

Dr Jitendra addresses IMD's 150th year ceremony, announces Regional Meteorological Centre for Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while addressing a landmark event "Stakeholders Workshop on Weather & Climate Services" on the eve of IMD's 150th anniversary here, announced the establishment of a Regional Meteorological Centre at Jammu.

This significant move is set to bolster meteorological services in Jammu and Kashmir, further enhancing disaster preparedness and climate resilience in the region.

Dr. Jitendra lauded IMD's unparalleled contributions to India's scientific advancements and its transformation into a globally recognized leader in meteorological services. "From its humble beginnings in 1875, IMD has grown into a dynamic institution that provides critical weather data, empowering sectors like agriculture, disaster management, aviation, and defense. The credibility and accuracy of its forecasts have reached new heights, enabling citizens to make informed decisions," he stated.

The Minister elaborated on the historical importance of the Srinagar Meteorology Centre, recognized as a Centennial Centre by the World Meteorological Organization, and



expressed confidence that the upcoming Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu would replicate its success. "This new centre will cater to the unique geographical and climatic challenges of the Jammu region, contributing to IMD's mission of delivering accurate and timely weather forecasts across the country," he added.

Reflecting on IMD's evolution, Dr. Jitendra highlighted how technological advancements since 2014 have revolutionized India's meteorological capabilities. "With the integration of cutting-edge space, land, and sea technologies, IMD now delivers forecasts with over 40% improved accuracy. This technological leap has proven invaluable in mitigating the impacts of cyclones, flash floods, avalanches, and other natural disasters," he noted.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, IMD has expanded its infrastructure signifi-

cantly. Jammu and Kashmir alone now boasts double the number of Automated Weather Stations (AWS) compared to a decade ago, alongside the installation of advanced X-band Radars in Jammu, Srinagar, Manihal, and Leh.

These developments have been pivotal in ensuring accurate weather predictions for critical events, including Amarnath Yatra and Vaishno Devi pilgrimages.

The Minister outlined the government's ambitious Mission Mausam, a Rs 2,000 crore initiative launched as part of the Modi government's third term Modi 3.0 in its first 100 days. Designed to span from 2024 to 2026, the mission aims to make India "weather-ready and climate-smart."

With enhanced forecasting tools and increased outreach, the mission focuses on equipping citizens and stakeholders with actionable climate insights.

"This mission underscores India's growing leadership in climate action, setting benchmarks for other nations to follow. By 2047, we envision India as a global hub for meteorological services and disaster preparedness," Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized.

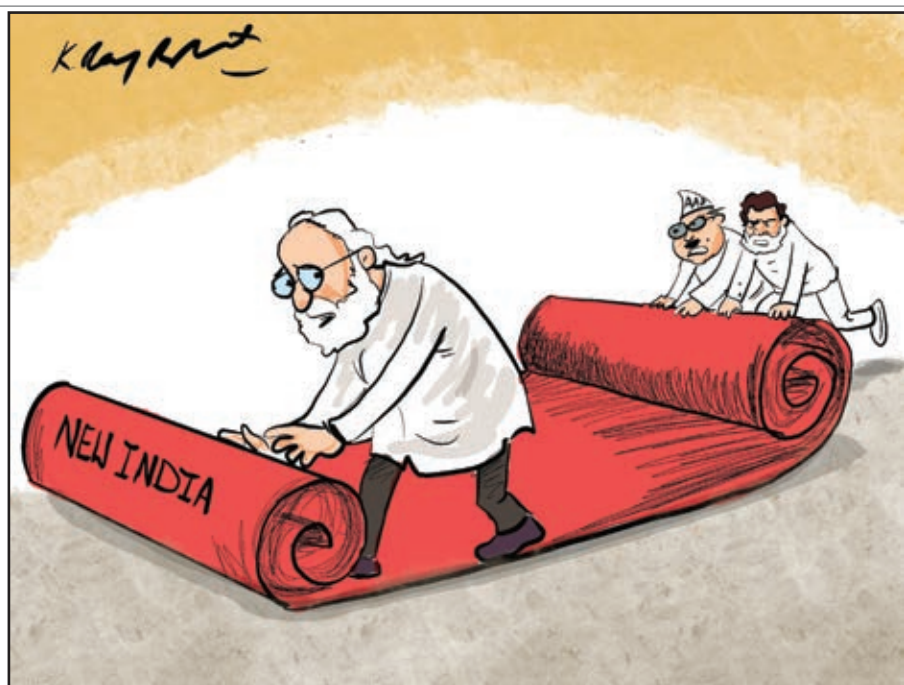
Dr. Jitendra also announced upcoming

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Srinagar Meteorology Centre and institutions such as the University of Jammu, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), and Islamic University of Science and Technology, Avantipura. These collaborations will promote research and innovation in meteorological sciences, fostering a new generation of weather experts.

