



JAMMU

@CM_JnK
The Cabinet, which met yesterday in Jammu under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, approved the proposal for construction of a bridge over River Jhelum at Guzama-Shilvat in Ganderbal district, at an estimated cost of ₹39.13 crore.

@sringaradmin
DC Srinagar @akshaylabroo reviews progress of Mission YUVA scheme in the district. Emphasizes expeditious processing of applications, swift loan sanctions & disbursements to support and empower aspiring young entrepreneurs in Srinagar.

LOUIS JOUBERT LOCK:
On this day in 1942; A British combined force permanently disables the Louis Joubert Lock in Saint-Nazaire in order to keep the German battleship, Tirpitz, away from the mid-ocean convoy lanes.

357
VILLAGES:
In district Udhampur of J&K UT, 357 is the total number of Villages.

NO ENTRY
Certain pockets of an area or road are demarcated as no entry areas for traffic. This could be entry to a restricted area or no traffic zone. So the driver should obey it and divert his route.



Delegations call on LG Sinha

JAMMU: Advocate Amit Gupta, Incharge/ Convener Law and Legal Affairs, BJP J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday. He was accompanied by Adv Amit Manhas, Incharge/ Convener Legal Cell BJP J&K. Meanwhile, a public delegation from Chashoti Padder Kishtwar, led by Shri Kartar Singh Rathore, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, today.

Flight operations on airport restricted for runway works

SRINAGAR: Flight operations at Srinagar International Airport will be restricted between April and July for carrying out runway works, Airport Authority of India (AAI) said on Friday. According to a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Indian Air Force, runway works commencing in the first week of April will temporarily restrict operational hours for scheduled flights until 5 pm from April 6, to July 31, the AAI Srinagar posted on its official X handle. It said at present, as many as 60 flight movements (arrivals and departures) operate daily between 8 am and 10 pm at Srinagar airport. "While the watch hours will be reduced, flight movements are expected to increase in line with the DGCA-approved Summer Schedule.

MCC facility at SMGS Hospital boosts neonatal, perinatology services: Sakeena

Question Hour

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: The newly established 243-bedded Maternal and Child Care (MCC) facility at SMGS Hospital Jammu has significantly improved the neonatal and perinatology services in Jammu region. The vital utility care facilities, maternal health services besides reducing the waiting period for planned surgeries. This was stated by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, in the Legislative Assembly today while replying to a question of Legislator, Yudhvir Sethi regarding SMGS Hospital Jammu during question hour. The Minister said that the SMGS Hospital, Jammu is a tertiary care hospital providing medical services in the specialties of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Pediatrics, ENT, and Dermatology. She added that the hospital also caters to critically ill patients referred from peripheral hospitals of Jammu province for specialized treatment not available at those institutions. The Health Minister said that the patients requiring MRI are referred to Government Medical College Hospital, Jammu, where the facility exists. She informed that under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has agreed in principle to provide one MRI scanner, subject to completion of requisite formalities. She added that a Detailed Project Report shall be submitted shortly to IOCL for provision of the MRI scanner. Regarding manpower position, the Minister informed that against the sanctioned strength of 1070 posts, 682 posts are presently filled. She added that in order to supplement the existing staff strength in the Jammu East constituency, the faculty/Doctors/paramedics are being engaged under Academic Arrangement basis and rationalization to augment better health-care facilities for general public. The Minister further informed the House that the requirement for establishing a Multi-

Special prayer for world peace concludes at SMVD shrine

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The nine-day-long 'Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' concluded at the revered shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district on the occasion of Ram Navami festival, an official of the shrine board said on Friday.

The special prayer was organised by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) for world peace, harmony, prosperity and the well-being of humanity, the official said.

He said the 'Purna Ahuti' and other religious ceremonies were performed with traditional fervour and devotion amidst Vedic chants.

Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya along with officers and staff of the Board and a large number of pilgrims, participated in the sacred rituals. The Maha Yagya was conducted by a distinguished group of Pandits led by Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri, the official said.

The Navratri period witnessed



an overwhelming response from devotees, with over three lakh pilgrims paying obeisance at the shrine.

