

JAMMU

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Our timeless traditions, rich spiritual heritage & wisdom are among our greatest treasures & I encourage the youth to build a strong and lasting connection with them. Youth will not merely inherit India's legacy but reshape it & propel it toward a developed, sustainable tomorrow.



@CM_JnK

The Chief Minister extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri, expressing hope that the festival brings peace, prosperity and well-being to all. He also conveyed his felicitations to the Kashmiri Pandit community on the occasion of Navreh, praying that the festival ushers in renewed hope, harmony and prosperity for all.



LIVING:

On this day in 2017, Indian rivers the Yamuna and the Ganges were declared 'living entities' by the court in the state of Uttarakhand.



VILLAGE:

In the entire Rajouri district of Jammu division, 386 are the total villages.



386

ONE WAY

This indicates that the traffic flow is allowed in only one direction. The way beyond this sign restricts entry of the traffic however, the oncoming traffic flow remains normal.



In Social

In History

In Numbers

Traffic Signs

India has emerged as a major global biotechnology hub: Dr Jitendra Singh

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: India's bioeconomy has expanded from about USD 10 billion in 2014 to more than USD 195 billion in 2025, reflecting a massive growth trajectory over the past decade, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

Speaking at the 14th foundation day celebrations of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), the minister stated that the country's biotechnology sector recorded an annual growth of around 17-18 per cent in the last year alone -- rising from approximately USD 165 billion to USD 195 billion -- marking India's emergence as a major global biotechnology hub.



"Biotechnology is now central to India's future growth story, driving advancements in healthcare, agriculture, climate solutions, and sustainable manufacturing," Singh said. The Union minister also highlighted the role of BIRAC as a key enabler of India's biotechnology innovation ecosystem.

Established by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in 2012, BIRAC is a public sector undertaking (PSU) that aims to strengthen and empower the emerging biotech enterprise.

"BIRAC has played a crucial role in connecting research with industry and enabling the transition of ideas from laboratories into market-ready solutions," Singh said.

The minister added that the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, approved in 2024, would promote innovation in areas such as precision biotherapeutics, smart proteins, climate-resilient agriculture, bio-based chemicals, and carbon capture technologies.

BJP reviews organisation across J&K, Sat calls for grassroots empowerment



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: J&K Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma CA, along with BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, addressed a crucial organizational meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting witnessed the presence of BJP J&K Vice Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Rakesh Mahajan, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, and other senior leaders.

The meeting focused on strengthening the party structure across Jammu & Kashmir, with special emphasis on booth-level consolidation, review of ongoing programmes, and strategizing for upcoming organizational and political activities. A detailed

and elaborative review of the ongoing Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan was also undertaken, assessing its outreach and effectiveness in training party cadre at multiple levels. Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma stressed the importance of a strong and active organizational network at the grassroots level. He stated that booth-level workers are the backbone of the party and their activism and training are key to ensuring the BJP's continued growth and public support in Jammu & Kashmir. He urged party leaders to ensure that every booth is strengthened with dedicated workers who remain connected with the public and actively highlight the public welfare initiatives of the government. Sat Sharma further emphasized the need for effective communication of the developmental works

and transformative policies being implemented in Jammu & Kashmir, stating that the party must remain proactive in taking its achievements to the people. He called for collective efforts to ensure the success of upcoming party programs and campaigns.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, laid strong emphasis on organizational discipline and systematic methodology. He conducted a detailed review of the Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan, directing leaders to ensure maximum participation and effective execution at district and mandal levels. He highlighted that continuous training is essential to equip party workers with the skills and knowledge required to effectively engage with the public and strengthen the party's presence on the ground.

Blind murder case cracked, 2 held

JAMMU: Police have solved a blind murder case within 24 hours of its reporting, arresting two persons in connection with the killing of a man here, officials said.

Satwari police station received information around 9.30 pm on March 16 that a male body had been found lying on a bridge on the road between Chatha and Miran Sahib, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh told reporters. The deceased, a Sikh man aged around 46 years, had suffered a fatal neck injury inflicted with a sharp-edged weapon, resulting in excessive blood loss and death, he said. A case was registered at Satwari police station under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections 4 and 25 of the Arms Act. During investigation, police teams examined the crime scene and CCTV footage from nearby areas to trace the culprits, SSP said. CCTV footage from the route leading to Miran Sahib market revealed that a scooter with two persons on board had been following the victim prior to the crime, he said.

JMC launches citywide awareness drive

JAMMU: With the deadline for payment of water bills approaching on March 31, the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav issued comprehensive directives to ensure maximum public participation in clearing pending dues and to streamline the collection process across the city.

In line with these directions, the Jal Shakti Department particularly Divisions 1 and 2 functioning within the jurisdiction of JMC launched a widespread awareness and facilitation campaign. As part of this initiative, 12 dedicated camps have been established at various locations across Jammu to educate residents about the importance of timely payment of water charges and to provide convenient on-the-spot payment facilities.

Under Division 1, camps have been set up at Roonpargar, Dhonthli, Resham Ghar, Janipur and Hazuri Bagh. Similarly, under Division 2, camps are operational at Kunjwani, Trikuta Nagar, Sainik Colony, Digiana Ashram, Channi Himmat, Channi Rama and Greater Kailash. These camps witnessed active participation from residents, with officials providing guidance, addressing queries and facilitating immediate bill payments.

The initiative aims not only to improve revenue realization but also to promote a sense of civic responsibility among citizens regarding the maintenance and sustainability of essential water supply services. Officials highlighted that water dues amounting to nearly ₹30 crore are still pending across Jammu city, which significantly impacts the department's ability to maintain and upgrade infrastructure.

Appealing to the public, the department urged all consumers to take advantage of these camps and clear their outstanding dues well before the deadline to avoid last-minute inconvenience. The camps have been strategically located to ensure easy accessibility for residents from all parts of the city.

Providing further details, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department (Division 1) Tajinder Pal Singh said that strict action may be initiated against defaulters after the due date. He cautioned that non-payment of water charges could lead to disconnection of water supply connections and urged residents to act promptly.

GPS anklets fitted on 3 JeM OGWs out on interim bail

JAMMU: Police have fitted GPS-enable tracking anklet on three overground workers of militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad in Kathua district after they were released on interim bail, officials said.

The action followed an order of the principal district and sessions judge in Kathua.

The devices were affixed on the accused -- identified as Mool Raj, Liyaqat Ali and Maqbool -- under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma.

A GPS tracking anklet is a wearable electronic device secured around the ankle to enable real-time location tracking of the wearer.

According to police, the accused, who were overground workers of the Pakistan-backed terror organisation, were arrested on July 25, 2024 for allegedly helping militants with logistics, including Wi-Fi facilities.

On July 8, 2024, a heavily armed group of terrorists ambushed two Army trucks, killing five soldiers and injuring five others, while the attackers escaped without suffering any casualties.

A case was registered at Malhar police station in 2024 against the three accused for their alleged involvement in terrorist acts (Section 113), criminal conspiracy (Section 61(1)), waging war against the Government of India (Section 147), and concealing a design to wage war (Section 150) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Unity, communal harmony J-K's true essence: Dy CM

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Wednesday extended greetings on the occasion of Navratri, saying the festival reflects the spirit of unity, brotherhood and communal harmony in the Union Territory.

Choudhary described Navratri as a spiritual occasion that connects different communities. Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the Maa Bawe Wali shrine here, he noted the significance of various religious observances coinciding in the region.

"Navratri dedicated to Maa Durga has begun and it is a sacred festival with which every individual is emotionally connected. This is the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir; while one community is observing Roza, another starts Navratri. With Eid approaching, different festivals are being celebrated together," he said.

Highlighting the region's composite culture, he said that such coexistence reflects the true essence of Jammu and Kashmir and the country. The Deputy Chief Minister said that he visited the shrine in a personal capacity along with his two sons. "There is nothing political about my visit. I came to bow my head and seek blessings. The Mother has already given me so much, and one does not need to ask as she knows what her children need," he said.

Praying for peace and prosperity, Choudhary said that he sought blessings for sustained harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. "The brotherhood for which J&K is known should always remain intact as it will ensure progress, development and stronger relationships," he added.

He also conveyed greetings on behalf of the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, extending greetings to devotees across the country and abroad.

AIIMS Jammu performs landmark HIPEC surgeries

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a significant milestone for cancer care in the region, and marking its distinction as the only government centre in the region currently offering Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC), the Department of Surgical Oncology at AIIMS Jammu has successfully performed two advanced HIPEC procedures, marking a major leap forward in complex oncological surgery within the government healthcare system.



The two patients from Doda and Muthi, Jammu have been discharged and have now initiated their further systemic treatment. This achievement marks a significant advancement in delivering highly specialized and resource-intensive cancer treatment within the public healthcare system.

The surgeries were led by Dr Paras Khanna, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, with critical intraoperative support provided by Dr Raksha Kundal, Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, and her team.

