

Every third Indian has fatty liver; predates diabetes, metabolic disorders: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Every third Indian has fatty liver, which predates Type 2 Diabetes and other metabolic disorders, said Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh who is himself a nationally renowned Diabetologist.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network (InFLiMeN) a virtual node to prevent/cure metabolic liver diseases at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences Today in New Delhi.

Addressing the launch programme Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Indo-French Node, InFLiMeN, aims to address key issues related to a common metabolic liver disorder, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which can progress to cirrhosis and primary liver cancer eventually. It predates diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and many other diseases. As an endocrinologist myself, I understand the nuances of fatty liver and its relation with diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Director Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) Dr S.K. Sarin and Union Secretary Science & Technology Dr Abhay Kanitkar, formally inaugurating the Indo-French Network "InFLiMeN" at New Delhi.

Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh said "Both the Indian subcontinent and Europe attributable to changes in lifestyle, diet and importantly metabolic syndromes such as diabetes and obesity has contributed to a significant rise in NAFLD." The Minister shared that nearly 1 in 3 Indians has fatty liver. While in the West most NAFLD is associated with obesity, intriguingly in the Indian subcontinent, NAFLD occurs in about 20% in non-obese patients.

Emphasizing the vitality of this initiative the science and technology minister "There is a considerable burden of alcoholic liver disease (ALD) in India and

France." He further added that both NAFLD and ALD exhibit a very similar progression from steatosis to steato-hepatitis, cirrhosis and HCC.

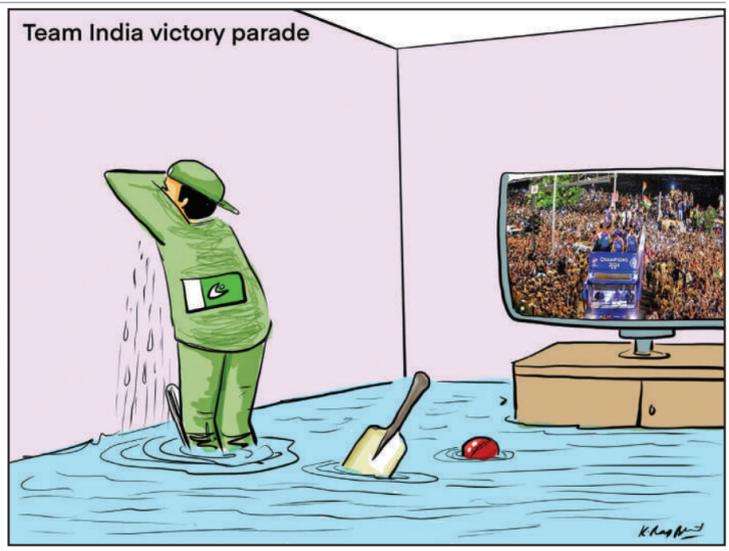
Highlighting India's progress in the last decade in the health sector, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "India became a global leader not just in curative healthcare but also in preventive healthcare." There is an urgent need to develop simple low-cost diagnostic tests for the detection of different stages of fatty liver and their progression to severe full-blown diseases. The approaches and algorithms should suit the Indian context, low priced and point of care.

Dr. Jitendra Singh advised that a joint multi-disciplinary collaborative program like InFLiMeN is urgently needed to understand the development, progression and possible management of liver diseases using a comprehensive omics approach for biomarker discovery.

Emphasising on the co-operation and collaboration of both the Government and Private sector to provide best services to citizens and promote ease of healthy living. He also highlighted the government's initiatives and policies aimed at supporting and improving the healthcare system.

The Minister highlighted the need of generous funding for cutting-edge science. Expressed his belief that the virtual node would become a real node within a short span. He also assured that his departments would help the node in all possible manner. He also appreciated 'Department of Science and Technology' (DST) and Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPERA) for taking this novel approach proposed by ILBS.

The Minister congratulated Dr. Shiv K. Sarin and his team along with the French collaborators directed them to find remedies for the metabolic disorders in a low cost and high output manner. 11 French and 17 Indian doctors work jointly in this node.



Pr Secy PDD chairs Public Darbar at Mandal Jammu



Principal Secretary PDD, H Rajesh addressing a public darbar at Mandal.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Power Development department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad on Friday chaired a Public Darbar at Block Mandal here to address various issues and grievances of the general public.

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh; Chief Planning Officer, ACD, Block Development Officer and other senior officers were also present on the occasion. The darbar also saw participation from BDC Chairman, Madan Lal, former PNI representatives, eminent citizens, and large number of locals.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Principal Secretary urged upon all to welcome the installation of smart meters. He underlined that in order to achieve robust and uninterrupted power supply for prosperity

of Jammu & Kashmir, the ongoing power reforms are crucial and must be welcomed wholeheartedly.

During the darbar, the locals raised several issues before the Principal Secretary like enhancement of interior village roads, flood mitigation measures, mining related concerns pertaining to river Tawi, issues related to Rural Development, Revenue departments and others.

The public also appreciated the introduction of Smart Buses and expressed hope for more such buses in the future.

While interacting with locals, the Principal Secretary assured them that all of their genuine demands and grievances would be addressed promptly. He noted that some issues would be taken up with the UT administration as well.

During the interaction, the Principal Secretary made out that significant reforms have been initiated in power sector

from last several years, adding that Rs.10,000 crores have been invested to enhance the power infrastructure, including setting up grid stations, receiving stations, transformers, and power line networks besides a n additional amount of Rs 10,500 crores have been allocated for replacing poles and wires with superior insulated power cables.

The Principal Secretary further highlighted that despite challenges, the UT government continues to provide power to consumers at subsidised rates. He emphasised on the need to reduce power losses in Jammu and Kashmir, which are primarily due to non-payment of dues and pilferage. He informed that 22 lakh consumers are slated to receive smart meters, with 6 lakh already installed, to ensure accurate billing and payment of dues.

He also dispelled concerns about overcharging or arbitrary charges by smart meters.

Transport Com reviews status of services delivery mechanism at RTO Office

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Transport Commissioner J&K Rajinder Singh Tara on Friday visited the Regional Transport Office Jammu to review the service delivery by different sections. During the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected all sections including the Driving license section, vehicle registration section, Transfer of Ownership section and Fitness Board related services. He also saw randomly selected footage of Driving skill test and fitness of vehicles conducted by different boards.

Regional Transport Officer Pankaj Bhagotra provided comprehensive details regarding the functioning of each section.

Taking serious note of pending applications for various



Transport Commissioner J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara visiting Regional Transport Office Jammu on Friday.

services, the Transport Commissioner asked ARTOs to strictly adhere to the PSGA guidelines to facilitate people with time bound services as prescribed in the Act. He also asked for prioritizing disposal of all long pending cases related to fitness of Vehicles as the same plays a significant role in ensuring road safety. He

asked the concerned officers to ensure that all applications regarding different services are disposed of in a time bound and transparent manner.

He further instructed RTO Jammu to conduct periodic review of the services delivery mechanism so that all applications are timely approved and

the applicants avail the services in a hassle free and comfortable manner. He further directed all concerned ARTOs to ensure that applicants be informed immediately through a system generated SMS about the deficiency in documents, if any, without unnecessary delay.

Later, the Transport Commissioner also inspected the vacant locations adjoining the RTO office and suggested that the same can be utilized for the construction of ATS or some other modern facility.

Joint Transport Commissioner J&K Vinay Samotra, Additional Secretary Road Safety Council Paramveer Singh, ARTO HQ, ARTO (B&P) were also present during the course of inspection.

DM Jammu bans sale of plastic, nylon kite flying thread

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on Friday ordered that no Plastic/nylon thread (Manja) or similar such synthetic material imported/indigenous shall be sold or used for kite flying under the area/jurisdiction of Jammu District with immediate effect.

Any person, who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Srinagar Conclave on Urban Planning concludes on high note; yields key recommendations

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The two day Srinagar Conclave on urban planning, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center (SKICC), concluded successfully here on Friday.

The high level Committee, headed by Chairman Keshav Varma, focused on advancing urban planning reforms across India.

On second day of the Conclave, extensive discussions

and deliberations were held among the representatives from various states, urban planners and other stakeholders. These sessions yielded many recommendations for the Committee's final report, focusing on future urbanization strategies that integrate cultural heritage preservation and state-specific development models.

