

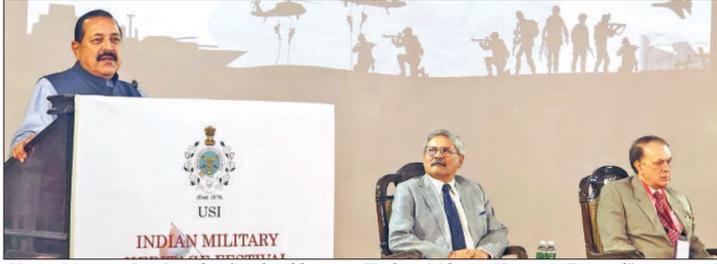
# Bharat today armed with state of art defence technology: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Bharat today is armed with state-of-the-art technology in the Defence sector, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Unlike in the past, our Armed Forces are equipped with advanced weaponry including drones, helicopter operations and UAVs and are ready to adapt to new frontiers like Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, he said.

Dr Jitendra was addressing "Indian Military Heritage Festival", organised by the United Service Institution of India (USI) in New Delhi.

The Minister said, India is at par with the leading nations in adapting new disruptive technologies that have the potential



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing "Indian Military Heritage Festival", organised by the United Service Institution of India (USI) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

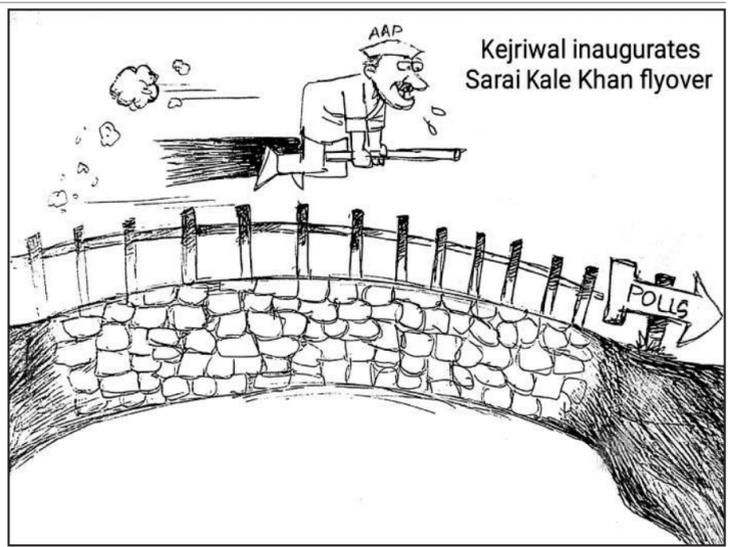
to transform the defence landscape. This not only enhances the country's national security but also positions India as a global technology leader in the defence sector. "Gone are the times when our forces were using outdated weapons. We are among the seven elite countries in the world that are into

Quantum Technology," he said, adding, "With this view, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Quantum Mission in March this year." The S&T Minister said, "i-Hub Quantum", set up at IISER, Pune, is working in the area of Quantum Technologies and developing

atom interferometry-based sensing and navigation devices; TIH at IIT Madras, namely, IITM Pravatark Technologies Foundation is working on developing a secure mobile phone for defence personnel; TIH at IIT Roorkee, namely, iHUB Divya Sampark supporting IDR Doot Mk-1,

India's first indigenous Nano Armed forces during counter terrorist/counter insurgency and room intervention operations; i-Hub Quantum, set up at IISER, Pune working in the area of Quantum Technologies developing atom interferometry-based sensing and navigation devices; TIH at IIT Mandi, namely, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) Foundation developing the Naval Combat Management System (NCMS), TIH at IISc Bengaluru developing integrated robotic joint actuators for precise control of automation systems etc.

"He has established India's role as a nation which is no longer going to be led, but is ready to lead," said Dr Jitendra Singh.



## Yudhvir Sethi honours Sat Pal, backstage artists, media professionals for successful conduct of Ram Leela

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Chairman Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, Devan Mandir, on Sunday honoured the dedicated team behind the successful conduct of the Ram Leela at Devan Mandir, Jammu.

The felicitation ceremony, organized by Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj, Devan Mandir, acknowledged the remarkable efforts of Sat Pal Sharma, Director of Ram Leela and General Secretary of the Natak Samaj, as well as the backstage artists and media professionals who contributed to the event's success.

During the felicitation ceremony, Yudhvir Sethi expressed his profound gratitude to all involved in preserving the 160-year-old tradition of Ram Leela on the same hallowed stage. He emphasized that Ram Leela is not just a theatrical performance but a cultural heritage that transcends boundaries.

Sethi emphasized that



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Chairman SDNS Dewan Mandir honouring Ram Leela team.

Ram Leela is an age-old tradition that showcases our culture in a dramatized form, and it is essential to preserve it in all its authenticity. He mentioned that artists of all religions perform together. He pointed out that Ram Leela has been a cherished tradition, captivating audiences for more than 160 years from the same stage. He asserted that the Ram Leela Club has witnessed performances by renowned Bollywood actors like Om Parkash, Om Puri, and Prithvi Raj Chouhan.

This year, the Ram Leela promises to introduce new artists and scenes, refreshing the experience for attendees.

Sethi expressed hope that the people of Jammu city would continue to offer their unwavering support in carrying forward this illustrious legacy, ensuring its continuation and prosperity for generations to come.

Anil Masoom President Natak Samaj, Rannik Mahajan Vice President, Kulbhushan Sharma were also present.

## CS reviews Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra arrangements

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: To streamline Yatra and provide optimal pilgrimage experience of the Holy Shrine, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has adopted new Paradigm by enhancing crowd management measures. This was observed in a meeting chaired on Sunday by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and attended by ACS Home, Raj Kumar Goyal; ACS, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma; Secretary Law, Achal Sethi; CEO, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg besides other officers.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee constituted vide Government Order No.01-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 01.01.2022. The Chief Secretary, assessed the implementation of each of the recommendation made by the Committee and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Anshul Garg, CEO of the Shrine Board, provided a comprehensive overview of the immediate, short-term and long-term measures undertaken to enhance the management of the pilgrimage from

Katra to the holy cave stating that the Board has made concerted efforts for adoption of a number of emerging technologies and robust response mechanisms for introduction of state-of-the-art facilities.

These include several administrative and the infrastructural measures like introduction of RFID technology based yatra card for effective and real-time monitoring of yatra by laying a network of more than 700 CCTV cameras in the Shrine area, curtailment of duration of Aarti both during morning and evening time, introduction of Beat System at various locations of Bhawan by deploying joint teams of stakeholders viz. Board's staff, JKP and CRPF. Besides, strengthening of Disaster Management Task Force of SMVDSB and fire safety measures.

CEO further apprised the chair that the Shrine Board has developed and continually upgrading the pilgrim-centric

facilities and in this context, efforts are being made to create various major infrastructure development projects enroute which includes the commissioning of Durga Bhawan, Parvati Bhawan and Skywalk at Bhawan besides, augmenting and creation of new holding areas on the track including at Adhkuwari.

He further added that, on similar lines Shrine Board has introduced various digital initiatives by installation of Self-Serve Kiosk machines, QR codes, EDC machines, UPI payments and also on-boarding to popular digital platforms for donations and sale of Prasad of the front-end, services of Helicopter, Battery Car bookings for the facilitation of the pilgrims and also improved administrative efficiencies through digital records and real time reporting fuelled by ERP modules, Next Gen Website and upgraded Call Centre for its various operations which is serving as an

interface for the pilgrims.

In addition, he informed about the installation of hi-tech multipurpose video walls at various locations on the track for enabling/dissemination of real-time information to the visiting pilgrims with regard to the Yatra, Live Dashans /Atka Arti, advisory/display features (24X7) regarding Disaster Prone Locations on the track, besides, early warnings of weather forecast.

The chair took note of the reported position and observed that all the recommendations of the committee have been implemented including the technology based interventions in a short span of time for the facilitation of the pilgrims. On the sidelines of this meeting he also appreciated the efforts in delivering the high quality services in easily accessible, efficient and user friendly manner to the pilgrims and making the journey of yatra remarkable and memorable.

## Top film personalities to be judges of Devotional Song Competition



Chairman of the competition, Rakesh Wazir addressing a press conference.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A panel of top film personalities would judge the final round of All India Devotional Song Competition scheduled to be held on October 23, 2023. Top Film personalities including Ganesh Jain Former SMVD Shrine Board member & Managing Director Venus Worldwide, Pahlaj Nihalani former Chairman Central Board of Film Certification and film maker; Shankar Sahney the leading film Industry singer; Rishi Raj Film maker, Kumar Mohan Film maker and film trade analyst will act as Judges in the finale of this competition, informed the chairman of the competition, Rakesh Wazir here in a press conference on Sunday. The live telecast of the event will be available on Mh1 from 9 PM onwards and the entry for this event will be free to all at Yog Ashram Complex, Katra and besides the live performances of the singers who have reached the finals, the people will see the live performances of renowned singers of the Film Industry vis-a-vis former winners of Mega Finals including Shanker Sawhney, Anurinder Bobby, Sonali Dogra, Mool Raj, Ravi Kumar, he added. First prize of this competition is Gold worth Rs 3 Lakh besides recording contract to the winner of this competition with Venus World Wide, and likewise the second prize is Rs 1 lakh and the third prize is Rs 50,000 to be awarded on the day of finals. In the quarter, final 21 participants competed among each other for their entry into Semi-Final and out of which Rajeev Salotra from Jammu, Anmol Raja from Hoshiarpur; Laisal Roy from Chandigarh, Shyam Sajjan from Reasi, Reema from Kanyalal, Shubham Banerjee from Jammu, Aarav Ward from Katra, Vanshika Dogra from Udhampur; Lalit Bhadravaj from Jammu, Ayati Sharma from Jammu, Chetan Sanmotra from Katra got their entry into the Semi Final.

Famous singers and winners of All India Devotional Song Competition including Kiran Bawa, Ananya were special invitees who also sung on the occasion and mesmerised the audience with their melodious voices.

Wazir thanked the people and organizations associated with the event.

## Confederation of All Organizations of DPs of 1947, 65, 71 observes Oct 22 as Black Day No administrative setup ever bothered to fulfill, legitimate aspirations of PoJK refugees: Chuni

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: SOS International Chairman, Rajiv Chuni on Sunday regretted that no administrative set up at the Centre, and in Jammu and Kashmir have ever bothered to address the genuine aspirations of 17 lakh displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) that has only strengthened the sense of injustice and gross discrimination among them.

Chuni said the indifferent and discriminatory policies of the Government of India has only fuelled the feeling that the political representations of these refugees, who have been subjected to unspeakable atrocities, including massacres, rapes, and the loss of their ancestral homes, are being taken away.

"October 22 marks a grim anniversary in the history of PoJK refugees, as it was on this day in 1947 that the Pakistan Army, accompanied by tribal hordes, launched a brutal attack on Muzaffarabad. The ensuing



Dignitaries honouring an senior PoJK refugee at a programme.

violence led to the mass exodus of Hindus and Sikhs, who were subjected to unspeakable atrocities. The PoJK region was systematically cleansed of Hindus and Sikhs, leaving them with nothing but painful memories and a burning desire for justice," the SOS International Chairman said while addressing a large gathering of PoJK refugees gathered at Reen Palace, Chatha Morh, Jammu organized by Confederation of All Organizations of DPs of 1947, 65, 71.

"Despite numerous recommendations and pledges over the years, these refugees continue to struggle for basic political representation and recognition in Jammu and Kashmir," he rued.

He reminded of the enduring plight of PoJK refugees and the urgent need for action to rectify this injustice.

"It is high time for the government of India to fulfill the genuine aspirations of the PoJK refugees and ensure that their voices are heard in the political processes of the

region. "Only then can a sense of justice and closure be brought to these long-suffering individuals and their families," he said.

In a poignant declaration, SOS International Chairman Rajiv Chuni voiced the collective frustration of countless refugees from PoJK, expressing that successive governments in Jammu and Kashmir have done little more than offer empty promises in response to their long-standing demands.

Chuni said his heartfelt words resonated with the 17 lakh refugees, who have been longing for justice and recognition since their displacement in the turbulent days of 1947.

He vociferously raised the issue of reservation of a single seat for PoJK refugees against the two seats for Kashmiri migrants.

"The Kashmiri migrants, who are the natives of Kashmir and have a population of just three lakhs, are being given two seats in the

Legislative Assembly while the PoJK refugees who are 17 lakh in numbers have been given just a single seat which is a grave injustice and cruel joke with the PoJK. It has given an impression that the genuine rights of PoJK have been taken away in a planned way," the senior refugee leader said.

"There was a provision in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Constitution that reserved eight assembly seats for PoJK refugees. In theory, these eight seats should serve as the much-needed political representation for the refugees, a promise that has eluded them for decades," he said.

Sheikh Abdul Rehman former Member Parliament and Teja Singh 102 years old and Suchwant Singh both eye witness account were present as guests of honour on the occasion.

Jagjit Singh Convener of Confederation from MJR-47, Amrik Singh from PoJK-Intellectual Forum, Capt Yudhvir Singh President DP

Front 1965, 71 Camp-Non Camp, Vinod Kumar Chairman PoJK DP Front, Paramvir Singh President PoJK Youth Refugee Forum Jagjeet Singh Convener of Confederation from MJR - 47, Rajiv Chuni Chairman SOS International, Adv Amrik Singh from PoJK 47 Intellectual Forum, Capt Yudhvir President DP Front 1965,1971 camp / non camp, Vinod Kumar Chairman PoJK DP front, POJK Youth Refugee Forum President along with team were worked as catalyst to organised the much programme.

Romy Sharma from Delhi, principal Lavender Kour from Patiala, Om Parkash Khajuria a renowned refugee activist, Pavneet Kaur, Harpreet Singh, Vipul Bali, Binny Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Harvinder Singh, Avtar Singh Sarpanch, Balmeet Singh and other youths were also spoke on the occasion. The programme was compared by Paramvir Singh.

## Devotees worship Maa Mahagauri in Prabhat Pheri



Chairman MC Katra, Vimal Indu, other dignitaries flagging off Prabhat Pheri.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: A spiritual environment was created by today's Prabhat Pheri which started from Bus Stand Katra to Darshan Deodi via ban ganga road and after passing through Main Bazaar Katra it got culminated at Bus Stand. The procession was welcomed and joined hugely by the locals and pilgrims all along the route.

Jammu and Kashmir Association of Prabhat Pheri today took out Prabhat Pheri on 8th Navratra which is a part of Navratra Festival Katra 2023 and is being organized jointly by J&K Tourism Deptt. and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra in association with

District Administration Reasi. Prabhat pheri today was flagged off by Chief Guest, Vimal Indu Chairman Municipal Committee Katra and guests of honour Bindu Sharma and Remu Bala Councilors Municipal Committee Katra in presence of Babu Ram Dubey former Chairman of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Katra.

Chief guest and other guests were felicitated by the association members with turbans, chunaris and mementos.

The locals, NCC cadets as well as pilgrims danced to the tunes of Bhajans and Kirtan performed by Baldev & party, Naman and party of Punjab.

CRPF personnel received the proces-

sion at Yog Ashram and served the Parshad to the participants under the supervision of CRPF Commandant of 6th Battalion Yaad Ram Bunker.

Central Bureau of Communication participated in the procession with groups from Pune, Orrisa, Rajasthan, and J&K.

The people got mesmerized by their scintillating performances depicting rich cultural heritage.

Raj Kumar Padha President, J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri informed that tomorrow a grand Prabhat Pheri shall be taken out as tomorrow is the Ramnavami and last day of Navratra festival.

He appealed the locals and the visiting devotees to come in large numbers to Prabhat Pheri and seek the blessings of Maa Vaishnodevi.

The members present on the occasion were Ajay Sharma, Raj Kumar Dubey, Rannik Nawada, Manoj Sadhotra, Neelam Singh, Brij Mohan, Rajesh Gupta, Rattan Chand, Renujei Dhar, Vimal Kumar, Murlidhar, Pawan Kumar, Rameshwar Sharma, P N Kaul, Prinu Dhar, Sartaj Singh and Suman Kotwal.

## Amrit Kalash arrive at Teacher Bhawan



Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya and other dignitaries at a programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign witnessed a grand gathering at Teachers Bhawan on Sunday as Amrit Kalash from various blocks and municipalities of the district were heartily welcomed.

Soil and rice collected from as many as 20 blocks and the municipalities as well in the district were ceremoniously gathered at the venue.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner, Sachin

Kumar Vaishya, and Vice Chairman District Development Council, Suraj Singh. The gathering also saw the attendance of Additional Deputy Commissioners Harvinder Singh and Sandeep Soointra.

BDC Chairpersons, DDC members, PRI representatives, and various government officials were also present at the occasion.

Everyone present at the occasion took the Panch Pran oath, reaffirming their com-

mitment to honour the nation's martyrs, contribute to the nation's development and uphold its unity and sovereignty.

In a bid to spread awareness, a street play was performed, centering around the themes of Swachh Bharat Mission and Nasha Mukta Bharat.

DDC Vice Chairman, Suraj Singh, expressed his gratitude to all contributors to the campaign. He announced that the Amrit Kalash from this event would be sent to Delhi to con-

tribute to the creation of the Amrit Vatika.

ADC Sandeep Soointra wrapped up the event with a vote of thanks, commending the efforts of the Rural Development Department and urban local bodies in organising this patriotic exercise. He emphasised that the primary aim of the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is to celebrate the martyrs and their sacrifices, and he urged the community to continue supporting this noble cause.