

# Dr Jitendra emphasises effective communication for translating innovations into societal benefits



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, as chief guest, speaking after presenting "Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan National Awards for Excellence 2024" at New Delhi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, emphasized the critical role of effective science communication in translating scientific innovations into tangible societal benefits.

Speaking at the presentation of the Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan National Awards for Excellence 2024, Dr. Singh pointed out that specialized science journalism and science communicators are pivotal in fostering public awareness and ensuring that the advancements in science serve the greater good.

Dr. Singh, during his address, paid tribute to the late Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan, a trailblazer

in science journalism in India. Dr. Mangalam, known for her pioneering work, was one of the first to bring science reporting to Indian media at a time when it was still emerging in the country.

She was an instrumental figure in popularizing scientific issues, such as space exploration and nuclear science, among the Indian public.

Even up until her untimely passing in 2017, Dr. Mangalam was working on a book about legendary scientist Homi J. Bhabha.

The award ceremony, held at the Sheri-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), celebrated Dr. Mangalam's legacy by honoring individuals who have excelled in various

domains of journalism, science, and culture.

The recipients of the Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan National Award for Excellence 2024 included P. Narayanan, awarded for Excellence in Journalism; Umendra Dutt, recognized for Excellence in Science Reporting; Sathyanarayana Raju, who received the award for Excellence in Art and Culture; and Jeejo John Puthiezath, recognized for Excellence in Medical Malpractices Investigation.

Dr. Singh also praised Dr. Mangalam's contributions in setting the foundation for specialized science journalism in India. He noted that while countries like the United States and the UK had well-established tradi-

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Dr. Singh also praised Dr. Mangalam's contributions in setting the foundation for specialized science journalism in India. He noted that while countries like the United States and the UK had well-established tradi-

called for more initiatives to train the next generation of science communicators, including workshops and short-term courses, to ensure Dr. Mangalam's vision lives on.

Additionally, Dr. Singh underscored the transformative impact of India's scientific advancements, such as progress in quantum technology, the bio-economy, and the "Purple Revolution" or Lavender Start-Up movement, which has empowered young entrepreneurs to achieve economic independence through lavender cultivation. These developments, he said, exemplify how science and technology can drive social and economic change.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that science communication is vital to ensure that scientific innovations benefit society. He encouraged all to contribute to the advancement of science literacy, honoring Dr. Mangalam Swaminathan's legacy of bridging the gap between science and the public. The event was a reminder of how science communicators can shape public understanding and contribute to the broader progress of society.



## AIIMS Jammu achieves milestone, completes 1,000 ENT Endoscopies



Dr. Darwin Kaushal and Dr. Amardeep Singh with team members.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: State-of-the-art facility and expert team enable landmark achievement in ear, nose, and throat care at Jammu. The Department of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has achieved a significant milestone by completing 1000 ENT endoscopies.

This feat demonstrates the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality patient care and its expertise in diagnosing and treating ear, nose, and throat disorders.

"Completing 1000 ENT endoscopies is a significant achievement, and commitment to providing exceptional patient care. We will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of our services. This milestone is not just a number; it represents the trust and confidence that our patients have placed in us. We remain committed to pro-

viding the best possible treatment outcomes for our patients. I am proud of our ENT team's efforts and look forward to many more achievements in the future," said by Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu.

The Department's expert team of doctors, led by Dr. Darwin Kaushal and Dr. Amardeep Singh, has been instrumental in achieving this milestone. ENT endoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure that allows doctors to visually examine the ear, nose, and throat using a flexible or rigid tube with a camera and light.

This procedure helps diagnose and treat various ENT conditions, such as nasal polyps, sinusitis, upper airway & throat cancer and other laryngeal pathologies.

The success of the ENT Department would not have been possible without the

tireless efforts of the nursing staff. Our nursing officers has played a crucial role in assisting the doctors during the procedures. Their expertise and dedication to patient care have been invaluable to the team.

"Nursing officers are the backbone of our healthcare system," said by Dr. Darwin Kaushal. "Their hard work and commitment to patient care are essential to the success of our department."

The ENT Department at AIIMS Jammu has been at the forefront of providing specialized care to patients with ear, nose, and throat disorders. As AIIMS Jammu continues to grow and expand its services, the hospital remains committed to providing the best possible care to its patients.

The completion of 1000 ENT endoscopies is a testament to this commitment, and the hospital looks forward to achieving many more milestones in the years to come.

## Shrine Board dedicates new waiting hall for devotees at Bhawan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has dedicated a state-of-the-art waiting hall at Bhawan to provide enhanced comfort and convenience to the pilgrims visiting the revered Shrine. This newly created facility is part of the Board's continuous efforts to upgrade amenities for the growing number of devotees undertaking the sacred yatra each year.

The waiting hall, spanning 1600 sq.ft., accommodates 100 pilgrims at a time and is conveniently located near Ram Mandir in the main Shrine Complex. Equipped with modern amenities, it features ample seating, lockers, drinking water facilities and well-maintained separate washrooms for men and women devotees. The spacious well-ventilated hall shall facilitate near 1500 devotees per day



adding to the existing daily capacity of 600 devotees at the waiting hall located near Room No. 4, Kalika Bhawan.

Following the poojan, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board formally inaugurated the waiting hall. CEO highlighted the significance of the new facility stating that created as per the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), this waiting hall is a vital addition to the amenities at

Bhawan towards ensuring that devotees can focus on their spiritual journey without facing logistical challenges. He added that over the years, the Shrine Board has undertaken several initiatives to enhance the pilgrimage experience including improved tracks for hassle free pilgrimage, added catering outlets, medical facilities and enhanced accommodations. The new waiting hall at Bhawan marks yet another milestone in this journey of transformation. We are committed

to continually upgrading the infrastructure and facilities at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to provide a seamless experience for every pilgrim," he said.

This new facility also incorporates a digital information screen to provide live darshans and real-time updates on the yatra schedule besides other essential announcements. Additionally, the hall includes designated

counters for inquiry and assistance while ensuring smooth management of the pilgrims. These features are expected to significantly enhance the efficiency of services at Bhawan.

Pilgrims have welcomed the initiative with enthusiasm and gratitude. Many have expressed that the waiting hall will make their spiritual journey more comfortable, especially during adverse weather conditions and times of high footfall. It provides them with a place to rest and rejuvenate before proceeding for darshans.

Among those present on the occasion were Jt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SDM and Tehsildar Bhawan; Pujaris, other officers and staff of Shrine Board and pilgrims at large.

## Sham Lal visits Hanuman Mandir, flags off 20th batch of devotees for Ganga Darshan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: It was a moment of great honour for the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust (JYBT) when Sham Lal Sharma, Member of the Legislative Assembly (Jammu North), visited the Sankat Mochan Panch Mukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan located at BC Road, here on Friday.

The visit was marked by a welcome from Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, who also congratulated Sham Lal Sharma for his recent electoral success.

During the visit, Sharma participated in the Puja Archana of Lord Hanuman. Pawan Kumar Shastri briefed Sham Lal Sharma on the various ongoing activities at the Mandir Bhawan, including daily morning/evening tea services, free Langar Seva



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma flagging off bus for Ganga Dharshan at Haridwar.

(community meals), and support for the needy and visiting devotees.

Sharma appreciated the Trust's ongoing welfare efforts for the community.

The Trust also announced that Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Charitable Trust (SST), had previously organized 19 batches for

Ganga Darshan at his own expense. The 20th batch, consisting of 50 Yatris, is being organized with the support of Sham Lal Sharma, who kindly arranged the trip for the devotees of his constituency.

This journey is scheduled for the Amasiya Parav on 30th November 2024.

The Jammu Yatri Bhawan

will provide free food and lodging for the Yatris at its Haridwar Bhawan, along with a yoga Shivir camp and a Ganga Darshan during their stay.

The bus for Haridwar was flagged off on from the Panch Mukhi Hanuman Mandir by Sham Lal Sharma, accompanied by chanting of Vedic

mantras and religious rituals conducted by learned Pandits of the Trust.

The ceremony was attended by prominent guests including Ajay Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Jammu South, Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer, Raj Kumar Gupta, Trustee, Sukhdev Sharma, Working Committee Member, Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Working Committee Member, Raj Kumar, General Manager, Balbir Singh, Field Officer, and the relatives of the visiting Yatris.

The stage presentation at the event was delivered by Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer of the Trust, who expressed heartfelt thanks to Sham Lal Sharma for his kind visit and support.

## Com Secy HED discusses budget priorities for 2025-26

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Higher Education, Dr. Rashmi Singh, on Friday held an extensive internal budget meeting to finalise financial plans for the next financial year.

The meeting brought together Registrars from universities across the Union Territory and representatives from grant-in-aid colleges.

During the discussions, Revised Estimates for 2024-25 and Budget Estimates for 2025-26 were outlined, focussing on the specific requirements of each institution. Special emphasis was

placed on addressing placement arrears for major universities, including Jammu University, Kashmir University, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri and Islamic University of Science and Technology Awantipora. Additional support for three grant-in-aid colleges-Islamia College of Science and Technology, Gandhi College and Vishwa Bharti College Srinagar-was also prioritized.

One of the critical issues discussed was the provision of furniture for colleges with completed buildings, where such items were absent from

the Detailed Project Reports.

The meeting was attended by Director Finance, Director Colleges and other key stakeholders from the department. Registrars, principals and finance officers from the universities and colleges also participated.

The department aims to finalise the proposed budget and submit it to the Finance Department within two days. Dr. Rashmi Singh reiterated the commitment to equitable financial allocation, ensuring that all institutions receive the resources necessary to meet their objectives.

Bari-Brahmana, Samba, and Kathua.

The Deputy Chief Minister while interacting with the deputation acknowledged significance of industrial sector in driving economic growth and assured the delegation of his commitment to resolving these long-standing issues. He further expressed his willingness to meet the industrial representatives at the earliest to chart a way forward.

Deputations from Jammu, Kishtwar, Doda, Nowshera, projected issues pertaining to development their respective areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with deputations, assured that the issues projected by them would be looked into for timely and proper redressal.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Minister for Transport, FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Friday paid surprise visit to office of Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir at Bemina here and took stock of its functioning.

The Minister inspected various sections of the organization and witnessed the process of various online services and other allied activities being carried out there. He also interacted with the visitors and enquired about the functioning and facilities available there. The Minister sought their views to further improve the system.

The Minister issued on-



Transport Minister, Satish Sharma paying surprise visit to office of Regional Transport Officer Kashmir.

the-spot instructions to the RTO, to take immediate measures for reducing the duration for issuance of licenses and registrations of vehicles. He also directed for making best use of digital technology to ensure complete transparency in the

system and expeditious disposal of issues. Satish Sharma called upon the employees to work with utmost zeal and dedication and come up to the expectations of the general masses, which is the ultimate objective of the Government. The

Minister also paid obeisance at revered shrine Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar. On the occasion, the Minister prayed for well-being of every individual of Jammu and Kashmir as well as for the peace, progress, prosperity and development of region. The Minister, during the visit, also engaged with the members of the Dargah Committee and discussed several issues related to development of Dargah. Later, the Minister also paid obeisance at Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi. He interacted with the members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee who apprised him regarding certain issues regarding which the Minister assured them all possible support from the Government.

## Govt committed to time bound redressal of public grievances: Dy CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Friday said that Government is committed to redress problems being faced by public and necessary instructions have already been passed to concerned departments to ensure time bound redressal of these.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with scores of deputations who called on him here today.

A deputation of Anganwadi workers raised several issues related to their working conditions, remuneration and other related things. Another deputation of Labour workers Association projected several issues of working conditions and remuneration, issuance of labour cards and other related



issues.

A deputation of Federation of Industries (FOI) and Small Scale Industries Association Digiana Estate (SSIAD) projected series of pressing issues that industrialists have been grappling with for the past decade. These included concerns related to Goods and Services Tax (GST), Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duties, leasehold rights, and various administrative and

operational challenges faced by industries across different estates.

The delegation emphasized the urgency of addressing these concerns, citing their prolonged impact on the growth and sustainability of industrial operations.

The Deputy Chief Minister was briefed on the grievances of industrialists from Digiana, Gangval, Birpur,