

AIIMS Jammu crosses over 100 Cancer Genomic Tests in 3 months, now expanding beyond cancer, boundaries

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The AIIMS Jammu-4baseCare Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine has reached a major milestone by delivering more than 125 patient reports.

The centre was inaugurated on February 2, 2025, by Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology and became fully operationalised since mid-June 2025.

The Centre, a collaborative effort between AIIMS Jammu and Infosys backed Bengaluru-based healthcare company 4baseCare, was set up with a clear mission: to bring world-class genetic testing within reach of Indian patients at more affordable cost.

Until now, advanced genomic tests for cancer were largely sent abroad, costing families anywhere between Rs 3-5 lakh. Even local providers charged Rs 1.5-2.5 lakh for similar comprehensive tests. The new Centre has brought this cost down to almost one-fourth, making it possible for more Indian families to benefit from precision medicine.

At the heart of this effort is IndiGene, India's first population-specific cancer gene



ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof (Dr.) Shakti Gupta and other dignitaries at a programme.

panel, developed through local research and recognized as a Made in India DeepTech innovation. Launched during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, IndiGene ensures that Indian patients receive test results tailored to their unique genetic makeup.

In just three months, the Centre has served patients from 17 states and union territories, covering more than 15 different cancer types, including lung, breast, ovarian, stomach, pancreatic, gall bladder, and head and neck cancers.

At a recent review meeting chaired by Prof (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, the decision was taken to expand the Centre's offerings beyond oncology.

Dr. Gupta noted that India records a large number of

inherited and rare disorders, making it critical for the Centre to address broader healthcare needs.

With this expansion, the Centre will not only provide genomics-based differential diagnosis for rare and inherited diseases but also establish itself as a reference centre for India and neighbouring countries.

The same technology that helps doctors find the right treatment for cancer patients can also help diagnose rare inherited diseases and guide family health planning.

Some of the key areas include:

Women's Health - Carrier screening for couples, newborn screening for early detection of rare genetic disorders, and testing for unexplained infertility or recurrent pregnancy loss.

Brain and Nerves - Genetic insights into epilepsy, developmental delays in children, and rare neurological syndromes.

Heart Health - Identifying inherited heart conditions such as cardiomyopathies and arrhythmias and assessing sudden cardiac arrest risk in young individuals.

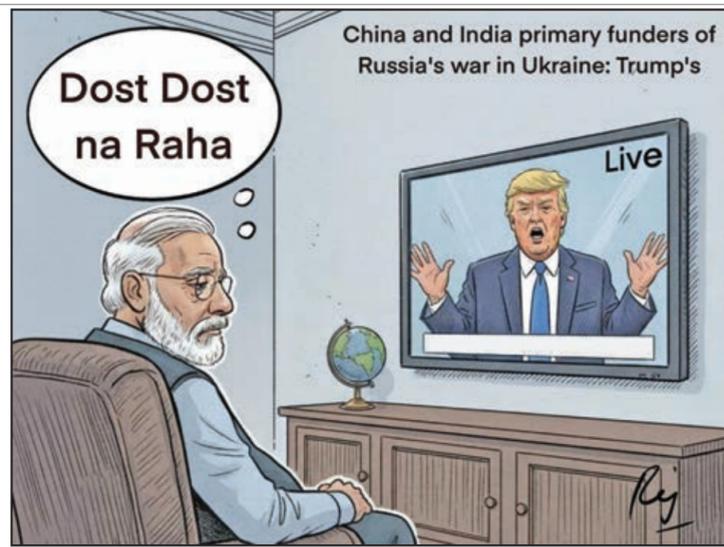
Child Health - Explaining the causes of congenital anomalies, growth delays, and metabolic disorders, helping doctors intervene at the right stage.

Eye Disorders - Testing for inherited eye diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa, congenital blindness, and other hereditary retinal conditions.

By moving into these areas, the Centre is shortening the "diagnostic odyssey"-the years of uncertainty many families face when dealing

with unexplained health issues. Early and accurate diagnosis means better treatment, more informed family planning, and reduced emotional and financial stress.

