

Attends valedictory session of Int'l Painting Workshop

Artists, GenZ entrepreneurs will forge India's future together: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Artists and GenZ Entrepreneurs will forge India's future together. Art and business alliance is a unique power and Imagination and Investment will be able to build a vibrant and developed society," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He was speaking at the valedictory session of International Painting Workshop, organised by Anandam: The Centre of Happiness and the Art Club at IIM Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the renowned artists and students for building a stronger tomorrow through creativity.

"Artists are the architects of national pride and they are shaping identity, unity, progress and forging a united future. The combined energy of creative minds and the future CEOs can become the



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha witnessing paintings at valedictory session of International Painting Workshop at IIM Jammu.

new engine of national progress.

On one hand we have dreamers as artists and on the other Doers as next gen leaders and their united effort will redefine the pace of progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that in today's era of artificial intelligence and

machine learning, creative thinking is most needed to discover new opportunities. He said the Business Management professionals must be prepared to learn from experiences and adopt new approaches.

"Art is a vital pillar of interdisciplinary education. Art enriches institutions, trans-

forms personalities, and fosters a sense of belonging, thereby strengthening responsibility towards society and the nation. I see art as the heartbeat of society and the conscience of the nation, shaping our values, preserving our identity, encouraging dialogue, and inspiring a collective purpose," the Lieutenant

Governor further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the eminent and emerging painters. He also commended the IIM Jammu for the unique academic-cultural initiative.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Dr Shakti Gupta, former Executive Director AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal Chairperson Anandam: The Centre for Happiness; Shri KK Gandhi and other eminent painters, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members and youth in large number were present.

Dr Jitendra highlights PM's Startup Vision on National Startup Day

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JAMMU: The CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, on Friday celebrated National Startup Day with a vibrant showcase of innovation and entrepreneurship, as Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh engaged with the young innovators and launched new products. The event highlighted the institute's commitment towards fostering cutting-edge research and startup growth.

Addressing the students, researchers and startup founders, the Union Minister and Vice President CSIR Dr Jitendra described CSIR-IIIM as a living legacy of Independent India and one of the country's oldest CSIR laboratories, established even before

Independence. Dr. Jitendra praised IIIM's transformative impact on drug discovery and its contributions to farmers' prosperity in the region. He highlighted the institute's rich history, tracing its origins to Maharaja Hari Singh's vision and the pioneering work of Sir Ram Nath Chopra, father of Indian pharmacology. He noted that under its current leadership, IIIM continues to strengthen its scientific and innovation-driven identity.

Highlighting the institutes national impact, Singh pointed to the Purple Revolution as a defining example of grassroots entrepreneurship driven by science. What began as lavender cultivation in Doda district has now spread across the Himalayan belt, from Uttarakhand and Himachal



Dr Jitendra highlights PM's Startup Vision on National Startup Day



Director CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed presenting bouquet to Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh.

Pradesh to the northeastern states, he maintained. He said the initiative demonstrated how agriculture, bio-resources and traditional knowledge can give rise to successful startups, challenging the belief that innovation is confined to the IT sector or metropolitan cities.

Reflecting on India's startup journey, Singh said the launch of the Startup India, Stand-Up India initiative in 2014 marked a turning point. From a few hundred ventures, India today has more than 2 lakh startups and ranks third globally in the startup ecosystem, he added. He observed that nearly half of these startups now come from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, underlining the democratisation of entrepreneurship, aspiration and education. Singh also addressed the common myths around startups, stressing that innovation does not require a PhD, a metro location, or even extensive formal education. He said women are increasingly leading startups across sectors. He said that small-town entrepreneurs are proving that tal-

ent flourishes when supported with the right guidance, technology access, market linkage and financial backing.

Singh encouraged them to focus on research, innovation and value addition, assuring institutional support and mentorship. The event also saw the formal launch of VELA-VITE HartBeet, a heart-health nutraceutical developed by an incubated startup. Besides, a Memorandum of Understanding between the IIIMTBI BioNest Incubation Centre and M/s Tribe Route Essentials Pvt Ltd was also signed envisaging promotion of collaborative growth.

Earlier, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM apprised the chief guest of the Bharat Incubator Award to the Institute's Incubator; he said that a total of 128 startups have been incubated from IIIM so far and 18 products have been launched in the market by the startup. He acknowledged the role of district administration, particularly Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder

Singh, in connecting the farmers with scientists and startups, a synergy that proved crucial to the success of the Purple Revolution.

Sharing personal journeys, incubates spoke about how IIIMs incubation support helped them transition from job seekers to job providers.

