

LG reviews progress of PM TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in J&K UT



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a high-level meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SSRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Baseer UI Haq Chaudhary, Mission Director, NHM J&K; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Medical & Health institutions and senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the strategies and

actionable plans aimed at accelerating TB case detection, improving treatment outcomes, identifying challenges, and ensuring inter-departmental coordination to achieve the national goal of TB elimination.

The Lieutenant Governor called for collaborative efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis. "TB Mukh Jammu Kashmir should be our common goal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor desired the use of various forms of media for generating awareness about all the aspects of TB. He also exhorted the Health Department to ensure that its field functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme. This must

include close monitoring of all TB patients so that they regularly consume prescribed medicines and do not become drug resistant. Use of IEC in the form of daily SMS and phone calls to the patients for ensuring that they do not miss their daily dose of medicine, was also stressed upon.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Health Department to make all efforts for ensuring the availability of diagnostic machines including CBNAAT and TrueNat across the length and breadth of the UT.

"This would go a long way in increasing the testing of patients and screening of the population with the aim of achieving TB Mukh J&K and TB Mukh Bharat at the earliest," the Lieutenant Governor

said. The Lieutenant Governor asked Deputy Commissioners to broaden the IEC and awareness campaigns and take onboard the religious leaders, healthcare professionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

He further directed for mapping of vulnerable populations through screening and testing on priority, enhancing Diagnostics, Treatment, and promoting Early Diagnosis. People should be encouraged to register themselves as Nishay Mitras, he added.

Meeting also discussed the performance of Jammu Kashmir on various Parameters under National

TB Elimination Programme, achievements registered under TB Mukh Panchayat Initiative, Media workshops for TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, saturation of Ayushman Bharat Golden cards, procurements of treatment and testing equipment.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education gave a detailed presentation on District wise status of Treatment Outcome, Presumptive TB Testing and Strategic Plan activities being implemented across the UT.



'Backward District narrative transformed to Aspirational District'

Dr Jitendra inaugurates 'Youth Innovation Hub' in Rajasthan's Dholpur district

STATE TIMES NEWS

DHOLPUR: In a bid to bridge the gap between science and society, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday inaugurated the "Science Centre" in the Aspirational District of Dholpur in Rajasthan, positioning it as a "Youth Innovation Hub" in the region.

The Minister also highlighted how PM Narendra Modi had transformed the "Backward District" narrative to "Aspirational District".

Addressing a large gathering of students, teachers, and local officials, Dr. Jitendra said the Centre, developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in partnership with the National Institute of Immunology (NII) and the National Science Centre, is part of a broader national initiative to establish science museums in aspirational districts across India.

"This is not merely an infrastructure project. It is a mission to inspire scientific thinking and to empower the children of Dholpur to dream big-whether it's solving a local problem or reaching for the stars," Dr. Jitendra said.

The Dholpur Science Centre, located in one of India's aspirational districts, is designed to provide hands-on science experiences through interactive exhibits, STEM-based learning modules, and a platform for young minds to explore innovation and local entrepreneurship. According to officials, the Centre embodies the government's 'Vigyan



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the inauguration of the "Science Centre" in the Aspirational District of Dholpur in Rajasthan on Tuesday.

Setu' concept-a bridge connecting scientific institutions with under-served regions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the DBT's BioE3 vision-Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment-which aims to use biotechnology as a tool for rural empowerment and sustainable growth. He noted that the same spirit runs through the Centre in Dholpur, which will also facilitate capacity building for potential startups emerging from smaller towns.

Recounting India's recent scientific achievements, including astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's participation in the Axiom Mission-4 to the International Space Station, the Minister said such milestones are a reminder to young Indians that "science can take you anywhere-from your village to outer space."

In a candid and often humorous address that struck a chord with the young audience, Dr. Jitendra recalled how children's curiosity and confidence had evolved over the years. "Gone are the days when students hesitated to approach seniors. Today, they are confidently explaining exhibits to ministers and experts. That's the shift we need to nurture," he said.

driving India's innovation ecosystem, he cited that over 60% of startups are now emerging from such regions, including towns like Dholpur.

