

Jammu

@DrJitendraSingh

Chaired the joint meeting of "Hindi Salahkar Samiti" of the Department of Space and the Department of Atomic Energy. Use of Hindi in Central government working has increased manifold over the past decade since PM@narendramodi took over.



@CM_JnK

Chief Minister today hosted dinner in honour of J&K Ranji Trophy champion team. The team was warmly welcomed by the Chief Minister along-with his Cabinet colleagues and senior officers. The players were presented with the award money of ₹2 crore. BCCI President @MithunManhas



MARS ORBIT:

NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter entered Mars orbit and began searching for signs of water on the planet.



UNITS:

92000 is the number of productive units covering farms, nurseries, livestock units, mushroom cultivation, poultry and value-addition enterprises established in J&K.



TONGAS PROHIBITED:

Tongas or Horse cart were extensively used as a popular means of transport in recent past. With the advent of new and faster means of transport this vehicle becomes hurdle in the smooth traffic flow. So many of the areas/roads have become prohibited for Tongas.



MP Sat raises Jammu Smart City Mission in RS, Centre confirms 98% projects completed

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma raised the issue of the progress and outcomes of the Jammu Smart City Mission in the Rajya Sabha through an unstarred question, seeking details from the Union Government regarding the status of projects, funds utilized, and the future roadmap of the initiative.



the entire central financial assistance of ₹489 crore, which constitutes 100 percent of the total central share allocated for the city. Out of this amount, ₹455 crore has already been utilized, reflecting 93 percent utilization of the funds released by the Government of India.

Responding to the question, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu submitted the written reply in the House that under the flagship Smart Cities Mission launched by the Government led by Narendra Modi, Jammu has witnessed significant transformation in urban infrastructure and civic amenities. The reply from the Minister stated that Jammu Smart City has received

Providing further details, the Government informed that out of the 127 projects sanctioned under the Jammu Smart City Mission, 125 projects—about 98 percent—have already

been successfully completed, while the remaining two projects are currently under implementation. This progress reflects the effective execution of development initiatives aimed at modernizing Jammu's urban infrastructure and enhancing public services.

The Ministry also informed that after the formal closure of the Smart Cities Mission on March 31, 2025, an advisory was issued to ensure timely completion of the remaining projects and submission of utilization certificates for the funds released by the Government of India by March 2026. The advisory further directs the concerned authorities to prepare operation and maintenance plans for the assets created under the mission.

The Government has also outlined a future roadmap under which the Special Purpose Vehicles

(SPVs) created for Smart Cities will continue to play a strategic role in addressing emerging urban challenges. Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) established under the mission will function as city operating systems and analytical hubs, supporting improved urban governance and service delivery.

Sat Sharma further reaffirmed his commitment to highlighting the developmental aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir at the national level and ensuring that the benefits of major flagship programmes of the Modi Government reach the people of the region. He insisted that the prompt response in Parliament also reflects the significant strides made in transforming Jammu's urban landscape through sustained investment and focused governance under the Smart Cities Mission.

Workshop on Implementation of NEP-2020 in ODL, Online Learning held at JU

JAMMU: The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu organized a Pre-Conference Workshop on "Implementation of NEP-2020 in ODL and Online Learning: Issues and Challenges" as a curtain raiser to the upcoming two-day International Conference being held as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of CDOE. The conference is centred on the theme "Reimagining Open, Distance, Online, Blended and Self-Directed Learning: Innovations, Equity, and Impact in the Digital Era."

Hyderabad; and Special Guest Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean Business Studies and Director, SIIEDC, University of Jammu.

In his address, the Chief Guest, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, informed the audience about the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and emphasised the need for its implementation in letter and spirit to infuse academic freedom, institutional innovation, and a forward-looking vision. He highlighted that universities should not restrict themselves within rigid regulatory frameworks but should actively design flexible academic programmes that respond to the evolving needs of learners. Prof. Chandrasekar further noted the rapidly growing demand for online and distance education and observed that the future of higher education will increasingly be shaped by technology-enabled learning platforms.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment.

The inaugural session was graced by Chief Guest Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Guest of Honour Prof. Sriatha Chepure, Vice Chancellor, Aurora Deemed Universi-

Power shutdown

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to MD JPDCL Corporate Office, Gandhi Nagar, Auqaf Market, Jammu University, Police Line, PHE, Part of Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 10 from 6 am to 9.30 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Trilokpur, Talab Tillo, Seora, Gajansoo and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 11 from 10 am to 4 pm.

DC inspects Transit Accommodation for PM package employees at Machbawan

ANANTNAG: To take stock of the ongoing works on PM package Employees Transit Accommodations at Machbawan, Rambirpora and Shangus, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, on Monday conducted an extensive tour of these under construction accommodations. During the visit, the DC reviewed about the progress of the construction and allied works like provision of water supply, electricity, etc at these transit accommodations. Major focus of the visit was the approach road issue at Masbhawan for which the DPR at the cost of Rs. 1.5 Crore has been prepared. Taking further review of the construction works, the DC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned executing agencies to expedite the same for timely completion and allotment of the residential quarters.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said the district administration is committed to ensuring the construction and other works for these accommodations are completed in a time bound manner. He said the accommodations will come up will all the requisite utilities and essential amenities for convenience of the allottees. The DC was informed that the necessary measures for provision of essential facilities at these accommodations have been in put place for the allottee employees. It was given out that there is 92% completion of physical work and 50% physical progress has been achieved on allied works for 15 blocks of Machbawan and it is expected to be completed by October-2026. Regarding financial progress, Rs.32 cores expenditure has been achieved on construction work and Rs 3 crores on allied works so far.

In respect of Rambirpora, 94% physical work for 21 blocks has been completed and 65% physical progress has been achieved for allied works so far, with completion expected in October-2026. In financial progress, expenditure of Rs 46 Core for construction and Rs 3.9 Crore on allied works has been achieved so far.

Textiles Ministry invites application from artisans, craftsmen



SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Textiles has invited applications from registered artisans and craftsmen for National Handicrafts Awards (Shilp Guru & National Award) for the Award Year 2025 and Pension Scheme 2025-26, under its premier National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

In a press statement issued here on Monday, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, has invited applications from registered artisans for Handicrafts Award 2025 under HSC for Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts, the last date of which has been fixed for March 31, 2026. "We urge the artisans

to apply in online mode along with self-attested copies of documents including 02 recent passport size photographs, Adhaar, Artisan & PAN Cards, Award & Character Certificate, photograph of Award Entry, history of craft, his Brief Note along with videos and affidavit in a pen-drive," he said, adding that the copies of the notification, along with enclosures, are available on the department's official social media handles.

Similarly for Pension Scheme under the aegis of 'Artisan Support Scheme to Artisans in Indigent Circumstances', the spokesman stated that the office of DC (Handicrafts), Government of India, has fixed April 02, 2026 as the last date of submission of forms in online mode from eligible artisans of Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts.

High Court holds Full Court Reference to condole Justice Jhanji's demise

JAMMU: A Full Court Reference was held on Monday in the Courtroom of the Chief Justice at Jammu Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to condole the demise of Justice V. K. Jhanji, Former Judge/Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who passed away on 23rd February, 2026.

Wing joined the Reference physically, while those present in the Srinagar Wing joined through virtual mode.

The proceedings were also attended by family members of Justice V. K. Jhanji, former Chief Justices and former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Senior Additional Advocate General; Deputy Solicitors General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; President, Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, in their condolence addresses, remembered the distinguished judicial career and invaluable contribution of late Justice V. K. Jhanji to the administration of justice. They

prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss. Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Arun Palli, in his condolence address, recalled the remarkable judicial career of Justice V. K. Jhanji and observed that his profound knowledge of law and commitment to justice has left a lasting impression on the legal fraternity.



and Advocates of the High Court from the Srinagar Wing joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

On the occasion, the Senior Additional Advocate General and the President, Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, in their condolence addresses, remembered the distinguished judicial career and invaluable contribution of late Justice V. K. Jhanji to the administration of justice. They

Karra leads protest seeking resignation of PM over US-India deal

JAMMU: A massive protest was led by JKPC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra in Jammu seeking resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for succumbing to US pressures, roll back of US trade deal besides seeking restoration of statehood, whereas several leaders were reportedly detained in some districts when similar protests were held in all districts by Congress across J&K UT.

As part of protests announced by JKPC against the one sided trade deal imposed by US due to alleged surrender of PM Modi before US President Donald Trump for fear of

Epstein files and Adani case, the Congress today demanded resignation of prime Minister Narendra Modi besides roll back of trade deal. The protesters also demanded restoration of much delayed statehood to J&K.

Organised by DCC Jammu Urban led Former minister & DCC President Yogesh Sawhney and DCC Jammu Rural led by Neeraj kundan, the protest march started from PCC HQ Shahedi Chowk Jammu towards Residency road, raising slogans against Modi government and US-Israel.

Accompanied by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Former minister Mula Ram, GM Saroori, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Ex MLC Ved Mahajan, Treasurer Rajnish Sharma, Mahila congress president Shameema Raina, Vinod Sharma, Satish Sharma, Amrit Bali, Vijay Sharma, Ajay Lakhotra, Inderjeet Kour & others PCC President hit out at PM for total surrender before US fear of Epstein files and Adami case, as a result he has committed the nation 's interests

US dictates terms to India in every matter right from cease fire, to US deal and grant of waiver of only 30 days to purchase Fuel from Russia.

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J&K eyes AI to transform governance, citizen services CS engages key stakeholders to chart future roadmap

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday held detailed deliberations with stakeholders on the adoption and expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance and delivery of public services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides the concerned Administrative Secretaries was attended by the Director, Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, CEO, India AI Mission; Special Director General, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BIS-AG-N), and other concerned officers of the Union Territory.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the potential of AI-based interventions in a range of citizen-centric governance sectors and explored ways to establish a robust institutional and technological framework for accelerating such initiatives in the UT. Participants deliberated on how advanced technologies could improve administrative efficiency, decision-making and accessibility of government services for citizens.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized that Artificial Intelligence offers enormous potential to transform governance and enhance the quality and reach of public services across Jammu and Kashmir. He urged all departments to proactively identify areas where AI-driven solutions



could improve efficiency, transparency and outcomes in their respective sectors.

He stressed the importance of strong coordination between the UT administration, the Union Ministry concerned, IIT Jammu, BIS-AG-N and other technical institutions to ensure timely and effective implementation of all these AI-enabled initiatives.

To provide strategic direction and oversight, the Chief Secretary proposed the constitution of a high-level Steering Committee to be chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department. The committee would include representatives from IIT Jammu, BIS-AG-N with Secretary Information Technology and Inspector General

of Police Jammu being the members of this committee and would guide the implementation of AI projects while addressing operational bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Information Technology Department to establish a dedicated anchoring mechanism within the department to coordinate AI-related initiatives with different departments. He stressed the need for identifying and deploying specialized human resources to support this institutional framework and ensure effective on-ground implementation.

Highlighting the importance of capacity building, he underscored the need for earlier establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in

Emerging Technologies in Jammu and Kashmir and setting up Data Innovation Labs in skill development institutions. He maintained that such facilities would play a key role in preparing the region for future technological challenges and creating a skilled workforce in data science and AI-related domains.

The Chief Secretary further called upon the School Education Department to explore the possibility of introducing basic introductory courses on Artificial Intelligence at the secondary school level. He also suggested that AI-related skill programmes could be incorporated under Mission YUVA to enable youth to acquire emerging technology skills and improve their employment prospects.

During the meeting, Administrative Secretaries from various departments shared their perspectives on the use of AI-enabled tools to improve efficiency, data analysis, service delivery and decision-making within their sectors.

CEO of the IndiaAI Mission, Abhishek Singh, suggested the creation of a core AI team within the Union Territory to guide the mission's implementation locally. He noted that the national mission has been mandated to catalyse AI-driven initiatives across the country and assured full support to Jammu and Kashmir for its AI-related programmes.

Railway staff's honesty wins praise as lost mobile returned to passenger

JAMMU: Demonstrating exemplary honesty and commitment to passenger service, the ticket checking staff of Jammu Division once again set a remarkable example by safely returning a passenger's lost mobile phone found on board the Swaraj Express. The incident took place under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal. On March 9, ticket checking staff member Deepak Sharma displayed exceptional alertness and integrity while performing his duty at Jammu station. During routine ticket checking in the sleeper coach of train number 12471 Swaraj Express between Kathua and Jammu, the checking staff discovered a mobile phone left behind by a passenger. Acting promptly, the staff took the phone into safe custody and followed the necessary security procedures.



As soon as the train arrived at Jammu station, an announcement was made through the station's enquiry system to inform passengers about the lost mobile phone. Hearing the announcement, the concerned passenger immediately approached the ticket checking office at the station. After proper identification and verification, the mobile phone was handed over to the rightful owner. The relieved passenger expressed heartfelt gratitude to the railway authorities and the ticket checking staff for their honesty and prompt action.

Praising the commendable act, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said that the Jammu Division of Indian Railways remains committed to ensuring not only a com-

fortable journey for passengers but also the safety of their belongings. "Returning unclaimed luggage or valuables to their rightful owner with complete transparency is often a challenging task, especially when it is found on a moving train. The checking staff handled the situation with professionalism and integrity, which reflects the core values of Indian Railways," he said.

Singhal further added that such incidents highlight the dedication and sincerity of railway employees towards passenger service. He appreciated the efforts of the checking staff and expressed hope that their honesty and sense of duty would inspire others to uphold the same standards of service and integrity.

The incident has once again reinforced the trust passengers place in the railway system and stands as a shining example of the commitment of Jammu Division staff to public service.