

JAMMU

@tarigami
Police scuttled a peaceful indoor meeting of CPI (M) workers in Shopian and assaulted workers. Such actions undermine democratic space, erode the rule of law, and deepen mistrust among citizens expressing peaceful dissent. Request @OfficeOfLGJandK to look into it.



@OfficeOfLGJandK
Grateful for the privilege of joining Shri Raghunath Ji's Jammu Aarti this evening. Performed by devoted men & women, today's sacred rite beautifully embodies India's timeless reverence for Nari Shakti and Ardhhanarishvar, while invoking divine blessings upon every living soul.



YOGI ADITYANATH BECOMES UP CM

Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the Chief Minister of India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, this day in 2017, marking a significant political shift.



19

BLOCKS:
In the entire Rajouri district of Jammu division, 19 are the total blocks.



STOP

This is one of the most important and prominent Road Sign. This sign indicates that Driver should immediately stop. Usually Police, traffic and toll authorities use this signs at check posts.



Hope judiciary does justice with MLA Malik: Dy CM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Wednesday expressed hope that the judiciary will do justice with jailed MLA from Doda Mehraj Malik.

Malik, who is the AAP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president, was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 8 2025, for allegedly disturbing public order and was subsequently lodged in the Kathua jail.

"We are hopeful that the judiciary will do justice in the case of Mehraj Malik as it did in Sonam Wangchuk's case," Chaudhary told reporters in Kulgam district.

The deputy chief minister asserted said his party had been against the detention of the environment activist right from the beginning of the case. "We are proud of the judiciary... what wrong did he (Wangchuk) do?," he said.

On the matter of the ongoing war between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Chaudhary said the world leaders will have to end the wars to save the world for future generations.

"The conflict is not limited to one region, as more countries are fighting each other. Earlier leaders, like Vajpayee, spoke about peace. Even our president Farooq Abdullah says war is not a solution.

"The world leaders will have to stop the wars," he said.

Tarun Chauhan, delegations call on LG Manoj Sinha

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: Tarun Chauhan, General Secretary of Udhampur Table Tennis Association (UTTA), on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed several important issues concerning sports infrastructure and development in Udhampur district.

During the meeting, Tarun Chauhan highlighted the urgent need for a separate Table Tennis Hall at Subash Stadium, Udhampur, to promote the sport and provide better training facilities to local players. He also raised the issue of recruitment of NIS-qualified coaches, stating that no such recruitment has been made in the district for the past 15 years.

In addition, he emphasized the requirement for adequate Table Tennis tables, proper maintenance of



the outdoor stadium, and other key concerns affecting sportspersons in the region. The Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised and assured that appropriate steps will be taken to address them at

the earliest. Meanwhile, a delegation of S S Jain Sabha J&K led by Suneel Jain called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday. Additionally, a public delegation from Rajouri led by Arun Kumar Sharma, President All J&K

Panchayat Conference called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today. Subsequently, Tarun Chauhan, General Secretary, Udhampur Table Tennis Association (UTTA), also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

129 trackable debris originating from satellites mission in orbit: Dr Jitendra

JAMMU: A total of 129 trackable space debris originating from Indian satellite missions are in orbit as of March 2026, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the minister said in low Earth orbit (LEO) and geostationary Earth orbit (GEO), there are 23 and 26 defunct satellites, respectively.

There are also "rocket bodies remaining in orbit from PSLV (40), GSLV (4) and LVM3 (3), and debris generated due to in-orbit break-up of PSLV C3 rocket body (33)," said Singh.

The minister has also highlighted the Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM) initiative, announced in 2024, which aims for zero debris creation by all Indian actors, government and private, by 2030.

"As a step to achieve the DFSM objectives, ISRO has institutionalised the process to ensure extra fuel margins for both spacecraft and launch vehicles, during the mission design and project initialisation phase itself," said the minister.

He has also stated that studies are underway on robotic arm, rendezvous, and proximity operations that serve as precursors to active debris removal.

"India achieved a significant milestone in 2025 through its SpaDeX mission, demonstrating autonomous rendezvous, docking and unocking capabilities.

"A relocatable robotic arm and a robotic manipulator were also successfully demonstrated on the upper stage of the launch vehicle for this mission, namely the PS4 orbital experimental module or POEM-4 platform," said the minister.

Meanwhile, Uranium Corporation of India Ltd (UCIL) is set to establish a uranium mining and processing plant with a capacity of 2,500 tonnes per day (TPD) at Rohil in Rajasthan's Sikar district and Jajwal, Chhattisgarh, said Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the minister said the mining projects were under various stages of obtaining statutory clearances.

"UCIL, a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), mandated to mine and process uranium ore in the country, has undertaken initiatives to enhance the indigenous capability of Uranium mining. UCIL has planned to take up new uranium mining projects in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047," said Singh.

The minister said that the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), a constituent unit under the DAE, undertakes fabrication of fuel assemblies indigenously for Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited (NPCIL), which operates pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) and boiling water reactors (BWRs) with uranium as raw material sourced from UCIL and imports.

Singh stated that the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the Nuclear Recycle Board (NRB) are constructing large-capacity integrated nuclear recycle facilities at the Integrated Nuclear Recycle Plant (INRP) in Tarapur and the Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility (FRFCF) in Kalpakkam.

These facilities will be used for recycling and management of spent fuel from domestic sources and the fabrication of fuel.

"The facilities are expected to enhance the indigenous capacity for fuel fabrication and waste management in the country," Singh said.

Govt committed to deliver affordable healthcare to every citizen: Minister



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government is committed to deliver equitable, inclusive, and affordable healthcare to every citizen in the Union Territory. Health Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Wednesday.

Itoo inaugurated 50 bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Chawalgam in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The hospital, constructed at an estimated cost of around Rs 7.40 crores, marks a significant milestone in the government's sustained efforts to promote traditional systems of medicine alongside modern healthcare services.

In her address after the inauguration ceremony, the minister underscored Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government's commitment to expanding quality healthcare services to the grassroots

level. She emphasised that the integration of AYUSH systems with conventional medicine will not only broaden treatment options but also revive and institutionalise time-tested indigenous healing practices.

"The government is resolute in its mission to deliver equitable, inclusive, and affordable healthcare to every citizen. The inauguration of this hospital reflects our vision of a robust and diversified healthcare system that respects tradition while embracing innovation," she said.

Itoo highlighted that the newly established facility will provide comprehensive and integrated treatment modalities under Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, and Homeopathy (AYUSH), ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare to the people of Kulgam and adjoining areas.

Highlighting the importance of preventive healthcare, Itoo said

AYUSH plays a crucial role in lifestyle management, chronic disease care and immunity enhancement.

She added the hospital will also serve as a centre for health awareness, community outreach programmes, and capacity-building initiatives.

"This 50-bed hospital is equipped with well-furnished inpatient wards, specialized outpatient departments, Panchakarma therapy units, diagnostic facilities, Yoga and wellness centres and dedicated consultation chambers to ensure high standards of treatment and patient care," she stated.

The minister said strengthening healthcare infrastructure in underserved and rural areas remains a top priority of the government.

She assured the public that necessary resources and manpower would be provided to ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the hospital.

Div Com reviews measures for Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2026

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the arrangement to be put in place for Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2026.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, SSP Kishtwar, Commandant SDRF, Director Tourism Jammu, Chief Engineers of PWD(R&B) Chenab Valley, JPDCJammu, Mechanical Engineer Department, Jal Shakti Jammu and PMGSY Jammu Director Health Services Jammu, Representatives of BSNL, Reliance JIO, Airtel and Director G-Max IT Services, Jammu besides other concerned officers.

The Divisional Commissioner sought an overview of the plan of preparations made by the District Administration along the Yatra route and different aspects associated with the robust arrangements of the holy Yatra.

Threadbare discussions were held on registration of the Yatra on online and offline mode, exploring the introduction of RFID card facility for the yatis similar to the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji



Yatra, Yatra regulation, crowd management plan, accommodation arrangements, Sanitation, Power and Drinking water supply, Langar facilities, Medical and emergency services, heli services, Parking spots at designated areas with proper time slots for parking of Yatra Vehicles, Signages, Safety measures, Traffic management, enhancement of facilities, Development projects along the route and at the Holy Shrine, comprehensive Mobile connectivity and other necessary arrangements to ensure smooth and foolproof conduct of the Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2026.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for deputing an officer for each Government accommodation ensuring the provision of facilities for yatis, and round the

clock availability of Doctors, paramedical staff, medical equipment, medicines and ambulances for the yatra. The Div Com emphasized on preparing a meticulous plan for crowd management and releasing traffic in a highly regulated manner while earmarking the designated spots for parking of vehicles.

Underscoring the significance of strong and comprehensive mobile network coverage along the Yatra route, the Div Com issued strict directions to mobile service providers to enhance their infrastructure with low network coverage areas.

District administration was asked to install ample signages and safety guidelines for the convenience and safety of yatis. He also stressed on developing a mechanism for timely issuance of weather updates.

Cong delegation meets SEC; seeks early Panchayat, ULB polls in J&K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A delegation of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) on Wednesday met State Election Commissioner (SEC) Shantmanu and sought early elections to panchayats and urban local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation was led by PCC working president Raman Bhalla and included chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former minister Yogesh Sawhney, former legislators Ved Mahajan and Balbir Singh, and president of District Congress Committee, Jammu Rural, Neeraj Kundan, a party spokesman said.

No elected local body is currently functional in the Union Territory. The tenure of municipalities ended in October-November 2023, while panchayats and Block Development Councils completed their five-year term on January 9, 2024.

The term of District Development Councils also ended on February 24, leaving all local bodies without elected representatives.

According to officials, elections to local bodies could not be held on time

due to multiple factors, including the delimitation exercise and the reservation of wards for other backward classes.

The Congress delegation discussed issues and concerns of people in rural and urban areas related to panchayats and municipal bodies, including revision of electoral rolls, delimitation and rationalisation of wards, rotation and reservation for SCs, STs, women and OBCs, and the overall conduct of elections, the spokesman said.

He said the delegation shared its inputs and sought information on the ongoing efforts to ensure that the entire exercise is conducted in a transparent manner, while stressing the need to involve all political parties for a more effective and meaningful process.

The Congress assured full cooperation in the entire exercise and said it is prepared for elections to all institutions of the Panchayati Raj system.

Bhalla said the SEC noted their concerns and assured consideration, terming the meeting fruitful for early and smooth elections to vacant PRI institutions in J&K.

Kashmiri Pandits resolve to celebrate 'Navreh' in Valley

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandits have renewed their resolve to celebrate Navreh, the first day of the New Year according to the Kashmiri Hindu calendar, in the Valley from next year, terming it a symbolic step towards reconnecting with their ancestral homeland, community members said.

Navreh, which is celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits on the first day of the month of Chaitra, is traditionally dedicated to Goddess Sharika and marks the beginning of a new year in the Saptarshi calendar. The festival, which will be celebrated on March 19 this year, holds immense religious and cultural significance for the community.

"The Navreh Mahotsav is a poignant homecoming movement. The festival would be observed not only in Jammu, but in several cities across the country and abroad, reflecting widespread participation of the community," Kashi Nath Pandita, scholar and convener of the Navreh Mahotsav Aayojan Samiti-2026, told reporters here.

Pandita, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2017 for his contributions

in the fields of literature and education, said, "The members of the displaced community have collectively reaffirmed their resolve to return and celebrate Navreh in their ancestral birthplace in Kashmir next year."

"Navreh marks the beginning of the new year and carries deep astronomical and cultural significance. The festival traditionally begins with early morning rituals, including 'pooja' and 'darshan' of the Navreh Thali, symbolising prosperity, knowledge and continuity of life," he said.

The second day of the celebrations, March 20, will be observed as Shaurya Divas to commemorate the valour and leadership of the 8th-century Karkota monarch of the Kashmir region, Samrat Lalitaditya.

"The concluding Mahotsav will be held at the Abhinav Theatre here, featuring cultural performances, intellectual discourses and tributes to historical icons," Pandita said.

Co-convener of Navreh Mahotsav Aayojan Samiti-2026, Brij Lal Bhat, said the festival symbolises the community's aspiration to reconnect with its roots.

Bhat, a recipient of the Padma Shri award this year in the Unsung

Heroes category, also called for incorporating the contributions of Acharya Shreya Bhat and Samrat Lalitaditya into the academic curriculum of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.

The chairman of the Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra (SSK) and chief spokesperson of the Navreh Mahotsav Aayojan Samiti, M K Bharat, said that according to the Hindu calendar, Amavasya and Chaitra Shukla Pratipada fall on the same day this year, resulting in the confluence of Tyag Divas and Sankalp Divas and reducing the three-day festival to two days.

Bharat also invited all sections of society to participate in the celebrations, describing the festival as a vibrant expression of cultural resurgence, bridging the past with the future.

The Navreh Mahotsav has been organised annually since 2021, and this year marks its sixth edition, Bharat said.

Celebrating the festival in exile for decades after migrating from the Valley in the early 1990s, Kashmiri Pandits have been observing the festival in Jammu and elsewhere while simultaneously expressing a desire to return to the Valley.