

Dr Jitendra informs Lok Sabha, 55,554 pension grievances resolved under 7 months

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a significant indication of enhanced responsiveness in governance, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has resolved 55,554 pension-related grievances through the Centralized Pension Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS) portal between January 1 and July 15, 2025.

This was disclosed in a reply by Union Minister (Independent Charge and MoS for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh in the Lok Sabha today.

A total of 63,310 pension grievances were received on the CPENGRAMS portal during the same period, showing a resolution rate of nearly 88%. The average time taken to address complaints has come down significant-

ly-from 35 days in January to just 20 days in July-reflecting an improvement in systemic efficiency and compliance.

The Minister attributed the improved performance to a series of policy measures, including the issuance of a dedicated circular on "Effective Redressal of Pension Grievances" in October 2024. This policy instructs Ministries and Departments to aim for grievance resolution within 21 days and lays down clear roles and responsibilities for grievance and appellate officers. Supporting initiatives such as Monthly Inter-ministerial Review



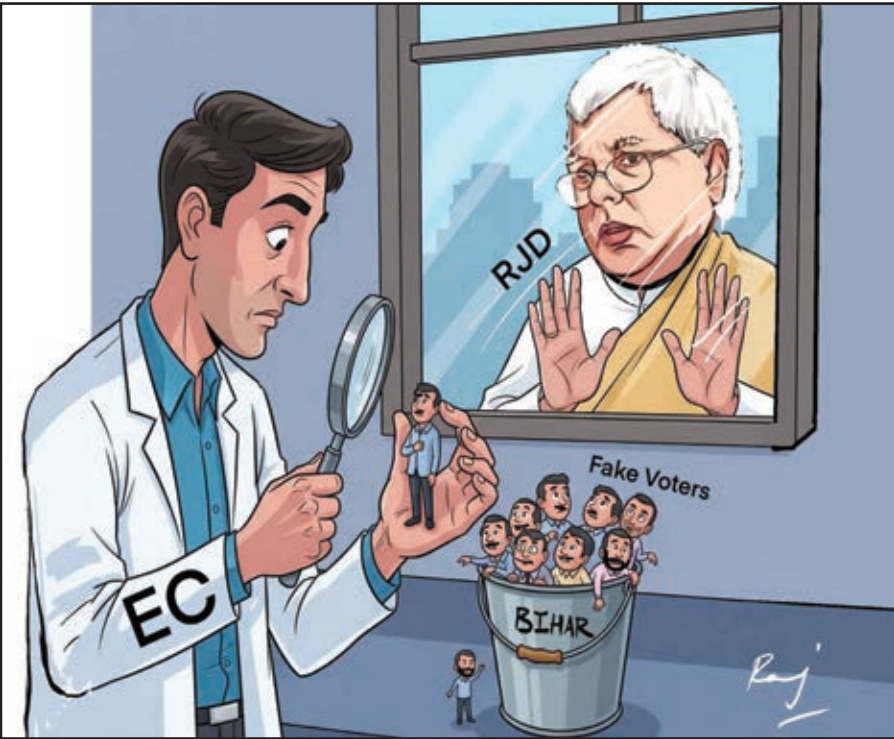
Meetings, Thematic Adalats, targeted capacity-building programmes, and annual special campaigns have also contributed to the progress, he added.

Grievances related to the Ministry of Defence, Department of Financial Services, and Ministry of Railways made up the largest share of pending cases, the reply noted.

In a separate response to another Parliament question, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed the House that the Government has officially reduced the upper limit for redressal of public grievances from 30 days to 21 days. This was made part of the

Comprehensive Guidelines for Effective Redressal of Public Grievances issued on August 23, 2024. According to data shared in the Lok Sabha, more than 1.25 crore public grievances have been redressed since 2020 via the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). In 2025 alone, over 10.3 lakh complaints were resolved up to June 30.

The move to shorten timelines and improve follow-through on citizen grievances is being seen as part of a broader administrative reform effort aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in public service delivery. While challenges persist in certain departments, the overall trend suggests a growing emphasis on outcome-oriented governance.



