

How a "Coma" saved a little girl's life at AIIMS Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS Jammu recently demonstrated the cutting-edge capability and interdisciplinary coordination that is transforming paediatric head trauma care in the region.

Last week, an 8-year-old girl presented to the hospital with a severe traumatic brain injury, after a fall from the first floor; in an unconscious state with a low Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score of 7, indicating a critical and life-threatening condition.

Surgery in young children for head injuries is often associated with significant risks and complications.

Recognizing this difficulty, the neurosurgery team, led by Dr Shaurya Darbari and Dr Kanav Gupta, decided to take a measured and innovative approach to her treatment. They inserted an intracranial pressure (ICP) catheter directly into the child's brain to continuously monitor the pressure inside the skull. Medical teams can detect dangerous swelling with this invasive device and take action before irreparable harm is done.

In close collaboration with the anaes-

thesia team, including Dr. Slomi Gupta and Dr. Kanika Gupta, and the pediatrics team led by Dr. Samriti Gupta, Dr. Sheetal Ganju, Dr. Radhika Uppal, Dr Harkirat, and Dr. Vivek Pandita, the child was placed in a carefully controlled therapeutic coma. Unlike a natural coma, this medically induced coma shuts down brain activity temporarily, allowing the brain to rest and heal.

Guided by the ICP catheter readings, the child remained in this induced coma for five days, during which her intracranial pressure was closely monitored to maintain it at safe levels without the need for repeated CT scans. Once the ICP readings stabilized and the swelling decreased, the child was gradually brought out of the coma and extubated. Today, she is neurologically intact-eating, talking with her parents, playing, and preparing to return to school. She was discharged from the hospital recently, marking a full-circle recovery from a condition that could have otherwise resulted in devastating outcomes.

"The role of ICP monitoring is invaluable in managing severe brain injuries, though these devices are usually cost-prohibitive and inaccessible in many

centers. At AIIMS Jammu, we are proud to offer this advanced therapy as part of our standard care. We have all modes of treatment for head injuries available here-from conservative management to the most complex neurosurgical procedures. In this particular case, while we opted for therapeutic coma and ICP monitoring, our operation theatre was kept ready round-the-clock for five days in case the child needed emergency surgery. This comprehensive preparedness ensures that we can respond immediately to any change in a patient's condition," said Dr. Shaurya Darbari, Assistant Professor and Head of Neurosurgery.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, added, "Our institute is committed to providing emergency neurosurgical and trauma services locally, which is crucial for preserving the 'golden hour'-the critical time window where immediate intervention can save lives and improve outcomes. Before AIIMS Jammu's neurosurgical services began, patients often had to travel long distances to other cities, losing valuable time."

Dr. Jitendra announces additional weather equipment for J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/JAMMU: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh convened a high-level meeting with the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Deputy Commissioners of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, and Udhampur via video conferencing to assess the ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures in Jammu & Kashmir following unprecedented rainfall, flash floods, and cloudbursts.

Dr. Singh announced that under the Government of India's "Mission Mausam," four additional weather radars will be installed in J&K to enhance district-wise weather forecasting accuracy. Currently, three radars are already operational. The Minister directed the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to main-



tain round-the-clock weather monitoring and provide timely alerts to minimize losses. Accompanied by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. M. Ravichandran and IMD Director General Dr. M. Mohapatra, Dr. Singh stressed the importance of district-specific forecasts for North Indian states including J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab. The Minister, also MP from Udhampur, praised the tireless efforts of district administrations in rescue operations, ration and medicine

supply, and ensuring temporary shelter for affected families. He assured that two more consignments of ration kits and advanced water filters would reach the region by tomorrow. These are being dispatched from his own MP funds in addition to government support.

Dr. Singh informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is closely monitoring the situation and has directed immediate relief action. Home Minister Amit Shah has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to assess damage and coordinate central assistance; the team is scheduled to visit Kathua today.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar presented a comprehensive damage report. DCs of all five districts shared updates on relief operations. DC Udhampur, Saloni

Rai, reported 38 relief camps housing over 2,000 people, while DC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, reported 26 camps with 1,900 evacuees. Restoration of damaged roads and water schemes is underway.