He urged educational institutions and policymakers to integrate flexibility in science education, drawing attention to the National Education Policy which now allows students to change subjects based on aptitude and interest. "We must remove barriers that prevent students from pursuing what they are truly passionate about," he added.

Officials from DBT, the Rajasthan government, and scientific institutions were present at the event, which also featured live demonstrations and science-based models created by school students. The Minister praised the efforts of students who explained complex scientific concepts with confidence and clarity.

The Centre, which is expected to host a variety of science-based activities in the coming months, will also promote community outreach and awareness programs in partnership with local schools.

The inauguration of the Dholpur Science Centre aligns with the Government of India's push to democratize access to scientific resources and promote a culture of inquiry and innovation across all regions, particularly those historically underserved.

As Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded, "This is your Science Centre. Own it, explore it, and let it shape your dreams."

JU's Baderwah Campus unites Global Experts in Ladakh to address climate crisis in Indian Himalayas

STATE TIMES NEWS

LADAKH: The 3rd International Expedition to the Western Himalayas has commenced with the launch of a 10-day International Summer School on "Confronting the Climate Challenge in the Indian Himalayas: Pathways to Resilience."

Organized by the Department of Environmental Studies, PGDAV (M) College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with CISMHE (University of Delhi) and the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment, Baderwah Campus (University of Jammu), the event runs from July 5 to 15, 2025, with a special focus on Ladakh.

The on-site academic initiative is supported by global experts, including a delegation from HSE University, Saint Petersburg, Russia. The goal is to develop community-driven models for climate resilience in one of the world's most ecologically sensitive regions-the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

The Summer School brings together climate scientists, policy experts, professors, and local stakeholders to examine the escalating climate threats facing Ladakh. Key issues being tackled include glacial retreat, erratic weather, water insecurity, and the threat posed by unchecked development to traditional livelihoods and biodiversity.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of



JU's Baderwah Campus faculty with Global Experts at Ladakh.

Baderwah Campus, called for policy grounded in rigorous, on-ground research in mountain ecosystems.

Prof. Darvinder Kumar, Principal of PGDAV College, emphasized grassroots data collection and methodological integrity to ensure the research has actionable outcomes.

Prof. Vandana Mishra, Director of CISMHE, outlined three core achievements of the Indo-Russian partnership: the promotion of climate resilience through field research, the use of traditional governance for sustainable farming, and the strengthening of academic ties via student exchanges and joint funding.

Prof. Alexander, Dean, School of Social Sciences, HSE University, stressed blending traditional knowledge with scientific research for long-term sustainability in

vulnerable zones like Ladakh.

Workshop Convener Dr. Pardeep Singh echoed this sentiment, urging integration of indigenous practices into modern climate policies.

Organizing Secretary Dr. Chhering Tandup highlighted the importance of holding climate dialogues directly in the region to ensure they reflect the lived experiences of local communities. Dr. Richa Agarwal Malik shared that field investigations are focusing on local awareness, community adaptation strategies, and administrative support.

Distinguished contributors including Dr. Chander Pal Singh, Dr. Chhetan Chhoidub, and Dr. Dimitri Omelchenko also enriched the collaborative event, which serves as a vital model for global-local partnerships to combat climate challenges in fragile mountain environments.

Devyani Rana assures public to take up toll deferment matter at Sua No 1 Toll Plaza in Nagrota Constituency



Vice President BJYM J&K, Devyani Rana speaking at public meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

MALPURI: Vice President J&K Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM J&K), Devyani Rana, today assured people of Nagrota constituency to take up the matter of proposed toll collection at the upcoming Sua No. 1 Toll Plaza on the Jammu-Akhnor National Highway (NH-144A).