Er Chander Udhay elected as President RWA Gandhi Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Er. Chander Udhay Sharma has been elected President of the Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

At a meeting of the General Body of the RWA, Gandhi Nagar, Er Chander Udhay was unanimously elected its President.

The post of the President had fallen vacant on the demise of Lal Man Khajuria about two months ago. Er Chander Udhay was the Working President as late Khajuria was not keeping well for quite some time. Arun Goswami was re-elected as Secretary General.

The meeting also elected K.B Jandial IAS (Retd) as the Chief Patron. Indu Bhushan Sharma was elected as Sr. Vice President and M.L. Vaid as Vice President. Other office bearers elected include Rajesh Khajuria as Additional Secretary General, V. K. Phoa as Organising Secretary, Surinder Kohli as Treasurer & Bhushan Verma as Secretary (Media & Publicity).

The meeting discussed several problems being faced by the residents of Gandhi Nagar and decided to raise these issues with the concerned authorities.

These problems include

insanitation in some pockets, delayed lifting of garbage, choked drains, street lights, erratic electricity & water supply.

It was also decided to launch a membership drive to bring more residents in its fold. It was also decided to create a What's App for its members to receive complaints of different areas of the colony on mobile. The meeting decided to hold monthly meetings on a fixed day for interaction.

Earlier, the meeting deeply mourned the demise of Lal Man Khajuria and recalled his services. Two-minute silence was observed in his memory.

CM reviews key hydro power projects, emphasizes timely execution

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of major hydro and solar power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, with a sharp focus on accelerating execution timelines and resolving bottlenecks.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Power Development Department Rajesh H Prasad, Managing Directors Jammu/Kashmir Power Corporation Limited and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of key power projects



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

ects including the 1856 MW Sawalkote Hydro Electric Project, 93 MW New Ganderbal HEP, 48 MW Lower Kalnai HEP, and the 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore.

The arrears on account of outstanding electricity bills of commercial power consumers was also discussed and the power development department gave details of

steps being taken for recovery and expected revenue protection in case of schemes that would be proposed by the department for recovery of arrears.

While reviewing the New Ganderbal and Lower Kalnai hydro projects, both of which have seen prolonged delays due to contractual and financial challenges, the Chief Minister

directed the concerned departments to explore viable alternatives to expedite implementation. He emphasized the need for timely decision-making to prevent further cost escalation and energy shortfalls.

The 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore, being implemented through SECI, was also reviewed. The Chief Minister instructed for a

cost-benefit analysis in light of existing solar tariffs and to put the idle land available at Pampore to productive use for the solar project.

The meeting also deliberated on the Draft Hydro Power Policy 2025, which aims to replace the 2011 policy and open new avenues for private investment through Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. The policy includes transparent allotment mechanisms, financial incentives, streamlined clearances, and guaranteed power off-take-all designed to making investments in renewable energy more inviting. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his government's commitment to sustainable development, clean energy, and inclusive growth.

Rare Jawbone Fusion Deformity successfully operated at AIIMS Jammu

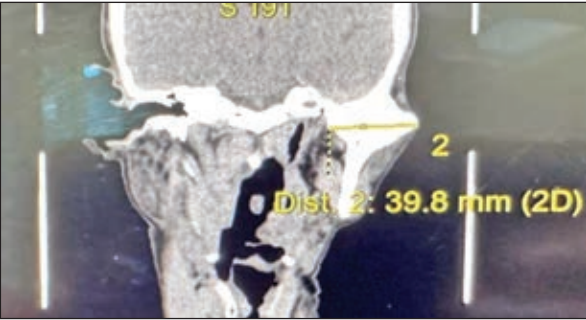
Elderly Patient with Severe TMJ Ankylosis Undergoes Life-Changing Surgery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A rare and technically demanding case of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) ankylosis, involving a 4-centimeter bony fusion between the mandibular condyle and the skull base, was successfully treated at the Department of Oral and maxillofacial Surgery, AIIMS Jammu, bringing significant relief and renewed function to an elderly patient who had been living with jaw immobility and pain for years.

The 62-year-old patient presented with an inability to open the mouth completely, resulting from a large, abnormal bone mass (approximate size 4 cm) fusing the lower jaw to the skull base-an extremely rare and debilitating form (Type IV Sawhney's classification) of TMJ ankylosis.

After thorough clinical and radiological evaluation, the surgical team proceeded with an interpositional arthroplasty with buccal fat pad, where the fused bone was removed and a



soft tissue graft placed to prevent recurrence.

Post-surgical recovery has been smooth, and the patient is now able to open the mouth and eat soft foods, with ongoing physiotherapy to support long-term function.

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery team carried out the surgery under the leadership of Dr. Amarjot Kaur and her team members, Dr. Nandkishor, Dr. Vishvajeet, and Dr. Rupinder, with careful dissection around critical structures, including the facial nerve, skull base, and maxillary artery.

She said, "The case was especially challenging due to

the massive extent of the ankylosis and patient age. This achievement was made possible through the visionary support and encouragement of the ED and CEO, Prof. (Dr)Shakti Kumar Gupta, whose continued emphasis on advanced surgical care and infrastructure has enabled teams to undertake high-end procedures.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Gupta said, "This case reflects the caliber of clinical expertise and collaboration we are building at AIIMS Jammu. It is our mission to bring cutting-edge, patient-centric care to the region, and I commend the surgical, anes-

thesia, and support teams for their exemplary effort in managing such a rare and technically complex condition."

The surgery was also made possible by the expert involvement of the Department of Anaesthesiology, led by Dr. Kanika Gupta and Dr. Sandeepika Dogra and their team members (Dr Anu and Dr Marvi) who skillfully managed a difficult airway scenario due to limited mouth opening-a common challenge in TMJ ankylosis cases. Safe induction and extubation in such patients require advanced planning and expertise, and their contribution was instrumental in ensuring a smooth intraoperative course.

The team also acknowledges the leadership of Prof. Saurabh K Gupta, whose mentorship played a central role in the case's success. Reflecting on the case, he stated, "This surgery is a landmark not just for our department but for the entire institute. It reflects our com-

mitment to restoring function and dignity to patients suffering from rare and debilitating conditions. I'm proud of the team for handling such a technically demanding case with precision and compassion."

"This case is a true example of multidisciplinary teamwork and institutional synergy," said Dr. Kaur. "From OT scheduling to anaesthesia, postoperative care, and physiotherapy-each component was critical. We are grateful for the enabling environment created by our Director Sir, MS Sir, and all departments involved."

AIIMS Jammu continues to emerge as a premier center of excellence in surgical and medical care, offering cutting-edge diagnostics and advanced interventions across specialties. The institute remains committed to pushing the frontiers of clinical innovation while delivering compassionate, comprehensive, and patient-centered care to the region.

Smartphone recovered from prisoner in Jammu's central jail, police lodges FIR

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security personnel on Wednesday recovered a smartphone from an undertrial prisoner in the central jail on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said.

According to officials, based on a tip-off a search was conducted leading to the recovery of the phone in the jail in Kot Bhalwal area. Police seized the device and a case has been registered at the Gharota police station.

The device has been sent to a forensic laboratory and an investigation has been launched into how the smartphone reached the undertrial in such a high-security prison, which is guarded by three-tier security by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel.

Kot Bhalwal jail houses more than 1000 prisoners, including terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad outfits.

It is not the first time that a mobile phone has been

recovered from Kot Bhalwal jail. On January 10 last year, a smartphone was recovered from the possession of a jailed terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

In July 2021, police recovered 12 mobile phones, SIM cards, and other electronic gadgets from the possession of some inmates in the prison.

Police had recovered some mobile phones and SIM cards from three terrorists, including top Jaish-e-

Mohammad (JeM) commander Abdul Rehman Mughal of Pakistan, in April 2020.