"This collaboration between AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare shows how public-private partnerships can deliver world-class healthcare at affordable costs," said Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta. "We are proving that Indian innovation can solve Indian problems while matching global standards. With initiatives like this, India is emerging as a global leader in precision medicine-an approach where healthcare is tailored to each person's unique genetic profile rather than a "one-size-fits-all" method," said Hitesh Goswami, Co-founder and CEO, 4baseCare Precision Health Pvt Ltd.



Cancer Screening & Awareness Programme Launched in Kargil LG Kavinder reiterates UT Administration's commitment to strengthen health infrastructure

STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday inaugurated a Cancer Screening and Awareness Programme organised by Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation in collaboration with Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital in Kargil.

The Lt Governor underlined that cancer is one of the major global health challenges of our time and stressed the importance of prevention, awareness, and early detection to save lives.

Highlighting the government's initiatives, Kavinder Gupta said that upgradation of healthcare facilities across Ladakh is being undertaken in a mission mode, with focused attention on diagnostics, specialised treatments, and health infrastructure.

He announced that the long-pending MRI machine at District Hospital Kargil will be installed soon and assured that the demand for a 200-bed hospital in Kargil will be



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta inaugurating Cancer Screening and Awareness Programme.

actively explored.

Adding a community perspective, President Jamiat Ul Alam Isna Asharia Kargil Sheikh Nazir-ul-Mehdi expressed gratitude to the LG for supporting initiatives aimed at improving public health in the region.

Later, Kavinder Gupta visited former Minister of the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State Qamar Ali Akhoun, enquired about his health condition, and wished him a speedy recovery.

The event was attended by senior officers including Deputy Commissioner Kargil

Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kargil Shree Ram R, ADC Kargil, doctors from Yatharth Hospital, volunteers of Al Reza Health Care, and members of civil society.

Kavinder Gupta reiterated that the UT Administration is committed to delivering quality healthcare to every resident of Ladakh, with special focus on strengthening district hospitals, expanding telemedicine services, and creating robust referral linkages with tertiary care centres to ensure equitable access to health services for people living in remote areas.

Ramleela embodies devotion and India's rich heritage: Yudhvir Sethi

Inaugurates Ramleela at Dewana Mandir



MLA Jammu East and Chairman Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating Ramleela at Dewana Mandir.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, the Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj commenced its traditional Ramleela at Dewana Mandir, Jammu East, with rituals of Pooja and Arhana.

The Ramleela was inaugurated by Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East and Chairman Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj in presence of President Anil Masoom, General Secretary Bharat Bhushan and other members by hoisting flag.

"The Ramleela, deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of the region, marked the beginning of days filled with devotion, drama, and

celebration of India's rich heritage," said Yudhvir Sethi.

The Ramleela, staged annually during Navratri, is not only a theatrical depiction of Bhagwan Rama's life but also a vibrant symbol of India's cultural and spiritual ethos, Sethi said adding that the performances draw people from all walks of life, connecting communities through values of righteousness, sacrifice, and devotion.

Yudhvir Sethi underlined the significance of such cultural traditions in strengthening moral values and passing them on to the younger generation.

Sethi said, "Ramleela is the living embodiment of our cultural and religious values. It inspires us to walk the path of truth, righteousness, and dignity. This sacred tradition also plays an important role in connecting the younger generation to our glorious heritage."

He further added, "Ram Hi Satya Hain, Satya Hi Ram Hain. By embracing our traditions, we not only preserve our culture but also ensure that the future generations remain connected to the values that define us. Sanskaron Se Juden, Sanskriti Ko Aage Badhayen."

The atmosphere at Dewana Mandir was charged with devotion as the opening scenes unfolded, drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The Ramleela will continue through the Navratri festival, showcasing various episodes from the Ramayana with artistic performances.

The event is expected to attract large crowds in the coming days, reaffirming its place as a cornerstone of Jammu's cultural calendar and a unifying celebration of tradition and spirituality.

