

CM releases Tourism Department's Calendar, Trekking Maps



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah unveiling calendar for the year 2025 and trekking map created by Tourism Deptt Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled calendars for the year 2025 and trekking maps created by the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, in a ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat.

The launch event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, and Directors of Tourism from

Kashmir and Jammu and other concerned.

During the event, the Chief Minister launched wall calendars, table calendars for the year 2025 and trekking maps featuring various scenic and tourist destinations, highlighting the rich tourism potential

of Jammu and Kashmir.

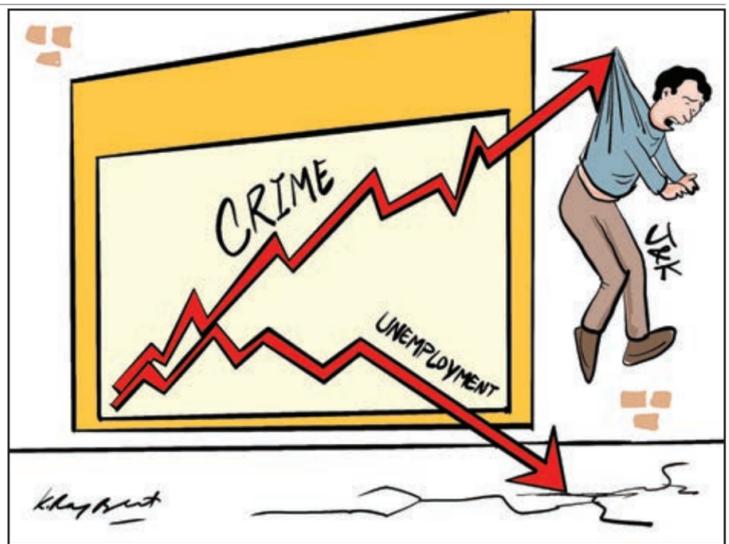
The calendars showcase the breathtaking landscapes, cultural heritage and tourist treasures of the region.

The trekking maps detail several prominent trails, including: The Kolahoi Glacier Trek, Khrew-

Wasterwan Trail, Gurez-Sonamarg Trek, Sarbal Bear Valley Trek and Margan Pass Tsoharmarg Trek.

Commending the efforts of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a leading travel destination.

He remarked, "These calendars and trekking maps will serve as valuable tools in providing people with essential information about the region's stunning tourist destinations and trekking routes. This initiative will undoubtedly help attract more visitors to explore the natural beauty and adventure opportunities our state offers."



J&K achieves 85 pc completion rate under PMAY-G: Secy RD&PR

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, announced on Tuesday that Jammu and Kashmir has reached a significant milestone in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), with an 85% completion rate. During a review meeting, Asad expressed confidence that the remaining targets would be met by March 31st, despite challenges posed by adverse weather conditions in hilly areas. "Even with snowfall affecting construction in high-altitude regions, our commitment to 'Housing for All' remains firm," said the Secretary, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions to overcome the challenges. He outlined a robust strategy to maintain momentum, including weekly assessments and comprehensive monitoring systems. Asad praised the performance of several districts where completion rates have surpassed

90%, encouraging other districts to replicate their success by addressing bottlenecks. Since the launch of PMAY-G in 2016, over 3.35 lakh houses have been sanctioned in the region, with 2.85 lakh already completed. In the current fiscal year, 67,780 houses have been finished, with an additional 82,000 expected to be completed by March end. Asad directed officials to focus on proactive management, with weekly assessments and specific goals for fund transfers and house completion. He also highlighted the need for intensifying monitoring, particularly at the block and Panchayat levels. Additionally, he instructed officials to resolve pending recovery cases and ensure timely follow-ups. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Director Mohammad Muntaz Ali, Joint Director Planning Kamal Kumar, and Assistant Commissioners of Development from Jammu division.



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Kashmiri Pandits' plight unique, rendered homeless in their own country: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, in an exclusive conversation with Sansad TV, touched upon a wide range of subjects, from the tragic history of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus to India's rapid advancements in space exploration, governance reforms, and the bio-economy sector. Dr. Singh began by addressing the emotional and historical significance of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus, calling their plight unique in that they were rendered homeless in their own country overnight. He emphasized that Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continued commitment to their welfare. Dr. Singh noted



that BJP was the first party to address this sensitive issue, with leaders like Murli Manohar Joshi and L.K. Advani championing the cause. Under PM Modi's leadership, over 35 visits to Jammu and Kashmir have ensured initiatives for the welfare of the community, including separate accommodations and reintegration

into society. Shifting to India's achievements in space exploration, Dr. Singh credited PM Modi for reforms in the space sector that have opened doors for private investment, fueling the growth of the space economy. He highlighted the upcoming milestones such as the indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, Chandrayaan-4 (2027), Shukrayaan (2028), and the Indian Space Station (2030). The space economy, currently valued at \$8 billion, is projected to grow fivefold in the next decade, reaching \$44 billion, Dr. Singh said. The minister also lauded innovations like the Vyom Mitra robo mission, a precursor to human space exploration, and the SPADEX mission that will enable docking capabilities.

In the field of bio-manufacturing, Dr. Singh pointed out that India's bio-economy is poised to lead the global market. Supported by abundant resources from the Himalayas to the shores, India is among the first nations to have a dedicated bio-economy policy, which is expected to fuel growth in recycling, manufacturing, and startups. Dr. Singh also highlighted India's commitment to public-private partnerships and startup involvement to sustain the sector's development. Dr. Singh further discussed the shift toward citizen-centric governance under PM Modi's leadership. Initiatives like Mission Karmayogi aim to enhance bureaucratic efficiency through role-based

capacity building. Digital innovations, such as the face-recognition-enabled digital life certificate, are simplifying citizens' interactions with government services. Reaffirming India's commitment to combating climate change, Dr. Singh praised PM Modi's Mission LiFE, which encourages sustainable living. He also highlighted India's leadership in preventive healthcare, meeting global standards in addressing both health and environmental concerns. When asked about his personal passions, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared his love for reading and poetry, revealing that he always carries two books with him and draws inspiration from literary art.

J&K has immense potential for harnessing solar, hydro, other renewable energy sources: Satish

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR: "Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for harnessing solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources in Jammu and Kashmir", stated Minister for FCS &CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology, Information Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, during his address at Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.



J&K Sports minister, Satish Sharma at Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Shripad Yesso Naik; Chief Minister Rajasthan, Bhajanlal Sharma; concerned Ministers hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan along with senior

officers were present in the workshop.

The workshop was aimed to foster collaboration, address challenges and explore actionable solutions in advancing

India's renewable energy agenda.

During his address, Satish Sharma acknowledged the unwavering commitment of the Union Ministry towards fostering new and renewable energy initiatives across the country.

Highlighting the progress/achievements made in Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said that J&K is uniquely positioned with immense potential for harnessing solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources. He said that under PM KUSUM scheme, J&K had a target of installation of 5000 solar agricultural pumps, of which, 3000 stands installed as on date. He informed that solarisation of all government buildings under PM Surya Ghar scheme has already been taken up by JaKeDA and it is expected that by December 2025, all these buildings in J&K shall be solarised. He added that under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, around 1000 solar roof topping under domestic category has been done and a total of 3MW has been achieved, so far.

The Minister asserted that RESCO model needs to be replicated so that consumers can be provided 100 percent free power in J&K. The Minister also met the Union Minister on the sidelines of workshop and had detailed deliberations regarding exploration of new avenues in New & Renewable Energy sector including job opportunities and economic and environmental benefits of the initiatives. The Minister apprised the Union Minister regarding immediate requirements in JK especially rural and border areas like Kathua, Samba, RS Pura, Chhamb, Rajouri, Sunderbani, Nowshera, Poonch, Karnah, Uri, Baramulla. He said that border people and army/security people shall be given active consideration and will be facilitated with adequate power supply through solarisation. The Minister urged for support in extending specific successful initiatives to the UT from the Ministry for New & Renewable energy, which would significantly accelerate development of this sector in J&K. He asked for special funding/assistance under centrally sponsored schemes to bridge the gap and strengthen our infrastructure.

ADGP Jammu Zone reviews Republic Day arrangements



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain chairing a meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, held a meeting with the officers of intelligence agencies, Army/BSF/CRPF/Armed and District Police at Zonal Police Headquarters, Jammu, to review the security and logistical arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations in the zone.

The agenda of the meeting was to ensure the smooth and secure execution of Republic Day events in Jammu.

The discussions covered aspects such as law and order management, traffic arrangements, security pro-

tools, coordination between different agencies, and ensuring the safety of participants and spectators.

The ADGP emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and coordination among all concerned agencies to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of Republic Day celebrations. Special attention was given to maintaining high security levels, efficient traffic management, and ensuring the readiness of all law enforcement and emergency response units.

He further directed SSP Jammu/SSP Traffic City and all supervisory officers to identify and create adequate parking arrangements and also maintain a

high level of alert in their respective jurisdictional areas.

The officials were present at the meeting included DIG CRPF Jammu Sector, DIG BSF Frontier Jammu, DIG Traffic Jammu, DIG Armed Jammu, DIG JKS Range, Asst. Commissioner, SB, Jammu, Asst. Dir., IB Jammu, SSP PCR Jammu, SSP Security Jammu, SSP CID CI Jammu, SSP Railways Jammu, SSP Jammu, SSP CID SB Jammu, Commandant, IRP 18th Bn, SSP APCR Jammu, SSP Traffic City Jammu, SSP Telecom. Jammu, SP South/Rural/Hqrs Jammu, SP Ops Jammu, Repts of 16 Corps, and 26 Infantry Div.

HUDD launches 'Swachhanta' - a pre-R-Day Swachhata campaign



Commissioner Secretary HUDD, Mandeep Kaur chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant stride towards enhancing urban sanitation in all 80 Urban Local Bodies of J&K creating a clean environment for celebrations of 76th Republic Day, the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has begun a series of Swachhata (cleanliness) activities from 21st to 24th January 2025 with a central theme "Swachhanta - Gantantra Ki Shaan, Swachhata Se Bane Mahaan" under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, 2.0.

The ambitious cleanliness initiative was launched here on Tuesday by Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur. Speaking during the launch, the Commissioner Secretary detailed the objectives of the cleanliness initiative. She said that the campaign has been designed to promote cleanliness as a fundamental aspect of development, engage citizens of J&K in community based Swachhata initiatives (Jan Andolan) and utilise Republic Day as a platform to unite citizens in the shared pursuit of a healthier, cleaner Jammu & Kashmir. She

advised the Executive Officers of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to implement the cleanliness campaign in their respective ULBs as per the calendar of activities in letter and spirit.

Giving details about the Swachhata initiative, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 J&K UT, said that while the Nation is celebrating 76th Republic Day, it is imperative to make our ULBs Swachh and garbage free. He said that different activities have been scheduled to create a Jan Andolan. These included community cleanliness drives with emphasis on water bodies, Plog Run, clearing of garbage hot spots, street plays, open painting and quiz competitions, special sanitation drives in health institutions, school engagement programs and intensive digital campaigns.

He advised the ULBs to involve people from different walks of life especially Swachhata ambassadors, influencers, NSS volunteers and senior citizens in these activities for building a cleaner, healthier Jammu & Kashmir. He also asked the ULBs to promote "My Place,

My Responsibility" campaign, encouraging individuals to take ownership of their surroundings and contribute towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

To further encourage engagement of public especially youth, a Painting Competition with the theme "Importance of Segregation" is also scheduled to be held as part of the campaign. The painting competition will be open to all age groups and will invite the participants to showcase their creativity and commitment to a cleaner, greener Jammu & Kashmir. Cash prizes of Rs 1.00 lakh, Rs 0.50 lakh and Rs 0.25 lakh will be given for best three paintings respectively.

During this campaign, ULBs will leverage social media platforms under the hashtag #CleanRepublicDay and #SwachhJK to promote cleanliness initiatives, sharing impactful messages, photos and videos to encourage public participation.

Requesting the public to participate, the Mission Director said, "This Republic Day, let us unite to celebrate our progress as a Swachh UT by reaffirming our commitment to cleanliness and sustainability".

Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Owais Ahmad; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, Manisha Sarin; Director Local Bodies, Kashmir, Akramullah Tak; CEOs/EOs of all Urban Local Bodies of J&K and experts from the Project Management Unit of H&UDD were present during the launch of the campaign.

DC Jammu inspects JJM works; stresses on quality, sustainability



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya conducting inspection of ongoing works under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Tuesday conducted an inspection of ongoing works under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district, emphasising the need for maintaining quality standards and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rashpal Singh, along with other senior engineers, the DC inspected Water Supply Schemes-Nardani, Badani,

Domana and Mishriwala.

During the site visits, the DC reviewed various components of the projects, including construction works for sump tanks, pump rooms and tube wells. The DC also directed the concerned officers to prioritize water harvesting structures in the designs, aiming to enhance the sustainability of both new and existing bore wells.

He further instructed that regular quality checks be conducted and urged field staff to expedite the pace of work without compromising standards.

CM Yogi with Cabinet to take holy dip at Triveni Sangam today

SHAHZAD AKHTAR

PRAYAGRAJ: The Uttar Pradesh government is set to hold a special Cabinet meeting in Prayagraj on Wednesday, sources said here on Tuesday.

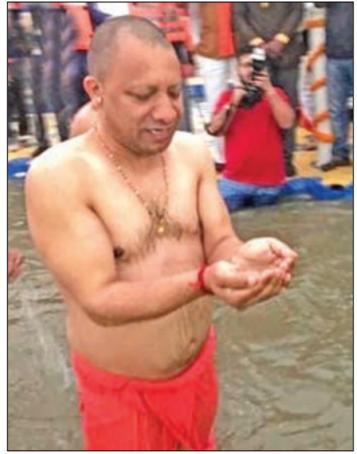
UP Govt Sources said that all 54 Ministers of the UP cabinet have been invited to this meeting, which is expected to approve several significant proposals and schemes for the state. Following the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with the entire cabinet, will take the holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam.

This isn't the first time CM Yogi has led his cabinet to the Sangam. In 2019, during the Kumbh Mela, he took a ceremonial dip along with his ministers, Akhada Parishad President Narendra Giri, and other saints.

The cabinet meeting will be held at the Triveni Sankul in Arai, starting at 12 noon. The location was changed to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims visiting the Sangam. Initially, the meeting was planned at the Mela Authority Auditorium, but concerns over VIP security disrupting pilgrims' movement led to the shift in venue.

After the meeting, the ministers will travel from the Arai VIP Ghat to the Sangam by motorboats. At the Sangam, CM Yogi and the cabinet members will perform the worship rituals and take the holy dip in Sangam.

Official sources said Chief Minister Yogi



Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, along with Cabinet Ministers Suresh Kumar Khanna, Surya Pratap Shahi, Swatantra Dev Singh, Baby Rani Maurya, Jaiveer Singh, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Dharampal, Nand Gopal Nandi, Anil Rajbhar, and all 54 ministers, including those with independent charge and state ministers, will take the holy dip in the Sangam after attending the cabinet meeting.