

Minister Sakeena Itoo inaugurates 1st annual MMFDIACON25 Int'l Endocrinology Conf

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday emphasized on the need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population as diabetes has emerged as a silent yet pressing health challenge among our elders.

The Health Minister made these remarks while delivering the key note address after inaugurating 1st Annual MMFDIACON25 International Endocrinology Conference at Government Medical College (GMC) here today. The conference was organised by GMC Srinagar in collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology of Super Speciality hospital, MMF Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Ageing and Moul Mouj Foundation.

The conference, themed "Elders Deserve Better: Diabetes and its Complications in the Elderly - An Interdisciplinary Approach," brought together experts and professionals from various fields to discuss the latest developments and challenges in managing diabetes



and its complications in the elderly.

In her key note address, the Minister emphasized on the importance of addressing diabetes and its complications in the elderly population, highlighting the government's commitment to improving healthcare outcomes. She stressed on the urgent need to strengthen preventive and curative healthcare systems for the elderly population, particularly those grappling with chronic conditions like diabetes.

"Diabetes in the elderly is not just a medical issue but also a social challenge. Our elders deserve compassion, timely diagnosis, and collaborative treatment strategies that address the full spectrum of complications. This conference is a significant step toward building that holistic model of care," she said.

The Minister congratulated GMC Srinagar for holding such academic event on a topic of immense public health importance.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar and Patron of the conference, Dr. Ifat Hassan Shah highlighted that GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals remain at the forefront of healthcare delivery in Kashmir, with a special focus on the needs of the elderly population.

HoD Endocrinology, Dr. M. Hayat, in his address underlined the urgency of the conference theme, noting the multiple and complex complications of diabetes witnessed among elderly patients, which necessitate interdisciplinary discussion and intervention, while as Senior Consultant Geriatrics and Academic Convener, CISA, Dr. Zubair Saleem reaffirmed that CISA and MMF are committed not only to the treatment of ageing parents in Kashmir but also to advancing academic research and policy dialogue in geriatrics. Consultant Endocrinology, Dr. Mir Shah Nawaz, underscored the need to study and address the unique complications of diabetes in elderly patients, particularly those that affect their quality of life and independence.

Dy CM Choudhary reviews post-flood situation in Sunderbani, Nowshera

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JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at Dak Bungalow here to review the post-flood scenario in the Sunderbani and Nowshera areas of Rajouri and assessed damages caused by the recent heavy rainfall.

The meeting was attended by ADC Sunderbani, Pritam Lal Thapa, SE PWD, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the authorities to ensure immediate opening of all blocked roads to mitigate public inconvenience.

Later, Deputy CM also visited Sunderbani market, where several shops were inundated due to waterlogging. He issued on-spot instructions to Border Roads Organisation (BRO)



officials to strengthen and maintain the drainage system to prevent such incidents in the future.

In a separate visit, Surinder Choudhary also inspected the ongoing works at Sungal Tunnel at Kalidhar, a vital road link between Rajouri and Jammu. He emphasized strict adherence to quality standards

and timely completion of the project, terming it crucial for improving regional connectivity and boosting economic activities.

Dy CM reiterated the government's commitment to swiftly restore normalcy in flood-affected areas and accelerate the pace of infrastructure development projects in the district.

BJP answerable for decade-long negligence, says Sadhotra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Saturday visited Tawi Island area of Marh Assembly Constituency which is badly hit by the recent flash flood interacting with the affected people he launched a scathing counter to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) attempt to politicise the recent natural calamities, describing its statements as opportunistic, misleading, and divorced from facts on the ground.

Reacting to uncalled for remarks of BJP, Sadhotra said the BJP's attempt to malign the Omar Abdullah-led government was not only malicious but

also an insult to the people who are still reeling under the devastation caused by floods, landslides, and cloudbursts.

"At a time when the entire government under the visionary leadership of Jenab Omar Abdullah and people are united in relief and rehabilitation, the BJP has chosen to indulge in divisive blame-game," he said.

Sadhotra recalled that the Omar led Government had released Rs 200 crore for immediate restoration works and challenges post the Ramban and Chesoti landslides, as well as the damages caused by Operation Sindhoo.

The CM himself is on tenterhooks, constantly monitoring the situation, reaching out personally to

the sufferers, and ensuring that relief reached the worst-hit areas. The ministers and officials were on the ground 24x7, coordinating rescue, relief, and restoration efforts, he said, adding that the NC government did not believe in issuing statements from press rooms but in working with people at ground zero.

Taking strong exception to BJP's criticism of the collapse of the fourth bridge on river Tawi, Sadhotra reminded that the bridge was constructed more than a decade ago during a non-NC regime. The BJP is shooting arrows in the dark. The fact remains that no bridge, embankment, or structure can withstand the fury of nature when floods and cloudbursts of such magnitude strike, he said.

He also hit back at BJP over illegal mining, saying that the party has no moral right to point fingers.