On average, around 37,000 pilgrims visited daily, the official said, adding that the Yatra has shown a steady upward trend in 2026, with over 18.76 lakh devotees visiting up to March 26, compared to 16.72 lakh during the

corresponding period in 2025. For the convenience of pilgrims and to ensure a smooth, safe and well-regulated Yatra, the Shrine Board strengthened enforcement measures against unauthorised service providers and impersonators, the official said. In a recent meeting chaired by the Chief Executive Officer with service providers and stakehold-

ers, it was decided to constitute joint enforcement teams comprising officials from the Shrine Board Enforcement Wing, J&K Police and CRPF for conducting random inspections along the track to curb unregistered service providers, while all ingress points are being effectively monitored and regulated to prevent unauthorised access.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the Shrine Board for the convenience of pilgrims during Navratri.

The Bhawan, Atka, and surrounding areas were adorned with aesthetic floral decorations and vibrant illumination, enhancing the festive and devotional atmosphere, the official said.

He said uninterrupted water and power supply, along with robust sanitation and hygiene measures, were ensured across the track, including the Bhawan area.

Special arrangements for 'fast-related' food were provided at the Board's Langars and Bhojanalayas, the official said, adding facilities such as accommodation, battery-operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services were operated smoothly and efficiently throughout the Navratri period, ensuring a comfortable pilgrimage experience.

Other highlights of the celebrations included soulful bhajan and bhaint performances during the morning and evening Atka Aarti by renowned artists, the official said.

CS Dulloo finalises arrangements for first-ever International Marathon

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday finalized arrangements for the first-ever international marathon event to be held in Jammu this Sunday by the Tourism Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism; Renowned Adventure Tourism Expert, Chewang Motup; Commissioner Secretary, Health; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; IGP Security; IG Traffic; Deputy Commissioner and SSP Jammu; Managing Director, JK-TDC; Director Tourism, Jammu, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sensitized the officers about the importance of ensuring international-standard arrangements for the marathon, emphasizing that it is the first event of its kind in Jammu. He directed all departments to thoroughly review their preparations to eliminate any possible gaps on the day of the event.

Taking stock of departmental readiness, the Chief Secretary sought detailed inputs from each Administrative Secretary regarding their



respective roles. He stressed the need to make the marathon a spectacular event in every sense and envisioned it as an annual feature for Jammu, on the lines of the Kashmir Marathon. He also underscored the necessity of constituting a permanent Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism. The committee will include Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Divisional Commissioners; IGP Traffic; Directors of Tourism, along with Chewang Motup, acknowledging his pivotal role in conceptualizing and organizing these international events here. The committee will be tasked with scheduling and promoting these events annually to facilitate greater participation from national and international runners.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized announcing event dates well in advance to enable international participants to plan their travel. He called for popularizing such events to maximize participation and position Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for marathon tourism.

He reviewed key aspects including route sanitization, traffic management, medical preparedness, and deployment of volunteers to ensure smooth conduct of the event. He directed that routes for different race categories should not overlap and must be fit and safe for runners. Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, briefed the meeting on preparations and expected participation in the 'Jammu Marathon 2026'. He informed that around 4,000 runners are expected to participate, with on-spot registrations also being facilitated.

The marathon will be held on March 29, 2026, starting at sunrise from M A Stadium. The event will feature three race categories including Half Marathon (21 km), 10 km Fitness Run, and 5 km Fun Run.

It was revealed that separate prize categories have been earmarked for men and women, along with special prizes for local participants. A total prize pool of ₹1.33 Cr will be distributed among the winners.

In the Half Marathon (21 km), prize money includes ₹15 lakh for first place, ₹10 lakh for second, ₹7 lakh for third, ₹3 lakh for fourth, and ₹2 lakh for fifth position. In the 10 km Fitness Run, winners will receive ₹5 lakh, ₹4 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹2 lakh, and ₹1 lakh respectively. In the 5 km Fun Run, prizes range from ₹1 lakh for first place to ₹15,000 for the fifth position.

BJP driving Assam's devp, stability: Sunil Sharma

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Co-Incharge for Assam Elections, Sunil Sharma, addressed a large public rally in Hiddipi, Assam, intensifying the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign momentum ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Addressing the massive gathering, Sunil Sharma asserted that the BJP stands as the only credible political force capable of ensuring sustained development, strong governance, and long-term stability in Assam. He emphasized that the party's ideology, rooted in nationalism and inclusive progress, continues to resonate deeply with the aspirations of the people.

Sunil Sharma called for unwavering unity and discipline among party workers, and urged them to further strengthen their grassroots connect and expose the failures, opportunism, and divisive politics of opposition parties.

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Assam, Sunil Sharma said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed unprecedented

progress, transparent governance, and a decisive shift towards development-driven politics. He added that Assam has emerged as a model of growth, peace, and infrastructure development under BJP rule.

Sunil Sharma launched a sharp attack on the opposition, and said that they are trying to mislead the public with hollow promises and attempting to derail the state's growth trajectory for political gains. He cautioned voters to remain vigilant against such forces and reaffirmed that the BJP remains committed to safeguarding the interests, identity, and aspirations of the people of Assam.

Sunil Sharma called upon the people to once again repose their trust in the BJP, stating that a renewed mandate in 2026 would further accelerate development, empower youth, and strengthen Assam's position as a key driver of India's growth story.

During his visit, he also held detailed interactions with local party leadership and reviewed booth-level preparedness, expressing strong confidence in the organizational strength and election readiness of the party. He lauded the dedication and enthusiasm of party workers, terming them the backbone of BJP's success.

Police cracks job fraud-extortion racket; 2 rescued, 5 accused held

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu Police, South Zone working under the directions of SSP Jammu to curb crime and effectively nip criminal elements in the bud, achieved significant success through a dedicated police team of South Zone Jammu led by SP South, assisted by SDPO City East, SDPO City South, SHO Gandhi Nagar, SHO Bahu Fort, SHO Bagh-e-Bahu, and ICPP Narwal.

In a major breakthrough, the police successfully busted a criminal module involved in luring gullible youth on the pretext of securing jobs abroad, subsequently confining them and extorting money from their families. In this operation, 02 victims were rescued, 05 accused were arrested, and ₹34 lakh was recovered. Additionally, Jammu Police solved 03 important theft cases (02 of Bagh-e-Bahu and 01 of Bahu Fort), leading to the arrest of 03 accused persons and the recovery of stolen property, including 1.2 kg of silver and 17 tolas of gold ornaments, worth approximately ₹30 lakhs.

In a case registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (FIR number 67/2026), a complaint was lodged by Jagmohan Singh regarding the wrongful confinement of his son Maninder Singh and his associate Tushar Chib in Kolkata, where unknown persons were demanding a ransom of ₹35 lakhs. Acting swiftly, Special team is constituted, which proceeded to Kolkata and, through technical surveillance and coordination with local police, traced the accused to a hotel.

On 21 March 2026, both victims were safely rescued and five accused were apprehended. Materials used for restraining the victims were also recovered. During investigation, the involvement of two Jammu-based agents surfaced, who had lured the victims on the pretext of arranging work visas abroad. It was revealed that ₹34 lakhs had been paid by the victims' family, which has been successfully recovered.

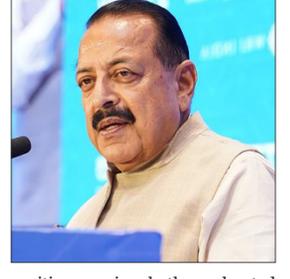
India to boost clean energy transition with focus on indigenous capacities: Dr Jitendra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: India's clean energy transition is part of a larger national strategy aimed at reducing import dependence and enabling the country to play a leading role in the global shift towards a greener future, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

Speaking at the Planet C3 Summit on Climate, Circularity and Community, the minister stated that the clean energy agenda spans a wide spectrum, from securing critical resources such as lithium and rare earth-based permanent magnets to scaling up domestic manufacturing, accelerating innovation, and introducing new policy interventions.

"India has emerged as an important global voice in the transition towards sustainable development, and maintaining this



position requires both accelerated scaling of existing initiatives and the launch of new ones in a time-bound manner," Singh said.

He also highlighted that sectors such as electric mobility, renewable energy, electronics manufacturing, space, and defence are increasingly dependent on resources like lithium and permanent magnets.

Forester, Guard held for taking bribe

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Two government officials – a forester and a forest guard – were arrested after they were caught red-handed taking a bribe in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said.

The two were caught after the ACB laid a trap following a complaint by a local alleging that Forester Ajaz Ahmed and Forest Guard Mohd Zaman had demanded money to allow him to construct a septic tank and an underground water tank

near his house. On March 13, he said Zaman visited the complainant and stopped him from the digging work, on the pretext that the land falls under the forest department.

The complainant told him that that was his own land, but he did not agree, an ACB spokesperson said, adding that the official demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 for the approval of the work. Due to fear and pressure, the complainant was forced to pay Rs 30,000, which was transferred on the spot to the account given by the forest guard and the forester.

Budget Session 2026