

Dr Jitendra launches India’s first indigenous MRI Scanner, underlines affordable healthcare

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a medical breakthrough, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday launched India's first indigenously developed, affordable, lightweight, ultrafast, high field (1.5 Tesla), next generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner.

Dr Jitendra said, as an indigenous MRI scanner is made available, the cost of MRI scanning is expected to reduce considerably for the common man thus allowing a wider access to the otherwise highly priced MRI scans.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launching India's first indigenously developed MRI Scanner at New Delhi.

He said, additionally, the capital investment of procurement of MRI scanners from the international market will be substantially

reduced which in turn will save a lot of foreign exchange, the twin mission objectives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the over-

all objective of Atma Nirbharta in cutting edge diagnostic and therapeutic manufacturing in India.

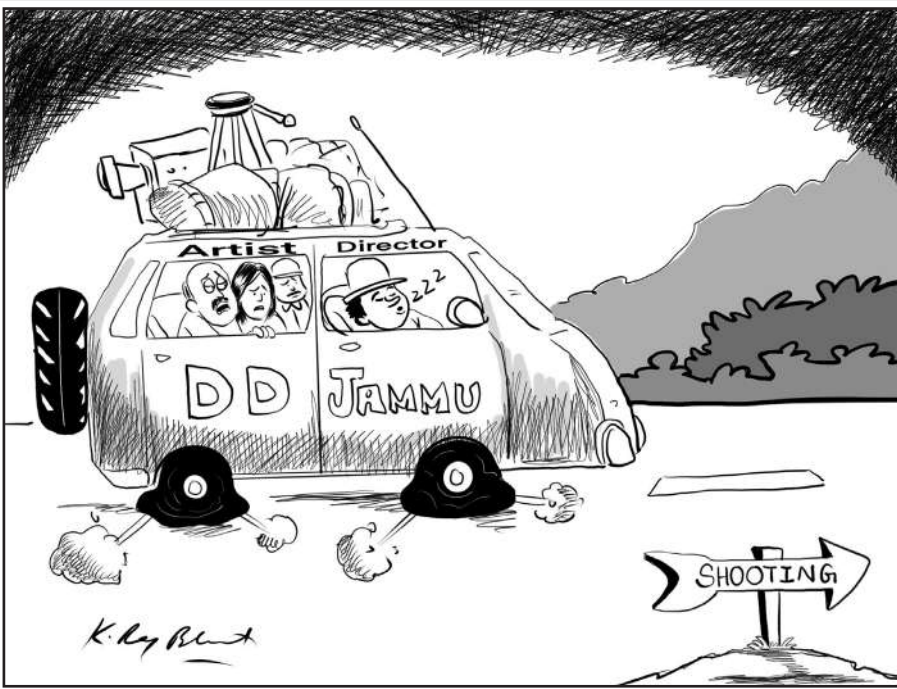
The Minister said, in coming years, there will be "Make in India-Made for the World".

Dr Jitendra said that it is indeed a milestone achievement for National Biopharma Mission (NBM), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as we unveil the first indigenously developed state-of-the-art MRI Scanner under Public-

Private Partnership mode.

The Minister said, India will address many of these problems by making available the first indigenously developed MRI Scanner which is affordable compared to the already available machines.

In his address, Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh Gokhale said that Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through its various programs has made enormous efforts in strengthening the biopharma sector with attention to devices and diagnostics ecosystem India.



Congress emerging as first choice in J&K: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Tuesday said that winds of change are blowing in J&K and Congress is emerging as a first choice in J&K in view of the consistency in its policy and secular credentials.

This was stated by former Minister while addressing people of Balmiki Colony, Gandhi Nagar Bahu constituency.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Block President Pardeep Bhalla Bunt, Kartar Chand, Mangat Ram, Vijay Khajuria Viju, Vinay Kumar, Arvind Sharma, Badal, Azar and Ballu.

Bhalla said that people in Jammu & Kashmir feel cheated from their respective parties whom they voted to majority in 2014.

He said BJP so far has run govt against the wishes of the people and still people expected them to deliver and come up to their expectations, to which they utterly failed because of their vested agenda. Bhalla said BJP badly divided the people on regional and religious lines and vitiated the overall



JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing public meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

social and secular atmosphere besides failed to deal with the security environment and finally left J&K in political uncertainty.

He said that Congress party would always remain steady on its principles of secularism, and equality for all & equitable development of J&K. He exhorted party workers to strengthen the booth units and gear up for all kinds of electoral battles in near future.

He said Congress will continue to fight anti-people policies of the Centre and LG's Administration in J&K UT, besides defeating the challenges faced on various fronts especially, misleading politics of BJP.