Dr Paras Khanna explained that HIPEC is an advanced treatment used for select abdominal cancers that spread within the peritoneal cavity, such as ovarian, colorectal, gastric, appendiceal cancers, and pseudomyxoma peritonei.

Unlike conventional chemotherapy, HIPEC delivers high concentrations of chemotherapy directly to the tumour site, improving outcomes in carefully selected patients.

HIPEC procedures are among the most complex and long-duration oncological surgeries and require seamless coordination between Surgical Oncology, Anaesthesia, Critical Care, and perioperative nursing teams. The success of these cases reflects the growing multidisciplinary strength of AIIMS Jammu.

Dr Gupta, Additional

Professor and Officiating Head, Department of Anaesthesia, highlighted that meticulous preoperative optimization along with comprehensive perioperative critical care played a key role in ensuring successful outcomes in such complex procedures. She congratulated the ICU staff, residents, and consultants for their dedicated efforts and seamless teamwork.

Prof. (Dr.) D.N Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, said it is heartening to witness the Surgical Oncology and Anaesthesia teams successfully performing such complex HIPEC procedures, expanding the frontiers of cancer care.

Satish reiterates zero tolerance for black marketing, overcharging

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a decisive move to safeguard consumer interests and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma today led an extensive and high-intensity market checking drive across multiple locations from Katra to Jammu, focusing particularly on the distribution and availability of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

Demonstrating proactive governance and on-ground monitoring, the Minister conducted surprise inspections at several LPG godowns, distribution outlets, and retail points. He thoroughly reviewed stock positions, distribution records, booking and delivery systems, and compliance with prescribed norms. He also interacted with consumers, delivery personnel, and distributors to get first-hand feedback regarding availability, pricing, and service delivery.

During the inspections, Satish Sharma issued a stern warning against black marketing, hoarding, overcharging, and any attempts to create artificial scarcity of LPG. He made it unequivocally clear that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance

policy towards such malpractices.

"There will be no atonement for those found indulging in black marketing or exploiting consumers. Anyone violating the law, be it an LPG distributor, delivery agent or any intermediary, will face strict legal action without exception," the Minister asserted.

Reiterating the government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and consumer protection, the Minister emphasized that ensuring the availability of LPG at regulated prices remains a top priority. He assured the public that there is adequate stock of LPG and that the government is closely monitoring the supply chain to prevent any disruption.

Satish Sharma further directed the concerned officers of the FCS&CA department to intensify market checking drives across all districts, maintain strict vigilance, and take immediate punitive action against violators. He stressed the need for a robust monitoring mechanism, including regular inspections and real-time reporting, to curb any malpractice effectively. He instructed them to ensure continuous enforcement of regulations and strengthen coordination with law enforcement agencies to maintain discipline in the markets.

Pathania for nurturing pilgrimage tourism potential of Udhampur

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The sacred festival of Navratri was set open with great pomp and devotion at the historic Devi Bani Temple by the Akhand Jyoti Committee, Manwal. The temple, an ancient 10th-11th century stone structure protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), witnessed a vibrant gathering of devotees and dignitaries.

The event was organised by the Akhand Jyoti Devi Bani Committee and Shri Pingla Mata Committee, who uphold the tradition of illuminating the temple during every Navratri. The celebrations featured a cultural festival showcasing local traditions, followed by a community bhandara (langar), fostering unity and devotion among attendees.

The auspicious Jyot was ceremonially lit by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania in the presence of Pawan Seth Shastri Ji, Mathadeshwara of Mutt Shiv Ji temple, Manwal, Nand Kishore, Sunil Badyal & others. President, Akhand Jyoti Devi Bani Committee, Dheeraj Sharma, welcomed and honoured the dignitaries & respected



citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, R S Pathania emphasized that such festivals not only strengthen the ideals of Sanatana Dharma but also serve as a means to express gratitude towards the divine and spread positivity in society. He further highlighted the need to develop a pilgrim (religious tourism) circuit connecting prominent shrines like Pingla Mata, Chountara Mata, Bhagge Wali Mata, and Barnara Mata, which would significantly boost regional tourism and cultural heritage.

Other dignitaries present included Mahinder Sharma (Mandal Pradhan), Ranjeet Singh, Rohit, Harjeet Singh, and Atul Sharma, along with numerous members of the local community.

The event concluded with prayers, cultural performances, and the distribution of prasad, leaving devotees spiritually uplifted and reinforcing the cultural fabric of the region.

A splash of orange marked the joyous occasion, symbolizing courage, sacrifice, and the triumph of good over evil.