Better healthcare should provided to patients in ESIC Hospitals: Jugal

Chairs Hospital Development Committee Meeting at ESIC Model Hospital

MP Lok Sabha, Jugal Kishore Sharma during visit to ESIC Model Hospital, Bari Brahmana.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), chaired a significant meeting of the Hospital Development Committee at the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Model Hospital, Bari Brahmana, Jammu.

The meeting aimed to review ongoing development projects, assess healthcare service delivery, and discuss initiatives for further enhancement of patient care.Keshav Dutt DDC chairman samba and social worker Jai Ram Sharma also joined Member of Parliament.

Dr. (Major) Tilak Raj, Medical Superintendent of ESIC Model Hospital, along with Dushyant Pandey Regional Director ESIC Hospital & other esteemed committee members, was present during the meeting. The committee deliberated on key issues including infrastructure upgrades, availability of medical equipments, staffing requirements, and the implementation of new healthcare schemes under the ESIC framework.

Member of Parliament had detailed discussions with ESIC staff and Members of the Hospital Development Committee and took stock of improvement in facilities provided to the patients at ESIC Hospital Bari Brahmana and other ESIC Dispensaries.

He assured that issues related to staff shortages, equipment shortages, and infrastructure bottlenecks would be addressed at the earliest.

Furthermore, he pledged to take up the matter with the Ministry of Labour and Employment and ESIC authorities to expedite necessary approvals and funding for new projects.

"We will leave no stone unturned to transform this hospital into a model institution that meets the highest standards of healthcare. Our focus is on timely service, availability of specialists, and a patient-friendly environment," he added.

Jugal Kishore emphasised the government's commitment to improving healthcare facilities for insured workers and their families. He appreciated the efforts of the hospital administration and encouraged for adoption of modern practices and technologies to improve patient satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Moreover, he took a formal round in the entire hospital took stock of facilities and also interacted with the patients.

Dr. Gurjyot Kour State Medical Officer,Dr Jyoti Jolly AMO ESIC Naaz Akhter DMS ESIC,Members HDC Harbans Choudhary Bharatiya Mazdoor Sang,Lalit Mahajan President Bari Brahmana Industry Association,Shiv Kumar from INTU,Shamsher Malhotra from BMS and others were also present at the occasion.

DHSJ reviews seasonal disease preparedness

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A video conference was held on Saturday by the Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) to assess the preparedness for water-borne diseases and snake bite management across Jammu Division.

The meeting was chaired by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and attended by Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents from across the division.

The meeting was initiated by State Surveillance Officer, IDSP Jammu Division, Dr. Harjeet Rai who stressed upon the timely reporting of cases on the IHIP IDSP portal, strengthening of surveillance activities and enhancement of diagnostic capacity at District Public Health Laboratories (DPHLs). Seasonal disease trends, recent outbreaks and laid out action plans for rapid detection, reporting and response were discussed.

Recent cases of Acute Diarrheal Disease, Typhoid, Hepatitis A & E, and other water-borne infections in Rajouri, Udhampur and urban Jammu were reviewed in detail.

Health officers were directed to coordinate closely with the Jal Shakti Department to ensure the supply of clean drinking water, especially in outbreak-prone and high-risk areas.

In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, special instructions were issued for rigorous disease surveillance along the pilgrimage route. Regular water quality testing at Langars and medical camps has been made mandatory and any suspected cases must be reported without delay.

The rising number of snake bite incidents across the division was also discussed. District teams have been asked to intensify public awareness campaigns through ASHAs, ANMs and PRI members, encouraging early referral to health facilities and discouraging reliance on unqualified practitioners. Availability of anti-snake venom and trained staff has been reinforced as a priority at all government hospitals.

The Directorate reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring public safety through proactive health monitoring, coordinated field actions and enhanced readiness of the health system across the Jammu Division.

