

Dr Jitendra addresses Patna congregation, refers to India’s 76,000 women-led StartUps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that India's march towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 will be led by empowered women and youth, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Women-Led Development." Speaking at the one-day conference "Viksit Bihar: Envisioning a Developed Bihar through Women's Participation", jointly organized by the Bihar Rural Development Department and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Dr. Singh praised Bihar's significant reforms in advancing women's empowerment.

Dr. Singh revealed that India currently hosts 1.7 lakh start-ups, with nearly 76,000 led by women entrepreneurs, many of whom come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns. These startups have created over 17 lakh jobs, demonstrating the growing influence of women in shaping the country's innovation and economic landscape. "This silent revolution, led by first-generation women entrepreneurs and leaders, is rewriting India's future," he remarked.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the women congregation "Jeevika" at "Adhiveshan Bhavan", Patna on Saturday.

The Minister launched the Jeevika E-Learning Management System App, designed to provide accessible learning opportunities for women, and also unveiled a publication titled "Shashakt Mahila, Samridh Bihar", which documents the contributions of women to Bihar's development.

Highlighting the Modi Government's comprehensive approach to women empowerment, Dr. Singh outlined four major pillars: Access and Institutional Inclusion, Scientific and Technological Empowerment, Economic and Social Empowerment, and Workplace Reforms and Legal Sensitivity. He noted break-

throughs such as girls' admission to Sainik Schools and the NDA, women in combat roles, and the likely appointment of India's first woman Army Chief.

In science and technology, schemes like WISE, GATI, CURIE, and the Women Scientist Programme have enabled women to return to STEM careers. Patna Women's College will be adopted under the CURIE scheme, furthering Bihar's leadership in this area.

Dr. Singh also highlighted that over 48 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened for women, 60% of Mudra Yojana beneficiaries are women, and more than 3 crore 'Lakhpati

Didis' have emerged through Self-Help Groups. He added that homeownership through PMAY in women's names is transforming financial and social security at the grassroots.

Workplace reforms, including six-month childcare leave, maternity leave even after stillbirths, and pension rights for unmarried or divorced dependent daughters, reflect the Modi Government's inclusive and compassionate legal framework.

Dr. Singh lauded women's growing presence in leadership roles, citing examples like Kalpana of Chandrayaan-3 and Nigar Shaji of Aditya-L1. He noted

that over one-third of CSIR labs are now headed by women and that the council has appointed its first woman Director General.

Applauding Bihar's progressive policies such as 50% reservation for women in Panchayats and urban local bodies, and 35% in police and civil services, Dr. Singh said over 30 lakh women in the state have been financially empowered with support exceeding ₹5,000 crore.

He called on IIPA to document Bihar's successful women-centric governance model into a replicable manual for nationwide implementation. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Singh said, "It is no longer about women's participation-it is about women-led development. The future belongs to women who lead."

The event was also attended by Union Ministers Giriraj Singh and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Bihar Minister Shravan Kumar, IIPA DG S.N. Tripathi, Jeevika CEO Himanshu Sharma, Development Commissioner Pratay Amrit, and other senior officials.



We are working as motivated team to upgrade facilities at all shrines throughout J&K: Andrabi

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SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi visited the Barah Sadaat Shrine at Tailbal on Saturday and reviewed the upgradation projects to be taken up by J&K Waqf Board soon.

Andrabi paid obeisance at the shrine and interacted with the civil society and listened to the suggestions of locals regarding the infrastructure development at the shrine.

Waqf Chairperson was accompanied by the team of the Board officers and engineers who took stock of the feasibility of the developmental works to be executed by the Board soon.

The locals thanked Waqf Chairperson for her earlier initiatives at the shrine and expressed their full support



Chairperson JKWB, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with people during visit to Barah Sadaat Shrine.

to the Board.

Andrabi instructed the Waqf authorities to prioritize the project of upgradation at the shrine so that the work starts soon as per the requirements.

Addressing the local gathering Darakhshan Andrabi said that the Sufi spiritual legacy is our strength as a society.

"We are tirelessly working as a motivated team to

upgrade facilities at all shrines throughout J&K. Our Sufi centers are now in the lime light again. It is our collective responsibility to work for the promotion of Sufi thought", said Andrabi.

Prominent civil society members included Ali Mohammad Kutoo, Molvi Naseer Ahmad Makhdoomi, Gulzar Ahmad Kutoo and others.

Lt Guv Kavinder Gupta chairs introductory meeting with UT Ladakh Administration

Sets 100-day Action Plan, meets LBA, Kargil judge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: In his first high-level interaction with the administration since assuming office, Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta chaired an introductory meeting with Secretaries and Heads of Departments (HoDs) of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

During the meeting, the Lt. Governor shared his commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to him by the Prime Minister and the President of India. He emphasized that collective effort, seamless coordination, and a shared vision among all departments will be crucial in accelerating Ladakh's development journey.