The celebrations for IMD's 150th anniversary

will culminate in a grand event in Delhi on January 15, 2025, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest. The event will not only honor the department's rich legacy but also unveil its strategic roadmap for the future.

The announcement of the Regional Meteorological Centre for Jammu is seen as a significant step in this journey, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening scientific infrastructure and empowering citizens with reliable weather services.



TC, DC review transport services, road safety measures in Rajouri Distt

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Transport Commissioner Jammu & Kashmir, Vishesh Paul Mahajan along with Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma conducted a comprehensive review with officers of the Transport Department and Traffic Police here on Friday.

The meeting focused on improving the department's efficiency, enhancing citizen-friendly services, and ensuring road safety in the district.

Array of directives were issued to streamline operations and improve services delivery. Officials were instructed to prominently display the procedures for applying for various services at office premises for better public awareness. In



TC J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan interacting with officials during visit to Rajouri.

addition, directions were issued to conduct joint enforcement drives and challan motorcycles with masked number plates or those without helmets, ensuring compliance with traffic rules. As part of Road Safety Awareness Week, the Transport Commissioner

directed the ARTO to conduct a mega road safety awareness event under the supervision of DC Rajouri. He also emphasized engaging students from higher secondary schools in traffic management campaigns. Later, the Transport

Commissioner visited ARTO Office and Officials were directed to issue driving licenses and permits within the stipulated timeframe to avoid inconvenience to applicants.* The Department was asked to identify hungry routes and prioritize services on the same,

with advertisements to be released on social media to ensure broader public outreach. The ARTO was instructed to verify stops as per zoning and notify stands. The enforcement authorities were asked to ensure the e-rickshaw owners operate the vehicle personally and prominently display rate lists. Mahajan interacted with transporters, urging them to avoid overloading and speeding. He also directed for installation of mirrors at emergency windows to ensure passenger safety. The review meeting was attended by SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, G.L. Sharma; Regional Transport Officer Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra and other senior officers of the Transport Department and Traffic Police.

LS MP enlightens J&K MLAs during orientation programme



MP Lok Sabha, N K Premachandran and others addressing orientation programme for MLAs in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation to three-day orientation program for newly elected MLAs, MP Lok Sabha, N K Premachandran, on Friday shared his experiences with the Legislators of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising upon them to deeply understand the rules pertaining to the Legislative and Financial

Business. Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, legislators, dignitaries were also present during the second day orientation program.

Detailed discussions were also held on the legislative process including Private Members Bill and Financial Business

including Demand for Grants.

Premachandran thoroughly explained the basic concept of the legislature.

In the second session, Joint Secretary, Santosh Kumar gave presentation on "Executive Accountability through Questions in Legislature". He also gave details on other aspects including

Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Short Notice Question (SNQ), Question to a Private Member, Notice and Examination of Question etc.

Director, Lok Sabha, Partha Goswami, highlighted the objectives of Executive Accountability through Questions and other Devices in a legislature. He also elaborated

the role of Speaker during the proceedings.

Director, PRIDE Lok Sabha Secretariat, P K Mallick, gave lecture on Information Management in the Legislature. He also gave details and overview about Functions and Responsibilities of Information Management, Information Resources and Knowledge Management, Serving the Informational Needs of Parliamentarians etc.

The Legislators also raised their queries regarding Legislation and threadbare discussion was held during the session.

Sham Lal, Mahant Rohit, others call on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu North called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Friday.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust, also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Subsequently, Dr Nawang Tundup, President, Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Society Paddar; Gurmeet Singh Bajwa, President, Border Welfare



MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

Committee R.S Pura, and a joint delegation of Healthy and Drug-Free Youth associa-

tion and All India Young Blood organisation also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

RTO team conducts massive enforcement drive in Akhnoor

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Team Regional Transport Office (RTO) Jammu conducted a comprehensive enforcement drive in Akhnoor and its surrounding areas on Friday. The inspection drive mainly focused on 2 wheelers and overloading in passenger vehicles plying on the route.

During the drive, the many two wheelers riders were found without helmets, triple riding, without insurance and without pollution certificates.