DC Ramban, Alyas Khan, detailed the aftermath of a cloudburst in Drubla, Rajgarh, which claimed four lives. Nearly 950 people were evacuated. DC Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, highlighted the successful rescue of five workers trapped in a landslide at the Rattle Power Project site.

Dr. Jitendra commended civil society members and local bikers for acting as first responders, exemplifying a "whole-of-society" approach. He assured full central and state support, emphasizing that no effort will be spared in aiding affected communities.

Bhupender Gupta takes over as CMD of NHPC Limited

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

FARIDABAD: Bhupender Gupta has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Navratna PSU under the Government of India, at its Corporate Office in Faridabad on September 4, 2025. He also holds the additional charge of CMD, SJVN Limited. Prior to this appointment, Gupta served as Director (Technical) at THDC India Limited.

With over 34 years of experience-31 of which have been in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)-Shri Gupta brings extensive expertise across hydro, thermal, renewable energy, transmission, and distribution sectors. An Electrical Engineering graduate with an MBA in Operations Management, he began his career with ACC Ltd in 1991 and entered the CPSU sector in 1995 by joining SJVN. At SJVN, he



played a key role in the planning, erection, and commissioning of the 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Plant, India's largest operational hydro project. He also served on deputation to Bhutan's 1020 MW Tala Project from 2002 to 2005.

Gupta later joined REC Ltd in 2007, contributing to financing of major hydro and thermal projects. He went on to lead subsidiaries REC Transmission Projects Co. Ltd. and REC Power Distribution Co. Ltd., managing nationwide execution of government flagship schemes like Saubhagya, DDUGJY, and PMDP. In December

2020, he took charge as Director (Technical) of the Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Project Authority in Bhutan, where he led critical construction efforts and resolved contractual challenges. As Director (Technical) of THDCIL from June 2023, he played a pivotal role in achieving commissioning milestones for key projects including the 660 MW Unit-1 of Khurja STPP and Units 1 & 2 (250 MW each) of Tehri PSP.

Gupta's vision for NHPC focuses on meeting India's rising energy demand through clean, non-fossil fuel sources. He advocates for integrating AI, cybersecurity, EV-grid synergy, green hydrogen, bioenergy, and energy storage into power systems to strengthen India's energy security and sustainability goals. Beyond work, Gupta is an avid sports enthusiast and has represented his organizations in inter-CPSU badminton and table tennis tournaments.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: A significant Haemophilia Summit was held in the Union Territory of Ladakh under the banner of "The Ladakh Health Dialogue 2025." The event was organised by the Haemophilia and Health Collective of North (HHCN), a national-level academic body of senior healthcare professionals, in collaboration with the Administration of Ladakh.

The summit was conducted in two phases-first in Leh at Sonam Narbo Memorial Hospital and then in Kargil at District Hospital. It began with patient awareness programs in OPD halls at both locations. These sessions aimed to educate patients and their attendants about genetic bleeding disorders, prevalent health conditions, and wellness practices to empower them with informed health decisions.

Following the awareness programs, scientific sessions were held for doctors and



A dignitary lighting ceremonial lamp.

paramedical staff. Eminent experts delivered lectures covering crucial topics like diagnosis, treatment options including Emicizumab therapy, CBC interpretation, rational use of blood components, and management of obstetric bleeding complications.

It was an interesting interaction between patients, their attendants & executive members of HHCN namely Dr. Naresh Gupta (Chairperson HHCN & former Director Prof. Medicine

MAMC New Delhi); Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Koul (Dr. K. K. Koul), (President HHCN & former Prof. & Head PG Deptt. of Pathology, GMC, Jammu); Dr. Varun Kaul (Prof. of Paediatrics GGS Medical College, Faridkot Pb.); Dr.

