

# Kathua gets 25 Pc J&K share of 'SVAMITVA' Property Cards: Dr Jitendra

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KATHUA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting the Kathua district possibly the highest share of "SVAMITVA" Property Cards issued by him virtually today for Jammu & Kashmir from among the total number issued across the country.

Out of 37,902 cards issued for J&K, as many as 8,000 are for district Kathua which is more than 25%, he said. However, the total number of Cards issued for the whole of the country was 2.16 crore.

said here today that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiatives seek to empower rural India with cutting edge technology.

Distributing SVAMITVA Property Cards to the local beneficiaries at DC Office Kathua. The event was organized as part of the nationwide initiative to distribute SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking during the Swamitva programme at Kathua on Saturday.

Technology in Village Areas) property cards under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, presiding over the national event.

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the Government's visionary initiatives, empowering rural India with cutting-edge technologies and bringing transparency in different fields.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the SVAMITVA scheme aims to empower rural families by providing them with legal rights over their property, thus promoting financial inclusion and economic stability. This initiative is also in line with the gov-

ernment's vision to enhance rural development and ensure the social and economic upliftment of rural population across the country. Dr. Singh expressed his strong support for the SVAMITVA scheme, emphasizing the immense benefits it will bring to rural areas, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "the SVAMITVA property cards are a transformative initiative that will change the lives of countless families in rural areas. This initiative is a step towards the government's commitment to empower every citizen, ensuring that even the most remote villages are brought into the mainstream of progress. The

people of Jammu and Kashmir will benefit immensely from this program, and it will play a crucial role in enhancing socio-economic development in the region."

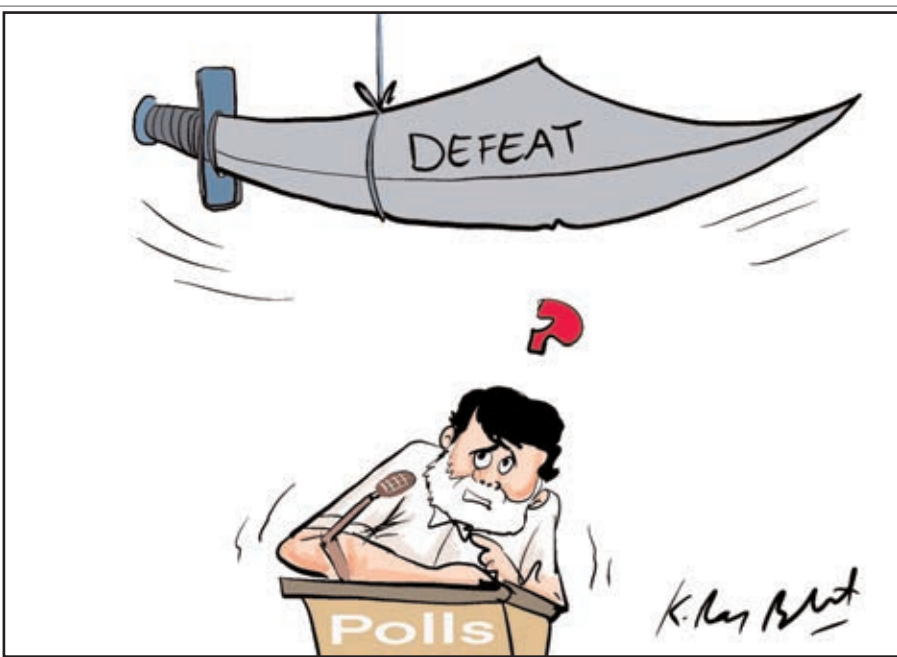
The Minister further emphasized the importance of technological innovation in facilitating these initiatives, pointing to the use of GIS mapping and other modern technologies to streamline the process of land record and digitization. He emphasized that the government's efforts to incorporate innovative technologies, such as grievance redressal systems and face recognition technologies are steps to improve governance.

Referring to implementation of SVAMITVA initiative in Pali village the minister said that the village has been fully converted into an SVAMITRA-enabled Panchayat, marking a significant milestone in empowering people to measure their own land, reducing disputes and increasing transparency. "This initiative represents a clear step toward self-empowerment and digitized property rights, helping create foolproof documents of ownership," he said.

As part of these initiatives, the government is rolling out high-resolution property ownership cards that serve as crucial documents for obtaining loans and other services. These cards also enable rural women to independently own and manage property in their own names, supporting their economic and social independence.

The Minister also highlighted the role of advanced technologies such as satellite imagery and drones in modernizing agricultural practices. The use of drones for farm measurement provides farmers with accurate data on land measurement, crop patterns and water usage, contributing to more efficient and sustainable farming.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also discussed the implementation of drones for large-scale land mapping for SVAMITVA and said that 92% of the task is completed in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a total of 2 crore 19 lakh cards are to be distributed across the country, with 37,902 cards to be issued in Jammu and Kashmir, including 8,000 in the Kathua district.