Flying Squad ARTO Bipen Singh Charak supervised the drive. Team RTO Jammu included Motor Vehicle Inspectors Rajeev Kundal and Jagandeep Singh, Sub Motor Vehicle Inspector Amanish Sharma and Motor Vehicle Traffic Assistant Tarunjit Singh.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan and RTO Jammu Pankaj



Bhagotra also inspected the drive.

More than 185 vehicles were checked, 43 were challaned and licenses of 5 drivers were suspended under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules. The expected fine from e-challans is Rs. 1.06 lakh On spot counselling was also provided to the e challaned.

Additionally, a road safety awareness campaign was conducted at

EDES/DOEACC near Science College by another Team of RTO Jammu. The Team comprising ARTO Rehana Tabassam, MVI Jagandeep Singh and MVTA Tarunjit Singh educated the students about traffic rules and regulations. Important topics like under age driving, importance of having Driving License, Road signages, wearing helmets, seat belts etc were discussed.

Satish Sharma attends 2nd meeting of IWDC at Kaziranga, Assam

J&K gets special projects for waterways, urban water transportation for tourism

STATE TIMES NEWS

ASSAM: Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma on Friday attended the 2nd meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) being organised by Inland Waterways Authority of India under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Kaziranga, Assam.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal presided over the event in presence of MoS Shantanu Thakur, Chief Minister Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma besides Ministers



J&K Cabinet Minister, Satish Sharma at IWDC meeting in Assam.

from States and senior officials.

During the event, the Ministry announced various development projects for Jammu and Kashmir including jetties for river cruise tourism and urban water transportation ecosystem in River Jhelum, repair of

Chhatabal weir for proper navigation and operationalization of River Chenab and River Ravi for waterway tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Satish Sharma expressed gratitude for inviting him and blessing J&K with special projects.

He emphasized that it is the need of the hour to accelerate holistic development of national waterways and inland waterways.

The Minister said that there is so much potential in terms of water tourism in J&K which can be exploited. He also asked to establish a cooperation framework between state governments and IWAI for development of community jetties for facilitating movement of local community, people, passengers etc

He also urged to provide vessels and construction of jetties at Mansar, Surisar, Dal and Wullar and establishment of passenger transport in river Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi.

J&K's development, welfare prime concern of government: Javed Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Friday visited several places in Bhatindi to assess the development needs of the locals.

He was accompanied by MLA Vikram Randhawa besides officers from Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment departments.

During his visit to the area, Javed Rana interacted with the locals and listened to their issues and concerns.

While speaking with the locals, the Minister said that tremendous development and welfare of people of J&K is prime concern and the only priority for the Omar Abdullah led govern-



Minister of Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana interacting with officials at Jammu.

ment. "Safeguarding people's interest is the main motto of our government and we are duty bound for their welfare," maintained the Minister.

He said that the purpose of his visit was to assess the ground level development

status of the area so that the planning is done accordingly.

Locals raised several issues including regular water supply, upgradation of roads in their locality, improvement in sanitation facilities besides other matters.

Responding to public grievances, the Minister instructed the concerned officers to address issues related to water supply, road improvements, rural infrastructure and other key public concerns.

He issued necessary instructions to the officers

of Jal Shakti department to take immediate steps to resolve the water problems of the locals. He said that people should be provided regular and quality water supply and necessary directions to be passed to the field staff.

He said that focus of the departments should be on upgradation of public facilities and assured that there will be significant improvement in the overall development scenario in coming times.

Later, Javed Rana also inspected the restoration process of tube well in Karyani Talab that has come to life after more than a decade.

He said that proper procedure should be followed in cleaning and removing debris from the well.

Div Com reviews implementation of Financial Assistance Scheme for DPs, WPRs

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting here on Friday to review the implementation of the Financial Assistance Scheme for Displaced Persons and West Pakistan Refugees.

The meeting, attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba and Kathua and Provincial Rehabilitation Officer Jammu, focused on latest efforts put in by respective District Administrations for inviting and searching left out beneficiaries eligible for the Scheme.

The Divisional Commissioner sought the District wise details of camps, participants, public outreach initiatives and door to door exercises conducted to find out



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a virtual meeting.

the left-out eligible DPs and WPRs.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the latest camps and the number of cases received for scrutiny.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the officials to submit the applications received during the pub-

lic outreach programs after proper scrutiny to the higher ups for further action. He further directed to put the disposal of the cases done at their end in public domain via public notices and publications. He further stressed on submitting all the eligible cases by the end of January to the higher ups for their approval.