

@OfficeOfLGJandK

Leaving for Kalmykia, Russia, where I will lead the delegation to bring back holy relics of Lord Buddha after a week-long exposition. I sincerely thank the Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji for this sacred opportunity.

In Social

@CM_JnK

Chief Minister took a round of stalls set up by various departments at Kulgam, showcasing key Government schemes, public welfare initiatives, and achievements under flagship programmes.
He interacted with officials and beneficiaries, appreciating the efforts towards ensuring citizen-centric governance and effective service delivery.

In History

TELEGRAPH SERVICE BEGAN BETWEEN CALCUTTA & DIAMOND HARBOUR:

India's first telegraph line was opened for use between Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Diamond Harbour, marking the beginning of modern communication in the country on 18 October 1851.

In Numbers

150

DARBAR MOVE TRADITION RESTORED:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced the revival of the 150-year-old Darbar Move, shifting the seat of administration between Srinagar and Jammu for summer and winter. The decision reverses a 2021 scrapping of the tradition, aiming to address public demands and stimulate seasonal local economies.

Traffic Signs

ONE WAY:

Certain pockets of an area or road are demarcated as no entry areas for traffic. This could be entry to a restricted area or no traffic zone. So the driver should obey it and divert his route.

Dr Jitendra unveils curtain raiser for 4-day IISF 2025



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday launched the curtain raiser for the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025, describing it as a "celebration of science" that complements the country's growing spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Jitendra Singh said the festival will serve as a platform to showcase India's scientific achievements and inspire greater public participation in science-driven progress.

The festival, scheduled to be held from December

6 to 9, 2025, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, will bring together scientists, researchers, innovators, and students to showcase India's progress in science, technology, and innovation. This year's edition will be themed "Vigyan Se Samridhi – Science to Prosperity", reflecting the government's emphasis on harnessing science for national growth and self-reliance.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is witnessing its most dynamic phase in scientific creativity and technological innovation. He pointed out that every major address by the Prime Minister over the past decade – from Independence Day speeches to policy announcements – has carried a strong message underscoring the importance of

science and technology in national development.

The Minister said that the theme "Vigyan Se Samridhi for Atmanirbhar Bharat" captures the essence of India's next growth phase, which will be powered by technology, innovation, and sustainability. He noted that India's progress toward self-reliance depends on reducing import dependence and strengthening domestic capacity in fields such as life sciences, agriculture, fuel, and automotive technologies.

IISF 2025 will focus on five broad themes – Science, Technology and Ecology of North-West India and the Himalayan Region; Science for Society and Education; Atmanirbhar Bharat through Science and Technology; Biotechnology and Bio-economy; and Integration of Traditional

Knowledge with Modern Science. According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, the event will bring together institutions from Jammu, Chandigarh, and the Himalayan belt to showcase region-specific innovations that promote sustainable development.

Referring to the recently held Curtain Raiser of another upcoming meet, the ESTIC Conclave Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the conclave was focused on the study of science, IISF symbolises the joy of discovery and inspiration. "The two events complement each other – you study to know what to celebrate, and you celebrate to get inspired to study more," he remarked.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the initiatives such as Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will democratize research funding by extending support to universities and institutions across states, ensuring that innovation is no longer confined to traditional centres of excellence. He also emphasized India's unique ability to blend traditional knowledge systems with cutting-edge modern science, noting that this synergy is one of the country's greatest scientific strengths.

SMVDU joins first PAIR Consortium meet at IIT Ropar



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, participated in the first meeting of the PAIR (Partnerships for Advancing Interdisciplinary Research) Consortium held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, CEO of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, also attended and interacted with ANRF officials and consortium partners. Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of the research team and expressed that this initiative will significantly enhance the research and development landscape of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Ankush Raina, Prin-

cipal Investigator (PI) from SMVDU, represented the university during the meeting.

Under the Hub and Spoke model of the PAIR initiative, IIT Ropar serves as the Hub, and SMVDU acts as one of the Spoke institutions.

The university has been sanctioned ₹10.5 Crore in funding by ANRF to undertake cutting-edge research in the areas of 3D Printing, Materials, and Energy Storage Systems.

Pertinent to mention, SMVDU is the only institution from Jammu and Kashmir to receive funding under the Category-A Institute bracket of the PAIR programme.

The project will lead to the establishment of a state-of-the-art research laboratory at SMVDU, expected to greatly benefit researchers, scholars, and students in the region.

Absconder held after seven yrs

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against absconders, Jhajjar Kotli Police on Friday arrested another absconder who had been evading arrest for the past seven years.

