

# LG releases J&K Kashi Vidwat Parishad’s Panchang Calendar 2025, Manu Singh’s book ‘Mountain Goddesses’



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha releasing J&K Kashi Vidwat Parishad's Panchang Calendar 2025 at Raj Bhawan on Friday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released J&K Kashi Vidwat Parishad's Panchang Calendar 2025, at Raj Bhawan on Friday.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri, President, J&K Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad Jammu, editorial team, and all the members of the parishad.

The calendar will provide information about auspicious occasions, festivals and religious rituals.

On the occasion, the members of Shri Kashi Vidwat Parishad Jammu also put forth important matters pertaining to promotion of Sanskrit language and Vedic studies in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor assured that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues projected by them during the interaction.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha also released a book titled 'Mountain Goddesses: Finding Feminine Power from an Unexpected Place', written by Manu Khajuria Singh.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the author and wished her success in the future literary endeavours.

'Mountain Goddesses' follows the author, through her discovery of the deep-rooted feminine power within her motherland in Jammu.

Manu Khajuria Singh is a freelance writer and commentator from Jammu Kashmir. A native of Jammu region, her focus is the region's history, culture and current issues. After moving to the United Kingdom and seeing the younger generation become influenced by contemporary female icons, the author was inspired to document the vast yet lesser-known female-centric stories from her homeland. These empowering tales

offer alternative indigenous role models and an illuminating perspective on femininity.

Bangladesh brings Pakistan Army to Rangpur, close to India's 'Chicken's Neck' corridor in West Bengal



# JU organises a unique cultural festival ‘ABHIVYAKTI-2025’



Dignitaries with faculty of University of Jammu at cultural festival "ABHIVYAKTI - 2025".

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To celebrate the creative talent of the employees of the University, the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu (JU) organized a unique cultural festival "ABHIVYAKTI - 2025" in a competitive mode in which employees of the University of Jammu presented their talents.

University's teaching faculty, officers, employees, students, scholars and members of civil society were amongst the audience who thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

The events featured in Abhivyakti included Antakshri, Singing (Solo), On Spot Painting, On Spot Photography & Poetry Recitation (Self Composed).

The winners of the events would be felicitated on 26th of January by Prof. Umesh Rai, esteemed Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu. Those who participated in events included Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Prof. Vishav Raksha, Dr. Vijay Saigal, Prof. Komal Nagar, Dr. Hema Gandotra, Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana, Dr. Meghna Dhar, Dr. Hina Saxena, Dr. A. R. Manhas, Dr. Sumita Sharma, Nipun Kohli, Prince Pratap Singh, Pushpinder Singh, Neelam Bhagat, Dr. Saranjeet Kaur, Supriya Sharma, Gulshan Kumar, Madan Magotra, Dr. Purshottam Kumar, Dr. Vikram Sahi, Dr. Bhagwati Devi, Swarndeep, Dr. Monica Narang, Sunita Bhan, Dr. Neeta, Komal Bakshi, Dr. Padam Dev Singh, Dr. Neelam Chowdhary, Dr. Pritam Singh, Dr. S. R. Dubey, Tushar Bhardwaj,

Dr. Deepak Anand, Partap Singh, Tarsem Singh, Tinku, Pankaj, Jatinder Kaur, Rimpay Bala, Sugandha Sharma, Anu Sharma, Dr. Shallu Sharma, Kundan Singh, Akanksha Sharma, Tanv Sharma, Sushma Devi, Alka Gupta, Dr. Pallavi, Dr. Abhinandan Khajuria, Lalit Sharma, Vijay Kumar, Dr. Apoorva Jamwal, Suresh Kumar and Vijay Bhat.

The adjudicators of the events included (Poetry) Prof. Lalit Magotra and Vijaya Thakur. (Singing) Dharmesh Nargotra and Sonali Dogra. (Painting) K.K. Gandhi and Mahesh Sharma (Photography) Yogesh Manhas and Rakesh Bakshi.

The event of Antakshri was brilliantly conducted by Dr. Kuldeep Raina. Dr. Harleen Kaur and Dr. Ankit Mahajan were the event incharges. Music was rendered by Ritesh Kharyal and Sunny Tupno.

The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shallu Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur & Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer). Hall management was looked after by Sunny Singh, Sheetal Singh, Pawan Kotwal, Himanshu Tickoo. The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur & Arif Paul.

# Dr Jitendra addresses ‘Bengaluru Dialogue 2025’, unveils ‘Vision India Techade’

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Addressing the "Bengaluru Technology Dialogue 2025", held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) here, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, unveiled "Vision India Techade", envisaging global leadership role for India, particularly in innovation and technology.

Dr. Jitendra emphasized that science and technology form the cornerstone of India's vision to transform into a global hub for innovation, economic growth and solutions to pressing global issues such as climate change and public health.

"Strategic international collaborations are essential for India to cement its place as a global technology leader," Dr. Jitendra Singh noted. He underscored the need to partner with like-minded nations to advance critical technologies like quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and green hydrogen.

"Our aim is to foster equitable partnerships that address global



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the "Technology Dialogue 2025" conducted by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

challenges while enhancing India's integration into the global value chain," he said.

The Minister also focused on integrating cross-sectoral synergies, such as combining AI with biotechnology or quantum computing with

secure communication systems, to amplify societal and economic impact.

Ethical technology governance, responsible innovation, and robust intellectual property protections are pivotal, he emphasized, for ensuring that technological progress benefits all.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed the importance of strong intellectual property rights frameworks to attract global investors while fostering equitable technology sharing.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted initiatives like the VAIBHAV Summit and OCI Scientist Scheme, which connect Indian innovators abroad with domestic stakeholders to drive co-innovation and capacity-building.

In conclusion, the Minister said, "India's technological journey is about contributing meaningfully to global progress while ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth." With its talent, dynamic startups, and global partnerships, India is poised to lead the world into a future powered by transformative technologies.

# CS asks to devise mechanism for periodical monitoring of SBM-G assets

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday chaired a meeting of Rural Development Department (RDD) to review progress on implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of community assets created by the Rural Sanitation Department. He directed the department to devise a robust mechanism for tracking the functional status of these assets including community sanitation complexes, compost pits, segregation sheds, soak pits and drainage facilities.

He further instructed that ground level staff be tasked with uploading of geo-tagged photos and videos of these assets periodically to ensure updated information is readily available to the authorities.

Dulloo called for making budgetary provisions to establish Gobardhan units in all districts and stressed their optimal utilisation to benefit rural communities. He highlighted the need for a comprehensive Operations and Maintenance (O&M) policy to ensure sustainable management of community sanitation assets and



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Friday.

encouraged active public participation in their upkeep. He stated that if these assets are made greatly beneficial for the public they would in turn find it interesting to adopt them for proper management.

The Chief Secretary underscored the significance of establishing faecal sludge treatment facilities in various districts, deeming them crucial for maintaining clean and ambient rural surroundings. He also advocated creation of carbon-neutral panchayats across the Union Territory and urged the department to certify such initiatives to validate their impact.

He directed the department to further strengthen the IEC activities in the UT for affecting the much required behavioural change among the population. He advised for consis-

tent promotion of SBM-G initiatives in the region. He told them to focus on disseminating success stories, raising awareness and ensuring regular engagement with stakeholders to sustain momentum of the mission thereby guaranteeing its success in the UT.

Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Assad, provided an overview of the department's achievements under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen. He informed the meeting that the Government of India has approved ₹245 crore as the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for 2024-25, supplemented by contributions from the UT.

Director General of Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, apprised the meeting of significant progress

made during the current financial year. She reported that all 6,650 villages in J&K have been declared ODF+ Model, with 81% (5,407 villages) approved by third-party verification. The meeting was apprised that under SBM-G, community assets created included 13,879 compost pits, 2,800 segregation sheds, and 7,600 segregation bins for solid waste management.

Additionally, 13,870 community soak pits and 2,800 drainage facilities have also been established for greywater treatment, along with numerous individual assets benefiting households across the UT.

Regarding utilisation of funds received so far, it was disclosed that of the total available funds of Rs131.15 crore, Rs124.70 crore have been utilised, leaving a balance of just Rs 6.45 crore in SNA. It was revealed that efforts are underway to complete 135 plastic waste management units across the blocks of J&K soon.

It was reiterated that the RDD is committed to ensure the success of SBM-G and improving the quality of life in rural areas. The stakeholders were urged to work collaboratively for effective implementation of this significant programme in the length and breadth of the UT.

# 125 MACT, bank recovery cases settled amicably in Special Lok Adalat

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, the first Special Lok Adalat of this calendar year was organized on Friday throughout the UT of J&K with special emphasis on amicable settlement of MACT and Bank Recovery Cases that were pending disposal before various tribunals and courts in UT of J&K. As per the data received

from various District Legal Services Authorities across the UT of J&K, a total of 505 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 125 MACT & Bank Recovery cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs.2,46,68,953 giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, while talking to media persons informed that this was the 1st Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year and the next Special Lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 focusing on the settlement of Traffic Challans & Electricity Bill disputes. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in

particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries, DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their wholehearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

# UP emerging as an excellent State: Jagdeep Dhankhar

## ■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: President Jagdeep Dhankhar, addressing the 76th foundation day celebrations of Uttar Pradesh on Friday, raised concerns over the presence of illegal refugees in the country and called for immediate action to safeguard the nation's interests. He also urged the youth to take a stand against individuals and entities engaged in anti-national activities.

On this occasion Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "I have accepted the invitation of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and will take a dip in the Maha Kumbh with my family on February 1. It will be a matter of pride for

me." He congratulated the people of the state on the foundation day of the state.

He said that the tradition of celebrating the State Foundation Day since 2018 is a commendable step. A scheme has been started on every foundation day. Today the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been launched. Under this, not only 10 lakh entrepreneurs will be created, but these entrepreneurs will also create employment opportunities for others.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said that the identity of Uttar Pradesh is reflected in its rapid and historic progress. UP's participation is important in India's long leap in the

expansion of technology and trade.

He said that if we assess Uttar Pradesh, this state has taken a long leap in ease of doing business. It has come from 19th to second place. In the last seven-eight years, the state's exports have doubled and the target of one trillion dollar economy set by Uttar Pradesh seems to be achieved.

On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandi Ben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Ministers Rakesh Sachan, Jaiveer Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Sanjay Seth, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and other dignitaries were present.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An interactive session on 'Indian Media Laws' was held at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu on Friday.

Vikram Sahay, Principal Commissioner, Income Tax, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh engaged with students of Digital Media, Journalism (English) and Journalism (Hindi). He shared valuable insights into the existing and evolving media laws of India and elaborated about media governance in India.

During this informative session, Vikram Sahay discussed in detail the legal framework for establishing print media, radio, television

# Understanding Media Governance: Vikram Sahay discusses regulatory frameworks at IIMC Jammu



and digital media. He elaborated on the working structure of various bodies regulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The session covered several significant laws, including the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the Guidelines

for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels, the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), the Grievance Redressal Mechanism, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, etc. Sahay explained, "The government releases guidelines

and formulates rules when it is felt that a matter is being widely discussed and the public believes that the government must take action. This happened in the case of Digital Media also leading to the formulation of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021." In his brief interaction with students, Sahay also informed them about the government's regulatory measures. He said, "The government has banned advertisements for liquor, tobacco and cigarettes. However, advertisements for other products of the same brands are still permitted.

Additionally, the

Electronic Media Monitoring Center (EMMC) monitors the content of all TV channels for violation of advertising and program code." He also mentioned that 35 Pakistani YouTube channels were blocked for posing a threat to national security. The event began with a welcome address by Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator for Digital Media, who introduced Vikram Sahay. Vivek Pathak, Additional Director at IIMC shared his experiences with Sahay and praised his visionary leadership. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu delivered the vote of thanks.