Interacting with public at Malpur in Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Rana acknowledged the concerns among

local residents and daily commuters that the establishment of another toll plaza within a short distance of barely 20 to 22 kilometers from the already operational Sohanjana Toll Plaza on the Jammu Ring Road will put an additional financial burden on the road users and impact the accessibility and affordability of intra-district travel.

Rana acknowledged concerns of the residents over the establishment of a second toll collection point within

Nagrota constituency, after the Ban Toll Plaza, as they commute regularly for work, education, and essential services across the constituency.

Rana assured the public that the matter will be brought to the attention of the concerned for a comprehensive review over the toll collection process at Sua No 1. A balanced and people-centric approach has been the guiding philosophy of the pro-people government at the Centre, she maintained.

DLSA organises CBP on 'Child protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Legal Services Authority Jammu (DLSA), under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and in collaboration with UNICEF on Tuesday organized One Day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on "Child Protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)" at RMG International School, Jandial Akhnor, Jammu in furtherance to the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

The programme was inaugurated by Y. P. Bourney, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Jammu. The Training programme was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services



Y. P. Bourney, Principal District & Sessions Judge and others at a programme.

Authority Jammu.

The event began with a welcome address by Arushi Shukla, Munsiff/Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee Akhnor who underscored the need for a united and informed approach to child welfare and safety. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child lives in a safe, nurturing, and just environment," said the Chairman, TLSC Akhnor. "Through this capacity building programme, we

aim to strengthen the capabilities of frontline workers and stakeholders to identify risks, respond to child protection issues effectively and educate communities-particularly children-about the dangers of unexploded ordnance."

In the inaugural address, Pr. and District Judge, Jammu Y. P. Bourney emphasized the importance of strengthening child protection mechanisms and raising awareness about the risks posed by explosive ord-

nance, especially in sensitive and vulnerable regions. He also highlighted the need for all stakeholders to adopt a child-centric approach in delivering legal and social services and thanked UNICEF, J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority Jammu for organizing this One Day Training Programme for all the stakeholders who are working in the field of child protection.

The programme brought together a diverse group of participants, including officials from Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu, members of Child Welfare Committee, members of One Stop Centre, Member of Juvenile Justice Board, District Coordinator from the Chief Education Office Jammu, Members of Special Juvenile Police Unit Officers and Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authority Jammu and Akhnor. It aimed to enhance their understanding and capacities on child rights, protection frameworks, and the critical subject of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.

The sessions were conducted by Three Expert Resource Persons: Syed Mujtaba, Coordinator from UNICEF, who shared global best practices and community-based strategies to address

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in affected regions.

Adv. Deepal Arora, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu, who discussed the legal safeguards available for children and the importance of child-friendly procedures in the justice system.

Vidhi Dubey, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), who spoke on the operational aspects of child protection systems and the role of institutional support in ensuring safety and rehabilitation of children at risk. Pooja Jamwal, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu conducted the whole proceedings of the programme.

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority Jammu extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all dignitaries, guests and participants. In her address, she expressed deep gratitude to the Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chairman of DLSA Jammu for his guidance and presence, which significantly enriched the program.

Later, the interactive programme between the participants and the Resource Persons received an overwhelming response and concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to continue collaborative efforts in securing the rights, safety and well-being of every child in the district.

DC Jammu distributes sanction letters under Mission YUVA; 86 more cases approved

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, on Thursday handed over sanction letters to seven youth entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA scheme at the DC Office.

The beneficiaries will establish small businesses including transport services, general stores and



cosmetics outlets, with financial support provided under the government's flagship initiative.

Highlighting the scheme's impact, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Mission YUVA is a major initiative of the government to support youth in starting their own businesses."

He also noted that 34

cases have been approved so far in the district and awareness and implementation activities are in full swing under his chairmanship of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

Later, a DLIC meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner approved 86 additional cases under the scheme.

The meeting was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Deputy Director Employment Sunaina Saini, Assistant Director Employment Mukhlis Ali and representatives from NABARD, JKEDI, DIC and J&K Bank.