The Lt. Governor urged all



Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting at Leh.

Administrative Secretaries and HoDs to prepare a comprehensive 100-day action plan focused on impactful outcomes and tangible improvements in governance, infrastructure, and public service delivery. He stressed that the plan should reflect the aspirations of the people

and contribute meaningfully to Ladakh's long-term growth. Highlighting the strategic and cultural significance of the region, the Lt. Governor reiterated the need for proactive governance, efficient implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, and people-centric policies that

strengthen trust and transparency in the administration.

Later in the day, a delegation comprising senior members and former block presidents of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) called on the Lt Governor. The delegation raised several pressing

concerns, most notably seeking the HLG's intervention in the official declaration of five newly proposed districts in Ladakh. The Lt. Governor gave the delegation a patient hearing and assured them that the matter would be looked into with due seriousness, promising to explore viable administrative solutions. The meeting marks a strong start to Shri Kavinder Gupta's tenure as Lt Governor, indicating a proactive approach in both administrative planning and public engagement.

Meanwhile, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kargil, Spalzes Angmo, paid a courtesy visit to the Lt Governor at Secretariat Leh.

IIPA J&K organises awareness programme on ‘Disaster Management’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch, in collaboration with the J&K Civil Defence, Home Guards & SDRF, on Saturday organized an Awareness Programme on "Disaster Management" at the IIPA Complex, here.

B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd), Chairman, IIPA J&K Regional Branch, and Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd), Patron, IIPA J&K Regional Branch, emphasized the importance of community involvement, perpetual preparedness, civil society proactive engagement and integrated disaster response strategies.

Ansuya Jamwal, ADC Jammu, delivered the welcome address and introduced the programme, highlighting



IIPA J&K Regional Branch members and other dignitaries at awareness programme.

the growing relevance of disaster management in today's rapidly changing risk landscape.

Imitiaz Hussain Mir, Director, Civil Defence and SDRF emphasized that the security of Jammu is paramount and the citizens have to act united as the first line of defence.

The technical presentations were made by Dr Anayat Mir, Chief Warden, District Baramulla and DySP Manzoor Hussain, SDRF Dy SP Zia Ul Haq, Deputy Controller, Civil Defence, Jammu coordinated the program.

Zahid Manhas, Commandant SDRF also

graced the occasion. The team also made demonstrations for preparedness of various disasters.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including officials from the District Administration, Resident Welfare Associations, Bazar Associations, Chamber of

Commerce Jammu, the Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, and other key civil society organisations.

Discussions focused on actionable strategies, inter-agency coordination, and capacity building for effective disaster mitigation and response.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Prof. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary, IIPA J&K Regional Branch, while Er. M.M. Gupta, Director (Seminars), delivered the vote of thanks. The programme witnessed the esteemed presence of Prof Alka Sharma, Kuldeep Khoda, IPS (Retd), Dr. S.P. Vaid Advocate Rameshwar Singh, Er. J B S Johar, K.B. Jandial, Vikrant Kuthiala and Dr C M Sethamong others.

Major benefits of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

Ch Sukhnandan hails PM Modi’s new Agri Scheme; lauds LG Manoj Sinha’s commitment to J&K farmers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and senior BJP leader Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar has warmly welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval of the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana", calling it a visionary step by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revolutionize the agriculture and allied sectors in India.

The scheme, set to begin in 2025-26, will initially cover 100 districts across the country, including select areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

Hailing the initiative, Sukhnandan Kumar said, "This scheme reflects the Modi government's commitment to our farmers. It focuses on not only boosting productivity but also ensuring sustainability and self-reliance in the agriculture sector. For J&K, this is a golden opportunity, and under the dedicated leadership of Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, I am confident it will yield outstanding results."

He emphasized that LG Sinha's consistent concern for the welfare of J&K farmers, combined with his hands-on governance, will ensure effective on-ground implementation of this ambitious programme in the Union Territory.

"LG Manoj Sinha's proactive approach and farmer-centric vision make him an ideal leader to carry forward the goals of this scheme in J&K," Sukhnandan added.

The Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme, is the first of its kind to focus exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.



Over six years, it aims to transform 100 districts marked by low productivity, poor cropping intensity, and minimal credit disbursement.

Key objectives of the scheme include: Enhancing agricultural productivity and crop diversification, Promoting sustainable and organic farming; Improving irrigation and post-harvest infrastructure at local levels; Ensuring better access to both short and long-term credit; Strengthening convergence across 36 central schemes and private partnerships; To ensure effective implementation, committees will be formed at the district, state, and national levels.

Each district will have a tailored plan aligning with national goals of soil and water conservation, self-sufficiency, and organic farming promotion. Progress will be tracked using 117 performance indicators on a dedicated dashboard, with regular reviews by central nodal officers.