"Party is supreme and every worker is bound to fur-

ther strengthen it at grass roots level and serve people as Congress has the legacy of serving and strengthening the people," Bhalla said.

Former Minister said Congress will form next government in Jammu and Kashmir. He said Congress Party is serving people with dedication and without self-interest. Congress leader said he and his party is available for service at people 24x7. He said that Congress is only political force in the country consistently playing role of healthy opposition in the country.

Bhalla said people of Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly, waiting for assembly elections and they will teach a lesson to BJP in J&K.

Interactive session held with stakeholders on promotion of Jammu Tourism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of Tourism Jammu on Tuesday organized an interactive session on the promotion of Jammu tourism with stakeholders, along with a felicitation ceremony for participants of Heritage Walk held on 15th April 2023 during 'Basoa Baisakhi Mahotsav 2023'.

More than 60 participants of Heritage Walk, along with key stakeholders including students, College Professors, Travel Agents, Tour Operators and hoteliers were felicitated at the event. The aim of the event was to fortify the tourism industry and explore innovative strategies to showcase the true beauty and charm of Jammu.

During the interactive session held in the Conference Hall of Tourist Reception Centre Jammu, detailed discussions were held regarding showcasing Jammu's untamed beauty, celebrating its vibrant culture, unveiling historical treasures, and exploring eco-friendly approaches to ensure the preservation and conservation of Jammu's pristine



Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai and Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta felicitating a participant.

environment through sustainable tourism practices.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, highlighted the importance of building a strong network of passionate individuals and organizations committed to making Jammu a prominent destination. He emphasized the need to create an unforgettable experience for travelers while empowering local communities and preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage.

The stakeholders enthusiastically discussed the pivotal role of robust road connectivity in unlocking the potential of tourist destinations and stressed the need for improved infrastructure

to amplify tourism opportunities. Health tourism emerged as a key focal point during the discussions, reflecting the growing trend of travelers seeking wellness-oriented experiences. The potential of home stays was also highlighted, as promotion of local home stays could provide travelers with an enriching glimpse into the community's way of life, traditions, and cuisine, encouraging eco-friendly practices for responsible tourism.

Facilitating familiarization (FAM) tours emerged as a crucial approach to foster greater collaboration among stakeholders in the tourism sector. Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina

Sharma Mehta, reaffirmed a shared commitment to work collectively towards a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive tourism industry. She shared innovative ideas for transformative changes that will propel the tourism sector to new heights. She emphasized that such interactive sessions are important milestones in ongoing efforts to shape the future of tourism, aligning with the broader vision of fostering economic growth, cultural exchange, and environmental preservation. She also stressed on effective implementation of the homestays policy for the larger interest of youth under Mission Youth.

Overall, the event was highly productive, bringing together key stakeholders, tourism industry experts, local authorities, and enthusiasts to foster a collaborative effort in showcasing the true beauty and charm of Jammu. The felicitation ceremony for participants of Heritage Walk and Hotel Jammu Residency added to the celebratory atmosphere of the event, recognizing the contributions of individuals

and organizations in promoting Jammu as a prominent tourist destination.

In addition, travel trade members from the Travel Agents Association of Jammu and the Association of Jammu Travel Agents also attended the event and received certificates. The members who attended from the Travel Agents Association of Jammu were Capt Anil Gaur, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, Narinder Gupta, Ajit Singh, and Sanjay Gupta. The members who attended from the Association of Jammu Travel Agents were Amrik Singh, Shalinder Singh Chib, B B Kotwal, and Ravinder Mahajan.

Among the others who remained present during the event were Deputy Director Tourism, Dr. Umesh Shan; Deputy Director Publicity; Abdul Jabbar; Assistant Director Tourism Jammu, Sughandi Banotra, Assistant Director Batote Mohammad Arif Lone and Assistant Director Katra, Ambika Bali and other officials of the Directorate of Tourism Jammu.

Court issues arrest warrant against MD of Jammu-based newspaper for carrying ‘fabricated’ news report

Mohit Mehra ignores repeated summons of Srinagar police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A local court in Srinagar has issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against managing director of a Jammu-based newspaper for publishing a "false" and "fabricated" news report regarding sale of question papers of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

According to a Srinagar

based news agency, the court on Tuesday directed the police to arrest Mohit Mehra, Managing Director, Jammu Jottings and produce him before SHO Sadder Police Station before August 22, 2023 in connection with investigation of the case registered by police on complaint of SSB.

The Court issued the

non-bailable warrant after SSB approached it, saying that the MD of the newspaper didn't appear before police in connection with investigation of the case despite three notices U/S 41 A CrPC were issued to him.