## Director Tourism Jammu reviews developmental works, conducts extensive tour of Yatri Niwas

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JAMMU: A comprehensive review meeting was convened on Saturday under the chairmanship of Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism, Jammu accompanied by Joint Director Tourism Sunaina Sharma Mehta, to assess the progress of various projects undertaken under the CAPEX in the Pir Panjal Zone.

The meeting, primarily focused on reviewing the progress of works and ensuring their timely completion.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including Chief Engineer, PW(R&B), Pir Panjal Zone, Anil Kumar Pandohi, concerned Executive Engineers, Deputy Director (P&S), Jammu, Dr. Neha Mahajan and Officers of the Directorate including Assistant Director Tourism, Katra, Alka Mishra, Assistant Director Tourism, Rajouri, Muzamil Hassan, and the Tourist Officer, Rajouri.

During the review, 24 ongoing projects under the CAPEX Budget, falling under the jurisdiction of the Chief Engineer, Pir Panjal Zone, were discussed. Of the approved outlay of Rs. 470.98 lakhs for the financial year 2024-25, Rs.



Director Tourism, Jammu Vikas Gupta during visit to Yatri Niwas on Saturday.

343.34 lakhs have already been released to the respective divisions, Out of which Rs. 134.98 lakhs has been expended till date. Director emphasized the need to expedite work on all projects and ensure their completion well before the completion of Financial year. The timely handover of completed projects will also be ensured by PWD (R&B).

Furthermore, the Assistant Directors Tourism Katra and Rajouri were directed to actively follow up on the progress of the projects in their respective jurisdictions. They were also instructed to identify and address any additional requirements necessary to facilitate the timely completion of the ongoing works.

The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on inter-departmental coordi-

nation and collective efforts to achieve the targets set under the CAPEX and Circuit Plan for the Pir Panjal Zone.

Later in the day, they conducted a tour of Yatri Niwas, Jammu to assess the progress of works at the site and ensure the completion of all necessary preparations ahead of the upcoming pilgrimage yatras.

The visit underscored the importance of providing seamless facilities to pilgrims, with instructions to all concerned to strictly adhere to timelines without compromising on quality.

Shoket Mattoo, Deputy Director (Administration), Atul Gupta, Executive Engineer, PWD Jammu, and other officers and officials from the Tourism and PWD departments were present during the visit.

## CS finalises arrangements for Republic Day celebrations



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

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JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday held a meeting with top civil administration and police officers to give final shape to the arrangements made for celebrating the Republic Day, 2025 here across J&K.

The Chief Secretary enquired from each concerned department about the status of preparations put in place for smooth conduct of celebrations at both Jammu and Srinagar. He impressed upon the concerned divisional administrations to encourage all to participate in these celebrations with provisioning of transport and other facilities to reach the venue.

Dulloo also enquired about the preparations made to illuminate all the landmark sites and government buildings. He advised the HoDs to illuminate their offices and the concerned Municipal Corporations along with other public infrastructure as per past practice.

The Chief Secretary stressed on ensuring plausible transport and seating arrangements for the school children, their refreshment and assistance for making preparations ahead of this event.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the arrangements made for parking of vehicles at both the venues while directing the traffic authorities for ensuring smooth movement of

traffic on roads. He took stock of security arrangements required to be put in place for safety of all besides ensuring smooth conduct of the event.

Regarding presentation of cultural segments during the program, the Chief Secretary asked to make it inclusive by encouraging participation of both specially abled and other children. He asked the Divisional Commissioner to personally check the quality of tableaux to be showcased by Culture, PDD (PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana), Police (Drug Abuse), YS&S (Fit India Movement) and Cooperatives Departments.

He unequivocally enjoined upon the municipal bodies to carry out special sanitation drives all across the urban areas especially in and around the parade venues. He told them that it is their duty to prepare the cities for hosting this national event.

Dulloo also asked the Director Information to ensure live telecast of the main functions from the regional units of Doordarshan and All India Radio besides facilitating the media persons in carrying out their professional assignments.

The other agenda items which came up for discussion during the meeting included uninterrupted power and water supply besides accomplishment of other civil works taken up by the R&B Department to beautify the venues at both Jammu and Srinagar.

## Dy CM visits Badhaal Village, assures support to bereaved families



DyCM Surinder Choudhary meeting bereaved families at Badhaal on Saturday.

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RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday visited Badhaal village to meet the bereaved families affected by the tragic deaths of 16 individuals from three families.

Expressing heartfelt condolences, he assured the families of unwavering support from the district administration during this difficult time. Pertinently, Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Itoo

and Javed Rana had already visited the village immediately after the first two incidents to provide solace and ensure timely action. Meanwhile, the district administration is actively providing essential supplies, including ration and water, to the affected families and the community.

The Deputy CM said that adequate medical teams are on ground and working tirelessly to address any immedi-

ate concerns. He also informed that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the police is probing the cause behind these unfortunate deaths. "The Chief Minister is personally monitoring the situation and all efforts are being made to ascertain whether these deaths were due to natural causes or any other reason," he said. He reassured the public that there is no need to panic, highlighting the government's commitment towards welfare of every citizen. "We stand firm in ensuring the well-being of our people," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, ADDC Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa and all district officers accompanied the Deputy CM during his visit to Badhaal village.