Randhawa inaugurates Lanes and Drains in Sanjay Nagar

MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurating newly constructed lanes and drains.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a significant development initiative, MLA Bahu Constituency, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, inaugurated the newly constructed lanes and drains in Sector-1 and Sector-2 of Sanjay Nagar, executed at an estimated cost of Rs 68 lakhs under the supervision of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

This long-awaited project is expected to alleviate the persistent drainage and sanitation issues in the locality, especially during the monsoon season.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa reiterated his commitment to holistic development, stating, "Infrastructure at the grassroots level is the backbone of urban life. We are committed to ensuring that no colony is left behind when it comes to basic amenities."

During the event, Randhawa also conducted an on-site inspection, reviewed the quality of work, and took note of public suggestions for future improvements. He assured the residents that similar projects will soon be undertaken in other areas, especially those that have been neglected in previous years.

The inaugural event was attended by officials from the JMC and several prominent local dignitaries, including Ritika (Mandal President), Narinder (Koki), Raj Singh, Happy Sharma, R.K. Saini, Lekh Raj, Sham Sharma, Rocky Sharma, and Pappu Sharma, who appreciated the developmental strides taken under the leadership of the MLA.

MLA Randhawa also interacted with local residents, listened to their grievances, and assured them that similar developmental works would soon be initiated in other underdeveloped parts of the constituency. He further directed the JMC officials to ensure quality work and timely completion of all ongoing projects.

The residents of Sanjay Nagar expressed deep gratitude for the timely execution of the project and lauded the MLA for his proactive approach and regular engagement with the public.

TNWS organizes drug abuse awareness program in association with District Administration

BJP leader Rekha Mahajan and others at a programme.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS), in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu, organized a comprehensive Drug Abuse Awareness Program aimed at educating the public on the dangers of drug abuse and promoting preventive measures within the community.

The program was graced by the presence of ADC Jammu representative Ansuya Jamwal, along with Tehsildar HQ Jammu Mona Chalotra and Tehsildar Nazool Jammu Athira Jamwal, accompanied by officials from health, education, social welfare, and law enforcement departments.

Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of TNWS, formally welcomed the guests and the audience. He introduced Team TNWS and presented copies of the Shri Madbhagwat Geeta and the TNWS news magazine (2024-2025 edition) to the guests.

The program commenced with the chanting of the Gayatri Mantra by Pankaj Sharma, Chief Pujari of Panch Mandir, Sector 5-7, Ward 54, Trikuta Nagar.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Commissioner, Yoga J&K, shared practical tips on drug prevention and recited a poem praising the commendable work of ADC representative Ansuya Jamwal, President Rajinder Kakkar, Secretary Vijay Gupta, and Joint Secretary Sandeep Sharma. Renowned social activist and senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan also addressed the gathering, sharing insights on how society can collectively curb drug abuse and protect the youth of Jammu Urban.

ADC Representative Mona Chalotra, in her address, assured the public of the administration's full support and shared essential helpline numbers Police: 9086100100; Drug De-Addiction: 14446; Child Helpline: 1098; and Women Helpline: 181.

She emphasized the importance of community cooperation in combating drug-related issues and assured the residents that district authorities are always accessible for assistance.

Vijay Gupta, Secretary, TNWS, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks to all the guests, departments, law enforcement agencies, JMC team, and media personnel for their participation and support.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Trikuta Nagar residents. Notable attendees included former councillor Ward 52 Ajay Kumar Gupta, Shiv Kumar Jolly (President Panch Mandir Committee), Rajesh Sharma, Rama Jamwal, Monika Khosla, Indu Wazir Puri, S. Jaswinder Singh, Kewal Sher, S.N. Kaul, Dr. Abhishek Sachdev, Ramneek Dubey, Sandeep Sharma, Punkaj Gour, Shailja Gupta, and Er. Ashok Kumar Arora.

The program concluded on a positive note, with a renewed pledge by all attendees to work together in the fight against drug abuse and build a healthier, safer society.