NC, PDP playing politics of hypocrisy to placate terrorists like Yasin Malik: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said that the new-found soft stance of the National Conference (NC) and the PDP on JKLF chief Yasin Malik exposes their hypocrisy and their readiness to lend political support to a hardcore terrorist and anti-national.

Reacting strongly to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks that Yasin Malik has given up violence, Chugh said such a claim amounts to treachery against the nation. He reminded Abdullah that Yasin Malik became a dreaded terrorist during the tenure of his father, Farooq Abdullah, as Chief Minister, and was involved in several heinous acts including the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed.

"Now suddenly Omar Abdullah is condoning all of Yasin Malik's terrorist activities, which is a shameful attempt to whitewash his crimes," Chugh said.

Chugh also condemned PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's plea for clemency for Yasin Malik. He said the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed was a traumatic event for Kashmir, and the people still demand strict punishment for Malik.

"Mehbooba Mufti's plea for mercy for such a heinous criminal reflects her political desperation and shows her disconnect



from the pain and suffering of Kashmir's daughters," he added.

Chugh said that such statements once again highlight the NC's long history of supporting terrorists like Syed Salahuddin, who played a central role in fueling militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is ironic that Omar Abdullah, whose party has repeatedly backed terrorists, is now trying to defend them. The stance of the NC and PDP is a threat to national security and demonstrates their sympathies towards terrorism. Such politics of appeasement must be exposed and condemned," Chugh asserted.

Demanding stringent action, Chugh urged the government to ensure justice for Rubaiya Sayeed and her family and to hold accountable all those who have brought suffering to the people of Kashmir. He reiterated that there can be no mercy for terrorists who have waged war against the nation and inflicted untold pain on innocents.

World recognises India's voice-UNSC reform now inevitable: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson for J&K UT, Gaurav Gupta, hailed the strong endorsement from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric on the urgent need to reform the UN Security Council, recognizing India as a pivotal force in the multilateral system.

Speaking on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric categorically stated "India is a very important part of the UN system. They are a great supporter of multilateralism. The Secretary General has very good relations with the Indian government. We have a lot of Indian colleagues who work here with us. India is an important voice within the UN system."

Gupta said, "This is not just an appreciation-it is a global acknowledgement of India's rising stature. The Secretary-General himself has made it clear that the UNSC must reflect the world of 2025, not remain trapped in the realities of 1945. India's permanent membership is no longer a matter of debate, but a necessity for global fairness and representation."

He further added that under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, India has emerged as a voice of the Global South, a trusted partner in global diplomacy, and a strong pillar of international stability. "The world today looks to India not just as the largest democracy but as a nation that stands for fairness, inclusivity, and global peace."

Gupta also commended External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, who has reiterated in Parliament that securing a permanent seat for India in the UNSC remains a top pri-



ority. "This recognition from the UN leadership validates India's credentials-our contributions to peacekeeping, our strong democratic values, and our leadership in climate action and sustainable development," he said.

At the ongoing UNGA, India also presented its pioneering steps to tackle climate change, including Heat Action Plans, digital early-warning systems, and affordable cooling solutions. "This reflects India's readiness to not only lead at home but also share solutions with the Global South, strengthening our role as a global problem-solver," Gupta highlighted.

"India is not asking for favours; India is demanding what is just, fair, and reflective of today's global realities. The world of 2025 deserves a reformed UNSC, and India's permanent membership is central to that vision," Gupta concluded.

Priya Sethi honours veteran journalist SP Sharma, Dental Surgeon Dr Gautam under Seva Pakhwada



BJP Vice President Priya Sethi honouring Dr. Gautam Sharma, Dental Surgeon and veteran journalist SP Sharma at Jammu on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Vice President and former Minister Priya Sethi honoured SP Sharma, Bureau Chief (J&K, Ladakh) of The Statesman (New Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar), and Dr. Gautam Sharma, Dental Surgeon at the University of Jammu and former President of the Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu, in a special ceremony held as part of the Seva Pakhwada celebrations initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nareesh Jasrotia president (Jammu South district), Dr. Hinja Mengi vice-president BJYM, Divya Jain (president, Mahila Morcha, Jammu South) and Kulbir Singh Charak, General Secretary (Jammu South) were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Priya Sethi said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

consistently underscored the importance of public service and social reforms. The ongoing 'Seva Pakhwada' reflects his vision that politics is meant to serve people, particularly the poor and downtrodden." She added, "Seva Pakhwada" is being observed from the birthday of PM Modi on September 17 to October 2, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. BJP has placed its two core issues, 'Swadeshi' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', at the centre of this fortnight-long nationwide campaign."

