performed by priests Tharun Kumar, Dasaradhi Sessa Sai, Raghuraman who had arrived from Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh for this occasion. The day began with a traditional havan and followed by a sacred Abhishekam (ceremonial bathing) of Lord Venkateswara and special puja ceremony. After the rituals, a community langar was organized where numerous devotees participated with great zeal. The celebra-



Priests performing Puja at Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu.

tion marked the spiritual significance of the temple's Sthapana Divas (foundation day), attracting large crowds from Jammu and beyond. The event was graced by several notable personalities from Jammu, including Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Chief Electoral Officer Sanjeev Verma, DIG CRPF Rajesh

Dhakarwal, Revenue Training Principal Sunaina Mehta Sharma, and social activist Raju Jandyal from Ganesh Enterprises. Other dignitaries included Anil Sharma, Mahant Ranjit Singh, Raj Sharma, Shri Gangadhar Maharaj, MLA Vikram Randhawa, Nitish Mahajan, Tuskar Mahajan, Somnath Khajuria, Akanksha Kalsotra, Gaurav Parashar, Balram Sharma, Varun Pada, Shrikant Sharma, and Rajiv Gupta, who offered their prayers and participated in the festivities. Speaking to the media, Temple Inspector Sai Krishna expressed gratitude to all devotees and guests.

He emphasized the spiritual importance of the occasion, stating that such a celebration takes place only once a year and includes sacred havans, pujas, and community meals. He invited all residents of Jammu to actively participate in future temple events to receive the divine blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

PM JANMAN, DAJGUA campaign begins across Jammu Dist



Panchayat officials, representatives from government departments interacting with people.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The District Administration Jammu on Sunday officially launched the PM JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) campaigns, initiating a focused two-week tribal welfare drive across the district. The activities under these flagship programs will continue till June 30, 2025, aiming to deliver health, education, livelihood and documentation services to tribal populations at the grassroots level. On the first day of the campaign, activities commenced across six administrative blocks-Dansal, Maira Mandrian, Mathwar, Satwari, Bhalwal and Nagrota. In Dansal block, the campaign was conducted in the panchayats of Badsoo, Chadali and

Dhammi. Maira Mandrian block witnessed the event in Kandi panchayat. In Mathwar block, camps were held in Dhanu and Bhagani panchayats. Satwari block initiated its activities in the Raika and Doongian panchayats, while Bhalwal block covered Nagarra and Kheri. The largest number of panchayats were covered under Nagrota block, where Bain Bajalta, Banyal, Chibba, Jagti, Dung and Panjgrain hosted the day's events. All camps began at 11 am and were held at the designated Panchayat Ghars, government schools, and community facilities. These events offered vital services including health check-ups, Aadhaar enrollment and seeding, awareness programs and the distribution of important documents like caste and income certificates. Local residents turned out in good numbers, supported by frontline workers, panchayat officials and representatives from various government departments. The rollout was smooth and well-coordinated, with active involvement from departments such as Health, Social Welfare, Education and Rural Development. Community engagement was a key focus, with efforts made to ensure that tribal citizens were aware of the benefits available under the campaign.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to bring essential government services directly to tribal populations and ensure inclusive development at the grassroots. The program will continue across these panchayats daily until June 30.

ASCOMS organizes blood donation camp

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To commemorate the Surgeon's Week and Blood Donation Day, a blood donation camp was organized by the Department of Surgery in Blood Centre of Acharya Shri Chandar College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS) Sidhra, Jammu under the aegis of J&K Chapter of Association of Surgeons of India (JAKASI) on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director



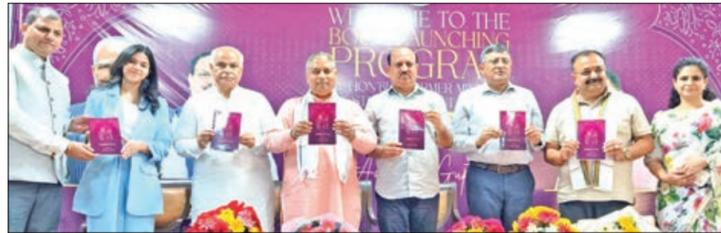
Volunteers donating blood in a camp.

Principal with Dr. K S Mehta, Prof & HoD, Surgery. Around 32 units of blood were donated by the locals, faculty, resi-

denants, students and the staff of ASCOMS, Jammu. Awareness programme was also held for the general public for debunking the myths associated with blood donation. Dr Harbinder Singh Bali, Secretary JAKASI and organiser of the camp, thanked everyone for making this camp a success and helping the mankind in alleviation of their woes.

Dr. Bali also appreciated Dr Sandeep Sadhu, Assistant Professor and his team for providing the support and manpower for the camp. Certificates were also distributed to the donors on the occasion.

BJP J&K unveils poetry collection titled 'Essentia'



BJP leaders releasing poetry collection 'Essentia', penned by author, Aakshra Gupta.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The senior leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, released a poetry collection titled 'Essentia', penned by a young and promising author, Aakshra Gupta. The book release ceremony was held at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, here on Sunday.

The event was graced by BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretary and MLA Ramgarh Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, and MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa.

The author's family, including her father Vikrant Gupta,

mother Bhawna Gupta, and other close relatives and friends, also attended the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while unveiling the book, congratulated the young author Aakshra, a student of class 12th for channeling her emotions into such eloquent poetry. He expressed joy at witnessing the young daughters of the nation shining in diverse fields. It's every parent's dream to see their child achieve excellence and contribute meaningfully to society. He added that the Modi government, since 2014, has emphasized the empowerment of girl children and women through numerous initiatives.

Ashok Koul, in his address, praised Aakshra's thoughtful

literary work and connected it with the transformative outcomes of the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme. "This change in societal mindset is visible today as young girls like Aakshra step forward to enrich our cultural landscape," he added.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal emphasized that literature has the power to shape society, and it is encouraging to see the younger generation involved in creative pursuits. "Aakshra's poetry reflects maturity and emotional depth, and she sets an example for many youth who aspire to make a mark through art and expression," he said.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta stated, "This book is not just a collection of poems but a reflection

of sensitivity, hope, and self-awareness. Our nation's strength lies in its culture, and young writers like Aakshra are its future torchbearers."

Ch. Vikram Randhawa commended the author for creating a piece of literature with sheer discipline, vision, and originality, the hallmarks of a true artist. He marked the event as a celebration of youth empowerment and spirit of new India.

Author Aakshra Gupta, while sharing insights about her poetry book, expressed that she has earnestly attempted to create a space where every reader can reconnect with their soul, without ever feeling isolated. She extended heartfelt gratitude to her grandfather, grandfather, mother, father, and sister for their unwavering emotional support throughout her creative journey.

Her father, Vikrant Gupta, proudly shared that every element in the book, from poetry to design was created by Aakshra herself, single-handedly handling the entire creative process, making it a truly personal and sincere endeavour.

JMC demolishes insanitary huts in Sainik Colony

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Enforcement and Sanitation Team of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Sunday conducted a demolition drive to remove insanitary sheds on various plots in Sainik Colony.

On the directions of JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, a team led by Deputy Commissioner (South), JMC, Lal Chand and Health Officer, JMC,



Dr. Vinod Sharma targeted proper toilet facilities, which posed a serious threat to public health and environment. A total 10 insanitary huts were demolished.

The officers stated that similar drives will be carried out in other sectors of Sainik Colony in the coming days to maintain sanitation standards and discourage the development of unhygienic structures, in line with Open Defecation Free (ODF) objectives.