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar launches "Mission Yuva" App

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MARH: MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Saturday launched the "Mission Yuva" app, a significant initiative aimed at empowering the youth of the region. This app is designed to provide young individuals with new opportunities in the fields of startups, skill development, and self-reliance. The app serves as a digital gateway for young people, enabling them to access various resources and opportunities that can help them build a secure and self-reliant future.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA said that by providing access to skill development and startup opportunities, the app aims to empower the youth to take charge of their careers and contribute to the economic growth of the region. The app's focus on self-reliance will help young individuals develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in their chosen fields. The launch of the "Mission Yuva" app is a significant step towards harnessing the potential of the region's youth. By providing them with the necessary tools and resources, the app can help unlock their potential and contribute to the region's economic and social development, added MLA.

MLA observed that "The 'Mission Yuva' app is a crucial step towards empowering our youth and providing them with new opportunities in startups, skill development, and self-reliance. This app will serve as a digital gateway for our young people, enabling them to build a secure and self-reliant future."The "Mission Yuva" app is a timely initiative that can help address the needs and aspirations of the region's youth. By providing them with access to skill development and startup opportunities, the app can help create a more empowered and self-reliant generation, added MLA.

MLA Surinder said that Prime Minister's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047 is a call to action for the country's youth. As the future leaders and citizens of India, young people have a crucial role to play in realizing this dream. Youth must focus on acquiring skills that are relevant to the changing job market and economy. Young people should be encouraged to think creatively, innovate, and start their own businesses, contributing to economic growth and job creation. The youth must be aware of the importance of sustainable development and work towards protecting the environment and conserving natural resources, added MLA.

MLA maintained that access to quality education and training programs can equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to India's development. Leveraging technology and innovation can help young people find solutions to pressing problems and create new opportunities for growth and development.

By taking an active role in India's development, the youth can help realize the Prime Minister's vision and create a brighter future for the country, said MLA.

Shiv Sena demands free on-spot registration, increased counters, quota

Devotees of Baba Barfani will reach in record numbers: Sahni

Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K chief Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has expressed hope that a record number of devotees will join the Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025, and has demanded from the Shrine Board to make on-spot registration free and simple along with publicity and to increase counters and quota.

In a program organized today at the party's state central office, about a dozen youths joined the party after being influenced by the party's policies and ideas.

On this occasion, state head Manish Sahni, while talking to journalists, expressed confidence that the 10.9% drop in the figures of Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025 as compared to the previous years figures will be compensated by on spot registration.

Sahni has suggested the Shrine Board to increase the counters and quota along with making it free and simple along with publicizing.

He said that a drop in the yatra figures was expected possible after the Pahalgam attack, but after that the situation has improved rapidly. The above mentioned additional efforts of the Shrine Board can improve the yatra figures.

Along with this, in a meeting organized by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (Chairman of Tatkal Shri Amarnath Shrine Board) regarding the arrangements for the Yatra, strongly condemned the sidelining of local Hindu political and non-political organizations and inviting selected and Kashmir-based parties.

Sahni said that it is not at all appropriate to sideline other Hindu organizations including Shiv Sena in the meeting regarding the arrangements for the religious journey of Hindus. On this occasion, President Women Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Senior Vice President Sanjeev Kohli and President Kamghar Raj Singh welcomed Rakesh Kohli, Himanshu Verma, Arun Mangotra, Akhil Sehgal, Hiratesh Verma, Gulshan Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Krishna Gupta, Mukesh Kumar and other new members who joined the Shiv Sena family with Shiv Bandhan and Nishan.

Sahni appointed Vinod Verma, who joined the party, as Jammu City Youth President.

Welfare Association of JDA Housing Colony Roop Nagar meets Vice Chairman JDA

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A deputation of the Welfare Association, JDA Housing Colony Roop Nagar, Jammu, met with the Vice Chairman of JDA under the leadership of Uttam Deep Sharma.

