

# CM inaugurates Tawi State Guest House in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed Tawi State Guest House on Canal Road, Jammu, in a significant addition to the state's hospitality infrastructure.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Javed Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Hospitality & Protocol Rashmi Singh, Director Hospitality & Protocol Ashwani Kumar, Joint Director H&P Naresh



CM Omar Abdullah inaugurated Tawi State Guest House on Canal Road, Jammu.

Kumar and other senior officers and concerned officials attended the event.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister conducted a detailed inspection of the facility, including the VVIP

suites, mini suites, bedrooms, conference hall and other amenities.

Officials briefed him on the space allocation and state-of-the-art facilities available at the guest house.

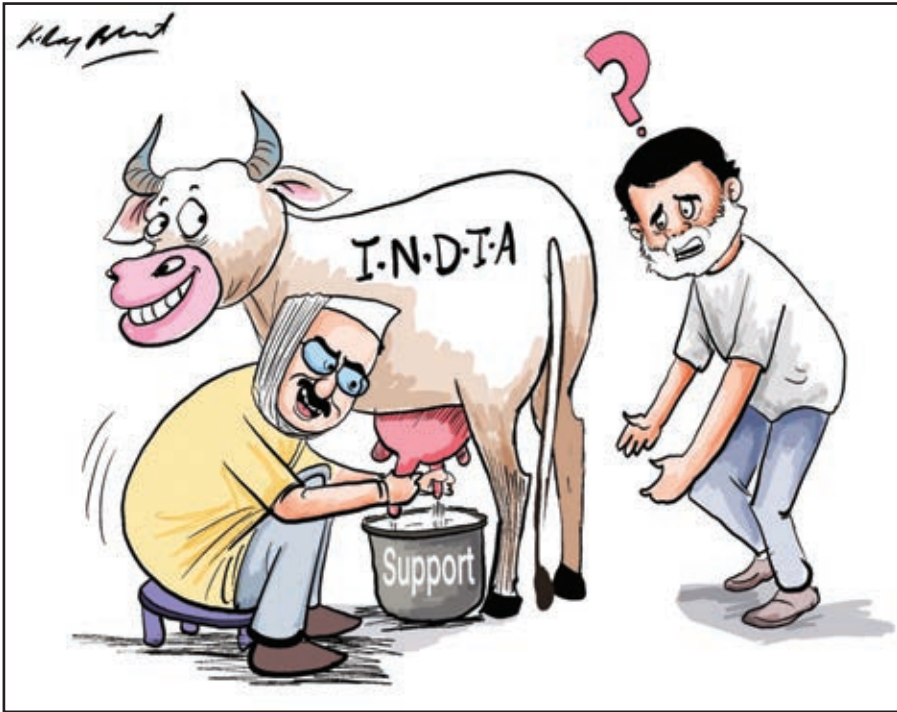
Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister commended the efforts of the Hospitality & Protocol Department in developing this facility that will serve as an important asset for host-

ing state guests and high-level delegations.

Giving details, an official handout stated that the ground floor of the guest house features five suites, three bedrooms, a conference hall with a seating capacity of 45 persons, a kitchen, pantry and waiting area.

The first floor comprises of one VVIP suite, two mini suites, two suites, two additional rooms and another waiting area.

The guest house has been equipped with modern amenities, including an advanced HVAC system, a furnished conference hall with audio-visual facilities, and an 8-passenger lift for convenience.



# Launched in J&K, Aroma Mission picking up in Northeast: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JORHAT: Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that both the Northeast region as well as Jammu & Kashmir have been on the priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Aroma Mission launched by the government headed by him in J&K is now picking up in the Northeast.



Both these regions have abundant natural resources which have in the past remained unexplored but can be a vital value addition to India's economy, said the Minister.

Speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Incubation & Innovation Complex (IICON) of CSIR-NEIST, Dr Jitendra underscored the transformative potential of the Aroma Mission at the North East Aroma Conclave 2025, highlighting how the initiative integrates multiple flagship schemes of the Government to empower the region.

The Minister called it a model of the "whole-of-government" approach, aligning programs such as StartUp India, MSME support, agricultural advancements, and rural development.

"This single initiative represents the spirit of convergence that the Modi Government has championed," Dr. Jitendra Singh said. He noted that the Aroma Mission is not just an agricultural or scientific initiative but a platform fostering startups, self-help groups, and

micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) while simultaneously contributing to farmers' income and promoting employment.

The event witnessed the distribution of agreements to 25 startups, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and self-help groups, empowering them to utilize the advanced facilities at IICON and contribute to the region's economic growth and innovation.

Dr. Jitendra further elaborated that this mission has drawn strength from the Prime Minister's vision of inclusive development of regions like the North East and Jammu & Kashmir. "Through the Aroma Mission, we are addressing the untapped potential of these biodiverse regions, enabling them to contribute significantly to India's economy," he said.

The mission's outcomes have been promising. Over 27 facilities established at CSIR-NEIST are being utilized by entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and startups. These efforts are creating new opportunities for employment and innovation in sectors such as essential oils and medicinal plants, with North East India poised to replicate the success of lavender cultivation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Jitendra highlighted how the initiative ties into broader priorities such

as doubling farmers' income and fostering women's empowerment. He praised the Rural Women Technology Park developed under the mission, describing it as a template for replication in other parts of the country.

The Minister also pointed to the broader vision of transforming the North East into a hub of connectivity, innovation, and collaboration. "From being regions with minimal connectivity, states in the North East now boast robust rail, air, and water networks, opening avenues for industrial partnerships and exports," he remarked.

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that the Aroma Mission will not only bring prosperity to the North East but also bolster India's bio-economy and biotechnology sectors. With the recently launched Bio-E3 policy and new collaborations in place, the region is set to emerge as a key contributor to India's growth story, paving the way for achieving the vision of India@2047.

The North East Aroma Conclave 2025, with its blend of innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development, stands as a beacon of how integrated government initiatives can drive regional progress and national aspirations.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by stressing the importance of leveraging the North East's natural and human resources to achieve the vision of India@2047.

# JNE Guild celebrates Republic Day with Flag hoisting ceremony, calls for restoration of statehood

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The JNE Guild hosted a grand National Flag Hoisting ceremony in celebration of Republic Day, where prominent Newspaper Chiefs gathered to reflect on recent developments and call for further political actions.

A.K. Sawhney, President of JNE Guild (JNEG), addressed the attendees, expressing his appreciation for the steps taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet colleagues.

He highlighted key achievements such as the peaceful conduct of legislative assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the commencement of the ambitious rail link project connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Sawhney also applauded the construction of the Z Tunnel, which he said would significantly enhance regional connectivity and development.

However, Sawhney emphasized that the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir remains a critical demand. "It is high time for the Modi government to ful-



JNE Guild members hoisting National Flag on Republic Day at Jammu.

fill its promise to restore statehood, a demand that

continues to resonate strongly with the people of the

region," he said during his address.

In a similar vein, Raj Daluja, Chairman of JNEG, urged the Government of India to work in close cooperation with the elected government, particularly under the leadership of former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

He called for a collective effort to ensure that the region's political and developmental aspirations are fully addressed.

The event also saw the participation of distinguished personalities such as Vinod Chopra, Editor of Truly Times, and Vishal Chopra Spokesperson JNEG & Editor Jammu Metro, Puneet Arora Editor Early Post, Abhishek Kapoor editor Reality speaks daily, who took part in the flag hoisting ceremony.

As the region continues to navigate its complex political landscape, today's ceremony was a reminder of the ongoing hopes for peace, development, and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

# J&K Branch of ICAI celebrates 76th Republic Day 2025



Chairman J&K Branch of ICAI, CA Vineet Kohli along with its Committee members and others members of the branch unfurling the National Flag.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Branch (NIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), organized a function on the occasion of 76th Republic Day at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu in which the senior as well as younger members participated to celebrate the occasion.

On this occasion, Chairman of the J&K Branch of ICAI, CA Vineet Kohli along with its Committee members & others members

of the branch unfurled the National Flag and pledged to serve the country & contribute towards nation building. Vice-Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Branch (NIRC), CA Sourav Pargal urged the fraternity members to come forward in large numbers to participate overwhelmingly in such programmes. CA Ayush Sahwney and CA Nakul Saraf Immediate Past-Chairman were also present at the occasion along with a large number of Chartered Accountants.

# Rare National Anthem by hearing impaired students of SKK at R-Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a rare showcasing of their skill, thirty-eight hearing-impaired students from the Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SKK), a well-known charitable society in Jammu, performed the National Anthem in sign language as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha raised the Tricolor flag at M A Stadium on January 26th. Clad in white attire, they synchronized perfectly with each line of the anthem, earning loud applause from the packed stadium.

Thanks to the efforts of the Republic Day Committee and the Chief Education Officer of Jammu, these talented individuals from the School for Hearing



Hearing-impaired students from the Samaj Kalyan Kendra participating in R-day celebration at MA Stadium.

Handicapped, operated by SKK, were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to exhibit their abilities in front of a distinguished audience and the general public. This was introduced in the celebration for the first time under sam-

agra shiksha abhiyan. These thirty-eight students were part of a larger ensemble of 128 differently-abled participants who made their debut in the Republic Day celebrations in J&K, an unprecedented achievement.

Other participants included students from the School for Mentally Retarded Children, Phelan Mandaal, the Resource Room for special children at Ranbir Higher Secondary School, Jammu Red Cross Home for the Handicapped in Udhewala, and a few students from regular government schools.

This diverse group of hearing-impaired and handicapped students captivated the crowd with an enchanting dance performance set to a blend of popular Kashmiri, Rajasthani, Punjabi, and Dogri folk songs. It was a remarkable sight to see these individuals, some of whom could not hear, moving in perfect harmony with the

rhythm of the music. Their debut performance left everyone spellbound, and the participating students were thrilled and proud of their achievement.

The entire SKK community praised the extraordinary debut performance of the differently-abled students. The President of SKK, K B Jandial announced awards the participating students in recognition of their landmark achievement.

Group of excited Hearing impaired students of Samaj Kalyan Kendra participating in State level R-Day function at MA Stadium Jammu on 26 January. This is the first time such Divyang participated in R-day function.

# Jammu, Srinagar wings of HC observe Republic Day



Chief Justice, Tashi Rabstan hoisting the National Flag at High Court Wing Jammu on R-Day.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Sunday celebrated the 76th Republic Day with main function held in the High Court Wing Jammu wherein Chief Justice, Tashi Rabstan, hoisted the National Flag.

The event was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri. Besides, President High Court Bar Association, Jammu along with Executive Members of the Bar, Senior

Advocates of Jammu, Assistant Solicitor General of India and other Government Advocates were also present on the occasion.

The Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice besides officers and officials of the registry of main wing, Jammu Wing and Srinagar Wing of the High Court also participated in the event.

The contingent of Armed Forces played patriotic songs/tunes following unfurling of the National Flag.

The Chief Justice distributed sweets among the members of the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the 76th Republic Day was celebrated in the High Court

of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Srinagar Wing, with immense enthusiasm and full patriotic fervour.

The event commenced with unfurling of the National flag by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who took salute at the March Past followed by playing of the National Anthem/patriotic tunes by the Band.

The event was also graced by Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. Besides, Mir Syed Latif, Member, CAT Srinagar Bench, Jaffer Hussain Beg, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, Registrar Vigilance, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Registrar Judicial Srinagar Wing, Tahir Majeed Shamsi, DSGI, Waseem Gul, President, Kashmir Advocates' Association, officers of police and civil administration, law officers besides officers and officials of Srinagar Wing of High Court.

The event concluded with distribution of sweets among the police and CRPF officials.

# DIPR celebrates Republic Day; pays homage to martyrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Sunday celebrated Republic Day at Media Complex, Rail Head Complex.

Director Information, Jatin Kishore, unfurled the Tricolour and paid high tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of nation.

On the occasion, the Director alongwith the officers and officials of the department also paid floral tributes to Anil Kumar Abrol (Field Publicity Officer), Harbans Singh (Projector Operator) and Anchal Singh (Projector Operator) who attained martyrdom, while performing their duties on this day in 1995.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deputy Director (Central), Deputy Director AV, Deputy Director (PR), Jammu, Accounts Officer, Information Officers, Administrative Officer and other officials of the department were also present on the occasion.



Director Information, Jatin Kishore unfurling the Tricolour.

# HUDD launches 'Swachhtantra' campaign in 80 ULBs of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Housing and Urban Development Department organised multiple events under "Swachhtantra" campaign launched in all 80 Urban Local Bodies of Jammu and Kashmir as part of 76th Republic Day of Jammu & Kashmir.

A defining moment of this year's celebration was the collective action witnessed through 'Swachhtantra' campaign; an inspiring Jan Andolan (people's movement) for cleanliness. Over 2 lakh citizens came together and pledged to remain steadfast in their commitment towards a cleaner and greener environment.

'Swachhtantra', an innovative campaign aimed to foster a community driven approach towards cleanliness, as a lead up to the Republic Day festivities, was launched by the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) from 21st to 26th January, 2025. The initiative has brought together individuals, community groups, volunteers, Swachhata ambassadors, influencers, students and officials in a shared mission to enhance urban sanitation and create a cleaner environment



for the Day of Sovereignty.

The participants, while partaking in various sanitation activities, pledged to uphold cleanliness as a personal and societal responsibility. They vowed to voluntarily contribute towards cleanliness efforts and inspire others to join the mission for creating a sustainable and hygienic environment.

The campaign featured a diverse range of events aimed at fostering awareness and action for sanitation and cleanliness. Swachhata activities like 'Swachhata Mein Ekta' - Celebrating Unity in Cleanliness; Nukkad Natak- 'Chhote Kadam, Bade Pariwartan'; Pure Waters Pure Future; Sanitation for Safe Healing in health institutions; Social Interventions by Citizens; 'Plogging'-Run for a Swachh J&K; painting compe-

tition; quiz competitions and 'Grow Green, Breathe Clean'-Plantation drives, were organised across all 80 Urban Local Bodies of the UT.

During the campaign, over 950 different sanitation and cleanliness activities have been carried out in which the citizens participated with great fervour and enthusiasm. More than 3, 50,000 people from urban areas participated in different sanitation activities undertaken by the 80 Urban Local Bodies.

Commissioner Secretary H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, who spearheaded the campaign, said "Swachhtantra campaign not only enhanced the spirit of Republic Day but also reinforced the vision of Swachh Bharat Mission, celebrating the ideals of sovereignty, unity and civic responsibility through the lens of cleanliness".