

JAMMU

@OfficeOfLGJandK

I am grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj & Fisheries Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Ji for releasing central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in J&K.



@JKNC

JKNC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Hon'ble Chief Minister @OmarAbdullah offered Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at Asar-e-Sharief, Dargah Hazratbal. They were accompanied on the occasion by @zami-rabdullah12 and @Zahir_Abdullah. Earlier, they offered Fatiha at the Mazar-e-Anwar of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah and Madar-e-Meharban.



CURFEW:

On this day in 2020, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces the country's largest-ever self-imposed curfew, in an effort to fight the spread of COVID-19.



16

CD BLOCKS:

In the entire Anantnag district of Kashmir division, 16 are the total CD Blocks.



HORN PROHIBITED

Excessive and unnecessary honking is treated as unruly behaviour in modern society. However there are silence zones where honking is completely prohibited like near hospitals, schools etc. This sign directs driver to respect the silence zone and not to use horn.



Mahant Rohit Shastri calls on Guv Kavinder

JAMMU/SHIMLA: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish Avam Vedic Sansthan Trust and a State Awardee, paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta, at his official residence. On this occasion, he presented various religious, Vedic, and astrology-related books published by the Trust as a token of respect.



During the meeting, Mahant Rohit Shastri briefed the Governor in detail about the Trust's ongoing welfare, religious, and cultural initiatives. He stated that the Trust is continuously working towards the preservation and promotion of Vedic knowledge, the enrichment of Sanatan culture, the dissemination of astrological education, and the strengthening of moral and spiritual values in society.

Governor appreciated the efforts of the Trust and remarked that such organizations play a vital role in preserving Indian culture, traditions, and spiritual values. He extended his best wishes to Mahant Rohit Shastri and his team for continuing their dedicated service towards society and for promoting cultural awareness in the future.

2 drug peddlers held with 8.99 gm heroin

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substances abuse, R.S Pura Police achieved one more success by recovering 8.99 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance from two drug peddlers from Police Naka, Sunderpur Road under the jurisdiction of P/S R.S Pura.

A Police team of Police Station R.S. Pura led by PSI Vishal Singh No.GEC-245688 assisted by other officers/officials of this P/S under the supervision of SHO P/S R.S Pura Inspector Tribhawan Khajuria & under the overall supervision of SP Headquarters Jammu & SDPO R.S Pura, on 20.03.2026 while on routine patrolling under the jurisdiction of Police Station established a Naka at

Sunderpur Road and stopped one motorcycle bearing registration number JK02CD-4910 for checking purpose. During checking 8.99 grams of heroin (chitta) like substance has been recovered from the possession of accused persons namely Kuldeep Kumar S/o Prem Chand R/o Raipur Gujran Tehsil RS Pura District Jammu and pillion rider Rohit Kumar S/o Ashwani Kumar R/o Chak Aslam Tehsil RS Pura District Jammu.

In this regard, a case FIR number 60/2026 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station R.S Pura, accused persons have been arrested, contraband, motorcycle Seized and further investigation is going on.

J&K to host travel mart on April 14-15

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department will host Kashmir Travel Mart in April this year to highlight the tourism potential of the region.

"J&K Tourism is set to host the Kashmir Travel Mart-2026 on 14-15 April, bringing together around 250 stakeholders from over 20 states across the country," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted on his official X handle.

He said the event will highlight the region's immense tourism potential through craft safaris, curated destination tours, and B2B engagements, offering stakeholders a rich and immersive experience of Kashmir's culture, heritage, and warm hospitality.

"A significant initiative aimed at strengthening tourism linkages and further positioning Kashmir as a premier global travel destination," he said.

India steadily evolving as robust pharma economy: Dr Jitendra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India is steadily evolving into a robust pharma economy, which will not only accelerate future growth but also emerge as a significant contributor to the country's overall GDP.

The minister emphasised that the growing strength of India's pharmaceutical, medtech and manufacturing ecosystem is positioning the country as a key global manufacturing hub, particularly in high-quality, affordable healthcare solutions.

Delivering keynote address to a distinguished gathering at the "Healthcare Summit" organised by a leading English media house here, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the discussions revolved around two central themes- "Made in India" and "Quality". He



highlighted that India's healthcare and medtech ecosystem is undergoing a major shift, with a strong focus on global quality benchmarks, indigenous innovation, and integration of research with industry.

The Minister said that over the past decade, India has witnessed a remarkable transformation in healthcare, moving from a largely import-dependent system to one driven by indigenous capabilities. He recalled that earlier, critical medical devices, im-

plants, and even advanced drugs were largely sourced from abroad, making treatment expensive and inaccessible for many. Today, India is developing its own antibiotics, vaccines, and advanced therapies, marking a decisive shift towards self-reliance.

Dr Jitendra Singh referred to the development of indigenous antibiotics and the rapid progress made during the COVID-19 pandemic, when India not only developed its own vaccines but also supplied

them to several countries, reinforcing its role as a global healthcare partner. He said this transition reflects India's growing credibility in both therapeutic and preventive healthcare.

The Minister also spoke about the emergence of cutting-edge technologies in India's healthcare ecosystem, including gene therapy, with successful trials in conditions like haemophilia, as well as innovations in treatment for diseases such as sickle cell anaemia. He added that Indian institutions are now contributing to globally recognised research, with publications in leading international medical journals.

Highlighting the government's push for quality standards, he said that "homegrown" products in India now match global benchmarks, with regulatory systems aligned to international standards. Through streamlined approval mechanisms and strengthened regulatory

frameworks, indigenous medical devices such as stents, ventilators and diagnostic equipment are ensuring safety, efficacy, and affordability.

On the policy front, the Minister referred to initiatives like the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) scheme with an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, aimed at transitioning India from low-cost manufacturing to high-value innovation. He also mentioned targeted support for the medical devices sector, including funding for common infrastructure, testing facilities and R&D clusters, which are reducing costs and enhancing competitiveness.

The Minister further said that initiatives like the Anusandhan National Research Foundation and the Maha MedTech Mission are strengthening the research ecosystem by connecting laboratories with clinical applications. The MedTech Mitra platform

is enabling innovators to navigate regulatory pathways and access clinical trial networks more efficiently.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India currently holds around 1.5 per cent of the global medical device market but is working towards significantly expanding its share under the National Medical Device Policy 2023.

He added that India aims to become one of the top global manufacturing hubs in this sector, reducing import dependence while boosting exports.

The Minister also highlighted the growing synergy between public and private sectors, stating that collaboration between industry, academia and government institutions has been institutionalised across sectors such as biotechnology, space, and healthcare. This integrated approach, he said, is essential in an era where scientific advancements are increasingly interdisciplinary.

Delegations calls on LG Sinha



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A delegation of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee led by its Working President and former Minister Raman Bhalla called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress called on Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Saturday and strongly pressed for the restoration of statehood, while expressing concern over the LPG crisis and other pressing issues in the Union Territory.

The delegation, led by Jammu and Kashmir Congress working president Raman Bhalla, called on the LG at the Raj Bhawan here.

During their meeting with Sinha, the Congress leaders raised a range of issues affecting different sections of the society, including restoration of statehood, the ongoing LPG shortage, a comprehensive package for the refugees

of 1947, 1965 and 1971, and the grant of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to them.

"We have raised the issue of restoration of statehood at the earliest, besides the issue of the LPG shortage," Bhalla told reporters. He said the delegation referred to a comprehensive rehabilitation package for refugee families recommended by the Congress-NC government in 2014 on former prime minister Manmohan Singh's directions. The package had envisaged Rs 30 lakh per family, along with other components.

However, they said only an amount of Rs 5.5 lakh per family was sanctioned and that too has not been disbursed to all the eligible families so far. Seeking full implementation of the package and ST status for refugees from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Congress leaders also urged the Union Territory administration to provide

an additional LPG quota for the region in view of the tourist influx and pilgrimages.

Meanwhile, Advocate Murtaza Khan, former MLC and senior BJP leader called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

Additionally, a public delegation from Udhampur led by Jasvir Singh, former member, District Development Council, Panchari-Moungri, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today.

Subsequently, representatives of Jammu Kashmir Sharmarhi Action Committee, a delegation of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, J&K and Vipen Kumar, Chairman All Jammu based Reserve Category Employees Association Kashmir also called on the Lieutenant Governor. A delegation of BJP OBC Morcha, J&K led by its President Braham Jyot Satti, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

India safer, stronger under PM Modi's leadership: Sat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

AKHNOOR: J&K BJP President and MP (Raja Sabha) Sat Sharma CA addressed an organizational meeting of District Akhnoor.

