

# Dr Jitendra inaugurates India's first 'Animal Stem Cell BioBank' at Hyderabad

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
HYDERABAD: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today inaugurated India's first and the only State-of-the-Art "Animal Stem Cell Biobank" and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory at the "National Institute of Animal Biotechnology" (NIAB), Hyderabad.



Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra inaugurating India's first 'Animal Stem Cell BioBank' at Hyderabad.

laboratory will advance research in disease modeling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology. With support from the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) of DBT-BIRAC, the facility will be expanded to enable biobanking of animal stem cells and their derivatives. The Minister hailed PM Narendra Modi's futuristic vision which had enabled the rolling out of Biotechnology BioE3 policy, thus giving India the advantage of being an early initiator in this area. In addition, during the programme, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched five innovative veterinary diagnostic tools designed to revolutionise animal health management and support the

'One Health' approach: The Minister emphasised that these innovations will boost agriculture-linked GDP, enhance livestock productivity, and pave the way for an "Evergreen Revolution" in the animal husbandry sector. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "I'm glad the entire Department of Biotechnology, under the leadership of Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, is contributing to making India future-ready. We will not lag behind when the next industrial revolution-driven by biotechnology-takes over. The economy will shift from manufacturing to regenerative and genetic processes, and India has already initiated this transition. This is one of the best times, with

enabling support from policymakers, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who understood the long-term relevance of initiatives like the Bio E3 policy." He added that the recently announced ₹1 lakh crore RDI fund under Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund (ANRF) will give a special boost to private sector R&D, enabling India to move from the world's fourth-largest economy towards the top rank. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Department of Biotechnology uniquely integrates the plant, animal, and human worlds under one umbrella. He cited India's contributions to space-based experiments, including collabora-

tions with the Department of Space, and envisioned emerging fields such as space medicine and space physiology. On the sidelines, Dr. Jitendra Singh interacted with farmers, underlining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priority for farmer welfare and rural prosperity. He urged livestock owners to adopt modern diagnostic tools and disease prevention measures, highlighting that early detection not only saves animal lives but also boosts farmers' income.



## Medical Employees Association of Govt SMGS Hospital reconstituted



Newly appointed office bearers of Medical Employees Association of Govt SMGS Hospital.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The employees of SMGS Hospital Jammu on Saturday reconstituted the Medical Employees Association of Govt SMGS Hospital Jammu. Sudesh Kumar Dutta, Technical Officer, Radio-Diagnosis was nominated as Chief Patron; Ajay Kumar Harnal, Sr. Lab Technician as Chairperson; Shakil Ahmed, Sr. Pharmacist as Sr. Vice President and Co-ordinator; Yog Raj Sharma, Staff Nurse as Vice President; Hedayat Ullah, Anaesthesia Attendant as Vice President; Meenakshi Katal, Sr. Staff Nurse, Anamika Sharma, Sr. Staff Nurse, Tahir Iqbal Malik, Sr. Pharmacist, and Meenakshi Chib as General Secretaries; Tilak Raj, Staff Nurse as Secretary;

nominated Harpreet Kour as President of Medical Employees Association of Govt SMGS Hospital, Jammu. Sunita Sharma, Sr Staff Nurse and Suman Lata, Pharmacist, Deepak Koul, MTS as Cashiers; Vijay Kumar, MTS, Jeevan Kumar, Pharmacist and Mustafa Kataria, ECG Technician as Publicity Secretaries; Shalu Chib, Sr. Staff Nurse and Devi Ditta, Sr. X-Ray Technician as Joint Secretaries; Ashok Kumar Anand, Sr Lab Technician as Chief Advisor; Fazal Ahmed, Chief Anaesthesia Technician as Advisor. Other Members include Shamsheer Ali, Chauffeur; Sonia Sharma, Sr. Staff Nurse; Madhavi Pathania,

Saima Naz, Sr. Staff Nurse and Charanjeet Singh Kour, Sr Staff Nurse as Organizing Secretaries; Sunita Sharma, Sr Staff Nurse; Dinakshi Sharma, Sr. Staff Nurse; Sumna Devi, Sr. Staff Nurse; Sapna Koul, Staff Nurse; Shabnam Choudhary, Sr. Staff Nurse; Vikram Singh, Sr. Projectionist; Ajeet Kumar, Pharmacist; Sunny Singh, Pharmacist; Irfan, Pharmacist; Rajan Kumar, Pharmacist; Ikhtlaq, Staff Nurse; Ubaid, Staff Nurse; Ghansham Sharma, Staff Nurse; Raj Kumar, MTS; Tarun, MTS; Irfan, MTS; Rahul Gupta, MTS; Sanjay Kumar, MTS; Methew, MTS; and Harris, Sanitation Worker.

