

Dr Jitendra holds Public Durbar, announces AIIMS Jammu Outreach Centre for Basohli

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BASOHLI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today held a nearly three-hour long Public Durbar at Basohli in district Kathua, as part of his continued outreach efforts to engage directly with citizens and local representatives, not only at district level but also at Tehsil, block and Panchayat level.

The entire district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner, Rakesh Minhas and senior officers of various departments like PWD, PHE, Education Health, PMGSY etc were present to facilitate grievance redressal on the spot and ensure prompt action.

In a major announcement during the Durbar, Dr Jitendra Singh announced the setting up of an AIIMS Jammu Outreach Centre at Basohli, addressing a long-pending demand of the region.

The facility, AIIMS Outreach Centre, the Minister said, will ensure



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh holding a Public Durbar and interacting with local people at Basohli on Saturday.

24x7 availability of super-speciality doctors and surgeons as well as Emergency services. He informed that discussions are already underway between AIIMS Jammu authorities and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to finalise the location and to put in place a roster system for specialist medical personnel to serve the new branch. Director AIIMS Vijaypur Jammu, Dr Shakti Gupta had updated him about it this morning also, he said.

A separate district for Basohli -Billawar is top on our agenda, said Dr Jitendra Singh and will be pursued vigorously whenever the J&K government sets up the next District

Reorganisation Committee. About Basohli being notified as a Heritage town, the Minister informed that the UT authorities have been asked to send a proposal in a proper format so that it can be taken up at the Centre.

During the public interaction, Dr Jitendra Singh listened patiently to the grievances and demands raised by individual citizens and public delegations. Several issues were resolved on-the-spot, while in other cases, the Minister issued directions to the concerned district officials for swift and time-

During today's Public Durbar, the administration also provided the Union Minister with the updates on several pending matters that

were raised in previous such public interactive meetings. He assured the attendees that he would personally monitor the progress of the issues brought to light today and ensure that the district administration acts upon them without delay.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized that elected representatives have a responsibility not only to solve the genuine issues of the people but also to make them feel available, heard and cared for. "The Public Durbar initiative is one of the most effective means of strengthening the bridge between the people and their government," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh also announced the widening of the Dhar Road, a key move to ensure smooth and secure movement of commuters as well as security forces given its strategic significance. In addition, he informed the gathering that the much-anticipated Ujh Multipurpose Project is being revived. Apart from enhancing irrigation and power generation capacities, the project will also serve a critical security role, as the region has been iden-

tified as vulnerable to cross-border infiltration.

Reiterating the commitment of the NDA Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that the aim is to deliver transparent and efficient governance to the doorstep of every citizen, transcending the barriers of region, caste, or political affiliation. He said these public outreach programmes are driven by the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

The Public Durbar witnessed the presence of a cross-section of the society, including Panchayati Raj Institution members, civil society representatives, and local youth.

Dr Jitendra Singh has been consistently touring the Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Parliamentary constituency in recent months, taking the governance model closer to the people by interacting with them in such forums.

The Minister underlined that such initiatives help reinforce the people's faith in responsive and accountable administration.



BIG FM hosts 'Doc You Rock' Awards in Jammu to honour medical fraternity



Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh being honoured during the event at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a heartfelt tribute to the unwavering commitment of healthcare professionals, BIG FM, one of India's leading radio networks, hosted the prestigious 'Doc You Rock - Saviours of Life' Awards in Jammu. Cambridge Blanket was the Title Partner, while the event was presented by J&K Bank.

Held at Taj Vivanta, the ceremony was graced by the Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who felicitated 24 of the region's most distinguished doctors and event partners for their outstanding service to the community.

The event brought together leading figures from the healthcare, media, and corporate sectors to celebrate the selfless spirit of the medical fraternity.

The doctors honoured for their relentless dedication included Dr. Gaurav Vaid, Dr. Harleen Kour, Dr. Nadeem Niyaz Jan, Dr. Sashank Sharma, Dr. Akhil Gupta, Dr. Vikas Heer, Dr.

Rachna Dhani Singh, Dr. Furqan Ahmed Nizami, Dr. Reubina Singh, Dr. Chander Mohan, Dr. Ravinder Singh Ghai, Dr. Ankur Goel, Dr. A.S. Bhatia, Dr. Neeraj Koul, Dr. Nigam Gupta, Dr. Varinder Sharma, Dr. Chander Sheikh Sharma, Dr. Dushyant Choudhary, Dr. Ratnakar Sharma, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Dr. Satish Kumar Badyal, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, and Dr. R.P. Khudyar.

Dr. R.P. Khudyar was specially honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his exemplary contribution to the field of medicine.

As part of the initiative, BIG FM ran a week-long special on-air campaign featuring a dedicated one-hour morning segment where listeners shared emotional thank-you messages, songs, and poetry for their doctors. The campaign also showcased engaging conversations between BIG FM RJ's and doctors, highlighting their passions beyond medicine,

such as music, painting, gardening, and social work offering a rare and personal glimpse into the lives of those who dedicate themselves to the care of others.

Speaking about the initiative, Sunil Kumaran, COO, BIG FM, said, "At BIG FM, we are driven by a purpose to celebrate real-life heroes who inspire change. 'Doc You Rock - Saviours of Life' is our tribute to the compassionate individuals who go beyond the call of duty every single day. This initiative was about acknowledging not just their medical excellence, but the human spirit they embody."

The evening witnessed the gracious presence and support of Susheel Juneja and Harjeet Singh (MD, Cambridge Blankets), Sunit Kumar (Divisional Head, J&K Bank), Dr. M.M. Mathavan (SMVD Narayana Hospital), Sanjeev Gupta (Mahavir Watch Co.)Ujjwal (GM, Taj Vivanta), and Vivek Sharma (Bureau Chief, State Times), who lauded the initiative and expressed solidarity with the medical community.

AIIMS Jammu launches Neurosurgical Operative Services with successful Brain Tumor Surgery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The AllIndia Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu proudly announces the commencement of neurosurgical operative services, marking a significant milestone in advanced healthcare for the region.

The Department of Neurosurgery successfully performed its inaugural complex brain tumor surgery on July 2, 2025, on a patient diagnosed with a left-sided glioma-a challenging tumor located adjacent to critical brain areas responsible for speech and right-sided body movements.

The surgical team, led by Dr. Shaurya Darbari and Dr.Kanav Gupta, meticulously planned the procedure over a week, ensuring the safest operative approach.

Utilizing cutting-edge technologies and collaborative expertise, the team achieved complete tumor removal. The patient emerged from surgery with preserved speech and motor functions and is expected to be discharged in a few days.

This landmark surgery was made possible through seamless collaboration with the Department of Radiology, led by Dr. Gita Devi and Dr. Ankit Prabhakar, who provided high-resolution imaging for precise operative planning and navigation.

The Department of Anesthesiology, under the leadership of Dr. Sunana Gupta and supported by



Dr. Slomi Gupta, Dr. Raksha Kundal, and Dr. Kanika Gupta, ensured patient safety throughout the procedure and in the immediate postoperative period in the ICU.

Dr. Shaurya Darbari, Head of Neurosurgery at AIIMS Jammu, commented, "Our department is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies,

including neuronavigation, ultrasonic aspirator, ICP and TCD monitoring, neuromonitoring, and intraoperative ultrasound, making neurosurgeries of the brain and spine safer and more effective. With the initiation of emergency neurosurgical services, patients in the region can now be treated within the 'golden hour', potentially saving countless lives. I would especially like to thank our patients and their families for placing their faith in our team and our institution. Their trust inspires us to continue striving for excellence in patient care."

Alongside elective surgeries, the Department of Neurosurgery has also commenced emergency and trauma services, providing timely treatment for all cranial and spinal emergencies, including trauma cases.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, added, "This is a historic milestone for AIIMS Jammu. Until now, patients with neurosurgical ailments had to travel long distances to centers like AIIMS Delhi or PGI Chandigarh. Now, world-class neurosurgical care is available at their doorstep, fulfilling our commitment to accessible and advanced healthcare for all."

AIIMS Jammu remains committed to advancing medical excellence and serving the community with compassion, expertise, and innovation.

DM Jammu visits Pargwal, reviews functioning of Revenue Dept

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, on Saturday conducted an official visit to Pargwal Tehsil, during which he reviewed the functioning of the Revenue Department and inspected ongoing field activities. As part of his visit, the DM toured several villages to assess public service delivery and issued on-spot instructions to concerned officers for improved efficiency and responsiveness. He emphasized the need for proactive governance and effective public interface.

During the tour, the District Magistrate Jammu also inspected a Fair Price Shop under the Department of Food,



Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs. He directed Tehsildar Pargwal, Manjeet Singh to seal the shop for floating the norms. Acting promptly on the instructions, the Tehsildar Pargwal sealed the Fair Price Shop on the spot.

He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Jammu, Rajesh

Kumar and Sub Divisional Magistrate Marh Athar Amin Zargar, who were also present during the visit and contributed to the departmental review. The visit concluded with reaffirmed commitments towards strengthening field-level administration and addressing local concerns with prompt redressal.

Welfare measures boosted morale of Waqf Board employees: Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi participated in the programme organised by Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Consolidated Employees Group at Dargah Hazratbal on Saturday.

This program was organised to felicitate Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and the Management of Waqf Board for the recent wages hike and other welfare measures for the staff and the engages of the Board.

On the occasion, Waqf Chairperson was honoured for her impactful and visionary leadership and bold decision making which transformed the



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi & the Board Management during felicitation by the Consolidated Employees Group of Waqf Board.

entire working system of the Waqf Board resulting in the development and infrastructural boost at places places of importance throughout Jammu & Kashmir.

Waqf Board Members Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem and Peer Syed Mohammed

Haqqani & the Executive Magistrate Ishtiaq Mohiuddin were also honoured for their contribution in the Board.

Gulistan News Head Ishtiaq Gowhar and KNS Correspondent Tassaduq Rashid were also felicitated by the employees body.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Darakhshan said that after strengthening the general management and financial system of the Board, we undertook many reformative steps for development and upgradation of complexes of the Sufi shrines in whole of the union territory.

