

Dr Jitendra reiterates BJP's commitment to constitutional values laid down by Ambedkar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHIMLA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh delivered a compelling speech in Shimla, emphasizing the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) steadfast commitment to the constitutional values established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and its dedication to democratic principles. At the event organized by the Himachal Pradesh State BJP, Dr. Singh addressed prominent leaders and party workers, asserting the BJP's role in preserving the Constitution's integrity and refuting accusations of constitutional misuse. Dr. Singh began by criticizing the previous Congress-led governments for exploiting constitutional provisions for political gain, particularly referencing the 1975 Emergency, during which



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at BJP's 'Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan' event at Shimla on Friday.

the Constitution was amended to consolidate power and suppress dissent. He highlighted the Congress Party's frequent misuse of Article 356 to dismiss state governments, calling it an abuse of the Constitution's intended use. In contrast, Dr. Singh praised the BJP's efforts to honor national icons like Dr. Ambedkar and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who

were historically marginalized. He pointed to the Statue of Unity, a tribute to Patel, and memorials dedicated to Ambedkar as evidence of the BJP's commitment to preserving their legacies.

Dr. Singh also outlined the BJP's legislative achievements, such as the abolition of triple talaq and the modernization of India's criminal code, which aim to empower

marginalized communities and promote inclusivity. He emphasized that unlike previous regimes, the BJP has never used constitutional amendments for political purposes, focusing instead on justice and nation-building. Reflecting on Dr. Ambedkar's vision for an inclusive Constitution, Dr. Singh noted that while others undermined his contributions, the BJP has worked diligently to preserve and celebrate his legacy. He also acknowledged the sacrifices of BJP leaders and

workers, whose dedication to upholding the Constitution has shaped the party's rise. Concluding his speech, Dr. Singh urged political leaders and citizens to safeguard India's democratic values. "The Constitution is not just a document; it is a legacy of our shared values and aspirations," he said, calling for unity and progress in the nation's journey forward.

Body Cameras & Bullets: Deadly new face of terror propaganda, says Pradeep Dutta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor at Times Now and India's well known war journalist, highlighted a disturbing trend in terrorist propaganda during the Digital Bharat Media Conclave at Sharda University on Friday.

Dutta explained, that how jihadists are using body-worn cameras to capture immersive footage of their attacks to glorify terror; spread fear and recruit new members.

"This tactic is part of a psychological warfare strategy, designed to create a sense of immediacy and authenticity," explained Dutta.

While sharing his experience from Russia- Ukraine battle field and Israel-Gaza war zone, Dutta highlighted how digital media has transformed conflict reporting, enabling journalists to reach wider audiences and provide immersive storytelling experiences.

However, Dutta cautioned that this new medium can also be used to churn out fake narratives, demonise enemies, and portray others in a bad light.

The event featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including, Dr. Reshma Nasreen, who showcased innovative



approaches to digital education and curriculum development through an engaging power point presentation.

Himanshu Shekhar, Senior Editor of Political Affairs at NDTV India, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "Digital Storytelling and Environmental Sustainability." He shared insights on navigating the challenges of transitioning from traditional to digital media.

Kapil K Tripathi, a scientist from the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, highlighted the potential of digital outreach in promoting scientific literacy and benefiting society.

The conclave started with an inaugural address by Prof. Ritu Sood, while Prof. Mehak Janjua, co-convenor of the event, presented the vote of thanks.

JKHCBA Jammu calls on Chief Minister, presents memorandum

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The newly elected team of J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, comprising of President, Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal, Vice-President Advocate Baldev Singh, General Secretary Advocate Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Advocate Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Advocate Rahul Aggarwal called upon Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Office Bearers on behalf of Bar Association, Jammu congratulated the Chief Minister for being elected as the Chief Minister of entire UT of J&K with such massive mandate and further, the Association extends its sincere gratitude for his continued support in addressing the various needs and demands aimed at enhancing the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The association appreciated the attention given to the well-being of the legal fraternity, whose contributions are integral to the administration of justice in the region.

The JKHCBAJ also submitted memorandum/charter of demands to the Chief Minister, wherein the Association has requested for early addressing of the same.



JKHCBA Jammu delegation calling on CM, Omar Abdullah.