"The news item published is therefore false, fabricated and malicious, and aimed to tarnish the image

of the Board. The act on part of the daily newspaper has a sense of conspiracy against the Board which has caused criminal intimidation and criminal defamation," the SSB said.

It further said the report was without any iota of investigation and research and same has tendency to cause fear or alarm to the public.

District Disaster Management Committee meet held at Udhampur

Committee approves 54 relief cases amounting to Rs. 43.93 Lakh under SDRF norms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A meeting of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

After threadbare discussion, the Committee approved 54 Relief cases under SDRF and granted ex-gratia relief to the tune of Rs 43,93,700 to the Beneficiaries and victims of Natural Disaster.

During the recent incessant raining, umpteen flash flood/Landslide incidents occurred throughout the District particularly in the hilly areas of District Udhampur, which caused huge damage to the public and private properties as well as the livestock.

The District Administration, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Sachin Kumar Vaishya, all the relief cases were processed promptly and the ex-gratia relief as reckoned in terms of SDRF norms was approved in the

meeting.

During the meeting, the ADC directed all the concerned officers to process all the pending relief cases without any delay and be reported as per the SOP of SDRF.

The meeting was attended by Rafiq Ahmad Jaral(ACR), Alok Gupta (DTO), Er. Mohd Zubair (Executive Engineer PWD) Dr. Anil Manhas (CMO), Arushi Sabharwal (Tehsildar HQ), Jai Singh (Tehsildar Udhampur), Dr. Farhat Bashir (DSHO), and Dr. Suresh Kumar Thappa (DLSDO) and others.

Jammu Sahodaya hosts its first GBM of session 2023-24

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Conference room of Radisson Blu witnessed the congregation of Principals from the CBSE schools of Jammu, Samba, Kathua & Udhampur to attend the General Body Meeting (GBM) of Jammu Sahodaya School Complex (JSSC).

The eminent edu-leaders present on the occasion were KCS Mehta, Mentor JSSC & Academic Director, IDPS Akhnoor; Vijay Puri, Mentor JSSC & Academic Director; Shemford FS; Rajesh Rathore, President JSSC & Principal JK Public School, Kunjwani; Dr. Kunal Anand, Vice President JSSC & Principal, DPS Udhampur; KL Dogra, Secretary Finance JSSC & Principal, MVIS Samba; Ranju Malhotra, Secretary (Media & Info) JSSC & Principal, DBN, Amarvillla; Randeep Wazir, Jt. Secretary JSSC & Principal IDPS Jammu; Dr. Pramod Srivastava, Advisor JSSC & Principal, Model Academy; Rohini Aima, (Jammu Sanskriti School Jammu); Anupama Sinha, (KCIS); Girish Kumar, (Jodhanwal); Neetu Gupta, (SSNS Vidya Mandir); Seema Sambyal, (HPCS); Shuchi Gupta, (Air Force School); Rama Jamwal, (Stephens IPS); Shilpa Mahajan, (Shubh, Akhnoor); Sonia Pawar (SGSD International School Domana); Aparana Kohli, (Birla Open Minds); Arindam Roy Choudhary, (GD



Jammu Sahodaya School Complex members during General Body Meeting at Jammu.

Goenka); Archana Manhas (Springdales); Dr. Vikesh Kaur (Doon IS); Anil Pathania (RMGIS); Sonal Sharma (APS Ratnuchak); Sr. Swati Maria (Carmel Convent); Col VK Sharma (TSUSJ); Akash Pradhan (Heritage School); Neeta Raval (APS BD Bari); Puneet Kour (APS Satwari); Pushpinder Kour (APS Damana); Ruchi Sharma (APS Miran Sahib); Brij Mohan (MHAC Nagbani) and Randeep Kour (Unique IPS).

The General Body Meeting commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Kunal Anand, the Vice President, JSSC & Principal, DPS, Udhampur, followed by a formal introduction of the newly joined member Brij Mohan, Principal, MHAC, Nagbani & Randeep Kour, Offg. Principal, Unique International Public School Jammu.

Then tabled on the floor was the most crucial points of the Agenda, namely, discussion &

deliberation on SQAA framework; deliberation on Circular no. Acad-84/2023 regarding "multilingual education and using mother tongue as a medium of instruction; reflection on Circular no. Acad-85/2023 "one child one plant", encouraging school leaders to participate in the same; Open house discussion on "Skill Education "made compulsory, how to introduce the same in schools, provision in time table, which were discussed at length and brilliant outcomes were tabulated neatly.