Calling BJP's description of NC ministers as "Non-Performing Assets" a sign of frustration, Sadhotra said, "It was the NC Government that stood firm in the face of natural fury, released funds, mobilised the administration, and reached out to victims." On the other hand, BJP, despite being in power for over ten years, has utterly failed to build safeguards, strengthen infrastructure, or prepare for natural disasters.

He also cautioned the BJP to stop misleading people and instead press for adequate central assistance for relief, rehabilitation, and rebuilding.

Azad expresses grief over Ramban, Reasi incidents

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister J&K, Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in Jammu region due to natural calamities. Azad said, "I am deeply pained by the cloudburst in Rajgarh, Ramban that claimed 4 precious lives and left several missing. Equally heart-wrenching is the landslide in Reasi, in which 7 members of a family lost their lives. These tragedies have caused unbearable pain to the affected families. My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families and I pray for the safety of those still missing."

He further said that as more rainfall has been predicted in the coming days, people in vulnerable areas must remain alert and cautious.

Dr Minhas inspects rehabilitation efforts at Rajeev Colony, Peer Kho

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JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas on Saturday along with Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav visited Rajeev Colony near Bikram Chowk to review the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

ADC Anusya Jamwal and SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa were also present.

DC assured that sufficient men and machinery have been deployed to ensure clearance of debris by tomorrow afternoon. He said that the district administration is supplying food and water in the affected areas. "It is our endeavour to conduct water sample testing and fogging in order to prevent any outbreak of diseases," Dr Minhas stated.



He further said that damages caused to the banks of river Tawi are being studied by experts. "Necessary repairs will be taken up to prevent further losses," he added.

DC informed that water supply through tankers is being regulated effectively, with teams of the district administration and

JMC working jointly on the ground. In the power sector, urgent repairs are being carried out on war footing to ensure timely restoration across the district, he said.

Later, Dr Minhas visited Peer Kho to assess the damages caused to the prominent tourist and religious site.

IIM Jammu inaugurated HR Conclave 8.0

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated its flagship HR Conclave 8.0 at the Mandapam Auditorium, Jagti Campus, on Saturday.

The conclave, with the theme "People-First Organizations: Culture, Capability & Change", brought together eminent industry leaders, HR practitioners, and academicians for stimulating discussions on building future-ready, people-centric organizations. Chief Guest on the Occasion was Vermeem Kapoor, Managing Director - Risk, Finance & Treasury Technology, Barclays.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp, Saraswati Vandana, and felicitation of the Chief Guest, followed



by welcome addresses from faculty members.

Chief Guest Vermeem Kapoor, MD- Risk, Finance & Treasury Technology, Barclays reflected on her student journey, recalling how leaders often spoke of "Students as future leaders," a vision that resonates with her strongly today. She highlighted the critical role of

technology in transforming every aspect of business and life, from mobile banking to risk evaluation, while underscoring that it is human capital that ultimately drives this transformation. Stressing the importance of being people-centric, she called for creating cultures of psychological safety that empower teams to "fail faster and

learn faster," fostering collaboration, resilience, and creative problem-solving.

She emphasized the need to celebrate cultural heroes, promote collective success over individual success, and focus on capability building through continuous learning and reskilling. With the rapid shift from AI to GenAI, she noted that organizations

must encourage internal mobility and holistic leadership development.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, spoke about the evolving role and transformation of Jammu and Kashmir in recent times. He noted that under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, the Jammu region now has three Institutes of National Importance, IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, and AIIMS Jammu. He also mentioned the IIM Jammu Srinagar Campus, located in a prime location.

He emphasized that the nation has great expectations from IIM Jammu and its young minds, urging everyone to align their efforts with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Highlighting India's impressive GDP growth, he expressed confidence that the nation is on course to becoming one of the most developed economies.

Cattle theft gang busted, 3 arrested

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu Police have achieved a major breakthrough by arresting three accused persons involved in cattle theft and recovering the stolen bovine animals in Akhnoor.

On 25 August 2025, a written complaint was lodged by Sheetal Verma S/o Gandheru R/o Tanda, Akhnoor, stating that during the intervening night of 24/25-08-2025, some unknown thieves stole bovine animals from near his residence at Tanda, Akhnoor. Acting on the complaint, FIR No. 153/2025 U/S 303(2) BNS was registered at Police Station Akhnoor, and the investigation was entrusted to PSI Arif Dar.

During the course of investigation, three suspects

were detained—Nayar Ali S/o Abdul Latif R/o Raguda, District Jammu, Manzoor Mohd. S/o Kazi Mohd. R/o Belicharana and Mohd. Salim S/o Abdul Gani R/o A/P Belicharana.

On sustained questioning, the accused confessed their involvement in the theft. Based on their disclosure, the stolen bovine animals were successfully recovered. Police teams are conducting further raids, and more recoveries are expected. The investigation of the case was carried out under the close supervision of SP Rural Jammu, SDPO Akhnoor, and SHO Police Station Akhnoor.