The JKHCBAJ demanded the restoration of charges and fees on Vakalatnama to be collected and managed by the Association for the welfare of the association's members, restoration of powers of Registrars and Sub-Registrars to judicial officers, multi-storey building for various tribunals, commissions, registration work, and the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) work within court premises, establishment of Medical Dispensary at District Court Complexes across Jammu province, infrastructure development including extension of Lawyers' Chambers.

Other key demands include the repair of the Atrium roof in District Courts, the construction of additional lawyers' chambers, installation of a water plant for

drinking water; provision of computers and printers, and the establishment of a digital library for both the High Court and subordinate courts.

The association emphasizes the need for increased security measures for both advocates and litigants in court premises, adjustment of young lawyers, allotment of land for Advocates' Residential Colony, dedicated Creche Facility at the Court Complex, insurance cover for the lawyers and their families (dependents), stipend for needy new entrants at the Bar; financial protection for lawyers and their dependents in case of untimely death or incapacitation, and amendment of Acts for Appointment of Competent Advocates to Tribunals and Commissions.

Transport Commissioner flags off awareness mobile units in Budgam

Visits Transport Bhawan, reviews operations, enforcement activities



Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan flagging off an awareness rally.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of ongoing National Road Safety Month, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, on Friday participated in a series of events in Budgam aimed at enhancing road safety awareness.

The event featured flagging-off of a fleet of vehicles dedicated to spread the message of road safety across the district.

In addition, the Transport Commissioner inaugurated a special road safety campaign by pasting stickers bearing crucial safety messages on vehicles. These stickers highlight essential practices such as wearing seat belts, adhering to speed limits, avoiding distractions and other measures to promote responsible driving.

Central to the campaign were these eye-catching stickers, bearing powerful messages such as "Think of Them: Drive Safe for Those Who Love You," "Slow Down: Someone Loves You," and "Drive Safe: Save Lives, Your Family Awaits." These messages, which are being distributed across the region, will be placed on vehicle rear windshields as constant reminders for drivers to prioritise safety for themselves

and others.

Speaking at the event, Vishesh Paul Mahajan underscored the critical importance of road safety and called for collective efforts to reduce road accidents and fatalities. He emphasised the role of awareness in fostering a culture of safe driving behaviour and urged all stakeholders to contribute towards this mission.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan Rasool, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-u-din Wani, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam, Mahnaz Chishti and DySP Traffic Budgam, Mujahid.

The initiative also saw active involvement from local drivers, youth and community members.

The vehicles flagged off during the ceremony were equipped with safety features which will serve as mobile awareness units, spreading the message of road safety throughout Budgam. This initiative is part of a larger campaign to mitigate road accidents and promote a culture of safety in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Transport Commissioner, later, visited the Transport Bhawan in

Bemina, which houses the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir, as well as the newly constructed Transport Commissioner's office.

RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, provided a brief overview of department's operations and enforcement activities.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected the ongoing construction works at the Transport Bhawan. He directed the concerned Executive Engineer's Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Power Development Department (PDD) to complete the project in a timely manner.

Later, the Transport Commissioner also chaired a review meeting where all Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) and RTO staff were instructed to address any online pending issues promptly and adhere strictly to the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA). They were also directed to maintain a cordial relationship with the public besides ensuring transparency and efficiency within the department.

Later, Mahajan met with various transporters from the valley to hear their grievances and demands. He assured them that their legitimate concerns would be addressed promptly, reaffirming government's commitment towards improving the transport sector in the region.

This significant initiative reflects the administration's proactive approach towards ensuring safer roads and fostering a responsible driving culture across Jammu and Kashmir.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 3rd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Madan Lal rejected the bail application of Ubaid-UI-Islam an alleged JeM terrorist.