During a raid in 2019, police recovered a large number of mobile phones and SIM cards. In 1999, nearly a dozen Pakistani terrorists had dug a 100-foot underground tunnel from their barrack in an attempt to escape, but they were caught by jail officials when they were hardly four or five feet away.

Labour Com urges strict compliance with Payment of Bonus Act 1965

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir, S. Charandeep Singh on Wednesday called upon all employers and establishments across the Union Territory to strictly

plus exists, while the maximum bonus can go up to 20% depending on profits.

The Labour Commissioner emphasized that timely and correct disbursement of bonus is not merely a



legal obligation but also an important measure to boost worker morale and foster a collaborative work environment. He urged all employers covered under the Act to ensure that bonus payments are made well within the prescribed time limits, as stipulated under Section 19 of the Act, and that proper records are maintained for audit and verification purposes.

Employers have been cautioned that non-compliance with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act may attract legal consequences, including penalties and imprisonment under Section 28 of the Act. The Labour Department will be closely monitoring the compliance status of establishments and taking necessary action wherever violations are found.

The Department of Labour, J&K, remains committed to safeguarding the interests of workers and ensuring that labour laws are effectively implemented across all sectors. Employers and employees are encouraged to remain informed about their rights and responsibilities under the Act.

Spiritual discourse on 'Mastering Life and Mind' by Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Maharaj held at IIM Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the aegis of Anandam - The Centre for Happiness, in collaboration with GIEO Gita Sansthanam, hosted a spiritually uplifting session titled "Mastering Life and Mind" by the Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj at its Jagti Campus. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

The session was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North; Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East; Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA, Akhnoor; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG, Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; along with Ajay, Manveer, and Gagan Sharma.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Anandam; Brigadier Neeraj Soni, Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Dr. Mamta Tripathi, Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Dr. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultant; Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Co-Chairperson, Placements, IIM Jammu; CA Rajat Jain, FA-CAO and Cmdr. Kesavan Baskkaran, CAO, IIM Jammu.

Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj shared that the Bhagavad Gita is a universal guide-meant not just for saints, but for every seeker navigating the complexities of life. Reflecting on Arjuna's inner conflict at



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu honouring Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj.

Kurukshetra, he described the Gita as the voice of divine consciousness, guiding us toward dharma, inner peace, and self-realization.

He drew a parallel between Arjuna's inner conflict and the dilemmas of modern life, awakening the audience to the living conscience of the Gita's teachings as a guide for navigating today's challenges with clarity and purpose. He urged the youth to rise above ego and material attachments, embrace karma yoga, and live a life rooted in righteousness.

True fulfillment, he said, lies not in

pratishta (recognition), but in prapti (spiritual attainment) and selfless service.

"To master life, one must first master the mind," he affirmed.

Highlighting initiatives like "Ghar Ghar Gita" and Gita-based curricula with various state governments, Swamiji envisioned bringing the Gita's light into every home-not as a religious teaching, but as a timeless path to clarity, character, and compassion. He concluded by invoking India's eternal role as Vishwaguru, calling upon the youth to uphold the nation's

spiritual legacy and serve humanity with wisdom, devotion, and courage.

Prof. Sahay emphasized that the Institute remains deeply committed to its vision of holistic student development, where academic rigor is thoughtfully integrated with inner awakening, emotional well-being, and character building. He underscored that India's rich civilizational and cultural heritage positions it to once again emerge as Vishwaguru-a spiritual guide for the world.

Aligning with the visionary aspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a Viksit Bharat, he reflected that true national progress must be rooted in individual transformation and values-driven education.

Recollecting IIM Jammu's spiritual journey, he highlighted that Anandam - The Centre for Happiness was inaugurated by the then Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', in the gracious presence of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of the Art of Living Foundation. This, he noted, is a testament to the Institute's unwavering focus on nurturing value-based leadership, cultural consciousness, and holistic growth.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Anandam - The Centre for Happiness, IIM Jammu. The vote of thanks was delivered by Chetan Wanchoo and event culminated with a prayer.