Grish Kumar (Assoc. Prof. Paediatrics Dr. Radhakrishnan GMC Hamirpur, HP) & Dr. Sandesh Ganjoo (Prof. Obst. & Gynaecology, GGS Medical College, Faridkot Pb.)

Dr. Koul emphasized the diagnostic challenges in Haemophilia and stressed the need for well-equipped coagulation labs, especially in remote areas like Ladakh.

The summit in Leh was inaugurated by CEC LAHDC Leh Adv. Tashi Gyalson, with DC Leh Romil Singh Donk (IAS) and Director Health Services Dr. Tashi Thinless as guests of honour. In Kargil, CEC Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun inaugurated the session. Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal extended

his best wishes, though he could not attend in person.

Both CECs appreciated HHCN's efforts, noting that such structured health dialogues improve patient care and professional knowledge. They assured follow-up action on the gaps identified during the summit, particularly regarding diagnostic and treatment infrastructure for Haemophilia and von Willebrand disease.

The event concluded with a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony in Kargil, honouring the brave soldiers of the Kargil War, reflecting the spirit of service and remembrance. Dr. K.K. Koul extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all officials, departments, and media who supported the successful execution of the summit.

JYBT announces Pitri Paksh (Shraadh) 2025 arrangements at Haridwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust today announced the commencement of Pitri Paksh (Shraadh) 2025 from Sunday, 7th September to Sunday, 21st September 2025. Addressing a press conference, Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, highlighted the significance of the sixteen-day period, which is dedicated to performing rituals and offering prayers for departed ancestors to ensure peace for their souls.

Explaining the religious importance, Shastri stated that during Pitri Paksh, rituals of



President JYBT, Pawan Kumar Shastri talking to reporters.

Tarpan are performed for ancestors, which is believed to bless the devotees and help remove Pitra Doshi, the negative effects caused by neglecting ancestral rituals. Each day of Shraadh is associated with a specific Tithi (date) of an ancestor, and even those unaware of the exact date can perform rituals on Amasiya, the last day of

Shraadh, to receive blessings.

Shastri emphasized that the rituals are especially for Dada-Dadi, Nana-Nani, Mata-Pita, and other close relatives as per Hindu tradition. He further stated that the Trust has made elaborate arrangements for religious discourses and rituals at Shree Ganga Ji Ghat, Haridwar, allowing devotees

associated with the Trust and the general public to perform Shraadh ceremonies.

For those unable to visit Haridwar personally, the Trust has offered to perform the rituals on their behalf. Interested participants can contact the Trust's offices in Jammu (Mohalla Darugiran, Kanak Mandi) or Haridwar for arrangements. Contact numbers include 9419662100, 7051122990 (Jammu Helpline), 09897128391 (Haridwar Helpline), and 8899521923 (B.C. Road office Helpline).

In a special tribute, Shastri announced that this year the Trust will also perform Shradhanjali for Indian soldiers, paramilitary, and police personnel who have sacrificed their lives protecting the nation. On the day of Amasiya, 21st

September 2025, the Trust will conduct 1008 Pinddaan at Ganga Ji Ghat through highly learned Pandits to honor the martyrs and pray for their salvation. Families of the soldiers wishing to participate personally can make prior arrangements with the Trust.

The press conference was attended by Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary, Sukhdev Sharma, Treasurer, WCM, and Er. Rashpal Sharma. Gurdas Sharma extended sincere thanks to participants and the press for their coverage and support in publicizing the event.

With these arrangements, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust continues its tradition of serving devotees, honoring ancestors, and paying homage to national heroes through spiritually significant rituals.

District Administration Jammu sanctions Rs 1.07 crore relief for flood-affected families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a proactive step to alleviate the hardships faced by families affected by recent floods and landslides, the District Administration Jammu has sanctioned relief for 231 cases of damaged houses, disbursing a total amount of Rs 1,07,00,000.

