

# Ayushman Bharat so far world's best health insurance scheme: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the "Doctor's Day Conclave" organised by The Economic Times on the eve of Doctors' Day, at New Delhi on Friday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a renowned medical professional and Diabetologist, on Friday asserted that Ayushman Bharat is so far the world's best health insurance scheme and credit goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having conceptualised it.

This is possibly the only health insurance scheme in

the world which offers the option of seeking insurance cover even for a pre-existing disease, like for example, if today a person if detected having cancer, he can thereafter go and get himself insured to receive the financial support for treatment.

Addressing the Economic Times Doctor's Day Conclave on the eve of Doctor's Day here today, Dr Jitendra said, by bringing in Ayushman Bharat,

India has moved from sectoral and segmented approach of health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service.

The Minister said, this is the unique scheme, where one can register for pre-existing diseases also. He informed that Jammu and Kashmir was the first UT to have universal coverage of the health scheme irrespective of the economic criteria.

Responding to queries about some irregularities in the implementation of the scheme, he said, we are at the initial stages of implementation and the government is open to make suitable changes as required in the scheme in due course.

The Minister also emphasized that integrity is a big factor in a vast heterogeneous country like India and slowly but surely this health insurance scheme

will become a model for the world to emulate.

The Minister said that during the COVID even the West started looking up to India in search of immunity building techniques drawn from Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy and other oriental alternatives.

He said, however, even after the COVID phase passes out, an optimum integration and synergism of different streams of medical management are the key to successful management of various diseases and disorders which may not be otherwise completely amenable to treatment by any single stream of medicine or the treatment given in silos.

The Minister said, we must work together to ensure 'Digital Health for All', which is a pre-condition to achieve 'Health for All'.



## Secretary Ministry I&B chairs review meeting with DDK, AIR, PIB, CBC & IIMC

*Urges to focus more on youth based programs*



Secretary Ministry of I&B, GoI, Apurva Chandra chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B), Government of India, Apurva Chandra, who is on a two day visit to Jammu, on Friday chaired a review meeting with the officers and officials of Doordarshan Kendra Jammu (DDK), All India Radio (AIR) Jammu, Press Information Bureau (PIB) Jammu, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) Jammu and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Jammu for feedback on any infrastructural or operational issues.

While chairing the review meeting, Apurva Chandra

urged to focus more on the generation of local content by involving local people in the programmes. The programme section of DDK and AIR must focus more on youth based programmes, Chandra added.

Chandra during his visit to AIR Jammu urged the officials to invite experts from different fields for enhancing the quality of the discussion programmes.

The officials of the Akashvani Jammu briefed the secretary about the popularity of the local channel due to its various programmes in regional languages.

Later, the Secretary visited the newly built campus of

IIMC Jammu and held an interactive feedback session with the students about any issues being faced by them.

Chandra urged the Regional Director to upgrade the library with current editions of books related to Mass Communication and Journalism.

DDG Doordarshan and AIR, Ravikanta Babu, Joint Director, CBC J&K and Ladakh, Ghulam Abbas, Deputy Director CBC J&K and Ladakh, Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director (News) Doordarshan and AIR, Ramesh Raina, Regional Director IIMC, Soumitra were present during the occasion.

## NSSO (FOD), Jammu organises training conference on PLFS

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Regional office, Jammu on Friday organized a training Conference for the Officer and field staff of NSSO (FOD) Regional office Jammu and Sub-Regional Office, Udhampur for Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS-Panel-4) at Hotel Country Inn, here.



Officers and field staff attending training conference of NSSO at Jammu on Friday.

NSSO launched PLFS in April 2017, considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals i.e. for every quarter.

The objective of PLFS is primarily two folds: to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in

the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status (principal & Subsidiary Status) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

After the welcome address of R. K. Sharma, Assistant Director, NSSO (FOD), the function was inaugurated by Kishore Kumar, Deputy Director General (DDG); NSSO (FOD) UT of J&K.

In his inaugural speech, DDG informed that the information collected in PLFS is the primary source of statistics on labour force, activity participation of the population and structure of employ-

ment and unemployment in the country.

He further added that these statistical indicators on labour market are required for planning, policy and decision making at various levels, both within government and outside as well as used by various researchers.

The training to the field staff was imparted by R.K Sharma, Assistant Director, Sunil K. Khar, Sr. Statistical Officer and Naresh Kumar, Senior Statistical Officer, NSSO (FOD) RO Jammu.

