

# JAMMU

In Social

**@CM\_JnK**  
Chief Minister has expressed sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi, Hon'ble Home Minister @AmitShah and Hon'ble Finance Minister @nsitharaman for providing Additional Central Assistance of ₹5,000 crore to Jammu & Kashmir. The Chief Minister said that this timely and crucial support will significantly strengthen development efforts, accelerate infrastructure projects, and enhance public welfare across J&K.



In History

**BOMBAY HANDED OVER:**  
On this day in 1668; The British monarch King Charles II granted Bombay to the East India Company for an annual rent of £10. In exchange, the king obtained a loan of £50,000 at 6% interest from the company.



In Numbers

**395**  
REVENUE VILLAGES:  
In the entire Anantnag district of Kashmir division, 395 are the total Revenue villages.



Traffic Signs

**SPEED LIMIT**  
This sign designates the speed, as specified in the sign, of traffic on road. The limit specified must be invariably followed to avoid penal action and accidents on the road.



## Delegations call on LG Sinha



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A delegation of J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu led by its General Secretary Adv. Pardeep Majotra called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Thursday.

Rakesh Kumar, National-level Powerlifter called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Rakesh Kumar for his stellar performance at the Subrata Classic Full Powerlifting and Deadlift National Championship, 2026 and extended his best wishes for the upcoming championships. Neeraj Kundan, Jammu District Rural President

of Congress called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today.

Additionally, a joint delegation comprising representatives from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, the Institute Incubation and Innovation Council (I3C), and the Reform and Rehabilitation Foundation (RRF) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

The delegation apprised the Lieutenant Governor on the upcoming comprehensive cybersecurity awareness and capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening the digital safety ecosystem across the Union Territory. The ambitious programme is

designed to sensitize the people of J&K, with a special focus on adolescents and youth, against the growing threat of cybercrime.

The initiative envisions the creation of a strong grassroots framework through the development of First responders and Master Trainers, who will drive awareness across institutions and communities.

Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu was also present during the interaction. A delegation of Shri Kalli Mata Gou Sewa Samiti Dhar Road Udhampur led by its President Shri Samar Singh Ranyal called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today.

## CS reviews implementation of key reforms to revamp healthcare in J-K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A high-level meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to take assessment of the steps taken by the Department of Health & Medical Education (H&ME) as part of an ongoing and sustained process to chart a comprehensive and transformative roadmap for healthcare reforms as recommended from time to time by NITI Aayog.

The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department and other key stakeholders, focusing on accelerating systemic reforms, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, and enhancing service delivery across the Union Territory.

A forward-looking and integrated strategy was deliberated upon to transform the healthcare landscape through technology infusion, institutional collaboration, capacity building, and robust public health systems.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo underscored the importance of continued collaboration with NITI Aayog for extension of institutional support and guidance in many of the Department's endeavours. He expressed satisfaction over the collaborative efforts that have already translated several initiatives into reality and observed that such partnerships are proving increasingly beneficial for Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed in detail the progress achieved across each of the key initiatives being implemented by the Health & Medical Education Department. He took a comprehensive appraisal from the Principals of various Government Medical Colleges regarding efforts to secure additional MBBS and postgraduate seats, emphasizing the need to further strengthen medical education capacity in the Union Territory.

He also undertook a thorough assessment of the advancements made in upgrading existing healthcare facilities and the



introduction of new and specialized services across institutions. Stressing the importance of timely execution, he directed the concerned authorities to sustain the pace of progress, ensure optimal utilization of resources, and focus on expanding quality healthcare services to meet the growing needs of the population.

He stressed the need for strong inter-departmental coordination, continuous monitoring, and timely execution to ensure that these reforms result in tangible improvements in health outcomes for the people.

Highlighting the objectives of the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, M. Raju outlined a series of major initiatives forming the core of the reform agenda. These initiatives, he terms, aims at ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for all sections of society.

Elaborating on the reform strategy, the Commissioner Secretary stated that the UT is prioritizing expansion of MBBS and postgraduate medical education while fostering collaboration among premier institutions such as AIIMS, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences and Government Medical Colleges. He stated that the strategy envisages structured faculty exchange programmes, joint research initiatives, academic resource sharing, and establishment of virtual medical boards through formal institutional partnerships.

To address critical care gaps, the meeting was informed that Tele-ICU services will be implemented through a hub-and-spoke model anchored in Government Medical Colleges. The tendering process for the same has already been initiated following vetting by NITI Aayog. Tele-Ra-

diology services are also being planned to facilitate timely diagnostics, specialist consultations, and second-opinion support across healthcare facilities.

The meeting further noted that three thematic working groups have been constituted to focus on service delivery, medical education, and integrated emergency and trauma systems. These groups will develop actionable frameworks aimed at strengthening healthcare systems across institutions in a coordinated manner.

In the area of food safety, it was informed that, in collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, a comprehensive strategy is being rolled out to strengthen enforcement mechanisms, particularly in view of the upcoming tourism season. This includes phased IEC campaigns, enhanced compliance and adjudication systems, and expansion of laboratory capacities.

A significant component of the reform agenda is the development of a comprehensive cancer care strategy in coordination with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The framework includes establishment of a population-based cancer registry, development of molecular oncology centres in Government Medical Colleges, and rollout of research-driven prevention and management programmes.

The meeting also reviewed drug de-addiction and mental health initiatives under a community-based rehabilitation model titled "Circle of Care," aimed at addressing substance abuse at the grassroots level. Over 900 counsellors have already been trained, and a UT-wide survey is planned to assess the prevalence of substance use disorders.

## MP Sat calls for ideologically strong cadre to serve nation, reinforce BJP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), chaired a series of organizational review meetings at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, and Rakesh Mahajan, along with General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, were also present during the meetings.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the party leadership, conducted a comprehensive review of all ongoing organizational activities, with a sharp focus on the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Abhiyan. He asserted that the training campaign is not a routine exercise but a mission to build a battle-ready ideological cadre, stating that a strong BJP



begins with a well-trained activist and there can be no compromise on the quality or seriousness of these programs. He sought detailed reports from all districts and directed that every training camp must be executed in a time-bound and result-oriented manner.

Sat Sharma, while taking a firm position on accountability, emphasized that half-hearted efforts or incomplete sessions defeat the very purpose of cadre building. He stressed that each participant must undergo a complete and structured training process, ensuring that every activist emerges as a capable, com-

mitted, and active force at the booth level. He underlined that mere attendance is not enough, and the focus must remain on visible impact and ideological transformation.

Sat Sharma, while reviewing other organizational matters and upcoming programs, made it clear that BJP's strength lies in its grassroots reach. He called for the effective implementation of all party programs down to the booth level with active involvement of ground activists and meaningful participation of civil society members to further expand the party's public relations.

## Northern Command Investiture Ceremony to be held on Mar 28

**JAMMU:** The Northern Command Investiture Ceremony 2026 will be held on 28 Mar 2026 at Headquarters Northern Command, Udhampur. This prestigious award distribution ceremony is dedicated to honour the acts of exceptional courage, distinguished service, and unwavering commitment to duty by soldiers and units of the Indian Army.

A total of 92 awards will be conferred during the ceremony comprising of 51 individual awards and 41 awards to various units, recognising their exemplary performance across all domains including Operation Sindoor. Through this ceremony, the Indian Army not only celebrates the individual and collective achievements of its personnel but also underscores the values of loyalty, selflessness and patriotism that are integral to its mission. Honouring the brave not only acknowledges their acts but also inspires the future generations to continue the legacy of excellence in service.

The awards will be conferred by Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, SM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command.

The ceremony embodies the Indian Army's fundamental ethos of valour, dedication and selfless service to the Nation, while highlighting the professionalism and unwavering commitment of soldiers serving under Northern Command in arduous and demanding conditions.

A large number of serving military personnel, award winners and their proud family members would be attending the ceremony.

## Governing body of SMVDNSH holds 71st meeting

Reviews hospital functioning, reaffirms commitment to affordable healthcare

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KATRA:** The 71st Meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal (Katra), was convened at the hospital premises under the chairmanship of Dr. K.K Talwar, Member, SMVDSB.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO; Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO; Pawan Sharma, FA/CAO, SMVDSB; Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director/CAO, SMVDIME; Sunil Narayan, Zonal Director; Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, NH along with other senior functionaries of the Shrine Board and Narayana Health.

The Governing Body expressed satisfaction over the steady growth of SMVDNSH, as reflected in key performance indicators such as patient footfall, bed occupancy, revenue generation, and enhanced clinical capabilities. It also reviewed and deliberated upon a comprehensive three-year investment plan aimed at transforming the hospital into a future-ready healthcare hub. The plan envisages augmentation of critical medical equipment, strengthening of infrastructure, and adoption of advanced technologies. It further includes expansion of specialty services such as Oncology, Nephrology, and Cardiology, along with modernization of emergency and critical care units equipped with advanced life-support systems.

The Governing Body was ap-



prised of a special initiative launched by the Hospital titled "Do Dil Ek Bill," aimed at providing world-class maternal care at an affordable cost. Under this scheme, comprehensive delivery packages are being offered at a fixed and economical rate of ₹19,999, thereby reducing the financial burden associated with childbirth while ensuring safe, high-quality maternal and childcare services for a larger section of society.

Several important decisions were taken during the meeting to further strengthen the Hospital's growth trajectory including the introduction of "positive interventions" focused on improving the quality of patient care. In this context, emphasis was laid on the continued pursuit of revised rates under Ayushman Bharat (HBP 2.2) to ensure financial sustainability while maintaining affordability for beneficiaries. It was observed that rationalization of package rates would help ease fi-

nancial pressures on the institution and support the delivery of quality healthcare in a more efficient and sustainable manner.

The meeting also witnessed important decisions in continuation of the 76th Board Meeting held in February 2026 regarding the Business Transition Agreement (BTA) between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Charitable Society and Narayana Hospital. The agreement was recognized as a forward-looking strategic initiative aimed at integrating resources, strengthening institutional capabilities, and enhancing clinical capacity. Besides, the collaboration is expected to promote the adoption of advanced medical practices, improve operational efficiency, and significantly expand both the scope and quality of healthcare services available to the public in the region.

Strategic plans were further deliberated to ensure sustained growth and expansion of the Hospital.

## Onus on J-K Govt to create new administrative units, says PDP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The opposition PDP on Thursday said the onus was on the Jammu and Kashmir government to create new administrative units in the Union territory to empower various regions, after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha gave his approval for considering a Private Member's Bill to this effect.

The government should clarify its position on the significant Bill introduced by PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, which proposes administrative reorganisation, including the creation of new divisions and districts, across the Union territory, PDP spokesman Mohit Bhan said in a statement. "The Bill,

which has received approval from the lieutenant governor for consideration, seeks to address the long-standing regional disparities by decentralising governance and ensuring that administrative mechanisms reach the most remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir," Ban said in the statement. The Bill lays particular emphasis on the far-flung regions across both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, including Kupwara, Bandipora, Gurez, Karnah and Uri in Kashmir, and Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Bani and Basohli in the Jammu region - areas that continue to face challenges due to terrain, connectivity and administrative distance, he said.

## Div Com reviews measures against bird hazard around Jammu Airport

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to review and discuss the measures taken to prevent bird hazards in the vicinity of Jammu Airport.

The meeting was attended by Air Officer Commanding, JK & L, AOC Air Force Station Jammu, Director Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Commissioner JMC, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Board, Jammu, Director Airport Jammu, SP South and other concerned officers.

The meeting discussed different issues that be-

come the cause of gathering of birds around the Airport, including dumping of garbage and dead animals.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner Jammu to issue orders prohibiting open garbage dumping and disposal of dead animals and carcasses which attract bird activity near the Airport. He also emphasized on clear visible displaying of penal actions under law to deter any such activity.

The discussion also focused on preventing unauthorized construction of buildings, besides fencing of bridges over Landol nallah near Jammu Airport to thwart throwing of garbage in it.

## JKBOSE exhorts aspirants to prioritise JEE exam Assures to reschedule practical exams for affected candidates

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has advised the concerned 12th class students to write JEE examination instead of attending practical examination in case there is a clash in the notified practical examination schedule issued by the BOSE.

In a notification, issued here the other day, the

affected 12th class candidates have been advised to skip practical examination of the Board and prioritise participation in the JEE examination in case of a clash.

Relevantly, the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains is scheduled from April 2 to 9, 2026, which may entail clash with notified Board practical examinations for some candidates of class 12th.

The candidates facing clash have been, however, advised to duly intimate the BOARD by way of email on jsexams@jkbose@jk.gov.in on or before April 10, 2026, enabling the authorities to issue revised practical date sheet for the affected candidates.

The candidates can send their detailed particulars like name of the candidate, examination roll number, name of allotted examination center, subject affect-

ed, date of practical examination, etc.

The Board, while wishing success to the aspiring JEE candidates, has reiterated its resolve to facilitate such candidates in every possible way.

As per the notification, the practical examination of the affected candidates would be rescheduled and notified separately after the conclusion of the JEE examination.