

# Wage war on drugs, focus on rehabilitation of victims: CS to officers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the 4th UT Level Apex Committee meeting of NCORD and held an in-depth review of all the ongoing activities happening across Jammu and Kashmir to combat the drug menace here.



Chief Secretary chairing a meeting on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; DGP, J&K; Principal Secretary, Education; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; ADGP, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary Health; Director, Information and Public Relations; Excise Commissioner; State Drug Controller; Zonal Director, NCB Jammu; SSP, ANTF and all the Deputy Commissioners and District SPs both in person and through video conferencing.

Dr Mehta remarked that the victims of drug abuse deserves hand-holding and every possible assistance to live a normal life. He impressed upon the officers that without showing any laxity on the ongoing war on drugs, focus should also be laid on rehabilitation of its victims.

The Chief Secretary further exhorted upon the officers to involve PRIs as well as Anganwadi centres and schools for rehabilitation of drug abuse victims as well as for generating awareness among public particularly youth about the negative impact of drug abuse. He underscored that it is our collective duty to root out this plague from the society.

Highlighting on the importance of creating awareness among public, Dr. Mehta enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and synergy between different Departments and stakeholders so that this evil is

uprooted completely from the UT. He impressed upon the Secretary Health to upscale the activities under Tele Manas helpline for counselling and proper rehabilitation of victims. He also directed the Health department to create awareness among public about the Tele Manas helpline number 14416 as well as establish WhatsApp helpline under same initiative.

Commissioners and SSPs regarding efforts being made for combating this menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier in the meeting, a detailed presentation on drug scenario in J&K and the challenges to counter the drug menace and efforts being made by all stakeholders to fight this problem was also presented before the Chief Secretary.

It was given in the meeting that in Kashmir Division, a total of 159 drug dealers have been booked under PITNDPS while in Jammu Division 43 drug dealers have been detained during 2022.

Similarly the meeting was informed that a total of 1850 FIRs have been registered while 2756 persons have been arrested for carrying out these illicit trade. Moreover during 2022, 240 kg Heroin, 498 kgs Charas, 249 Kg Ganja, and 178677 Caps/bottles/tabs of Scheduled drugs have been seized throughout J&K, as was revealed in this meeting.

Stressing on the need of proper vigil and surveillance to combat this menace, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to monitor the hotspot areas in their respective districts involved in trading of drugs and take required punitive actions on same. He asked them to monitor pharmacies and take action against those found involved in misuse of drugs which can be used as Psychotropic substances.

He also asked them to take action against pharmacies found involved in selling of drugs without prescription from authorised medical practitioners. He stressed on making special efforts to check online pharmacies, courier services for not taking any chance against this social evil.

While reviewing the measures of law enforcement agencies regarding combating of this evil, Dr. Mehta exhorted upon the officers to analyse the data of districts regarding conviction rates under NDPS Act and act on the officers for non-performance during investigation of these cases. He stressed on increasing the rate of converting the FIRs into convictions besides involving all the stakeholders in the 'War against Drugs'.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also sought a briefing from all the Deputy

# Modi transformed Northeast from terror tag to development model: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

SHILLONG (MEGHALAYA), Feb 6 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had over the last 8 years transformed Northeast from a terror tag to a development model and the State of Meghalaya too has been transformed from a corruption-ridden State to a progressive State.

Speaking at the BJP election rally and later talking to the media here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, though Shillong was the capital of the erstwhile State of Assam, but it was only Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who laid the foundation stone, and inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth over Rs. 2,450 crores in Shillong, Meghalaya in December, 2022, where he attended the meeting of the North Eastern Council at the State Convention Centre in



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at the BJP election rally at Shillong, Meghalaya on Monday.

Shillong and participated in its golden jubilee celebrations.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that earlier funds allocated to the Northeast did not reach the bottom level, but after Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in May, 2014, funds are reaching the real beneficiaries at the villages and being utilized for development. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Prime Minister has always given priority to the Northeast and he has visited the

Northeast more than 50 times in the last 9 years, while the Union Ministers have also visited the Northeast more than 425 times.

Referring to the infrastructural developments in the North East, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the fast-paced work to connect all the capitals of the North East including Shillong with rail service and the increase in number of weekly flights from 900 before 2014 to 1900 happened under the guidance and close watch of Modi.

Under the UDAN scheme, flights are on 16 routes in Meghalaya and the result is cheap airfares for the people of Meghalaya. Similarly, Dr Jitendra Singh said, pro-farmer measures have benefited the farmers of Meghalaya and North East and said that the fruits and vegetables grown here are easily accessible to the markets of the country and abroad through the Krishi Udaan scheme.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled the multiple projects include the inauguration of 320 completed and 890 under construction 4G mobile towers, the new campus of IIM Shillong, at Umsawli, the Shillong - Diengpasoh Road which will provide better connectivity to new Shillong satellite township and four other roads projects across the three states viz. Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

Quoting Prime Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh remarked that "Meghalaya is a state that is prosperous in nature and culture and this very prosperity is reflected through the warmth and welcoming nature of the people".

# Azad urges LG to handle Thatri issue on priority

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 6: Democratic Azad Party Chairman and former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that the situation arising in Thatri area of Doda is alarming and have put the life at a grinding halt.

He said not only the homes have developed cracks rendering hundreds of people homeless, the total infrastructure of the region has also witnessed massive damage which needs to be repaired on priority basis.

Azad spoke to the locals in Thatri and complained of roads, houses having developed massive cracks. "The people are suffering with anxiety and stress. They are facing huge crisis. If the issue is not addressed, it will trigger a massive humanitarian crisis in the region," DAP leader said.

Azad urged L.G Manoj Sinha to look into the matter personally and relocate families to safer places and provide them adequate compensation. Azad said that the public infrastructure needs also to be restored immediately since people are facing huge crisis ever since it got damaged due to sinking of land.

# Cong stages massive protests against BJP, Adani Group

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU /SRINAGAR, Feb 6: The activists of Congress Party in J&K held strong protests in support of the party's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations of irregularities against the Adani Group and also clashed with police at some places in J&K.

The Congress Party also slammed the JKUT Administration over the ongoing arbitrary eviction drive in the Jammu and Kashmir, claiming it was great injustice with



Cong leaders and workers taking out strong protest march in Jammu on Monday.

landless tillers, small, marginal farmers and the common people.

In Jammu City, a large number of Congress workers led by senior party leaders Vikar Rasool- president and working president-Raman Bhalla, took out a rally from Shaheedi Chowk to City Chowk near LIC office. The Congress activists held strong protest demonstration.

Shouting loud slogans against \* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)

the Government, BJP and Adnai Group, they clashed with the police, with some of them trying to break the barricade to march forward.

"We protested from Sansad to Sadak (inside Parliament and outside on the road) over the Adani issue. We demand that a JPC be set up to probe it. We also demand a probe by a retired Chief Justice into it," Bhalla told reporters at the protest site.

Taking a dig at the BJP Government for investing LIC and SBI money into the Adnai Group, he said, "How public money has been invested in the Group. It is matter of probe."

In Srinagar, the Congress workers led by senior party leader Mohammad Anwar Bhat raised slogans in favour of the JPC probe into the allegations of fraud against the Adani Group levelled in a report by US-based Hindenburg research. "We are protesting against the

current situation of the country where the Adani-Ambani have looted the country. The LIC has invested thousands of crores in the Adani Group while Jammu and Kashmir Bank also lost Rs 250 crore in it," senior Congress leader said.

He also alleged the eviction drive has been launched by the LG administration in Jammu and Kashmir so that the BJP-ruled Centre can give land to the Adani Group to compensate for its losses following the release of

the Hindenburg report last month.

"We will not allow this to happen," Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said in Jammu. He said investment of public money through the LIC and SBI into the Adani Group is a matter of serious concern and the Modi government has been evading questions in Parliament. A nationwide protest is being held near SBI and LIC offices by the party, he added.

According to the Opposition, the meltdown in Adani Group shares is a "scam that involves common people's money as public sector (units) LIC and SBI have invested in them."

The Adani Group has maintained it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements. Congress leaders also said the anti-encroachment drive was great injustice with landless tillers, small, marginal farmers and the common people. They said Congress will oppose it tooth and nail.

Senior leaders Peerzada Mohd Sayeed, G N Monga, Kanta Bhan, Manmohan Singh, T S Bajwa, Gurcharan Kumari Rana, Pranav Shagotra, Uday Bhanu Chib, Pawan Raina, Gurdarshan Singh, Nadeem S Niaz, Kapil Singh, Thomas Khokhar and others also accompanied.

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