J&K BJP Vice-President Bharat Bhushan, District President Akhnoor Kuldeep Sharma, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, former Minister Bali Bhagat, former MLA Rajiv Sharma, and senior leaders including Vinay Mahajan, Daljit Singh Chib, Jagdish Bhagat, and Captain Daler Singh, among others attended the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, directed the party activists to make relentless efforts to connect with the masses and raise their concerns effectively. He said that the BJP envisions a dedicated activist who always keeps the nation first and never compromises on its principles and ideology. He said that India's rich history and culture have always been a source of pride, but also an "eyesore for many forces," both globally and within the country. Sharma criticized political parties like Con-



gress, which are attempting to weaken the nation from within by spreading misleading narratives. He asserted that the BJP remains committed to strengthening the nation under the decisive leadership of Narendra Modi.

Sat Sharma highlighted India's global standing and stressed that recent years have proven the strength of India's diplomacy, even in challenging times like the global energy crisis. He said that while the world is facing fuel shortages, India has ensured stability and availability for its citizens. He cautioned against misinformation being spread about fuel scarcity, stating that some vested interests are promoting panic

and black marketing. There is no need to panic, supplies are steady and ships are continuously reaching Indian ports, he assured. Sharma further called upon party workers to actively counter false propaganda and connect people with the truth, reinforcing that the nation is safest and progressing under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Kuldeep Sharma emphasized strengthening booth-level structures and maintaining constant engagement with the public. Mohan Lal Bhagat highlighted the importance of public outreach and ensuring that government schemes reach the last beneficiary, asking party leaders to act as a bridge.

JKAACL organises Bhadradesha Utsav, showcases region's cultural heritage



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organised Bhadradesha Utsav 2026, a grand celebration showcasing the millennia-old cultural heritage of the historic region of Bhadradesha, at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion while Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture, was the guest of honour. Dr. Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani and Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL were also present.

Earlier, Professor D. S. Manhas, Dean Students

Welfare, Cluster University Jammu highlighted the cultural importance of Bhadradesha and the need to preserve and promote its rich folk traditions and heritage.

In his address, Shailendra Kumar appreciated the efforts of JKAACL in preserving and promoting the diverse cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that such festivals play an important role in connecting the younger generation with their roots and cultural heritage. He also recalled his earlier association with Bhadradesha during his first posting in the area.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh lauded the Academy for organising Bhadradesha Utsav and highlighting

the rich cultural traditions of the region. He said that people should feel proud to be Pahari. On the occasion, Brij Mohan Sharma presented mementos to the MLA and the chief guest as a token of respect and appreciation.

The cultural programme featured a series of traditional folk performances representing different regions of Bhadradesha.

Dr. Aarti Charak from Bhaderwah presented Naag Stuti while the Himalayan Folk Theatrical Group presented a skit directed by Kulwant Manhas. Navratan Shetyan and group from Paddar presented Padri Kharzath, a traditional community dance

performed in front of the Naag Temple in Paddar. Surinder and group from Saraz presented Sarazi Deku, a traditional community dance performed during the rainy season in the middle mountain ranges of Jammu.

Similarly, Dara Singh and group from Pugal presented the Thali Dance, which was traditionally performed during Kirtans and Jagrans to appease the local deities.

Azab Singh and group from Bani presented Bani Deku while Rattana Devi and group from Bhaderwah presented Bhaderwahi Ghurahi, a traditional women's dance performed in a circle without musical instruments. Bhali Sugli and group from Bhaderwah presented Bhaderwahi folk Sugli and Arpana Devi and group from Dhaggar Bani presented Gadyali Sugli, a traditional folk dance performed during local festivals reflecting the community's cultural heritage.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Rajni Sharma, while Kulwant Manhas presented the vote of thanks.

The programme was attended by the artists, scholars, cultural enthusiasts and a large number of people.



Dr Darakhshan gets appreciation for impressive Eid arrangements

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday offered her Eid prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. More than one lakh people offered Eid prayers here. Waqf Board had put in all arrangements here for the biggest Eid congregation of J&K.

After the prayers, the people appreciated Dr Andrabi and J&K Waqf Board for very impressive arrangements for the people.

Dr Andrabi thanked the people for their acknowledgement of the Board's efforts. Speaking on the occasion Waqf Chairperson said that after many days of rainy season, we today saw a pleasant weather in Kashmir and the Board had erected water proof prayer spaces and also created dry spaces in the whole campus to accommodate & facilitate such a huge gathering smoothly. "Throughout the Union Territory of J&K, the Board had made preparations for the prayers at all major locations and we thank the people for their cooperation. We are humbled and inspired by the appreciation we got from the people for our efforts. We assure the people that the Board will serve them with more responsibility and dedication in future too", said Andrabi. Waqf Chairperson wished that this Eid brings peace and prosperity for our country and for the whole world.