"Prime Minister Modi has once again shown his deep understanding of the challenges and aspirations of rural India," said Sukhnandan Kumar. "This scheme will not only empower farmers but will also contribute significantly to Atmanirbhar Bharat."

As the 100 identified districts begin to show measurable progress, the national agricultural indicators are expected to rise, ushering in a new era of prosperity for India's farming community.

PRP and PRF Therapy: Expanding Spectrum of Dermatologic Services at AIIMS Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Dermatology headed by Dr Payal Chauhan, Associate Professor at AIIMS Jammu continues its remarkable trajectory of growth, evolving into a multidisciplinary centre of excellence. Since the commencement of its OPD services in August 2024, the department has catered to an impressive number of more than 21,000 patients, underscoring the region's growing reliance on the institute for specialized dermatologic care. Alongside its well-established diagnostic and therapeutic offerings (including chemical peels, cryotherapy, microbiological staining, videodermoscopy for hairs and nails, ultraviolet fluorescence dermoscopy, patch and photopatch tests for various indication, and exclusive regional phototherapy, nail surgeries)-the department has introduced several advanced procedures tailored to meet a wide spectrum of dermatologic, cosmetic, and minimally invasive surgical needs. These additions reflect the department's vision of offering holistic, evidence-based skin care, all under one roof.

Dr Payal Chauhan informed that, this month marked the launch of Platelet-

Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy, one of the most promising and in-demand treatments in regenerative dermatology. AIIMS Jammu employs advanced, controlled centrifuge systems to derive highly concentrated platelet preparations enriched with growth factors like PDGF, VEGF, and TGF-β, ensuring both safety and efficacy. The therapy is utilised to benefit patients of various indications including post-acne scars, various causes of hair fall, and to enhance wound healing and repair. With the start of these services, the department plans to help a wide number of patients, driven by increasing public interest in non-pharmacologic and biologically active therapies said Dr Payal.

PRP being utilised for atrophic acne scars stimulates collagen remodelling, improves skin texture, and softens deep scars. It offers enhanced results when combined with microneedling or subcision. It is a procedure safe for all skin types, with minimal downtime. When used in male and female pattern hair loss, it promotes follicular angiogenesis and reactivates dormant hair follicles, especially effective in early to moderate hair loss, offering a drug-free, natural alternative to systemic therapies said



Xanthelasma Excision: Bridging Aesthetics and Clinical Dermatology.

Dr Payal Chauhan.

As awareness grows, PRP/PRF therapy is poised to become a cornerstone of the department's aesthetic and regenerative offerings.

With a growing demand for aesthetic procedures, the department now has started performing surgical excision of xanthelasma palpebrarum, a common condition characterized by cholesterol-rich yellowish deposits around the eyelids.

These procedures are conducted

under local anesthesia in sterile settings, using precision techniques that ensure minimal scarring and fast recovery. This patient-friendly, office-based approach offers an effective alternative to laser or cautery methods, with high satisfaction rates.

Importantly, patients also undergo metabolic evaluation and receive lifestyle counseling to address associated dyslipidemia, reflecting the department's comprehensive approach.

This service seamlessly merges aes-

thetic finesse with clinical safety, enhancing the scope of minor dermatologic surgeries at AIIMS Jammu. The department is also performing various other dermatosurgical procedures including ear lobe repair, nose piercing repair, excision of various cysts and benign tumours.

Dr Payal Chauhan briefed that AIIMS Jammu remains the only centre in the region offering both whole-body and localized hand-and-foot phototherapy-a cornerstone therapy for conditions like psoriasis, vitiligo, and chronic eczema. Patients are routinely being enrolled for hand-and-foot phototherapy, and for whole-body phototherapy for various indications. These services are gaining traction as more patients experience long-term remission and improved quality of life through this targeted, non-invasive treatment modality.

In line with its patient-centred and innovation-driven approach, the department is set to expand its services even further. Vitiligo surgeries are already planned for patients with stable, non-segmental vitiligo, offering options such as mini-punch grafting and suction blister grafting to restore pigmentation in refractory cases.

Additionally, laser services-including those for pigmentation, scars, vascular lesions, and hair reduction-are on the horizon, poised to complement the department's growing armamentarium of aesthetic and therapeutic interventions.

With each newly introduced service-be it advanced phototherapy, regenerative PRP therapy, or the upcoming vitiligo surgeries and laser treatments-under the leadership of our worthy Executive Director & CEO, Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, the Department of Dermatology at AIIMS Jammu is on a fast track to becoming a comprehensive center for advanced dermatologic care, strengthening its identity as a regional leader in not just Jammu & Kashmir but the adjoining states.

By combining clinical precision, patient safety, and evidence-based innovation, the department not only addresses chronic skin conditions but also ventures confidently into the expanding fields of surgical and aesthetic dermatology.

As patient numbers continue to rise and services diversify, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, accessibility, and compassionate care.