

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Gandhi Jayanti with patriotic fervour



Glimpses of Gandhi Jayanti celebration at JK Public School Panjtirthi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: "We celebrate Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October every year in remembrance of our beloved Father of Nation. It is a great opportunity for the

countrymen to pay homage to this great leader, who sacrificed his entire life for the betterment of the country. JK Public School (JKPS), Panjtirthi, celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with great

enthusiasm and reverence to honour the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. Anju Sharma, the teacher incharge of the celebration commenced the celebration

by highlighting Gandhi's invaluable contribution in India's freedom struggle. A Mime act was depicted by students to highlight the importance of peace and harmony. Jakiāns marked

their respect by singing, "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" which aptly matched the principles of the Father of Nation. Jakiāns spoke different slogans to spread the mes-

sage of endurance, harmony, nonviolence and gratitude. Prep Wing students performed role plays, and narrated different inspiring stories and recited poems

based on Gandhi Ji's Principles. The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah addressed the jakiāns and quoted Bapu's golden words, "Anger is the enemy

of non violence and pride is the monster that swallows it up." She added, "Gandhi's ideologies of Satya and Ahimsa are the ideals to lead a life of fulfillment."

Udhampur airport operationalisation finalised, Kishtwar being included in 'UDAN': Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today disclosed that Udhampur airport operationalisation has been finalised while the proposed Kishtwar airport is being included in the "UDAN" scheme.

The Minister was taking a review of the aviation plans for Jammu & Kashmir, underlining their importance for improving regional connectivity and providing affordable travel options to local residents as well from the point of view of security.

At the meeting attended by Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Samir Kumar Sinha and the Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Vipin Kumar, Dr Jitendra Singh reviewed the status of the aviation projects for J&K and called for fast-



tracking the necessary approvals and technical work. The Union Minister was briefed that the Udhampur airport could initially begin operations with ATR 72-seater aircraft under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN), which would cap ticket fares at nearly half the prevailing market rates.

In other words, the air fare for a Delhi-Udhampur flight will be considerably and substantially lesser than a Delhi-Jammu flight, thus offering a huge incentive to even Jammu bound passengers to take the Delhi-Udhampur air route, the officials explained.

Officials explained that under the UDAN scheme, a substantial part of the airfare will be subsidised through viability gap funding. This would not only make flights more affordable but also bring Delhi-Udhampur fares substantially lower than the Delhi-Jammu route.

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted this would be a major relief for students and young professionals, who often face steep travel costs.

The Airports Authority of India has agreed to take up the required development, including navigational and basic facilities, without requiring additional land for

initial operations, as the apron space will be made available by defence authorities. The first phase of operations is expected to take around six months.

Simultaneously, the Govt of J&K has been approached for transfer of additional land for construction of a new terminal, in order to enable bigger and other categories of air flights also to operate from the Udhampur airport.

On Kishtwar, it was noted that earlier attempts to develop the airstrip faced hurdles due to land acquisition issues. Fresh feasibility and land assessment studies are now being initiated to develop the airport under UDAN scheme. Referring to Kishtwar as an "Aspirational Agricultural District", it was highlighted that an airport there would boost the region's economy, particularly the agricultural economy by helping local saffron cultivators and farmers reach wider markets.

The Minister said, he would personally take up the matter of land requisition,

wherever required, with the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir. He also proposed convening a coordination meeting with the Divisional Commissioner and AAI officials to move the projects forward.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also reviewed the ongoing expansion of Jammu airport, which is being upgraded at a cost of around ₹860 crore with timeline June 2026. The expanded facility, part of a larger push to strengthen aviation infrastructure across the country, is expected to significantly enhance passenger handling capacity. Recent months have seen new terminals opened in Patna and Pune, with Mumbai's expansion nearing completion.

Highlighting the broader impact, Dr Jitendra Singh said that improving air connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir is crucial not only for passenger convenience but also for economic growth, tourism and greater integration of the region with national mainstream.

IGP Jammu Zone pins ranks to newly promoted officers



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti with decorated officers and others officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Pipping Ceremony was organized today at Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) Jammu, during which the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, decorated officers on their well-earned promotions.

The occasion marked a proud milestone in the professional journey of the officers, whose dedication and commitment to duty have been duly recognised by the department.

While congratulating the

promoted officers, the IGP lauded their service and dedication. He reminded them that every promotion carries greater responsibility and urged them to uphold integrity, discipline, and accountability while serving society with fairness and compassion.

He also underlined the significance of leadership, teamwork, and professional excellence in their new roles.

The promoted officers expressed their gratitude for the recognition and

reaffirmed their commitment to serve the people and the department with renewed zeal and sincerity. Those decorated included: SI Satnam Singh, SI R.A. Bhat, L(SI) Rekha Rani, ASI Yash Pal, and ASI Sanjeev Kumar.

The event concluded with words of inspiration from the IGP, who exhorted the officers to uphold the proud traditions of the Police Department and discharge their duties with professionalism, commitment, and a spirit of public service.