The accused has been identified as Faizan Ahmed S/o Ghulam Hassan R/o Cherpura, District Anantnag. He was wanted in a criminal case registered under FIR No. 47/2018 U/S 279/337 RPC at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli.

A warrant under Section 512 CrPC had been issued against him. Acting on a specific tip-off, a police team from Police Station Jhajjar Kotli, led by Inspector Vikas Dogra, SHO Jhajjar Kotli, apprehended the accused. The arrested person will be produced before the Hon'ble Court today.

It is pertinent to mention here that this is the third absconder arrested/traced by Jhajjar Kotli Police within the last two days.

Criminal booked under PSA

JAMMU: Jammu Police under the leadership of SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, JKPS tightening noose against notorious criminal, Kanachak police apprehended one notorious criminal from Kanachak area & booked him under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA).

Pertinent to mentioned here that during the current year 04 PSA warrants executed against bovine smugglers and 01 PIT NDPS against drug smuggler and this is 05 PSA executed in Rural Zone shows the commitment of Jammu Police towards ensuring the peace and harmony in Jammu area.

The detail of PSA detainee is as under: Shammai, son of Ali Gohier, resident of Rajpura Mandi, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu. Following his repeated engagement in criminal activities including cattle theft, NDPS and other criminal activities. Multiple FIR's have been registered against the accused for indulging in criminal activities.

The warrant of said accused executed by PSI Sohail Munir of PS Kanachak. The relentless efforts of SHO P/S Kanachak, SDPO Domana under the close supervision of SP Rural Jammu, Brijesh Sharma, JKPS resulted in execution of this warrant.

BJP VDG Cell seeks employment, support for deceased VDG's family

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: BJP VDG Cell State Convener Basant Raj Thakur has urged the Jammu and Kashmir government to immediately provide a government job to a family member of the late Swami Raj, a Village Defense Guard (VDG) member who lost his life while performing his duty in Bhatwal area of Billawar. Basant Raj Thakur, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP and VDG Cell Co-convenor Ramesh Katoch, was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Basant Raj Thakur, while addressing the media persons, said that Late Swami Raj was the sole bread earner for his family, which includes his wife Sato Devi, three sons, and a daughter. His untimely death has left the family in deep distress, both emotion-

ally and financially.

In light of VDG's sacrifice, Basant Raj Thakur has made a strong appeal to the government to not only provide a job to one of the family members but also to transfer his government-issued gun to his wife, Sato Devi, to ensure continued security and a sense of protection for the family.

Thakur said that Swami Raj laid down his life protecting his village and performing his duty as a VDG member. It is the moral responsibility of the government to stand by his family in this time of crisis. A government job to one of the family members would provide them financial security and dignity. The transfer of his weapon to his wife will serve as both a symbolic and practical step to ensure her safety. Basant Raj Thakur further emphasized the critical role that VDGs play

in safeguarding vulnerable border and rural areas from terrorism and infiltration, particularly in regions like Doda, Kishtwar, Bhatnagar, Ramban, Udhampur, Sam-ba, Reasi, Billawar, Basohli, Rajouri, Poonch and many more areas. He added that the government must recognize and honour the sacrifices made by VDGs, many of whom serve in extremely dangerous and challenging conditions. He called upon senior government officials to expedite the necessary formalities and act with compassion and urgency. "VDGs are the first line of defense in their villages. Their families should never feel abandoned in times of grief," Thakur said and added that the BJP VDG Cell stands united in support of Swami Raj's family and all other VDG families who have sacrificed for the safety and security of Jammu and Kashmir.

Security beefed up at railway station ahead of festive rush

■ SAROOR

JAMMU: Security and surveillance have been intensified at the Jammu railway station as part of Indian Railways' preparations to ensure safe and comfortable travel for passengers during the upcoming festive season, officials said on Friday.

A senior team led by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) Uchit Singh conducted a detailed inspection of the station to review passenger facilities and assess security arrangements.

"Keeping security in mind, adequate deployment of security forces has been ensured," an official said, adding that surveillance across the station has been enhanced through luggage scanners, metal detectors, and additional CCTV cameras.

The team also checked the availability of drinking water, cleanliness of toilets, and condition of waiting rooms. Staff on duty were directed to maintain hygiene, assist passengers promptly, and ensure operational efficiency.

Help desks, information display boards, ticket inspection counters, and enquiry offices were inspected, with staff asked to remain alert and make regular announcements regarding train schedules and platform details.

In view of the expected festive rush, officials reviewed the functioning of elevators and escalators to ensure smooth movement of passengers.

The DCM also inspected food stalls to check hygiene, quality, display of licenses, and adherence to prescribed rates. Vendors were instructed to wear uniforms and maintain cleanliness.

"To control heavy rush and maintain uninterrupted train operations, necessary instructions have been issued to all railway employees," Singhal said.

He also appealed to passengers not to carry firecrackers, matches, or any inflammable materials during travel and to immediately inform the Railway Protection Force (RPF) or call the 139 helpline in case of any suspicious activity.

Speaker highlights role of media in fostering informed public discourse on LA proceedings

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday interacted with media persons of different News organisations at Assembly Secretariat here to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the forthcoming Assembly session.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR), Javid Ahmad Rather; Assistant Director Doordarshan, veteran Journalists, bureau chiefs, senior journalists and correspondents, representatives of All India Radio and other concerned officers.

During the interaction, Speaker Rather held detailed discussion with media fraternity on various issues concerning media professionals, identifying additional requirements to enhance their working environment during the upcoming session. The deliberations also focused on ensuring hassle-free entry of media persons to the Legislative Assembly premises and as well as their facilitation for smooth coverage of the session.



The Speaker highlighted the vital role of media in upholding transparency and fostering informed public discourse on legislative proceedings. He emphasized that the media acts as a vital bridge between the people and the legislature, ensuring citizens remain aware of policies, discussions and decisions that shape governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognizing the significance of media in highlighting public issues, the Speaker sought cooperation from media houses for balanced and responsible reporting of the Session. He emphasized the critical role of journalists in ensuring transparency and public awareness of legislative discussions and advised them to keep

public interests paramount while discharging their professional assignments.

While reviewing arrangements for media persons, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings. He instructed the Assembly Secretariat officers to prepare and issue entry passes for journalists in coordination with information department well in advance for their unhindered entry into the assembly complex.

To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the information department to install sufficient number of microphones and Public Address Systems (PAS) within the Assembly Hall and its

lawns, facilitating smooth interaction between dignitaries, Ministers, legislative assembly members and the journalists. He also directed the Hospitality & Protocol department to install Shamiana with a dais for press briefings by the MLAs and Ministers.

The Speaker also directed SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to make appropriate parking arrangements for media personnel near the Assembly Secretariat.

During the interaction, the Speaker also invited constructive suggestions from journalists for improving media engagement and coverage of legislative business. Representatives of both print and electronic media expressed their appreciation for the Speaker's proactive approach and shared valuable inputs on improving accessibility and communication channels between the media and the Assembly Secretariat.

They highlighted key concerns like designating parking spaces, provision of high-speed Wi-Fi for seamless coverage and extension of other logistical support. The Media representatives also sought smooth distribution of entry passes for coverage from Assembly Secretariat, particularly for Accredited Journalists as well as veteran Journalists who have been in the field for decades.

Secy Transport visits IDTR Kot Bhalwal, reviews ongoing works

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport department, Avny Lavasa on Friday visited Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Kot Bhalwal here and held detailed assessment of ongoing works. The visit was part of department's focused efforts to expedite the development of critical transport infrastructure in the Union Territory.



The Secretary was accompanied by Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Additional Transport Commissioner, Anju Gupta; Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu, Additional Secretary, Transport, Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu; Executive Engineers PWD & Mechanical and Assistant Engineers PWD and Mechanical Departments.

At the outset of the visit, Transport Commissioner, presented a detailed overview of the IDTR project. He informed the Secretary

about components of the institute like Administrative Block, Hostel Block, various driving test tracks, and other associated infrastructure being developed to facilitate professional driver training and research.

During the inspection, Secretary assessed the progress of civil works and examined key training facilities such as driving simulators, classrooms, laboratories and other equipment essential for modern driver education. She also held on-site deliberations regarding

coordination, quality control and future operational planning of the IDTR.

Expressing concern over delays in the completion of critical infrastructure, the Secretary issued firm instructions to the Executive Engineers, PWD, Mechanical and Electrical to ensure timely execution of all pending works. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timelines and directed that the balance works must be completed within next 15 days.

Rs 105 Cr water, sewerage projects to commence in Dec

JAMMU: Infrastructure company Ganesh Infraworld will begin work on two water and sewerage treatment projects worth Rs 105.77 crore in Jammu & Kashmir from December 2025, its Managing Director Vibhoor Agrawal said. The projects form part of the government's larger effort to modernise water management and sewage infrastructure in the Union Territory, particularly in the Srinagar-Budgam region, which has witnessed rapid urban expansion

and rising pollution levels in local water bodies. "We are waiting for certain approvals, expected anytime from now, and look to begin work on the two water and sewerage treatment projects from December this year," Agrawal said in an interaction. The work order involves complete survey, design, and construction of modern sewerage treatment plants along the Doodh-Ganga Nallah on a turnkey basis, including five years of operations.