The delegation included B.K. Sharma (President), M.L. Gupta, N.L. Bhatt, Naresh Kumar, and Councillor Shanti Saroop Sharma (Press Secretary).

The association submitted a reminder highlighting key pending issues affecting residents. These included the commencement of the community hall/club building, completion of the green belt park, development of parks in Sector-5 near Little Millennium School, opening of shops in Sectors 3 and 5, repairs at the Bath Ghat in Sector-1, and road construction in Sector-7 (Lane-5).

After detailed discussions, the Vice Chairman assured early action on all pending development works.

VRS Union holds protest, seeks CM's intervention on 12-year-old pending arrears

VRS employees raising slogans during a protest.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A protest demonstration and sit-in was organized today near the Press Club, Exhibition Ground, Jammu under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali, President of the VRS Union Jammu. The protest saw participation from numerous retired employees demanding immediate action on their long-pending financial arrears.

During the demonstration, the Union strongly criticized the Transport Higher Authority and the Finance Department, accusing them of collusion and deliberate delay in processing the dues of retired employees from J&K RTC. Protesters alleged that despite their case being clear and all relevant bills lying ready in the Secretariat, the authorities are unnecessarily harassing the claimants.

"Our arrears have been pending for over 12 years. This inordinate delay has cost lives - 75 VRS/GHS and superannuated employees have died, many of them unable to afford medical treatment due to lack of funds," said Sh. Dev Raj Bali while addressing the media. "Who is responsible for these irreparable losses? Every time we are given false assurances, but no concrete action is taken."

The protesting retirees earnestly appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene and ensure their legitimate demands are fulfilled without further delay. "We have knocked every door, approached every concerned authority, but no one has come to our rescue," Bali added.

Key Demands of the VRS Union include payment of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) arrears from June 1999 to 31st December 2005, release of 6th Pay Commission arrears from January 1, 2006 to March 2012, disbursement of DA arrears from April 2012 to March 2021.

The demonstration witnessed participation from several retired employees and members of the Union, including Sat Bhushan Singh, Ramesh Bhau, Balwinder Singh, P.P. Singh, Shiv Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Surinder Singh, and others, who expressed anguish over continued neglect by the administration.

The VRS Union has reiterated that until their rightful dues are cleared, they will continue their peaceful struggle for justice.

Sat urges ground-level expansion, social inclusion & constructive activism in BJP outreach campaign

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conducted an important organizational review meeting at its party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was chaired by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma accompanied by General Secretary and MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal.

The review session witnessed the presence of several senior party leaders and office bearers including J&K BJP Treasurer Prabhat Singh Jamwal, former Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, District Prabhari Rajeev Charak, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, and senior leaders Sanjay Kumar Baru, Munish Khajuria, Kulvir Charak, Jaideep Singh Sambyal, Abhishek Salathia, Darshan Kumar among others.

Sat Sharma conducted a comprehensive review of the programmes organized under the BJP's nationwide campaign 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal'. He highlighted the variety of initiatives being held at the grassroots level across Jammu & Kashmir, including press conferences, professional meets, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas, Choupals, Ayushman Bharat card distribution camps, exhibitions, and the tree plantation initiative 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

Sat Sharma emphasized the critical role of expanding party activities at the ground level, ensuring the inclusion of specific social segments during outreach programmes to promote broad-based participation. He also underlined the responsibility of BJP workers in contributing positively to society by identifying local social issues, understanding them deeply, and working towards practical and lasting solutions.

He further reviewed the observance of key occasions such as International Yoga Day, the Punya Tithi of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, and the 50th anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975, which the party has marked as a "Black Day" in Indian democracy.

Sat Sharma called for meticulous implementation of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, with a focus not only on planting trees but also nurturing them, along with encouraging water conservation and eco-friendly practices. He also directed preparations for the upcoming Birth Anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee on 6th July, urging enthusiastic participation across all party units.