

Lays foundation stone for Meerz Health Care Hospital

Private investment in healthcare lifeline for society: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday laid the foundation stone for Meerz Health Care Hospital in Srinagar.

This will be 180-bedded super speciality hospital and boost medical infrastructure and enhance healthcare services for Srinagar city and nearby Districts.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the Meerz Group and everyone associated with the hospital. He highlighted that the private investment in



LG Manoj Sinha laying foundation stone of 180-bedded Meerz Health Care Hospital at Srinagar.

healthcare infrastructure is the cornerstone of sustainable national progress and

lifeline for the society.

"Healthcare is the bedrock for building stable,

vibrant and prosperous society. Industry leaders in the healthcare sector must

focus on world-class infrastructure to create a resilient society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Farooq Mir, Managing Director Meerz Group; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, senior Officials, medical professionals and prominent citizens from different walks of life attended the foundation laying ceremony.



CS finalises timelines for implementation of next gen EoDB reforms in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired a high-level meeting of Administrative Secretaries to finalise timelines for implementation of the identified deregulation measures under the next phase of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) programme across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all concerned departments to prepare their detailed action plans by the end of the current month and ensure that the entire implementation process is strictly completed within the next six months.

He underscored that all procedural reforms, including amendments to relevant Acts, Rules, and Regulations, must be carried out within the stipulated time-frame without deviation, as envisaged under this phase of compliance reduction and deregulation.

Highlighting the importance of timely execution, the Chief Secretary observed that effective implementation of these reforms is crucial to creating a business-friendly regulatory environment and strengthening investor confidence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Providing an overview of the initiative,



Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed the meeting that the second phase of compliance reduction and deregulation, commonly referred to as Deregulation 2.0 or Phase-II of EoDB, is aligned with the national framework and is aimed at launching 30 new priority reform areas across seven key sectors in 2026.

He stated that while the first phase focused largely on digitisation, Phase-II EoDB seeks to bring about deep structural reforms, with particular emphasis on reducing the compliance burden on MSMEs and startups. The objective, he

added, is to further simplify regulatory frameworks, reduce procedural redundancies, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Elaborating on the core components of Deregulation 2.0, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised the meeting that the initiative targets seven major focus sectors encompassing 30 priority reform areas, including several domains that were not extensively covered earlier.

He informed that these reforms include five priority areas each in Education and Utilities/Permissions, three categories of land-related compliances, and two focus areas each in Environment, Health, and Building & Construction.

In addition, high-impact reforms in Labour, Fire Services, and Tourism sectors have also been identified to ensure that these sectors receive a significant boost through minimal governmental compliances and reduced regulatory hurdles. The meeting concluded with a commitment on maintaining close inter-departmental coordination to ensure time-bound implementation of the reforms for making Jammu and Kashmir a progressive, transparent, and investor-friendly destination.

IGP Jammu chairs Security Coordination Meeting ahead of Republic Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In connection with the security and coordination arrangements for Republic Day-2026, the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti chaired a high-level Security Coordination Meeting on Monday at the Conference Hall, Police Control Room (PCR) Jammu.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Police, Army, CAPFs and Intelligence Agencies based in Jammu. The primary agenda of the meeting was to ensure the smooth, peaceful and secure conduct of Republic Day events in Jammu. Detailed discussions were held on law and order management, security protocols, traffic regulation, inter-agency coordination and measures to ensure the safety of participants as well as spectators during the celebrations. Senior officers from various



IGP Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti chairing security coordination meeting for Republic Day-2026 at PCR Jammu.

central and state agencies participated in the meeting, including representatives from the CAPFs, Indian Army formations, Intelligence agencies and senior officers of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, comprising DIGs, SSPs and Commandants of IRP battalions stationed in Jammu. During the meeting, a detailed presentation was also played giving briefing on the proposed Republic Day-2026 deployment plan, covering

security arrangements, manpower deployment, traffic management, venue security, access control and contingency planning.

While addressing the officers, the IGP Jammu Zone emphasised the importance of meticulous planning, close coordination and seamless information sharing among all stakeholder agencies to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of Republic Day celebrations. He stressed main-

taining a high level of alertness, robust security posture and readiness of all law-enforcement and emergency response units.