Apart from imparting training overall Coordination & Comparing was done by Sunil K. Khar. Training ended with a vote of thanks presented by Neeta Sharma, Sr. Statistical Officer, NSSO (FOD), RO Jammu.

## IIT Jammu incubates Flaxxi to revolutionize EdTech domain



Prof Manoj Agarwal, representing IIT Jammu's IIC and Suresh Dakavarapu, Founder and CEO of Flaxxi after signing MoU.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Institute Innovation & Innovation Council (IIC), a renowned Section-8 not-for-profit organization at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu (IIT Jammu), incubated the Flaxxi, a prominent deep-tech innovative technology company in the EdTech space, at the picturesque Jagti campus of IIT Jammu.

The MoU signing ceremony included Prof Manoj Agarwal, representing IIT Jammu's Institute Innovation & Innovation

Council (IIC), and Suresh Dakavarapu, Founder and CEO of Flaxxi.

Notably, Dr Badri Subudhi, Dr Vinit Jhaketiya, and Dr Sidharth Maheshwari from IIT Jammu, who also played crucial roles in the development of this significant partnership, were also present during the occasion.

Flaxxi AI (P) Ltd, a thriving startup based in Bangalore, now incubated by IIT Jammu, will harness the institution's expertise in nurturing

innovation and technological breakthroughs. The company consists of a highly skilled team of engineers from IIT and seasoned entrepreneurs, united with a common vision to democratize advanced technology and empower learners with truly outcome-driven solutions.

This MoU stands as testament to the institute's commitment to nurture and support startup ventures. The MoU aims to revolutionize the EdTech domain, making it more inclusive and impactful than ever before.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The recent surge in prices of essential goods, especially food items, has made the common man's life difficult. If prices of day-to-day items keep rising like this, it's going to make surviving for common man much more difficult. This constant rise has forced people to change their diet, avoid expensive food items and buy cheaper stuff in bulk and eat the same day after day. This was stated by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla while interacting with various deputations at his residence.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that government seems to have done very little in terms of regulating prices. At the end of the day, it is not the rich ones or the business class that suffers, but the common man. BJP government talks most promisingly about the "common man agenda" when it comes to

## Prices of essentials continue to skyrocket, some have doubled or even trebled: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla while interacting with various deputations.

lapping up votes but fails in times of real crisis. Even restaurants have increased prices of items, making even that once-in-a-while visit a rarity. Food prices have increased by 20 per cent in the last two months and by 40 per cent compared to last year. The steady rise in prices of food items is a cause for concern. With little resources available, it is becoming difficult for the common man to manage his budget. The way things are run here, it is a case of the poor remaining

poor and the rich getting richer.

Bhalla said even the tax laws favour the rich, those in the salaried class suffers the most because they pay high Income Tax and in return get little. Inflation keeps rising every day and vegetable prices are shooting up. Govt is responsible for all this. Have BJP leaders already forgotten their duty towards the people? What happened to all the promises they made during election time? It is high time they delivered what

they had promised. Also, petrol and diesel prices have increased. All this stems from the Central government's inability to curtail prices at the grassroots level.

Bhalla said it should be possible to subsidize prices of indispensable items like rice, dal, sugar and oil and lessen the burden on the common man's purse. If the prices do not come down, he will be driven to take loans from banks to keep his kitchen fire burning. The retail market has never been consumer-friendly; it is ready to hike prices at the slightest opportunity. On the one hand, household budgets are going for a toss with the prices of essential commodities skyrocketing and on the other hand, the government keeps feeding them with inflation figures that seem to conjure up a very rosy picture, a picture that is not at all in keeping with reality.

Bhalla said even as the

common man pays through his nose for very basic pulses, data released recently has pegged inflation at a mere 17.5 per cent. I feel this economic data is misleading. In reality, it could be more than 25 per cent and it seems the government has not done much on its part to regulate prices of essential commodities. Evidently, the ground realities of the market are far removed from these inflation figures that are being supplied by the government.

Bhalla said with rise in inflation, the purchasing power of average Indian families has also come down. With tomatoes priced at around Rs 120 per kg and ginger at Rs 400 per kg, people are being compelled to forgo these items. He emphasized the urgent need for government intervention to alleviate the burden of price hikes on poor families.



Glimpses of flagging off ceremony of first batch of Shri Baba Amarnath ji pilgrimage by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha from Jammu Yatra Base Camp.