One founder recounted how access to mentorship, technical validation and institutional backing enabled him to establish a nutraceutical venture despite limited capital and networks. Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, the guest of honour, reiterated that entrepreneurship is accessible to all, regardless of educational background. He highlighted Doda's rich reserves of organic produce, medicinal plants and crops like rajmash as strong foundations for future startups, assuring full administrative support to the young innovators. The programme concluded with the distribution of prizes for idea pitching, slogan writing and logo design competitions.

Shrine Board reviews Republic Day celebrations at Katra



CEO SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In view of the forthcoming Republic Day Celebrations-2026, the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Sachin Kumar Vaishya presided over a comprehensive review meeting at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra aimed at assessing operational and security preparedness to ensure seamless arrangements in close coordination with the District Administration, Reasi and other key stakeholders for the scheduled Republic Day function at Katra.

During the meeting, the CEO emphasized the need to further strengthen security arrangements in accordance with the directions of the Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT). He underscored the importance of seamless coordination and collective efforts among all concerned agencies to establish a robust mechanism ensuring a hassle-free pil-

grimage and the smooth conduct of the Republic Day celebrations. Special emphasis was laid on effective crowd regulation, stringent verification of RFID cards, strict frisking protocols, and ensuring that only duly registered pilgrims and authorized service providers are permitted access to the track.

It was informed that the main Republic Day function will be organized at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, Katra, where the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB will unfurl the National Tricolour and take the salute of the ceremonial march past by contingents drawn from the J&K Police, CRPF, Shrine Security, NCC cadets and school children. The celebrations will also include cultural programmes presented by students, based on the patriotic theme and cultural diversity of the region.

The concerned quarters were directed to ensure that all celebrations are held strictly as per the prescribed guide-

lines and with due regard to the decorum expected of the occasion. Detailed discussions were also held on necessary arrangements such as stage setup, seating, cleanliness, drinking water facilities, deployment of fire-fighting vehicles and security arrangements. The concerned authorities were directed to take timely steps to ensure that all these arrangements are made properly.

Emphasis was also laid on effectively utilizing the technical capabilities of the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) to regulate the yatra enroute to the Bhawan. It was highlighted that real-time monitoring through CCTV cameras would be undertaken to ensure smooth movement of pilgrims, strengthen crowd management and enable prompt response to any untoward incidents.

It was further instructed that the flag hoisting ceremo-

ny at the Bhawan area be organized in close coordination with all stakeholders, ensuring proper planning and smooth execution. The concerned quarters were directed to streamline the movement of the yatra, regulate entry and exit points and implement effective crowd management measures. Emphasis was also laid on regular public announcements and the deployment of additional security personnel to maintain safety and order.

The Superintendent of Police, Katra, along with the Commandant, CRPF assured that comprehensive multi-tier security arrangements are being put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the celebrations and effective regulation of the yatra. These measures include the deployment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs), coordinated patrolling and the establishment of a robust layered security grid involving the Police, CRPF, Army and other paramilitary forces.

The meeting was attended by senior Shrine Board officers including Addl. CEO, Jt. CEO, Dy. CEO, Asstt. CEOs, SDM Bhawan, ACF besides, ACR & Tehsildar Katra, SDPOs Bhawan & Katra as well as officers from the Army, CID, Fire & Emergency Services and other allied agencies.

Speaker reviews preparations for Budget Session

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, on Friday stressed on ensuring fool-proof security arrangements and other logistical preparedness for smooth and seamless conduct of upcoming Budget Session of Assembly scheduled to commence from 2nd February, 2025.

The Speaker issued these directions while chairing a high level meeting at Legislative Assembly Secretariat held here to review the arrangements for upcoming Budget Session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

During the meeting, the Speaker held comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Budget Session. He laid emphasis on robust security measures and efficient logistical preparedness, highlighting that seamless coordination among all stakeholders is must for smooth session. "All departments have vital role in successful conduct of the Assembly Session and departments need to maintain close coordination and synergy with Assembly Secretariat", the Speaker said.

While reviewing the security related arrangements, the Speaker directed the IGP Security to maintain fool-proof security arrangements within and around the Assembly Secretariat to ensure safety of members, staff, media personnel and other employees. He directed the security officers to maintain close coordination among the security agencies, strengthen access control mechanisms and remain vigilant throughout the session.



Speaker JKLA, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather chairing a meeting.

Advocate Rather directed the IGP for complete sanitization of the Assembly Secretariat before the start of session. He also asked for establishing a common control room for better monitoring and surveillance.

While reviewing the other key arrangements like sanitation, power supply, drinking water, fire safety, medical facilities and traffic management, the Speaker directed the concerned officers to maintain uninterrupted essential supplies like drinking water, power supply and other basic facilities during the entire session. He directed the officers of the health department to ensure sufficient number of Ambulances, doctors, medical supplies and other facilities available during the Session.