Sr. Staff Nurse; Saima Mushtaq, Sr. Staff Nurse; Seema Dogra, Sr. Staff Nurse; Anita Mangotra, Sr. Staff Nurse; Sheetal Chargotra, Sr. Staff Nurse; Sumna Devi, Sr. Staff Nurse; Sapna Koul, Staff Nurse; Shabnam Choudhary, Sr. Staff Nurse; Vikram Singh, Sr. Projectionist; Ajeet Kumar, Pharmacist; Sunny Singh, Pharmacist; Irfan, Pharmacist; Rajan Kumar, Pharmacist; Ikhtlaq, Staff Nurse; Ubaid, Staff Nurse; Ghansham Sharma, Staff Nurse; Raj Kumar, MTS; Tarun, MTS; Irfan, MTS; Rahul Gupta, MTS; Sanjay Kumar, MTS; Methew, MTS; and Harris, Sanitation Worker.

## NC betrayed J&K again: Khatana tears into Party at Janta Darbar



Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana speaking at Janta Darbar.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana on Saturday held a Janta Darbar in Jammu, where a large number of people from different sections of the society turned up to flag pressing issues ranging from basic civic

amenities to local disputes etc. Residents said their problems had remained unresolved despite repeated approaches to the authorities. Khatana used the occasion to mount a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC) accusing it of cheating people with

false promises and failing to deliver on commitments despite being in power in the Union Territory for the past nine months or so. "Once again, the people of J&K have been let down. There is no progress on even basic issues," he said. The MP alleged that the

NC leadership was more interested in holding power than addressing public concerns and said this approach was hurting the people of J&K. "Their indifference is costing the people dearly," he remarked. Khatana also visited the family of Parvez Ahmad from Javed Nagar, Nikki Tawi, who was recently killed. He offered condolences and assured the family that he would take up the matter at the appropriate level. Reiterating his commitment to public issues, Khatana said he would continue to raise such matters in every forum and seek action from the administration.

## LG Kavinder celebrates Raksha Bandhan with divyans, school girls & sisters serving in Paramilitary Forces

Says today's sisters are no less than brothers in protecting Nation



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta celebrating Raksha Bandhan with sisters serving in Paramilitary Forces.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: Festivals are not merely occasions of joy - they are powerful symbols of unity, love, and mutual respect that bind our diverse society together. On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, celebrated the festival with divyang sisters, young school girls, and women personnel from ITBP and Ladakh Police, honouring the sacred bond of protection and affection between brothers and sisters. Speaking at the celebration held at the LG Secretariat, where rakhis were tied on his wrist by school students and women from the paramilitary forces, the Lt Governor hailed the exemplary role of women serving in remote and challenging regions like Ladakh. "Our sisters in uniform are standing guard at the nation's frontiers, playing the traditional role of

brothers by ensuring the safety and security of citizens. Today's sisters are no less than brothers in their courage and commitment to protect the nation," he remarked. The Lt Governor underscored that Indian festivals like Raksha Bandhan carry a profound message of social harmony, unity in diversity, and shared traditions. "In a land as far and diverse as Ladakh, these celebrations bring together people from every corner of the country, reinforcing the feeling of one big family," he said, adding that even the Prime Minister chooses to celebrate festivals with the armed and paramilitary forces to share moments of joy and camaraderie. Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS, spoke about the historical essence of Raksha Bandhan and the sacred pledge of brothers to protect their sisters from harm. DGP Ladakh Dr. S.D

Singh Jamwal, IPS, described the festival as an enduring part of India's rich cultural heritage that must be passed down to future generations as a cherished legacy. Students from Inclusive School Chuchot Yokma, Nari Niketan Hostel Leh, Council Model School Saboo, and Delhi Public School Leh, along with personnel from ITBP and Ladakh Police, enthusiastically participated in the celebration. Padma Yangdol, a student from DPS Leh, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to tie a rakhi to the Lt Governor and other dignitaries, calling it a memory she would treasure for a lifetime. The event concluded with warm exchanges of blessings, smiles, and festive cheer - a reminder that the bond between brothers and sisters remains unshaken, whether at home or on the nation's frontiers.