In order to empower various stakeholders of JSSC-member schools with the latest educational tools, enshrined in the philosophy of NEP 2020, a three-day Capacity Building programme for Principals, Teachers & Students was proposed by Dr. Pramod Srivastava, Advisor to JSSC. It was very well-received and lauded by one and all.

Another brilliant offering on the cards from Jammu

Sahodaya was the Management Development Program for School Leadership to be organized by Jammu University in collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad on 9th & 10th September. The proposal was skillfully shared by Dr. Kunal Anand, Vice President JSSC.

KL Dogra, Secretary (Finance) JSSC and Principal, MV International School, Samba presented the Income and Expenditure report of the JSSC till date highlighting the balance of payment to be made by the member schools (year-wise) and appealed the members for being very prompt in making their payments.

A comprehensive briefing was made on the topic 'Current status of JSSC website' by Randeep Wazir, Jt. Secretary, JSSC & Principal, IDPS Jammu. She highlighted several innovative features added to the conventional format of Sahodaya website. She

appealed all the members of Jammu Sahodaya to honour the deadlines to submit their articles, reports, photographs etc.

Since the current Executive Committee of JSSC is in the second year of its 2-year Term 2022-24, so following the customary norms, a detailed discussion on the topic 'Format & content of Sahodaya Magazine' was conducted by Ranju Malhotra, Secretary (Media & Information, JSSC). She invoked the august house to be pro-active in meeting out the deadlines timely.

In his Presidential address, Rajesh Rathore, the President JSSC & Principal JK Public School Kunjwani, congratulated the member Principals on designing a visionary roadmap for their schools. He also praised the member Principals of Jammu Sahodaya for extending their best support in hosting the Sahodaya events very efficiently and meticulously. He lauded the profound commitment and unstinted support from the members of the Core Committee & the Executive Committee of JSSC.

At the end, Ranju Malhotra, Secretary (Media & Information), Jammu Sahodaya & Principal, DBN Vidya Mandir, Amarvillla, Jammu proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude on behalf of Jammu Sahodaya to all the fellow Principals for sparing their valuable time and making the GBM extremely successful.

World Lung Cancer Day

Air pollution major cause of Lung Cancer: Experts

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on August 1 since 2012 when it was first marked to raise awareness around the deadly disease, encourage more research on it and break the stigma around the disease. According to the World Cancer Research Fund, there were 2.2 million cases of lung cancer in 2020.

On world lung cancer day, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) said lung cancer cases are on rise among people who have never smoked because of increasing exposure to toxic air.

"Poor air quality is behind spike in lung cancer cases among non-smokers," said DAK President.

He said evidence has shown that polluted air is associated with increased risk of lung cancer which is the most prominent cancer in Kashmir. A new ground breaking study conducted at Francis Crick Institute and University College London has revealed that poor air quality can increase the odds of lung cancer in individuals who do not smoke.

According to experts, Srinagar City has highest incidence of lung cancer in country and Jammu and Kashmir has a huge burden

of chronic lung disease and blamed air pollution as the major risk factor for these diseases.

Experts underscored the importance of intervention at individual and community level and said that we should rethink land use and there should be proper transportation planning to reduce vehicular traffic, besides other practical viable solutions are needed.

Earlier, SKIMS health experts warned, that yearly around ten thousand deaths are attributed to particulate matter 2.5PM exposure and there is need to control it by countering it.

"There is need to create awareness among public that Air Pollution issue is not only in metro cities like Delhi and Maharashtra but also now in Jammu and Kashmir due to increasing number of vehicles, construction, brick kilns cement factories which emit pollutants and significantly pollute our air and effecting our health which makes air pollution a health issue "he said.

Clean air will lead better quality of life and enhances the life expectancy by 9 to 10 years as shown by various studies and has a significant effect on economy as well. Doctors are one of the most trusted professionals

to disseminate information to fellow doctors, media and the masses, he added. Biomass burning in Kashmir is main source of air pollution besides other sources like unregulated establishment of cement factories, brick kilns and overload of vehicular traffic within cities.

Sounding an alarm, experts said around ten thousand deaths in Jammu and Kashmir attributed to air pollution every year.

He said the measures which can contribute to decreasing air pollution include using fewer vehicles, decreasing the use of unleaded petrol, decreasing use of biomass fuels, less use of Kangri, and using vented heaters. He said air pollution is affecting every single organ of the body and "we have work to reduce the pollution."

Health experts said, government is the policy maker and in the recent past good things have happened like plantation on Hari Parbat in Srinagar city from barren to forest land. "There is need to take similar initiative so as to reduce the air pollution. Walking tracks have been constructed is also a good initiative as a part of Smart City Project and there is need to do more small steps so as control air pollution gradually, he said.