The IGP further directed SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic City and all supervisory officers to identify and create adequate parking arrangements, ensure effective traffic regulation and maintain a heightened state of vigilance in their respective jurisdictions.

Legal Metrology-OMCs Meet held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A coordination meeting of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the Legal Metrology Department was held on Monday at the Jammu Divisional Office of Indian Oil-Bahu Plaza, under the chairmanship of Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta.

The meeting aimed at strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring smooth and timely conduct of inspection, verification and calibration of petrol pump dispensing units across the Union Territory with the larger objective of ensuring correct quantity, transparency and consumer confidence at retail fuel outlets.

The meeting was organised by Indian Oil Corporation, led by Himanshu Sharma (SLC) and was attended by officers of IOCL, HPCL and BPCL including the Area Sales Manager, J&K (GVR & GEMS), State Head,



Controller Legal Metrology Shiv Kumar Gupta chairing coordination meeting with OMCs at Indian Oil Jammu to ensure fair fuel dispensing and consumer transparency.

Punjab & J&K (GVR & GEMS) and the Regional Head (North).

The Joint Controller Legal Metrology, Jammu and Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, Samba were also present.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on streamlining verification schedules and ensuring compliance with prescribed Legal Metrology standards to safeguard consumer interest and promote fair fuel dispensing practices across J&K.

Reviewing the departmental and company-wise dis-

pening infrastructure, the meeting noted that there are 1,163 dispensing units, comprising 3,977 nozzles across OMC retail outlets, including BPCL (463 machines / 1,792 nozzles), HPCL (146 machines / 285 nozzles) and IOCL (554 machines / 1,900 nozzles). The break-up also reflected availability of 1,118 Tokheim machines with 3,797 nozzles and 45 Dresser Wayne machines with 180 nozzles, highlighting the scale of verification and calibration work being undertaken in the Union Territory.

The general operational

concerns affecting timely verification and calibration activities were discussed so that the process remains smooth and uninterrupted in the interest of consumers. It was mutually agreed that closer coordination among OMCs, retail outlets and the Legal Metrology Department will help resolve such issues promptly and improve overall service delivery at fuel stations.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of ensuring consumer-friendly facilities at every retail outlet, including availability of the right fuel options,

hygienic washrooms, functional air filling facility and other basic amenities. The Controller stressed that these welfare measures directly enhance consumer convenience while supporting effective enforcement of Legal Metrology provisions.

The Controller stressed that these issues impact consumer convenience, transparency, safety and smooth departmental functioning and directed all concerned stakeholders to ensure timely redressal and improved compliance.

The meeting concluded with assurance from Oil Marketing Companies and outlet representatives for better coordination and immediate corrective measures.

Later, the Controller inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp organised at the Indian Oil office and appreciated the initiative as a meaningful contribution towards public welfare and community service.

Bhaderwah Winter Carnival 2026: 'Rajma Chol' Brand launched to boost local farmers, FPOs



DC Doda Harvinder Singh launching 'Rajma Chol' Bhaderwah Rajma brand at Bhaderwah Winter Carnival 2026.

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a significant step towards strengthening farmer entrepreneurship and promoting local Agri-produce, the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Doda in collaboration with the District Administration has launched the brand 'Rajma Chol' at the Bhaderwah Winter Carnival 2026.

The brand is owned by the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Bhaderkashi Fruit Producer Company Ltd and represents the premium quality of the

famous Bhaderwah Rajma, a product known for its rich taste and high nutritional value.

The initiative aims to provide better market access, branding and income opportunities to local farmers.

The launch ceremony was graced by nationally acclaimed singer and son of the soil, Chirag Kotwal in the august presence of DDC Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal; Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh; SSP, Sandeep Kumar Mehta and other senior officers and public representatives.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of the Agriculture Department and the FPO in creating a dedicat-

ed brand for Bhaderwah Rajma, stating that such initiatives would go a long way in enhancing farmers' income, ensuring value addition and promoting the district's unique agricultural identity at national and international levels. The guests emphasized the importance of Farmer Producer Organisations in empowering growers, strengthening the supply chain and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

The launch of 'Rajma Chol' was widely appreciated as a landmark step in showcasing local produce on a distinguished platform like Winter Carnival which has emerged as a major attraction for tourists and stakeholders alike.

Secy Transport reviews progress on Institute of Driving Training, Research



Secy Transport, Avny Lavasa chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, on Monday conducted a detailed review of the ongoing works at the Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The visit was part of the department's focused efforts to expedite the development of critical transport infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The Secretary was accompanied by a team of officers comprising Additional Transport Commissioner, Anju Gupta; Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu;

Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu, S. Jasmeet Singh; Joint Transport Commissioner; Executive Engineers PWD and Mechanical besides Assistant Engineers PWD and Mechanical Departments.

The Secretary was briefed about the key components of the institute, including the Administrative Block, Hostel Block, various driving test track and other associated infrastructure being developed to facilitate professional driver training.

During the inspection, the Secretary assessed the progress of civil works and examined key training facilities such as driving simula-

tors, classrooms, laboratories and other equipment essential for modern driver education.

Expressing concern over delay in completion of the critical infrastructure, the Secretary issued firm instructions to the Executive Engineers PWD, Mechanical and Electrical to ensure timely execution of all pending works. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timelines and directed that the balance works including the Administrative Block, Hostel Block and all tracks must be completed within next 15 days. Avny Lavasa also reiterated the Transport Department's commitment towards developing state-of-the-art training and testing facilities in J&K to enhance road safety, reduce accidents and professionalize driver training standards.

The visit concluded with on-site deliberations among the officials regarding coordination, quality control and future operational planning of the IDTR.

Sanjeev Verma inaugurates 3-Day Painting Camp at Kala Kendra



CEO J&K Sanjeev Verma inaugurating 'My India, My Vote' painting camp at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, on Monday inaugurated a three-day painting camp on the theme "My India, My Vote" at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr Nirupa Rai, Special Secretary, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer; Harvinder Kour, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL); Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAACL; Dr Javaid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra and other senior officers from JKAACL and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

The painting camp is being organised by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K from January 19 to January 21, 2026. The initiative aims to encourage creative expression among the artists while simultaneously strengthening public awareness about democratic participation through the powerful medium of art.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Electoral Officer said that Jammu & Kashmir is a vibrant hub of art and culture, endowed with some of the finest sculptures and paintings in the country. He highlighted the region's rich cultural heritage and expressed gratitude to the participating artists for their enthusiastic involvement, appreciating their efforts in

promoting democratic values and voter awareness through artistic expression.

A blend of senior and young artists are participating in the camp including K. K. Gandhi, Vijay Anand, Gokal Dembi, Akram Khan, Jang S. Verman, Shivani Khajuria, Shakti Kumari, Rakesh Sharma, Anush Kesar, Sunil Dutt, Rakesh Kumar, Surpal Singh Salathia, Mahua Gupta, Anjali Bharti, Narindar Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Monia Kapoor, Nidhi Jain, Sunita Gandhi and Mahesh Sharma. The paintings created during the camp will reflect the spirit of democracy and the importance of voting, reinforcing the message of active civic participation among the public.

Poonch commemorates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram' with Patriotic Torch Rally

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: As part of the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the National Song "Vande Mataram", a vibrant and inspiring Vande Mataram Torch Rally (Mashal) was organized today in Poonch, generating immense patriotic enthusiasm among students, youth, and the general public.

The ceremonial torch was lit by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, symbolizing the eternal flame of patriotism, unity, and self-reliance. The rally commenced from the DC Office, Poonch, and concluded at Bag Deodi, Poonch.

Prior to the rally, participants collectively took the Atmanirbhar Bharat Swadeshi Sankalp Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to self-reliance and national development.

Several senior district officers graced the occasion, including the Chief

Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd. Sayeed, Tehsildar Haveli, District Treasury Officer, District Statistical & Evaluation Officer, Assistant Director Food, Tehsildar Headquarters, along with other district officers, staff members of the DC Office, and heads of various educational institutions.

Students from different educational institutions participated with remarkable zeal, chanting patriotic slogans and repeatedly raising the slogan "Vande Mataram" throughout the rally route. The symbolic passing of the torch (Mashal) among participants reflected a strong sense of unity, collective responsibility, and reverence for the nation.

The torch rally (Mashal) served as a fitting tribute to the enduring legacy of "Vande Mataram" and powerfully reinforced the values of nationalism, unity, and respect for the motherland among the people of Poonch.