## LIC Q1 Results: PAT rises 5% YoY to Rs 10,987 crore, NPI up 5% as well

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ending June 30th, 2025. The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 was Rs. 10,986 crore as compared to Rs. 10,461 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2024 registering a growth of 5.02 per cent. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader in Indian life insurance business with overall market share of 63.51%. For the quarter ended June 30th, 2025, LIC had a market share of 38.76% in Individual business and 76.54% in the Group business. The Total Premium Income for quarter ended June 30th, 2025 was Rs. 1,19,200 crore as compared to Rs. 1,13,770 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2024, registering a growth of 4.77%. The Total Individual Business Premium for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 increased to Rs. 71,474 crore from Rs. 67,192 crore for the comparable period of previous year, showing an increase of 6.37%. The Group Business total premium income for quarter ended June 30th, 2025 was Rs. 47,726 crores as compared to Rs 46,578 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2024, showing an increase of 2.46%. A total of 30,39,709 policies were sold in the individual segment during the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 as compared to 35,65,519 policies sold during the quarter ended June

30th 2024 registering a decline of 14.75%. On an Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) basis, the total premium was Rs. 12,652 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025. Of this 55.81% (Rs. 7,061 crore) was accounted for by the Individual Business and 44.18% (Rs. 5,590 crore) by the Group Business. Within the Individual Business, the share of Par products on APE basis was 69.66% (Rs. 4,919 crore) and balance 30.34% (Rs. 2,142 crore) was due to Non Par products. The Non Par APE has increased from Rs. 1,615 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2024 to Rs. 2,142 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 registering a growth of 32.63%. Therefore, on an APE basis, our Non Par share of Individual business, which was 23.94% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2024 has grown to 30.34% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025. The Value of New Business (VNB) for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 was Rs. 1,944 crore as compared to Rs. 1,610 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2024, registering a growth of 20.75%. The net VNB margin for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 increased by 150 bps to 15.4% as compared to 13.9% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2024. The Solvency Ratio as on June 30th, 2025 increased to 2.17 as against 1.99 on June 30th, 2024. For the quarter ended June 30th, 2025, the persistency ratios on premium basis for the 13th month and 61st month were 75.63% and 63.85%,

respectively. The comparable persistency ratios for the corresponding quarter ended June 30th, 2024 were 78.23% and 61.62%, respectively. For the quarter ended June 30th, 2025, the persistency ratios on number of policies basis for the 13th month and 61st month were 64.35% and 51.12%, respectively. The comparable persistency ratios for the corresponding period ended June 30th, 2024 were 67.81% and 49.39%, respectively. The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to Rs. 57,05,341 crore as on June 30th, 2025 as compared to Rs. 53,58,781 crore on June 30th, 2024 registering an increase of 6.47% year on year. The Overall Expense Ratio for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 was 10.47% as compared to 11.87% for the quarter ended June 30th 2024, registering a decrease of 140 bps. The Yield on Investments on policyholders funds excluding unrealized gains was 8.45% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 as against 8.54% for quarter ended June 30th, 2024. R Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC said, "During the first quarter of this financial year, our overall market share by First Year Premium Income was 63.51% and we maintained our leadership in both Individual and Group Business. Key elements of our strategy like increase in Non Par share in Individual business, increase in VNB margin, increase in Banca share are fully on track. The share of Non Par products within Individual segment, on an APE basis, has increased

to 30.34% in the first quarter of FY26 as compared to 23.94% for the same quarter last year. VNB margin has increased by 150 bps to 15.4% on Year on Year basis, while our expense ratio has declined by 140 bps to 10.47% in this quarter. Our channel mix diversification strategy is visible with the increased share of bancassurance and alternate channels. As at 30th June 2025, more than 1.99 lakh women have

been appointed as Bima Sakhis who have sold more than 3.26 lakh policies during the first quarter of FY26. We look forward to working with the regulatory authorities and various State and District Level Insurance Committees to further increase life insurance penetration in our country. We are focused on launching new products to meet customer needs and further enhancing our customer outreach."

## Balwant Mankotia honoured with Certificate of Appreciation at Global Legislature Conference in Boston, USA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA from Chenani Assembly Constituency, Jammu & Kashmir, has been awarded a prestigious Certificate of Appreciation by the Chairman of NLS Bharat for his exemplary representation of India at the Global Legislature Conference held in Boston, USA. During this three days international event, which brought together lawmakers, policy experts, and thought leaders from across the globe, Mr. Mankotia highlighted the rich cultural heritage and developmental aspirations of Chenani constituency. He presented the unique strengths of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly emphasizing the spiritual and tourism potential of areas such as Katra Mata Vaishno Devi and Patnitop on the global stage. The conference provided a platform for learning the latest techniques in modern politics, identifying emerging global challenges, and exploring new opportunities for international collaboration. Mr. Mankotia actively engaged in sessions focusing on sustainable development, climate resilience, and boosting regional tourism, advocating for inclusive growth and innovation in governance. This recognition is not only a proud moment for Mr. Mankotia but also a matter of honour for the people of Jammu & Kashmir, as it strengthens the voice of the region in international dialogues and paves the way for global exposure and development partnerships.