Advocate Rather further asked the Director Estates to complete all works related to renovation and repairing before one week of the start of session. He also asked him for timely rectification of sound system in the House and addressing all logistical aspects well in advance so that the proceedings of the House are conducted without any inconvenience.

The Speaker also directed the officers of Fire and

Emergency Services to strengthen the fire control measures in and around the Assembly Secretariat.

The Speaker also asked the Commissioner Secretary GAD to appoint Nodal Officers in all the departments for timely submission of replies to questions being submitted by the MLAs. He also asked the Commissioner Secretary to restrict passes for officers of Civil Secretariat and issue passes to officers who are required to be present during the session.

While reviewing coverage and media related aspects, the Speaker underlined that the Information department has major role during the entire session which act as a bridge between the government and the public. He asked the Director Information to maintain close coordination with Assembly Secretariat for timely finalisation of media persons to be called for coverage of session.

Advocate Rather also asked the Director to ensure timely issuance of passes and other arrangements for the media persons in synergy with Secretary Legislative Assembly. He also asked him to ensure timely establishment of Public Address System in

the House.

Emphasising the importance of discipline and decorum during the Budget Session, the Speaker called upon all the departments to discharge their responsibilities with utmost professionalism and accountability. He underlined that the Budget Session is one of the most important sessions of the House and must reflect the highest standards of legislative functioning.

The Speaker also directed all the officers to ensure that contingency plans are also kept in

place to handle any kind of eventuality or unforeseen situation.

Commissioner Secretary GAD, M Raju; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Secretary Law, Aehal Sethi; IGP Security, Sujit Kumar; Commissioner JMC, Devansh Yadav; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh Minhas; Director Information, Nitish Rajora; DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; SSP Civil Secretariat, Sajjad Khaliq Bhat; SSP Security Jammu, SSP Traffic Jammu City, Director Hospitality and Protocol, Director Estates, Director Ayush, General Manager Government Press Jammu, senior officers of Health, Jal Shakti, PDD, Fire and Emergency Services, besides Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers of Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

Three arrested in Bishnah for impersonating Excise Officials, carrying fake Media IDs

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bishnah Police on Friday arrested three persons for displaying a fake designation plate on a vehicle in Bishnah.

On Thursday, January 15, a police team led by the SHO, Police Station Bishnah, intercepted a Maruti Suzuki Ertiga bearing registration number PB07BZ/3108, which was found displaying a fake designation plate reading "Assistant Commissioner Excise, Hoshiarpur Range" on the front of the vehicle.

During checking, the occupants were found misusing the name and insignia of a government authority to exert undue



influence. The main accused has been identified as Sunil Kumar alias Lakha,

Jammu Police recovers 746 lost, stolen smartphones during Year-2025

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant achievement reflecting its sustained commitment to public service, Jammu & Kashmir Police in District Jammu, under Operation "Re-CONNECT", successfully recovered 746 lost and stolen smartphones during the year 2025, having an estimated market value of ₹1.75 crore.

Briefing media SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh said the year-long recovery drive was carried out through coordinated and technology-driven efforts of specialized technical teams of South Zone, Headquarters Zone, Rural Zone, North Zone and Cyber Police Station Jammu. These teams worked systematically to trace and recover mobile phones reported missing at various Police Stations across District Jammu. Using advanced technical tools and continuous digital tracking,



SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh addressing a press conference at Jammu on Friday.

the recovered smartphones were traced from different locations within Jammu & Kashmir as well as outside States, demonstrating the expanding technological capabilities of Jammu Police in tackling cyber-enabled crimes and property offences.

After completing all pre-scribed legal and verification formalities, including scrutiny of identity documents and ownership records, the recovered smartphones were handed over to their rightful owners. The recoveries brought

immense relief to citizens, as many devices contained important personal data, official records and valuable memories.

The initiative witnessed overwhelming appreciation from the public, with beneficiaries expressing gratitude towards Jammu & Kashmir Police for their persistent efforts, professionalism and citizen-friendly approach in addressing grievances related to lost and stolen mobile phones. Jammu Police has consistently advised citizens to promptly report loss of mobile phones and adopt digital safety measures such as strong passwords, device-tracking features, regular software updates and two-factor authentication to prevent misuse of personal data. Operation Re-CONNECT has emerged as a successful model of technology-enabled policing, focusing not only on crime detection but also on restoring public confidence through effective service delivery. Jammu Police reiterates its commitment to continue such initiatives in the future and remains dedicated to strengthening police-public trust through responsive, transparent and people-centric policing.