"We took a decision to enhance the salaries and remuneration of all categories of employees who were serving on the emoluments not revised for decades. We followed all norms to hike the salaries. Welfare measures boosted the morale of the Waqf Board employees & engages", said Darakhshan.

She hailed the unanimous efforts of the Board and the staff for working as a dedicated team.

"Many big things are in the plans, soon to be executed. We will not rest and will put in our collective efforts to contribute for the further upgradation of our entire Waqf System throughout J&K", said the Chairperson.

Insertions made in Preamble of COI violate 'Doctrine of Basic Structure' or instead better reflect basis spirits enshrined in COI?

■ DAYA SAGAR

Parliament's authority to amend the Constitution, particularly the chapter on the fundamental rights of citizens, was challenged as early as in 1951. After independence, several laws were enacted with the objective of reforms like land ownerships / special supports so socially and economically weaker people & areas keeping in view socialistic spirits of the Constitution/ Article 39 (b) (c) of the Directive Principles of State Policy/ prevention of concentration of wealth in the hands of a few but citizens like the owners of properties/Zamindaars/large land owners affected by such laws went to courts under protections provided in constitution where in some cases the land reforms laws were struck down by courts naming the laws as violating that the fundamental right to property, Upset by unfavorable judgments Parliament amended the constitution using Art 368 and placed such laws even in the Ninth Schedule of the

Constitution through amendments like the First Constitution Amendment Act of 1951 and Fourth Amendment Act of 1954 making them free from the scope of judicial review.

In Sankari Prasad Singh Deo vs Union of India 1952 and Sajjan Singh vs Rajasthan 1955, the Supreme upheld that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution including fundamental rights. But the dissent of two dissenting judges in Sajjan Singh vs Rajasthan case raised the questions about dangers of the fundamental rights at some occasion becoming play way of the majority party/ group in Parliament..

Not only that In 1967 an eleven-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivering its 6:5 majority judgement in the Golaknath v. State of Punjab case Chief Justice Subba Rao put forth the curious position that Article 368, that contained provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution, merely laid down the amending procedure and Article 368 did not confer upon Parliament the power to

amend the Constitution and the amending power (constituent power) of Parliament arose from other provisions as contained in the Constitution (Articles 245, 246, 248) which gave it the power to make laws (plenary legislative power). Thus, the apex court held that the amending power and legislative powers of Parliament were essentially the same. Therefore, any amendment of the Constitution must be deemed law as understood in Article 13 (2). The majority judgement invoked the concept of implied limitations on Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. This view held that the Constitution gives a place of permanence to the fundamental freedoms of the citizen. In giving the Constitution to themselves, the people had reserved the fundamental rights for themselves. Article 13, according to the majority view, expressed this limitation on the powers of Parliament. In a way



A Look through the Mist Part-II

the apex court held that some features of the Constitution lay at its core and required much more than the usual procedures to change them.

So far the Indian Constitution has been amended 105 times by Parliament of India using constituent power resting in Art -368. Some of the amendments have been made to explicitly project the spirits/principles enshrined in the 'hearts' of constitution like the insertions made in the text of the Preamble { using/substituting "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic" by Forty-second Amendment Act, 1976, s.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3-1-1977). And using expression/ substituting "unity and integrity of the Nation " by s.2, ibid., for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3-1-1977) by making insertions } and some of the amendments have been made keeping in view implementation of welfare inten-

tions laid down in some articles of the constitution/ directive principles / fundamental rights / like as through The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 June 18 1951 where under Art 15,Art 19, Art 31, Articles 85, 87, 174, 176,341, 342, 372 ,376 were amended and Ninth Schedule was added after 8th Schedule) and 4th Amendment Act (The Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Act, 1955 17 April 1954 where under articles 31, 31A & 305 of, and the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution were amended) . The substitutions made in the text of Preamble of Constitution of India have been very much within the powers of Parliament as laid in Art 368 of COI since the concerned section of the 42nd amendment Act of 1976 have very much within the doctrine of basic structure of COI as professed in The 13 Judge - Bench (Chief Justice S. M. Sikri, Justice J.M.Shelat, Justice K.S. Hegde, Justice A.N.Grover, Justices A.N. Ray, Justice P. Jaganmohan Reddy, Justice D.G. Palekar, Justice

H.R. Khanna, Justice K.K. Mathew, Justice M.H. Beg, Justice S.N. Dwivedi, Justice A.K. Mukherjee and Justice Y.V. Chandrachud) Judgment of Supreme Court of India delivered on 24 April 1973 in Kesavananda Bharati Vs State of Kerala (His Holiness Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalavaru etc. v. State of Kerala and another etc. Writ Petitions Nos.135/70, 351-52i-73-74) which had held that Parliament has powers to amend the Constitution using Art- 368 but the Parliament cannot go beyond disturbing the basic structure of the Constitution of India and all amendments made to constitution are subject to judicial review.

So insertions made in Preamble are genuine , out of fair need and also subject to judicial review too so better take the issues for judicial review. Secularism is for the Government to practice and for the individual citizens at their personal level.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs)