

Dr Jitendra visits River Devika Project site, inspects finishing touches

Says Udhampur nearing 100 pc saturation in 'Viksit Bharat Yatra' schemes

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday carried out an on-site review of the River Devika Rejuvenation Project here and inspected the finishing touches in progress on the completion of Rs 190 cr centrally funded Project which is the first of its kind river project in North India and was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2019.

Dr Jitendra's visit to the project was to see the last minute finishing touches before it is dedicated to the nation, most likely by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in near future.

Dr Singh said there had been a long pending demand for renovation, rejuvenation and beautification, but none of the earlier governments paid any heed. He said, it was only after 2014 that this first of its kind river rejuvenation project was undertaken in North India on the lines of Namami Ganga. The Minister directed officers of the PWD (R&B) and Municipal Council Udhampur for ensuring dedicated feeder for uninterrupted power supply, besides maintaining cleanliness and beautification of the Ghat area.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, accompanied by senior officers and PRIs, during a visit to the site of River Devika Rejuvenation Project, at Udhampur on Sunday.

Earlier, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the year 2023 has been historic for India on many fronts. It was in this year that India landed on the Moon and attained the Presidency of the G20, the Minister mentioned. The world is now ready to be led by India, he asserted.

Dr Jitendra Singh was speaking to reporters after listening to the latest edition of Prime Minister's monthly address to the nation through Mann Ki Baat at Saint Thomas' Church here. He described the Mann Ki Baat programme as one of the many legacies of Prime Minister Modi in the last ten

years. He said Modi has been sharing his ideas on many pressing issues and highlighting other matters through his monthly broadcast on Akashvani to lead the nation in addressing them.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged everyone to play their part in realising Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047. In this regard, Dr Singh laid emphasis on maintaining personal fitness as stressed by the Prime Minister in today's Mann Ki Baat.

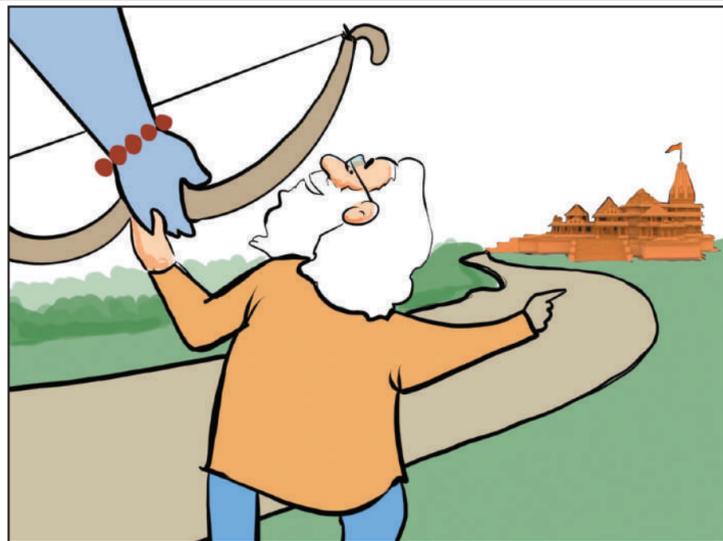
The Minister stated that fit and bodily sound citizens can channelise their energies to make India a developed nation.

Dr Jitendra said, the basis for making "Viksit Bharat" has been laid in the outgoing year. Now, the youth have to work on solidifying that base during the upcoming 25-year journey in the run-up to the target year of 2047.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the role of Jammu and Kashmir would be of great significance as India achieves such a feat. Dr Singh said many innovations and the best practices adopted by J&K in areas like agriculture and horticulture are now being replicated in other northern States like

Uttarakhand. Meanwhile, all the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" schemes as well as all the flagship schemes of Govt. of India are nearing 100 % saturation in district Udhampur.

This was stated here today by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh after a review meeting with officers of the District Administration and other senior officers of the UBED. During the meeting he also took a brief review of projects under PMGSY, PWD (R&B), RDD and Urban department.



FSL J&K clears around 15,000 cases during 2023

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), during the year 2023, analysed and reported around 15000 cases to the law enforcing agencies. The case analyzing and reporting percentage has risen to around 315 per cent from 2021 levels and 114 per cent from 2022 levels. The FSL analyzed and reported back 3605 cases in 2017, 3929 in 2018, 4280 in 2019, 3842 in 2020, 4560 in 2021, 6998 in 2022 and 15000 in 2023.

Pacing up the work under 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan', the backlog of NDPS cases was brought to Nil by 1st January 2023. As on date all the NDPS cases are analysed and reported back to the concerned law enforcement agencies within a week's time.

During the last 15 months, against 3,792 NDPS cases received/ pending analysis, 3,751 cases have been cleared and reported back bringing the



FSL team analyzing samples in the Laboratory in Jammu.

case reporting percentage to 99.00%. In addition, all pending UAPA, DNA, Biology-Serology and Finger Print cases stand cleared.

All the backlog of Viscera cases was cleared by February 28th, 2023. During last 15 months against 8,533 Viscera cases received/ pending analysis, 8,292 cases cleared and reported back bringing the case reporting percentage to 97.2%.

The FSL has augmented its capacities in all wings. Seven Scientific Officers

have been appointed in different divisions viz Narcotics, Chemistry and Toxicology, Physics, DNA and Questioned Documents divisions on the recommendations of the J&K PSC. 06 Forensic Aptitude and Calibration Test (FACT) qualified candidates have been engaged for Narcotics/ Chemistry & Toxicology Divisions. Two retired forensic experts, one Deputy Director and one Assistant Scientific Officer have been re-engaged. Exams for 25 posts of Assistant Scientific Officers

of the art Cyber and DNA Laboratories respectively. Funds for the same have been provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs under SRE and NIRBHAYA schemes. Besides, funds are being provided to J&K FSL by the MHA under the scheme 'Strengthening & Capacity building of State Forensic Science Laboratories' for which a proposal of Rs. 76 Crore has been recommended by the J&K Home Department to the MHA.

Furthermore, all the existing laboratories are being augmented to international standards because of the generous funding and support of the Home Department, J&K. State of the art forensic machines have been and are being purchased to ensure accuracy and advanced analysis of forensic evidence. While providing independent analysis and opinions on the forensic evidence, the J&K FSL is not only helping the Courts in the delivery of criminal justice but also has turned into an institution of deterrence for those violating law.

Successful 7-hr-long surgery by Dr Ratnakar rescues Leopard attack victim at GMC Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The medical team led by Dr. Ratnakar Sharma treated Abdul Qayoom, who sustained severe injury due to a leopard bite, with successful seven-hour-long surgery at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu on Sunday.

"Abdul Qayoom sustained severe injury to his right wrist and hand due to leopard bite in remote area of Kishtwar while grazing Sheep. He was referred to GMC Jammu from Kishtwar yesterday morning. The patient underwent a 7 hours long Surgery wherein the multiple fractures of hand bone were fixed, blood vessels and nerves of the hand were repaired followed by

Coverage of lost skin by flap from thigh," said Dr. Ratnakar Sharma HOD Surgery GMC Jammu, who along with his team comprising of Dr. Priyanka Senior resident, Dr. Sawan Singh Senior resident, Dr. Mohsin and Dr. Sanjay performed the Surgery. The patient is stable at present.

It's also worth mentioning the previous cases of Dr. Ratnakar Sharma, specifically the successful operations on the victim of the Dangri Terror attack, Rahul, and blast victim Vinod Kumar in January 2023.

These instances highlight Dr. Sharma's proficiency in handling complex and critical cases.

Advisor Bhatnagar extends New Year greetings

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on New Year's Eve.

In his message, Advisor Bhatnagar said, "As we usher in the New Year, let us look forward with optimism, drawing strength from our shared experiences". He added that together, we can build a future marked by prosperity, compassion and unity.

The Advisor further observed that the New Year is a time for each one of us to reflect upon the year gone by, the successes and achievements as well as the lapses and shortcomings.

He called upon the citizens towards working collaboratively to address shared challenges, pursue opportunities for growth and join hands in creating a year of positive change and progress.

The Advisor also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam witnessed heavy tourist rush on New Year's Eve

But New Year revellers was without traditional snowfall

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: This time New Year revellers was without the traditional snowfall as cold wave and fog sweep across Kashmir with little prospect of any fresh snowfall. The Met office predicted that weather remain cold and dry during next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather in the Kashmir Valley is unexpectedly clear on New Year's Eve, it was sunny on Sunday even as Kashmir is witnessing severe cold days of Chillai e Kalaan.

The Met Department has predicted clear and dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours, which clearly indicates that there is no possibility of snowfall when the Near Year enters.

Tourists from across the country as well as locals were seen heading towards the tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam and Sonamarg for New Year celebrations, but this time since the Met office has predicted that mercury levels will drop, major tourists spots are unlikely to snow.



Most of the hotel rooms and homestays at these hill stations have recorded, 100% capacity booking for December 31, but without snowfall, the celebrations will be held on an average scale.

Speaking to the State Times, many tourists said that they had come to Gulmarg to celebrate New Year on snow-covered slopes, but we are a bit unhappy as we have seen sunny weather and there is no even possibility of snow-

fall in Kashmir during next the 24 hours. According to reports, the Tourism Department and the district administrations are fully prepared to celebrate and all the necessary arrangement have already been made to deal with the heavy influx of tourists to celebrate on the snow-covered slopes at Gulmarg and other tourists places on the new year's eve.

"There is no doubt that there is a unique combination of New Year celebrations and snowfall but this year the weather is dry and in the absence of snowfall tourists will feel a little

unhappy and that too on New Year's eve," the official said.

Earlier Tourism Secretary, Abid Rasheed Shah revealed that this year's winter will be a "big success" as places like Gulmarg and Pahalgam have already been sold out for upcoming festivals like Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Meanwhile minimum temperature was minus 3.4 degree Celsius in Srinagar and Pahalgam today while it was minus 3.5 in Gulmarg. Leh town in Ladakh region had minus 9.2, Kargil minus 6.4 and Drass minus 7.6 as the minimum temperature.

"Jammu city has 8.3 Katra 8.6 Batote, Badherwah 1.4 and Banihal zvro as the night's lowest temperature today" Met office. The 40-day long period of harsh winter cold known as the Chillai Kalan' started here on December 21 and will end on January 30.

The DGP while extending new year greetings has said that it is a moment to express gratitude for the experiences and lessons of the past, while eagerly anticipating the adventures that lie ahead.

"Let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values of the police force and serving the people with compassion, professionalism, and diligence", he said.

In 2024, let us continue to strive for excellence, innovate in our approach, and seek to improve our processes and systems.

By working together with the community and other

DGP greets police Pariwaar, people of J&K on New Year eve

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As 2024 is marking beginning of a new chapter, offering a fresh start and the promise of new hopes and opportunities, the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R Swain has extended warm new year greetings to the dedicated and committed J&K Police force, families of fallen heroes and People of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Approves promotion of 37 officers

JAMMU: As a bonanza on the eve of New Year, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K R.R. Swain has approved the promotion of 37 Sub-Inspectors of the Executive Wing and Ministerial Executive Cadre to the rank of Inspectors.

A Departmental Promotion Committee was convened under the chairmanship of the DGP J&K at Police Headquarters Jammu and after a thorough scrutiny of the service records, promotion in respect of these officers has been ordered.

31 Sub-Inspectors of Executive Police and 06 Sub-Inspectors of Ministerial Executive Cadre have been promoted as Inspectors.

The DGP in his message has congratulated all the officers and their families. He has expressed hope that this elevation would bring a new and positive energy among the promoted officers to work tirelessly for achieving organizational goals.

SKUAST-J organises training programme on 'Processing of Vegetables into Value Added Products'



SKUAST-J team with women during a training programme at Jammu on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Division of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, SKUAST-Jammu under the guidance and leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu organized one day training programme on "Processing of Vegetables into Value Added Products" under DST funded project entitled, "Documentation, Revival and Upscaling of Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Scientific Development in Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges of UT of Jammu and Kashmir" at SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha.

The training was organized in the Food Processing Lab established under DST project in the Division of Post Harvest Management. In this training about 25 rural farm women from different villages of R.S. Pura participated.

Dr. Anil Bhat, Assistant Professor, AEABM

and Principal Investigator of the project extended warm welcome to the participating rural women and also explained briefly about the mandate of the project. He advised rural women to concentrate on quality of the value added product and assured them to provide assistance for marketing and branding of their product. Dr. Julie D Bandral, Professor, PHM and Co-Principal Investigator of the Project started the training programme and gave detailed demonstration for making value added products of vegetables. Dr. Jagmohan Singh, Professor and Head, Division of Post Harvest Management shared his experience on nutritional significance of vegetables and their potential into processing. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Akshay Deep and Rohit Kumar, Project Associates of the project. Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Associate Professor, PHM presented formal vote of thanks.

People are masters of their destiny if they use power of vote wisely: Bukhari

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said that the party is committed to ensuring a shining future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and its people.

He vowed that when the Apni Party receives the public mandate through the democratic process, it will ensure the social, political, and economic empowerment of the J&K people and protect their constitutional rights.

He made these comments on Sunday while addressing the party's public rally at Chichloora Kunzer in north Kashmir's Tangmarg constituency.

Bukhari urged people to value their votes and not misuse them by falling into the trap of emotional sloganeering and fake promises made by traditional parties.

He said, "Power lies with you, as it is said that people are the fountainhead of



Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari addressing a public gathering.

power. However, over the past seven decades, you have undermined the power of your vote by giving it away to traditional parties who only wanted to attain and retain power to create empires for themselves. Enough is enough; now you must use your vote wisely and not allow these conventional parties to allure you with fake promises anymore."

He went on to say, "Unlike traditional parties, Apni Party does not belong to any political family;

rather, it is the party of the masses. I request that you strengthen this party with your support so that it can implement its pro-people agenda, ensuring permanent peace, durable prosperity, and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. J&K has suffered hugely over the years due to political uncertainty and conflict. We have to change the scenario for the better, as the future of our youth is at stake. Apni Party is exceptional in having both the potential and the will to

ensure a shining future for Jammu and Kashmir. I appeal to you to give us a chance to realise this dream."

Applauding the Home Minister of the country for taking action following the recent death of three civilians in Poonch, Bukhari said, "We are thankful to the Home Minister for ensuring action against the accused of killings of three innocent civilians in Poonch recently; however, it is imperative to ensure the same response for every

occurrence of human rights violations. Such heart-breaking and shameful incidents cannot and should not be tolerated."

However, Apni Party President lashed out at the leaders of the traditional political parties for trying to take political advantage of these unfortunate incidents.

He said, "The onus for each and every killing on this soil lies on the shoulders of these traditional political parties, who have been misleading people through emotional sloganeering over the years. They have always fanned violence here for their own political gains. As a result, we have lost lakhs of youth in all these years. Now, J&K people can no longer afford further deaths and destruction here. Therefore, these power-hungry politicians must stop trying to gain political advantage from deaths and killings like the recent one in Poonch."