

Western Railway to run six pairs of unreserved festival special trains to various destinations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, Western Railway will run six pairs of Unreserved Festival Special Trains on Special fare between Bandra Terminus - Patna, Udhna - Jaynagar, Udhna - Samastipur, Ankleshwar - Samastipur and Sabarmati - Muzaffarpur stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Train No. 09009 Bandra Terminus - Patna Unreserved Special will depart from Bandra Terminus Daily at 21:20 hrs and will reach Patna at 11:00 hrs, the third day. This train will run from 22nd October to 24th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09010 Patna - Bandra Terminus Unreserved Special will depart from Patna Daily at 14:00 hrs and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 05:00 hrs, the third day. This train will run from 24th October to 26th October 2025. Enroute, this train will halt Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Bhestan, Chalthan, Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sakri and Madhubani stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches.

Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches.

"Train No. 09091 Udhna - Jaynagar Unreserved Special which was earlier notified to run upto Samastipur will now run upto Jaynagar. This train will depart from Udhna Daily at 14:15 hrs and will reach Jaynagar at 09:00 hrs, the third day. The train will run upto 27th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09092 Jaynagar - Udhna Unreserved Special which was earlier notified to depart from Samastipur, will now depart from Jaynagar w.e.f 23rd October, 2025. The train will leave Daily at 12:00 hrs and reach Udhna at 03:35 hrs, the third day. This train will run upto 29th October, 2025," Vineet said adding that enroute this train will halt at Chalthan, Nandurbar, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sakri and Madhubani stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches.

Vineet said that Train No. 09093 Udhna - Jaynagar Unreserved Special will depart from Udhna Daily at 12:00 hrs and will reach Jaynagar at 20:30 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 23rd October to 25th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09094 Jaynagar - Udhna Unreserved Special will depart from Jaynagar Daily at 23:30 hrs and will reach Udhna at 13:30 hrs, the third day. This train will run from 24th October to 26th October, 2025.

"Enroute this train will halt at Chalthan, Bardoli, Vyara, Nandurbar, Amalner, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sakri and Madhubani stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches," he added.

"Train No. 09001 Udhna - Samastipur Unreserved Special will depart from Udhna Daily at 09:00 hrs and will reach Samastipur at 22:35 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 23rd October to 25th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No.

09002 Samastipur - Udhna Unreserved Special will depart from Samastipur Daily at 02:15 hrs and will reach Udhna at 15:35 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 24th October to 27th October 2025. Enroute, this train will halt at Sayan, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Ujjain, Maksi, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Bina, Saugor, Damoh, Katni Murwara, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur and Muzaffarpur stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches," Vineet said and added, "Train No. 09157 Ankleshwar - Samastipur Unreserved Special will depart from Ankleshwar at 15:40 hrs and will reach Samastipur at 05:30 hrs, the third day. This train will run on 23rd & 24th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09158 Samastipur - Ankleshwar Unreserved Special will depart from Samastipur at 08:30 hrs and will arrive Ankleshwar at 02:30 hrs, the third day. This train will run on 25th & 26th October 2025. Enroute, this train will halt at Bharuch, Vadodara, Chhayapuri,

Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Ujjain, Maksi, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Bina, Saugor, Damoh, Katni Murwara, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur and Muzaffarpur stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches."

"Train No. 09483 Sabarmati - Muzaffarpur Unreserved Special will depart from Sabarmati Daily at 23:30 hrs and will reach Muzaffarpur at 07:30 hrs, the third day. This train will run from 22nd October to 25th October, 2025. Similarly, Train No. 09484 Muzaffarpur - Sabarmati Unreserved Special will depart from Muzaffarpur Daily at 10:30 hrs and will reach Sabarmati at 22:00 hrs, the next day. This train will run from 24th October to 27th October, 2025. Enroute this train will halt at Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Marwar, Ajmer, Jaipur, Idgah Agra, Tumla, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur and Hajipur stations in both directions. This train comprises of General Second Class Coaches," Vineet said.

BLSKS celebrates Vishwakarma Puja with cultural fervour



BLSKS team performing Vishwakarma Puja.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To mark the auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Puja and to promote the rich traditional culture of Jammu and Kashmir, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) staged a special musical play titled "Vishwakarma" at Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production.

The play was written and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, renowned writer-director and former Regional Director of the Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India. The program was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, who attended as the Chief Guest. J.K. Raina, Freelance

Producer-Director (TV), and Mukesh Singh, noted media personality, were present as Guests of Honour.

The event commenced with the recitation of a Sanskrit Shloka, followed by vibrant musical performances including songs like "Vishwakarma Teri Jai Ho", "Ayo Ayo Sab Jawano Majdoor Kasbi Tekasano", and "Mahare Thadre Loke De Khuliye Nasib Ji". The performance concluded with the traditional Aarti of Vishwakarma Ji, "Hum Sab Utare Teri Aarti Vishwakarma Ji". The music for the play was composed by Sanjay Kumar Pashai, a renowned music composer and guitarist.

In his welcome address, Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman, BLSKS, shed light on the significance of Vishwakarma Puja, a day dedicated to Lord Vishwakarma, the divine

architect and engineer in Hindu mythology. He spoke about Vishwakarma's legendary contributions, including the construction of Dwarka, Maya Sabha, and celestial weapons for the gods. Traditionally observed after Diwali, the Puja is marked by rituals in workplaces, factories, and workshops.

The Chief Guest praised BLSKS for preserving cultural values through meaningful performances and extended his Vishwakarma Puja greetings, wishing divine blessings and prosperity for all.

Artists and students who gave captivating performances included M.C. Kotwal, Zulekha Bano, Shivani Chadha, Naiya Digra, Poli Devi, and Rajeev Salotra. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Deepak Kumar Dogra, the event coordinator.

AIPP slams Smart Meter rollout in Jammu, calls for immediate halt



National General Secretary AIPP, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma briefing media.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Widespread public discontent is mounting over the government's implementation of electric smart meters in Jammu, with serious concerns being raised about inflated billing, lack of transparency, and disregard for consumer rights.

Addressing a press conference today, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, National General Secretary of the All India Panchayat Parishad (AIPP), voiced the collective frustration of the people and issued a strong call for immediate corrective action.

Flanked by Prof. Jugal Kishore Gupta, National Vice President of AIPP; Ashwani Sharma, State Vice President AIPP J&K; Pt. R.C. Sharma, State General Secretary; and Dr. Shak Mohd, Senior Vice President (Organization), Dr. Sharma said that the smart meter rollout has resulted in

severe financial and technical hardship, particularly for rural residents, middle-income families, and daily wage earners.

He stated that numerous complaints have been pouring in from across the region, citing exorbitant electricity bills generated by the newly installed meters.

Consumers allege that these smart meters are recording inflated readings and are being imposed without their consent or proper awareness, creating a sense of deep resentment among the public.

Dr. Sharma further highlighted serious health and privacy concerns, pointing out that the meters emit constant electromagnetic radiation and allow continuous digital surveillance of power usage-both of which have raised red flags among concerned citizens.

"The government's unilateral decision to enforce smart meters, without holding public

consultations, conducting trial verifications, or providing adequate education to consumers, amounts to a violation of consumer rights and public trust," Dr. Sharma asserted.

"In a region where nearly 50% of the population earns monthly wages, how can they be expected to prepay electricity bills? The prepaid system might exist in just two or three cities in India - but here in Jammu, it has been forced upon people without any alternative or public consent," he added.

The AIPP leadership put forward a clear charter of demands to the government and the Power Development Department including immediate halt to all ongoing smart meter installations until an independent technical audit and public hearing are conducted, a comprehensive review of billing data to assess cases of inflated charges, a choice for consumers to retain traditional electricity meters, and full transparency in meter calibration and billing mechanisms, with clear accountability.

Lastly, Dr. Sharma called on the Chief Minister to honour the commitment made to the people of Jammu & Kashmir by immediately implementing the provision of 200 units of free electricity - a promise that remains unfulfilled despite repeated assurances.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDRA: In view of the heavy passenger traffic during the ongoing festive season of Diwali and Chhath Puja, General Manager, Western Railway, Vivek Kumar Gupta, visited Bandra Terminus Station and conducted a detailed inspection of the passenger facilities, crowd management arrangements and special train operations to ensure smooth handling of the increased passenger traffic.

He was accompanied by senior officers from Western Railway Headquarters and Mumbai Central Division. During the visit, the General Manager inspected various areas of Bandra Terminus including the concourse, holding areas, ticket counters, waiting halls and circulating area, and reviewed the preparedness of the station to handle the festive rush effectively.

Following the inspection, Vivek Kumar Gupta addressed the media and briefed them regarding the extensive arrangements made by the Railways' to manage the festive rush and provide comfortable travel to passengers.

Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, during the press briefing the General Manager shared that Indian



Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager, Western Railway interacting with media.

Railways is operating more than 12,000 trips of holiday special trains during the current festive season. Holding areas, extra ticket counters, drinking water facilities and other amenities are being provided at major stations across the country, while over 12 lakh railway employees are working round-the-clock to ensure smooth and safe travel for passengers during this period.

He further added that, Western Railway is running more than 2,400 trips with nearly 80 pairs of special trains to cater to the festive rush of Diwali and Chhath Puja, most of which are north-bound. Of these, 1,586 trips originate from Gujarat, 738 from Maharashtra and 90 from Madhya Pradesh. These include almost 50 trips of unreserved special trains.

Gupta said that, to provide ease of ticketing, a

Mobile UTS facility has been introduced, through which booking staff directly approach passengers for issuing tickets. To manage the additional inflow of passengers, extra personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) have been deployed at stations to guide passengers and ensure safe, orderly movement in queues.

Trains, including both regular and special services, are being escorted by RPF personnel for enhanced safety. Gupta stated that keeping in mind the safety of passengers, CCTV systems are being monitored 24x7 to avoid any untoward incident. War Rooms have been set up for crowd management at all sensitive stations and are manned round-the-clock by Western Railway officers and staff. He further added that, Free drinking water and ade-

quate toilet facilities are being provided at all major stations for the convenience of passengers.

At Bandra Terminus, specific measures have been implemented to handle the exceptionally high festive rush. During the period from 15th to 21st October 2025, approximately 70,000 passengers were able to travel to their destinations from Bandra Terminus. During this period to cater to passenger demand, 466 trips were run from Udhna/Surat, 468 from Mumbai Central and 72 from Valsad.

Gupta further said that to ensure smooth crowd flow and passenger comfort, a temporary holding area of 350 square metres with a capacity of 450 passengers and a permanent holding area of 702 square metres with a capacity of 1,000 passengers have been creat-

ed at Bandra Terminus. Both holding areas are equipped with adequate lighting, fans and a public announcement system to keep passengers informed about train movements.

A total of 70 licensed Sahayaks are deployed daily in two shifts at Bandra Terminus to assist passengers. Adequate numbers of ticket-checking staff are also deployed round-the-clock at all entry and exit points, and additional ticket counters have been opened to manage the increased passenger load.

To prevent overcrowding, the sale of platform tickets has been temporarily restricted at Bandra Terminus, Vapi and Surat stations of Mumbai Central Division. Western Railway has also issued strict instructions to avoid stacking parcels on platforms to enhance passenger safety and ease of movement.

Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager, Western Railway, stated that continuous monitoring and coordinated efforts are being ensured across all divisions to manage the heavy festive rush effectively. He urged passengers to plan their journeys in advance, use mobile ticketing facilities and cooperate with railway staff for safe and hassle-free travel.

Dir Information condoles demise of Editor, Glimpses of Future

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Information & Public Relations, Nitish Rajora, has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Prem Nath Sharma, Editor of the Glimpses of Future, an English Daily.

In a heartfelt condolence message, the Director extended sympathies to the bereaved family and paid rich tributes to the late editor's invaluable contributions to the field of journalism. Describing Sharma as a dedicated professional and a voice of integrity, the Director noted that his journalistic work reflected a deep understanding of public concerns and a steadfast commitment to truth.

He further stated that the late editor's legacy would continue to inspire generations of media professionals. "His passing leaves an irreplaceable void in the journalistic fraternity," the Director remarked.

Meanwhile, the Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey also expressed his condolences on the sad demise of Prem Nath Sharma and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Billawaria felicitates sanitation workers on Diwali, calls them 'True Karmayogis'



BJP J&K General Secy, Baldev Singh Billawaria honouring sanitation workers of JMC.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, honoured the sanitation workers of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for their tireless service in maintaining cleanliness across the city.

The felicitating took place during a special "Diwali Milan Programme," marked by a simple yet emotional gathering, where Billawaria

lauded the sanitation workers as the "true karmayogis" of society.

Addressing the audience, he said these workers, irrespective of extreme weather conditions, work relentlessly day and night to keep Jammu clean and beautiful.

"Cleanliness is not just a campaign - it is a mass movement," Billawaria said, emphasizing that these frontline warriors are the backbone of the Swachh Bharat Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "While we celebrate Diwali by lighting lamps

and bursting crackers, it is these workers who restore our streets and neighbourhoods to cleanliness the very next morning."

He added that Prime Minister Modi's vision has transformed hygiene and cleanliness into a national ethos, and this mission can only succeed when every citizen shoulders the responsibility and respects those who continuously serve without expecting applause.

The event saw sanitation workers being felicitated with certificates of appreciation, sweets, and gift

items as a token of gratitude.

Billawaria extended heartfelt Diwali greetings and called upon all sections of society to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of these workers.

"When our city shines bright and clean, the joy of Diwali multiplies," he remarked, urging municipal bodies to regularly appreciate and support sanitation staff to boost their morale and enthusiasm.

He concluded with a call for collective responsibility, stating that festivals like Diwali should inspire citizens to take a pledge - cleanliness is not just the duty of sanitation workers but a shared moral obligation of every citizen.

The programme was attended by several notable figures, including Ranjit Singh, Dr. Kuldeep Gupta, Om Nath, Sanjay Sharma, Anu Kumar, Kawaljeet Singh, and many others who came together to show solidarity and appreciation for the sanitation workforce.

Vishwakarma Day celebrated with religious fervour at Vishwakarma Sabha



Vishwakarma Sabha members and others performing Vishwakarma Puja.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vishwakarma Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious devotion at the Vishwakarma Sabha Temple Complex, Vishwakarma Chowk, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu. The celebrations began with a traditional Hawan, invoking the blessings of Lord Vishwakarma - the divine architect and creator of the universe.

The day-long event witnessed participation from members of the Vishwakarma community as well as individuals from various sections of society, who came together to pay their respects and seek blessings from Lord Vishwakarma Ji.

The program was organized by the Vishwakarma Sabha

and graced by several distinguished guests, including Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, former Minister Sat Sharma (CA), former Vice Chairman (OBC) Kuldeep Raj Verma, Ex-Corporators Gourav Chopra (Ward 28), Surinder Singh Choudhary and Th. Mannohan Singh (Ward 29), and Shashi Verma, President Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha. Also present was Zoravar Singh Jamwal, Chairman of Team Jammu, along with other dignitaries who extended warm greetings to the Vishwakarma community on this auspicious occasion. The guests highlighted the life and legacy of Lord Vishwakarma, lauding his con-

tributions as the master craftsman and divine engineer. They also commended the efforts of the Sabha in organizing such a spiritually uplifting event and reiterated their commitment to supporting the Vishwakarma community in their just and rightful causes.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Chalotra, President of Vishwakarma Sabha, and Jagdish Kargotra, General Secretary, shed light on the significance of Lord Vishwakarma's teachings. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to the guests and the large gathering for making the celebration a grand success.

Prominent attendees included Kuljeet Rai (Chairman, Vishwakarma Sabha), Vijay Kumar (Vice Chairman), Rattan Lal Changotra, Ashok Kumar, Om Parkash, Sanjay Kumar, Ajay Chalotra, Ronesh Lal, Pawan Salgotra, Vinod Jaral, Naresh Kumar, Neelam Mahotra, Sanjay Sagar, Tarsem Lal, and others who contributed to the smooth conduct of the event.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of prasad and a collective prayer for peace, prosperity, and unity among all.