The swift action of Akhnoor Police in solving the case and recovering the stolen animals has been highly appreciated by the general public of the area.

Army launches 'Project Shiksha'

REASI: Under the Sadbhavana initiative, the Indian Army has launched "Project Shiksha" to provide tuition classes for the children of the Gujjar and Bakkarwal community at Chakalsalta and Mithyanigala. The project commenced on 12 August 2025 and will continue till 10 September 2025.

The initiative aims to bridge the educational gap faced by children from nomadic and remote backgrounds by offering regular tuition support in key subjects. These classes are designed to strengthen their academic foundation, improve learning outcomes and encourage them to pursue higher education.

The program has witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents and teachers, reflecting the growing awareness and importance of education within the community. Along with academic assistance, the initiative also emphasizes personality development, confidence building and creating equal opportunities for these children. Project Shiksha is a significant step towards empowering the youth of Gujjar and Bakkarwal families. It symbolizes the Indian Army's commitment to inclusive growth, social harmony and national integration. The project will culminate on 10 September 2025, marking an important milestone in nurturing young minds and promoting the vision of a brighter future.

NOTICE

I, Riaz Hameed Khan S/o Sh. Mohd. Rafiq Khan R/o Village Dhargloon, Tehsil Balakote Dist. Poonch want to correct name of my self which has been wrongly written as Rayaz Hameed Khan in my Adhar Card bearing No. 9768-7445-8236 My actual and correct name is Riaz Hameed Khan. Now I am applying for correction. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authorities.

JU mourns demise of former VC

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The University of Jammu on Saturday mourned the demise of Prof. R.R. Sharma, an eminent academician, visionary leader, and former Vice Chancellor of the University (Dec 1996 - Nov 2002).

Expressing shock and deep grief over the sad demise, VC Prof Umesh Rai hailed the immense contribution of Prof R R Sharma in steering the University of Jammu on the path of academic excellence.

"Demise of Prof Sharma is a great loss for Jammu and Kashmir in general and the JU in particular", the Vice Chancellor said, adding that his passing away has left the academic fraternity and the University community deeply shocked and profoundly saddened.

"Prof Sharma's depar-

ture has created a huge void in the academic arena of Jammu and Kashmir, which is hard to fill", Prof Rai said.

Educated in the Soviet Union, Prof R R Sharma was a distinguished scholar, who served with great distinction as a Senior Professor at the Centre for Russian, Central Asian, and East European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from 1973 until his retirement. He was later conferred the title of Professor Emeritus in recognition of his outstanding academic contributions and also served as Dean of the School of International Studies. As VC of the University of Jammu, Prof. Sharma's tenure was marked by remarkable academic growth and institutional advancement.

Dr Nirmal Singh, MLA visit flood-hit areas; assures relief

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

AKHNOOR: MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of flood-affected areas of Garkhal and Pargwal, accompanied by former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh, DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh Bhau, Tehsildar Manjeet Singh, BDO Naveel Hamdani, and senior engineers including Sanjeev Sharma (Executive Engineer PWD), Sunil Baogia (AEE PWD) along with engineers from the Flood Control, PHE, PDD and PWD Departments.

The delegation, which also included senior BJP leaders and local representatives, visited Rakh Kharoon, Fattu Kotli, Sidherwan, Jajjal, Jamana Bela, Sajwal, Chhibbe Kothe, Gurha Manhasa, Garjal, Hamirpur Kona, Deora, Takwal, Pindi and Chack Phagwari, to assess the large-scale damage caused by the swelling waters of river Chenab.

At Fattu Kotli, the MLA noted that dozens of houses were completely washed away while hundreds of people had to be rescued



and shifted to Akhnoor. He later inspected the restoration work of the Garkhal road - the only lifeline connecting Pargwal to the rest of Jammu - which had remained disconnected for four days due to severe damage.

The MLA directed officials of

PWD, PDD and PHE to restore road connectivity, power supply and drinking water at the earliest. Tehsildar and BDO were instructed to prepare a detailed damage report. He assured the people that their concerns, including demands for compensation to farmers culti-

vating custodian land without ownership rights, will be raised before the Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

Emphasizing the need for long-term solutions, the MLA said he would push the Union Government for the channelisation of Chenab to prevent recurring floods and also stressed the early completion of the much-awaited Pargwal-Indripattan bridge to avoid future disconnections of this densely populated border area. He praised the role of local youth in rescuing not only civilians but also BSF jawans during the calamity.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Nirmal Singh reiterated that BJP stands firmly with the people of Jammu and Kashmir during this natural disaster. He said the party is assessing flood damage across the Union Territory and will present a comprehensive report to the Centre seeking a special relief package. He urged the UT administration to immediately release restoration funds to bring public life back to normalcy.