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JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to the areas fed from 33KV feeders Medical, Chatha, Satwari, Toph, Shakti Nagar, Co-Bagh, Canal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Vijaypur Town, Kolpur, Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Sainik Colony, Birpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Shiva



Nagar, Kalibari, Janglote, Patel Nagar, Ward no. 1, Ramneek Vihar, Sawan Chack, Shastri Nagar, PIIE, CTM, GMC, Hospital and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Samba-I, Samba-II, PHE City and its adjoining areas will remain affected on January 19 from 11 am to 3 pm.

## Satish flags off special bus service from Jammu to Prayagraj

### Reviews functioning of JPDCL in Chhamb constituency



Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma flagging off bus service from Jammu to Prayagraj.

take the passengers back after a night halt.

He further added that in order to facilitate people with smooth experience of travel fair, the JKRTC in collaboration with J&K Bank has introduced QR code system for online payments for the commuters.

The Minister stressed that the government is committed to promote religious tourism and is going to take many sig-

nificant initiatives to improve connectivity between major religious destinations in the region including Buddha Amarnath, Shahdara Sharif, Sudh Mahadev, Golden temple etc.

The Minister asserted that the introduction of these bus services is expected to bring a range of benefits to the area viz a viz generating more revenue for the Corporation.

Appreciating the MD

JKRTC, the Minister said that Transport Department continues to align its services with the aspirations of the people, delivering impactful solutions promptly.

Later, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) in respect of his constituency Chhamb.

MD JPDCL, Mohammad Yadin Chowdhary, during a detailed presentation, apprised regarding the physical and financial achievements of the Corporation. He also provided an overview of performance parameters including billing efficiency, collection efficiency and other commercial metrics in Chhamb constituency.

He also apprised that the overall power situation in Jammu had significantly improved, with unscheduled power cuts largely minimised, except on a few occasions due

to low frequency/technical constraints at the Northern grid, particularly during peak load times.

Satish Sharma observed significant improvements in many areas with reducing losses. He exhorted for maximising revenue and reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

The Minister asked the officers to focus on reducing losses at all divisional and sub-divisional levels.

The Minister emphasised on PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity. He asked the officials to generate massive awareness regarding PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna and provide necessary assistance to the people regarding process for installation of solar panels.

## Rouble, BJP leaders, others call on LG

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JAMMU: Rouble Nagi, Member, Panel of Community Leaders of National Commission for Minorities, India called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Zubair Ahmed Ganie, BJP District President Kulgam and Veer Saraf, senior BJP leader from Anantnag called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Subsequently, a delegation of JDA Housing Colony Welfare Association Roopnagar Jammu, and representatives of J&K Sharnarhi Action Committee also called on the Lieutenant Governor.



Rouble Nagi, Member, Panel of Community Leaders of National Commission for Minorities, India meeting LG Manoj Sinha.

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JAMMU: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana on Saturday convened a meeting to review progress on various welfare initiatives being implemented for the tribal communities.

The meeting focused on accelerating pending proposals, optimizing resource utilization and ensuring timely execution of ongoing developmental projects.

Present in the meeting were Secretary in Tribal Affairs Department, Harun Malik, Director Tribal Affairs, Ghulam Rasool, Director Finance, Iftakhar Chouhan, Joint Director Planning, Abdul Khaliq Bhatti, Deputy Secretary Tribal Affairs, Dr. Abdul Khahir and other senior officers of the department.

During the discussion, the Minister directed the officials to expedite approvals for pending proposals under the Dharti Aaba scheme, which focuses on sustainable agriculture and economic empowerment in tribal areas. He set specific timelines to ensure that



Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana chairing a meeting.

the benefits of the scheme are delivered efficiently to the intended beneficiaries.

The officers provided updates on utilisation of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) budget with particular focus on infrastructure development including schools, health facilities, roads and digital connectivity in tribal regions.

The Minister asked for timely completion of delayed projects to maximise their impact. He also had a detailed review of progress on Cluster Tribal Model Villages (CTMVs) and Milk Villages initiatives. These projects aim

to foster self-reliance and livelihood generation through agriculture and dairy farming. He also assessed implementation of Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), a flagship program aimed at holistic development of tribal villages. He underscored the importance of focusing on critical areas such as education, healthcare, housing and infrastructure to achieve the program's objectives.

The Minister reviewed the status of pending scholarship applications for tribal students and directed the officers to clear backlogs at the earliest.

He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely financial support to enable students to continue their education without interruption. He also discussed NGO grants and proposals submitted through the dedicated portal. He called for enhanced transparency and efficiency in processing these proposals and stressed the need to prioritise projects that align with the government's tribal welfare goals.

Preparations for an upcoming wool workshop being held in collaboration with TRIFED were discussed as well. This initiative aims to empower tribal artisans through training, skill enhancement and market access, enabling them to showcase their crafts at national and international levels.

The Minister concluded the meeting by stressing the importance of meticulous planning, regular monitoring and accountability in implementing all initiatives. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards uplifting tribal communities and ensuring that the benefits of these welfare schemes reach the grassroots level effectively.