

@CM_JnK
#Highlights - Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for Bab-ul-Salam and Bab-ul-Noor gates at Dargah Hazratbal to strengthen heritage and enhance visitor facilities.

@narendramodi
President Putin and I attended the Plenary Session of the India-Russia Trade Forum. This platform will add fresh momentum to our business ties and also open new avenues for innovation as well as growth.

WATER ON MARS

On December 06 in 2006, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released images—taken by the Mars Global Surveyor—that indicated the relatively recent presence of water on Mars.

CULTIVATED AREA:

In the entire Samba district of Jammu division, 71454 hectare is the total gross cultivated area.

71454 hect

LEFT TURN PROHIBITED

This sign directs driver not to turn towards left side in any circumstance.

‘Centuries-old’ stone sculpture of Hindu deity unearthed in Gulmarg

SRINAGAR: A stone sculpture of a Hindu deity, presumed to be centuries old, has been unearthed in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district, police said on Thursday.

The sculpture, believed to depict either Lord Vishnu or Lord Surya, was discovered on the outskirts of Gulmarg during a routine patrol conducted by the Gulmarg police station, an official said.

The police later handed over the sculpture to the archaeology department.

The official said the artefact, crafted in fine stone, appears to be centuries old and reflects the rich cultural and historical heritage of the region.

Police took immediate steps to ensure its safety and preservation and coordinated with the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir, for proper documentation and conservation, the spokesman said.

The police handed over the ancient stone sculpture to the team from the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, headed by Javed Ahmad Mattoo.

This underscore Jammu and Kashmir Police’s commitment to preserving the archaeological treasures of the region and promoting awareness about its history, the official asserted.

Criminal nabbed with sharp edged weapon

JAMMU: In a continued crackdown on criminal activities, Jammu (Rural) Police intercepted a vehicle JK02DF-2625 during patrolling on the intervening night of 03/12/2025 in the Domana area. During checking, the police recovered a sharp-edged weapon from a person identified as Balram Singh Jambwal @ Kapil S/o Balbir Singh R/o Galwade Chak, Gajansoo.

In this regard, FIR number 254/2025 U/S 4/25 Arms Act was registered at Police Station Domana.

A police team led by Insp. Varuneshwar, SHO Domana, successfully apprehended the accused on the spot. Further investigation is underway to ascertain his possible involvement in other criminal activities and identify any associates.

Two theft cases solved; ornaments recovered

JAMMU: The Janipur Police have solved two theft cases registered under FIR No. 172/2025 and FIR No. 182/2025, recovering stolen gold ornaments worth a significant amount. Using human and technical intelligence, the police teams cracked the 16 tola gold theft in two cases, making the recovery after hectic efforts.

The proactive approach of the Police Station Janipur, led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma, under the supervision of SDPO City West Dr Satish Bhardwaj and SP City North Sh Vivek Sharma, resulted in this success. PSI Rohit Manhas, PSI Sandeep Charak, SPO Ansh, and others contributed to this achievement.

The investigation teams worked tirelessly to track down the accused persons and recover the stolen gold ornaments. The police teams’ efforts paid off, and the stolen gold was recovered, bringing relief to the victims.

The timely action by Janipur Police has boosted public confidence in effective policing. The police department’s commitment to solving crimes and bringing perpetrators to justice is evident in this success.

SSP Jammu Joginder Singh JKPS praised the efforts of the Janipur Police team, stating, “This success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our officers and men. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and their

CS inaugurates 3 days exhibition on Sharda paintings at Kala Kendra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday inaugurated a three day exhibition of Sharda Calligraphy paintings by eminent artist Subash C Razdan at the G R Santosh Gallery, Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma; Padma Shri Rajinder Tickoo; Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums K K Sidha; Secretary Kala Kendra Dr. Javaid Rahi; noted art historian Dr. Lalit Gupta; acclaimed artist Gokal Dambi and eminent writer P N Koul. The event was organized by Kala Kendra Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said that the exhibition is unique as it highlights Sharda, the ancient Kashmiri script with a history of thousand years. He emphasized the need to revive and pre-

serve this script, which forms an important cultural link to the roots and identity of Kashmir. He appreciated that Kala Kendra, as a premier centre for art in Jammu & Kashmir, continues to provide essential support and facilities to local artists in the fields of visual and performing arts.

Atal Dulloo also highlighted that the Gayan Bhartam Scheme, launched by the Prime Minister, will significantly contribute to preservation, conservation and documentation of cultural heritage, ensuring continuity of knowledge for the future generations.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the work of Subash C Razdan and urged the public to visit the exhibition to witness this rare art form.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal Secretary Culture informed that the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages has recently signed an MoU

with the University of Kashmir to introduce a Diploma in Calligraphy, aimed at promoting and conserving calligraphy traditions in Sharda, Urdu and Devanagari scripts. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Javaid Rahi stated that the exhibition is showcasing 50 works of Subash C Razdan. The objective of the event is to exhibit age-old Sharda script, artistically portrayed through rare calligraphy paintings that are exceptional both in visual and expression, he added. Speaking at the event, Gokal Dambi noted that the exhibition reflects a continuity of cultural ethos preserved over centuries. Dr. Lalit Gupta described Razdan’s work as rich, distinct and deeply rooted in spirituality and Shaivism.

Padma Shri Rajinder Tickoo remarked that the artworks open new dimensions of Kashmiri Shaivism-inspired art and stressed the need for their proper documentation.

Admissions to Vaishno Devi medical college made purely on merit through NEET: Dy CM

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surender Chaudhary on Friday said that admissions to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College were made purely on merit through NEET and should not be viewed from a religious perspective.

“My point is that children’s education should not be judged on the scale of religion. Look at their merit. The students who have taken admission are meritorious candidates. They qualified through an examination and were selected on the basis of merit through NEET,” Chaudhary told reporters here.

Choudhary was replying to questions on sidelines of a function on the 120th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh

Muhammad Abdullah here.

Reiterating that the issue was being “unnecessarily politicised”, the deputy chief minister said, “It is not about who is saying what. The students selected at the Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College were admitted on the basis of merit through NEET.”

Commenting on the ongoing protests by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, he said the outfit does not represent the views of all sections of Jammu. “The Sangharsh Samiti does not reflect the thinking of the people of Jammu. All their affiliations are aligned with the BJP. The truth is that the BJP has not come forward openly and has instead put the Sangharsh Samiti committee in front to lead this movement,” he alleged.

He urged people to question the political backing of the agitation. “You should ask the BJP and the leaders of the Sangharsh Samiti about whom they are really aligned with,” he said.

The agitation by the Sangharsh Samiti, a conglomeration of dozens of Hindu organisations, followed the selection of 42 Muslim, one Sikh and seven Hindu candidates for the 50 sanctioned MBBS seats for the 2025-26 academic session, all chosen through the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

Chaudhary also targeted the BJP over its criticism of the legal framework governing admissions. “If the BJP talks about the Act (of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical University), it remained in power in

Jammu and Kashmir for 11 years — first as part of the BJP-PDP alliance government and later during the LG administration, which the BJP itself claims association with. Why did they not remember this Act during those 11 years? Now, when the Omar Abdullah government is in place, they are raising these allegations,” he said.

He said sufficient time was available to amend the Act if the BJP had intended to do so. “There was no shortage of time during those 11 years to change the Act if they really wanted to. Our government has no role in this matter. The lieutenant governor is the chancellor of the universities and the universities function under him. So against whom is the BJP agitating now — the LG?” he asked.

Demanding distribution of seats based on religion wrong: PDP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATRA/JAMMU: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said that ignoring merit and demanding distribution of seats based on religion was wrong and would harm the social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir and the entire country.

The political row erupted after the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Medical College completed admissions through the NEET merit list earlier this month, with the college admitting 42 Muslim students, mostly from Kashmir. Besides, seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh were selected for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50.

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (JK-BOPEE) decided to admit these students to the medical college run by the Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the Katra area of Jammu.

“It is very wrong to ignore merit and demand distribution of seats on the basis of religion. Such things should not happen.

“It will not only spoil the atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir but will also affect the entire country. If this begins here, it will spread to other parts as well,” Mehbooba told reporters here.

The PDP chief, who travelled by the Vande Bharat train from Srinagar to take part in a function at Katra, said that the demand for allotting seats on religious lines should not be entertained.

She recalled that when the universities of Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Ghulam Shah were proposed, land was allotted with the vision of providing quality education to local youth and attracting students from outside the region.

MP Sat Sharma raises concern over bad condition of road to Budha Amarnath

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Rajya Sabha MP and President of J&K BJP Sat Sharma (CA) raised a critical public welfare issue in the Upper House, drawing national attention to the severely deteriorated condition of the Poonch-Shri Budha Amarnath Shrine road in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sharma’s intervention highlighted the urgent need for immediate government action to safeguard thousands of pilgrims and local residents who depend on this vital road link.

Speaking during Zero Hour, Sat Sharma underscored that the Poonch-Shri Budha Amarnath Road serves as a lifeline for the region—connecting district headquarters with the revered Budha Amarnath Shrine and providing daily access for schoolchildren, patients, and residents from numerous villages. He emphasized that the current dilapidated condition of the

road is not merely an inconvenience but a grave public safety hazard, already responsible for repeated accidents and dangerously delayed emergency responses.

Sharma informed the House that the road is riddled with deep potholes, remains waterlogged in multiple stretches, and has seen persistent neglect despite earlier allocations for repair and strengthening. He expressed concern that substandard workmanship, inadequate oversight, and delayed execution have eroded public trust and damaged the region’s potential for religious tourism, which is a major contributor to the local economy.

Calling the situation “deeply distressing and unacceptable,” Sat Sharma urged the Union Government to direct concerned ministries and implementing agencies to undertake immediate restoration work along with a comprehensive long-term plan to ensure an all-weather, durable road.

SRLV Trust debuts with book launch celebrating culture, literature

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Marking a heartfelt tribute to a family legacy and a significant step toward promoting cultural and literary engagement, the Shakuntla Roshan Lal Vohra (SRLV) Charitable and Welfare Trust was formally launched on December 5 with the unveiling of its official website and the release of Looking Through the Window: Northeast Poetry Anthology. The anthology, edited by Prof. Anupama Vohra and Dr. Prasanta Chakraborty, took centre stage at a ceremony attended by prominent academicians, writers and civil society members.

The book was released by

Chief Guest Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports J&K, alongside Guest of Honour Padma Shri awardee Prof. Lalit Mangotra and Special Guest Prof. Javed Rahi, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Jammu, in the presence of SRLV Trust members and an invited audience.

During the event, Prof. Kshamata Chaudhary of VMOU, Kota, and Dr. Koshika Sharma from the Directorate of Hindi, University of Jammu, presented critical papers on the anthology, highlighting its exploration of diverse themes expressed by young poets from the Northeast.

Introducing the Trust’s

vision, its President Prof. Anupama Vohra shared that the organisation has been established under the patronage of Veena Suri as a tribute to the legacy of their parents, Shakuntla and Roshan Lal Vohra. She outlined the Trust’s objectives centred on welfare, cultural enrichment and community service.

In her address, Chief Guest Anuradha Gupta congratulated the Trust members on the book launch and lauded their efforts in promoting literature and social good. Guest of Honour Prof. Lalit Mangotra offered his blessings and spoke about the avenues through which the SRLV Trust could expand its philanthropic en-

deavours. Special Guest Prof. Javed Rahi emphasised the significance of literature in understanding diverse cultures, languages, traditions and rituals.

Prof. Jasbir Singh delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Sindhuja Gupta, Treasurer of SRLV Trust, presented the vote of thanks. Souvenirs of gratitude were handed to the guests by Veena, Patron of the Trust.

The event was attended by faculty members, officers and scholars from the University of Jammu and Cluster University Jammu, along with writers, poets and members of civil society, lending the occasion a vibrant literary and cultural spirit.

Chairman DLSA reviews measures for National Lok Adalat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu R. N. Watal on Friday interacted with media personnel to raise public awareness about the 4th National Lok Adalat scheduled on December 13, 2025.

The media interaction underscored the objectives, scope and anticipated outcomes of the forthcoming event, reinforcing the judiciary’s commitment to accessible and expeditious justice.

Earlier, the Chairman presided over a meeting to review preparations made

for the smooth conduct of the 4th National Lok Adalat, 2025. He asked the concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in time. Reviewing the preparations, the Chairman discussed various aspects such as Case identification-Identifying pending cases that can be resolved through the National Lok Adalat, Logistical arrangements- Ensuring that all necessary logistical arrangements, such as venue, infrastructure and personnel are in place. He further discussed the awareness and outreach- Raising awareness about the National Lok Adalat and its benefits

among the public, particularly those with pending cases. The Chairman held another meeting with Bank Managers and their Advocates, Divisional Managers of the Insurance Companies and their Advocates and Representatives and advocates of the Insurance Companies. The meeting was attended by Presiding Officer of Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal Jammu Khem Raj; Presiding Officer of Fast Track Court & Incharge Officer of Addl. District Judge Bank Court Amarjeet Singh Langeh; Addl. Sessions Judge Anti Corruption Rajni Sharma and Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu Maleeka Sharma.

DC reviews safety measures against stray dog menace

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India regarding the management of stray dogs within educational, health and other public institutions, the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai on Friday convened a meeting of the District Level Committee to review the status of implementation of these directions in the district.

During the meeting, the DC instructed the concerned departments to identify and prepare a detailed line listing of all educational and health institutions, bus stand, railway station, sports complexes and other vulnerable locations for ensuring adequate safety measures.

The CEO Municipality was directed to identify pet shops and shelter homes under the jurisdiction of MC Udhampur, while ensuring 100% sterilization and

vaccination of stray dogs in the district.

The DC emphasized the need for strict compliance with the Supreme Court directives, highlighting that the safety and welfare of children and the general public must be upheld with utmost priority.

She further directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure adequate stock of Anti-Rabies Vaccines in all the government as well as private health institutions across the district.

The Municipalities of the District were directed to construct separate shelter sheds and quarantine facilities for dogs to ensure their proper care and management.

The DC called upon all stakeholders to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, conduct regular inspections, promptly plug any existing gaps and ensure time-bound implementation of the Supreme Court guidelines.