According to the police case that on 12th September 2019, when applicant/accused along with other accused persons reached at police naka Lakhnau, the vehicle in which he was travelling was stopped for frisking. During the checking of the vehicle, a black colored bag was found/recovered from the tool box beneath the driving seat of the truck, which contained 04 AK-56 rifles, 02 AK-47 rifles, 06 loaded magazines

and 180 rounds loaded in the said magazines. The aforesaid arms and ammunitions, which were picked up by applicant and other co-accused under the directions of the categorized terrorist Ashiq Ahmed Nengroo, were meant for delivering the same to JeM terrorist who were active in Kashmir Valley to wage war against the government of India and the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The chargesheet presented in the case elaborately reveal that applicant/accused was part of the conspiracy with Ashiq Ahmed Nengroo, the JeM terrorist for waging war against the democratic set up

of India as a whole and J&K State in particular. These arms & ammunitions were also meant for disturbing the peace and tranquility of the State of J&K. The applicants/accused is hardcore radicalized criminal who was involved in criminal case involving the security of the state. The applicant/accused have been apprehended by the law enforcement agencies after strenuous efforts. The offences with which the accused are charged are very heinous relating to the security of the state and their release is detrimental to the national security.

Court after hearing both

the sides observed that and case-law in the first case, it is held that delay in trial of serious offences cannot be ground for grant of bail; in the second judgment, bail granted to the accused in UA (P) Act offences by the Special Court and High Court has been cancelled by the Supreme Court and in third judgment, bail has been granted but only in the exercise of powers of a constitutional Court, holding that statutory restrictions under Section 43 (D) of UA (P) Act is not binding on the constitutional Courts. The trial of the case is at mid stage, more than half of the witnesses are

yet to be examined and charges have been framed on February 21, 2022. Therefore, considering the facts, evidence recorded and yet to be recorded, relevant provisions of law and case-law, the applicant has failed to substantiate the grounds taken in the application for grant of bail both factually and legally so the application of the applicant is premature and without merits. The applicant has failed to make out a case for grant of bail, at this stage, so the application cannot be allowed and bail cannot be granted. Application is rejected and bail is denied.

Salute "Armed Forces Veterans' by naming Srinagar Airports after PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma & Jammu Airport after PVC NK Yadu Nath Singh

■ DAYA SAGAR

India has celebrated the 10th Armed Forces Veterans' Day on 14th Jan 2025 to salute the valiant soldiers who made extreme sacrifices for India & her people and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh this year led the celebrations by addressing around 1,000 ex-servicemen at Tanda Artillery Brigade, Akhnoor in Jammu. He interacted with the ex-servicemen and expressed gratitude to the Armed Forces personnel, both retired & serving, for their selfless service towards protecting the borders with unmatched bravery, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism. Field Marshal K M Cariappa retired on 14 January 1953 and 14th January is being celebrated every year since 2016 as Armed Forces Veterans' Day to recognise the service rendered by the First Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal KM Cariappa by hosting interactive events in the honour of the Ex-Servicemen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on 'X' <"On Armed Forces Veterans Day, we express gratitude to the brave women and men who dedicated their lives to safeguarding our nation. Their sacrifices, courage and unwavering commitment to duty are exemplary," "Our Veterans are heroes and enduring symbols of patriotism. Ours is a Government that has always worked for the welfare of veterans and we will keep doing so in the times to come,">.

Similarly Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, on this day Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa with his elevation on 15 Jan 1949 (decorated as Field Marshal in 1986) took over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian forces from retiring General Francis Roy Bucher (Commander-in-Chief of India) in 1949. It is not out of place to mention here that Pakistan aided & abetted forces under the commands of Pakistan Armed forces had already openly attacked (activities had already been started since September 1947) the then Princely state of J&K on 22 Oct 1947 and Gen Cariappa who after his promotion as Lt. Gen in November 1947 was working as the Eastern Army commander was in January 1948 appointed as the GOC-in-C Delhi and East Punjab Command, who renamed it as the Western Command and moved its headquarters (HQ) to Jammu and had launched subsequent attacksto capture the Naushera, Jhangar, Poonch, Zoji La, Dras, and Kargil areas. It will be very pertinent to refer here that before Lieutenant General Kodandera M. Cariappa took commands in J&K Major Som Nath Sharma (who was decorated with 1st Param Vir Chakra of Independent India) had already made supreme sacrifice in Battle of Badgam (03-11-1947) for whom his commander Lt. Col.M. N. Khanna Comnd 4 Komao Regt while recommending mar-

tyr Maj Som Nath Sharma O.C. 'D' Coy . Unit-4 Kumaon for HONOURS and Awards had written " < But for this