A meeting of the District Level Committee was held under the chairmanship of Sher Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Jammu, to assess and approve the relief cases. The meeting was attended by all concerned members of the District Level Committee, including ACR Dr. Rajesh Kumar and the SDMs. Following the recommendations of the committee, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, formally sanctioned the relief amount of Rs 1.07 crore in favour of the affected families.

To ensure accountability, transparency, and quick disbursement, the entire amount has been directly credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.



Ajatshatru Singh and Trustee Ranvijay Singh handing over relief supplies to ADC Jammu, Anusuya Jamwal.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the wake of the recent natural calamities that devastated the Jammu region-marked by cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides-the J&K Dharmarth Trust organised a Hawan and Prayer Ceremony at the historic Shri Raghunath Ji Temple to offer prayers for the departed souls and to support the affected families.

The Hawan was performed by Dr. Ritu Singh, who led the solemn rituals with the chanting of Vedic mantras, seeking divine blessings for peace to the departed and strength to the grieving families. Among those who participated in the ceremo-

ny were MLA Vikram Randhawa, former Minister Priya Sethi, former Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma, and Parshotam Dadechi, President of Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Jammu. After the Puran Ahuti, a Bandara (community meal) was organised for the devotees.

The Hawan was conducted on the directions of Chairman Trustee Dr. Karan Singh, with involvement from Trustees Vikramaditya Singh, Ajatshatru Singh, Martand Singh, and Ranvijay Singh. Trust President Dr. P.S. Pathania and Secretary Ashok Sharma were also present on

the occasion.

Dr. Ritu Singh emphasised that while the scale of human and material loss is unimaginable, it is the collective strength and empathy of society that provides comfort during such tragedies. She urged people to come together in solidarity and compassion to support those who are suffering. In a significant humanitarian gesture, the Dharmarth Trust handed over relief material to the district administration for distribution among the affected families. Ajatshatru and Trustee Ranvijay Singh handed over the relief supplies to Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusuya Jamwal in the presence of Trust officials. Ajatshatru remarked that the recent devastation has left deep emotional and economic scars on communities across Jammu. Ranvijay echoed the sentiment, stating that societal solidarity during such crises is not just an act of charity but a fundamental duty. He appealed to the public to extend help generously to ensure affected families can rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre launches first eye surgeries in Modular OT at Udhewwala

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ramakrishna Mission (RKM) Medical Centre at Udhewwala, Jammu, successfully conducted its first batch of cataract surgeries in its newly established state-of-the-art Modular Operation Theatre (OT) on Thursday.

The inaugural batch included eight patients, who underwent cataract surgery performed by Dr. Ankur Goel, with the dedicated assistance of the RKM Medical Centre team.

This milestone marks a significant step in the Centre's mission to provide high-quality eye care at affordable costs, ensuring accessibility for all sections of society, particularly underprivileged communities. The establishment of the Modular OT was made possible through generous support from NHPC Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme, along with contri-



Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre members and doctors with patients after eye surgery.

butions from KMECT and the Avanti Foundation, USA.

Their collaboration has enabled the Centre to upgrade its facilities, enhance patient comfort, and make advanced healthcare services more efficient and patient-friendly.

Speaking on the occasion, Swami Yajnadharananda highlighted the Centre's commitment to expanding healthcare services for the needy. He emphasized that affordable, quality medical care remains the primary focus of the Mission, which is driven by the ideals of

service to humanity and the spirit of worshipping the Divine.

"With the launch of cataract surgeries in the Modular OT, the RKM Medical Centre takes a significant step toward providing advanced medical care to the people of Jammu and surrounding areas," Swami Yajnadharananda said adding that the initiative not only strengthens the Centre's healthcare infrastructure but also reinforces its vision of compassionate service and holistic patient care.

"The Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre continues to serve as a beacon of hope for patients seeking accessible and high-standard medical treatment, offering specialized care across various healthcare services while maintaining a focus on social responsibility," Swami Yajnadharananda assured.

For further inquiries or appointments, individuals can contact the Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udhewwala, Jammu at 9596984032.