The event recognized Sharma's exemplary contributions to journalism over a career spanning five decades. Priya Sethi remarked, "SP Sharma has been a pillar of credible journalism in the Northern region of India. His dedication, courage, and commitment to reporting the truth have set high standards for

generations of journalists. It is our privilege to honour him today for his outstanding contribution to society and the field of journalism."

SP Sharma began his illustrious career with Times of India and The Tribune, and is currently associated with The Statesman. He has reported extensively across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, covering terrorism and other critical issues under challenging circumstances. His work in tribal and remote regions highlighted socio-economic and cultural issues often overlooked by mainstream media. For his exceptional contributions, he has received State Awards for Excellence in Journalism from both the J&K Government and the Himachal Pradesh Government.

Dr. Gautam Sharma has

conducted over 200 dental awareness and check-up camps for the poor and underprivileged during his three tenures as IDA Jammu President. During the recent floods in Jammu, he provided health and sanitation services to residents of the old campus of Jammu University, in coordination with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He was also recognized by the

IDA Head Office for his outstanding services.

Priya Sethi further said, "Honouring journalist SP Sharma and Dental Doctor Dr. Gautam Sharma reflects our commitment to recognizing those who serve the public by upholding truth and integrity. Their journey inspires youth to pursue their profession with honesty, courage, and dedication."

From breakdown to breakthroughs: Pradeep Dutta's life lessons for MBS students

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a captivating 60-minute motivational session, Pradeep Dutta, a seasoned journalist and founder of Line of Communication - a digital platform for demolishing anti India narrative at global platform - ignited the spark of determination in the young minds of Mahant Bachittar Singh (MBS) College of Engineering Technology here today.

Using the potent trio of Song, Storytelling, and Shayri, Dutta during induction session navigated the students through the complexities of life, imparting invaluable lessons on overcoming pressure, stress, and adversity.

With poetic flair, Dutta



MBSCET faculty felicitating journalist, Pradeep Dutta.

exhorted the Gen Z students to remain laser-focused on their goals, impervious to distractions.

"Utter Charaav Zindagi Mein Ayege, Par Unse Ghabrana Nehi (Ups and downs will come in life, but remember not to get intimidated)," he counselled,

emphasising that the only competition worth having is with oneself. "You have to be a better version of yourself," he urged, inspiring the students to strive for self-improvement.

Dutta's poetic expression, "Yaad Rakh Har Koi Kabhi Na Kabhi Kehi Na Kehi Tota

Hai. Jo Kehta Woh Nehi Tota, Aik Dum Jhotha Hai. Toot Kar Jurh, Jurh Kar Uth, Uth Kar Daurh, Magar Maidan Se Bhaagna Mat (Remember, everyone breaks or falters sometimes in life. Those who say they don't are absolute liars. Break, mend, rise, and run, but don't flee the field," resonated deeply with the students, motivating them to persevere in the face of adversity.

The session was punctuated by soul-stirring songs, including the uplifting "Yeh Jeevan Hai, Is Jeevan Ka, Yehi Hai, Yehi Hai Rang Roop," which the students sang along to, creating a positive and electric atmosphere in the auditorium. Dutta also shared inspiring

stories that highlighted the importance of starting the day with a smile, cherishing time with parents, and seeking the blessings of teachers (Gurus). The students were deeply moved by these anecdotes, which imparted valuable life lessons on the significance of relationships and personal growth.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, where students interacted with Dutta, seeking guidance on various aspects of life. Prof. Sarbjot Kaur, Head of the APSS Department, and other staff members expressed their gratitude to Dutta for his inspiring presentation, presenting him with a memento as a token of appreciation.