Keshav Varma led the sessions, emphasizing the need for future urbanization strategies that integrate asset management systems, including cultural

and heritage assets of smaller cities. He also stressed the importance of identifying strengths, adopting state-specific models and focusing on natural conservation while tailoring development regulations for different zones. He added that the outcomes of Srinagar Conclave are expected to play a crucial role in shaping sustainable and resilient urban development strategies for the future.

Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department,

Mandeep Kaur, addressed the concluding session, expressing optimism that the discussions and recommendations from the Conclave will significantly incorporate the final report. She also highlighted the potential for cooperative efforts to address urban issues effectively.

Sanjeev Kumar, former CEO IRSDC (WB), Satish Chandra, Chairman RERA, members of High Level Committee as well as urban and town planning experts and senior officials also attended the sessions.

J&K lithium block likely to be given to Govt agency for further exploration

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: As e-vehicles have focused on the need for lithium used in making batteries, India has sought to secure assets overseas as well as domestically, Jammu and Kashmir's Lithium block is likely to be given to government agency for further exploration after J&K did not receive any bids in a second attempt to auction mining rights for lithium reserves found last year.

The government in February 2023 found its first lithium deposits in Jammu and Kashmir with estimated reserves of 5.9 million metric tons.

After it failed to get a required minimum of three bids in its first auctions in

November, the block was again put up for auction in March with a May 14 deadline for bids.

The source, who declined to be identified, said the block was likely to be given to a government agency for further exploration after no bids were made.

As electric vehicles have focused on the need for lithium, used in making batteries, India has sought to secure assets overseas as well as domestically.

The central government in June last year listed 30 minerals, including lithium, nickel, titanium, vanadium and tungsten as critical to its quest for cleaner energy.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI)

found lithium reserves in J&K for the first time last year. It found lithium inferred resources (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes in Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district in the union territory.

In current times, lithium is a crucial element as it is one of the key components required for manufacturing of EV batteries. It is all the more crucial considering the government's push for EVs. Lithium-ion batteries are used in wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles.

As per a World Bank study the demand for critical metals such as lithium is expected to rise by nearly 500 per cent by 2050.

Will three new laws expedite, streamline justice delivery system?

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), passed in Parliament last December and implemented across the country from July 1, 2024, replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

A revolution in the justice system of India, with the arrival of three new criminal laws, the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. These three new criminal laws come with various huge and small changes in the previously existing criminal provisions. These laws have been met with both appraisal and criticism, they demonstrate an important step ahead in the evolution of the legal system of India. Here are some views related to the issue:

Advocate Ranjit S. Jamwal



Three New Criminal Laws are welcome step by the government. With the passage of time, as our country is growing, there is increase in the incidents of cyber crime, terrorist activities, crime against women.

The introduction of new laws is a great initiative. Legal fraternity welcomes this step and we appreciate it.

Advocate D S Saini



The government has only changed the sections. There are some minor amendments in three new laws. For now, it will take time for everyone to understand these laws. Law students have to go through all these laws and this sudden change they have to work hard. Overall, I don't appreciate this step by the government.

Advocate Parveen Kapahi



Firstly I can't even remember the names of the three new laws; they are so difficult to pronounce. If the Government wanted any amendment or change to be made, it could have been made in the old law only. Why did they need to do this? With the implementation of the new law, even judges, police and advocates are facing difficulties. New laws will have to be read due to which pending cases may get delayed further and I condemn this step by the government.

Advocate Dharamveer Singh



New laws are the same but the whole sequence has been shuffled. By doing this, there will be neither any change nor any progress because the procedure is same. All those law students who have just passed or those who are about to give the exam will not be asked this syllabus. This is injustice to them.

Advocate Pardeep Majotra



This is a welcome step. Earlier, there was delay in justice system due to many reasons. And, with the introduction of new laws, the justice has to be delivered in maximum three years. There is lot of pendency in all the courts and I am sure that with the introduction of these new laws, the cases will be decided within time bound limits. People should appreciate this. Many are against these laws, but if you ask me, I fully support the introduction of these laws.