A Look through the Mist

offr's bravery and sacrifice of his own life it is most probable that the SRINAGAR airfield would have been over run by the enemy and jeopardised this whole KASHMIR operations">. > and it was on 06-02-1948 that Nk.(J)adunath Singh (who was decorated with 2nd Param Vir Chakra of Independent India) had made supreme sacrifice in the Battle of Nowshera (06-02-1948) for whom the citation on Ya d u n a t h _ M e m o r i a l _ S t o n e 'aindhar op near Naushera reads < No. 27373 NK Yadunath Singh PVC (Posthumous) 1 Rajput (4 Guards) Born 21 November 1916 Died in Action 6 February 1948 " Your God is both your Cause, Your Battle and Captain, Come Life or Death, Your God will Bear Your Company, And Ever Keep This Field, This Place and This Days Service In His Grateful Remembrance" This Memorial is Erected in Solemn Tribute to A Warrior Legend Who Sacrificed His Mortal Being to A Greater Glory of Indian Nation on This Very Spot . NK Yadunath Singh Single Handedly Killed 230 Men of the Enemy And sacrificed

His Yesterday so That Citizens of Naushera may live Their Tomorrow. Inaugrated on 6 Feb 1996>. Battle of Naushera too was in a way 'won' by Naik Yadunath Singh and hence was possible to save large areas from Naushera through to Poonch>". Defence Minister Sh. Raj Nath Singh ji while speaking on the occasion of Armed forces Veterans has also talked of 'POK' (POJK) and hence the sacrifices made while defending Indian borders along J&K need particular references here where out of 21 PVC awarded soldiers 16 had been while fighting on J&K borders and 15 PVC decorated soldiers out of 16 were non permanent residents of J&K. So painfully earlier governments had not granted even the Permanent Resident of J&K status to the families of these 15 PVC decorated soldiers. It was hoped that atleast in UT of J&K they would be presented the rights of the domicile to their families.

Among other things it had also been suggested by people like writer that though late , but not over, at least the 1st PVC decorated soldier Maj Som Nath Sharma should be honoured by naming Srinagar Airport after him since but for his valour & supreme sacrifice may be whole of Kashmir valley and Ladakh Region would have been in 'POJK' of today . Similarly naming Jammu Airport after 2nd PVC Nk Jadu Nath Singh since here too but for his valour & sacrifice may be some more

part of Jammu region beyond Sundarbani too would have been part of 'POJK' of today.

Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh reiterating the Government's commitment towards the welfare of the veterans, serving soldiers and their families also assured that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) will always work beyond its capacity to ensure the well-being of its soldiers, who remain as the assets to the country even after retirement. Lt Governor Sh.Manoj Sinha paid tribute to ex-servicemen of the Armed Forces, saying: " We will forever remain indebted to our Veterans who have protected the nation from the enemies and continue to contribute to the nation's growth and development." The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Prime Minister & Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for dedicating Veterans' Day to honour the distinguished service of the ex-servicemen. He reiterated the government's commitment to protect the interests of Armed-forces personnel and their families. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while addressing the occasion too said <"Taking care of you is not a favour-it is our duty. Your immense contributions deserve nothing less than our utmost respect, gratitude and support. The Jammu and Kashmir government will continue its efforts to ensure that all benefits are provided through ex servicemen welfare schemes without delay and hindrance" "If there

are any challenges or weaknesses in our efforts, please bring them to our attention so that we can work together to resolve them. We are committed to serving you with the same dedication that you showed in serving the nation,">.

Prime Minister of India , Defence Minister of India , The Lt Governor of J&K and the Chief Minister of J&K have expressed their very sincere regards commitment and concern for the veterans, serving soldiers and their families and taking leads from that it is hopefully requested that the present ruling dispensations would extend their favours for extending 'special favours' to soldier community and would atleast impress upon the aviation ministry to name the Srinagar Airport after PVC Major Som Nath Sharma (but for his sacrifice may be whole of Kashmir valley and Ladakh Region would have been in POJK of today) and similarly naming Jammu Airport after PVC Nk Jadu Nath Singh since but for his valour & sacrifice may be some more part of Jammu region beyond Sundarbani too would have been part of POJK of today. LG Manoj Sinha ji has also observed on this Armed Forces Veterans' Day (14-01-2025) that the blessed land of Akhnoor bears the indelible footprints of the valour and saga of courage of our Veterans. Hope LG Manoj Sinha takes the lead , which he can surely take.

(The writer is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs)