

Employees Federation delegation meets Dr Jitendra, discusses 'Pension Scheme' related issues

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation from the All-India National Public Sector Employees Federation (NPSEF) met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, at his DoPT office in North Block to discuss various pension scheme options and recent reforms.

The NPSEF representatives expressed gratitude to Dr. Jitendra for the recent amendments to the National Pension System (NPS), particularly the increase in government contribution from 10% to



Delegation members calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at DoPT, North Block, New Delhi.

14%, providing greater financial security to employees post-retirement.

They also welcomed the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which aims to stream-

line pension management and enhance benefits for employees across various sectors.

Dr. Jitendra briefed the delegation on the advantages of NPS and UPS, urging employ-

ees to make informed choices regarding their pension plans. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring a secure, transparent, and well-managed pension system.

The Federation representatives appreciated this initiative, noting that it has eliminated the need for pensioners to visit banks or post offices, as verification can now be done via smartphone. The Minister also emphasized the use of Facial Recognition Technology in delivering Jeevan Praman certificates, reducing delays and fraud while enhancing convenience and security for pension-

ers. The meeting was attended by V. Srinivas, Secretary, DoPPW, and Dhruvdyoti Sengupta, Joint Secretary, DoPPW. The NPSEF delegation included Dr. Manjeet Singh Patel, National President; Ashish Singh, President, Ordnance Employees Union, Muradnagar; Manish Prajapati, Leader, Delhi Nurses Federation; Sanjeev Verma, President, IGNOU Staff Association; Vinod Yadav, Secretary, Delhi Teachers Association, along with Mohd Iqbal Qasim, Arun Verma, and Shyam Sunder.



3-day Maha Shivratri Festivities begin at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir



Chetna Yatra of Baba Kalibeer taken out in Jammu.

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JAMMU: The Maha Shivratri Mahotsav 2025 commenced on Monday with deep spiritual devotion and cultural grandeur at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, one of Jammu's most revered Shiva temples.

The three-day festival opened with the Chetna Yatra of Baba Kalibeer and local deities, a significant religious and cultural procession. Starting from the temple, it passed through Rajinder Bazar, Shahidi Chowk, Residency Road, Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, and Kanak Mandi before returning to the mandir. Devotees lined the streets, offering prayers as the Dogra Band by Mohan Lal & Party and Karkan by Sh. Natha Ram & Party added a traditional touch.

The temple was beautifully illuminated, with earthen lamps, floral decorations, and the resonance of bells and Vedic chants creating a truly divine atmosphere.

This year's Mahotsav also saw the inauguration of a grand open-air stage within the temple premises, enhancing the scale of cultural performances. Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Sharma Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir expressed his delight at the growing scale of the festival. He stated, "This newly constructed stage will serve as a platform to showcase our rich spiritual and cultural heritage. It

will not only enhance the Maha Mahotsav's grandeur but also encourage the younger generation to connect with our traditions."

He further emphasized the role of artists in preserving cultural traditions, saying, "Artists breathe life into our traditions. Their dedication and artistry elevate this Mahotsav to a divine experience, blending devotion with creative expression."

The new stage hosted a soulful evening of semi-classical bhajans by Pankaj Pradhan, Mohit Kashyap, and Master Krishna, with musical accompaniment from Rakesh Anand (Flute), Guru Parshotam Kumar (Pakhawaj), and Sr. Amarjeet Singh (Violin). A captivating Bharatnatyam performance by Neetika Aggarwal added to the cultural richness.

The first day concluded with Prasad Vitran, spreading divine blessings among devotees. The overwhelming participation highlighted the spiritual significance of Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, home to the self-manifested Aap Shambhu. Organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, the Mahotsav continues with rituals, bhajans, classical performances, and the grand Shiv Vivah, inviting devotees to immerse in this sacred celebration.

DC Jammu reviews Swachh Survekshan activities

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JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, convened a meeting to review Swachh Survekshan activities, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey. The meeting focussed on strengthening sanitation measures in the district through citizen participation and inter-agency coordination.

Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Jammu Municipal Corporation, Abdul Star, briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the new framework of Swachh Survekshan.

The survey has been redesigned with simplified assessment parameters categorised into ten key focus areas- visible cleanliness, segregation, collection & transportation of waste, solid waste management, access to sanitation, used water management, mechanization of de-sludging services, advocacy for Swachhata, strengthening of ecosystem & institutional parameters, overall welfare of sanitation workers and citizen feedback and grievance redressal.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining visible cleanliness across all areas. Surprise inspections were also recommended to ensure adherence to cleanliness protocols.

Highlighting the need for sustainable sanitation practices, the DC called for enhanced coordination among municipal bodies, departments and other stakeholders. He assured full administrative support to sanitation initiatives and emphasised the importance of community participation in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

Swachh Survekshan aims to evaluate and rank cities based on their sanitation efforts, encouraging urban local bodies to adopt improved waste management practices.

The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer JK Padha, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Executive Engineers from Irrigation & Flood Control Department besides Sub Divisional Magistrates, Executive Officers of various municipalities and others concerned.



Blessed to be at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. The Snan at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection, and like the crores of others who have taken part in it, I was also filled with a spirit of devotion. May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good health and harmony.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The seamless management of Mahakumbh 2025 is a testament to CM Yogi Adityanath's robust administrative system. Any emerging situation has been swiftly controlled, ensuring that even after challenges, crores of devotees continue to take a holy dip at the Sangam without any hindrance. Pilgrims from Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, and even the remotest villages of Kerala are arriving to immerse themselves in the sacred Triveni. Administration has ensured a completely organized and hassle-free environment.

Swami Adhokshjanand Ji Maharaj
Govardhan Peethadheeshwar

The arrangements for Mahakumbh are truly remarkable. The Yogi government and the fair administration work tirelessly, with officials even forgoing sleep to ensure everything runs smoothly. Their dedication has resulted in a historic gathering, drawing millions of devotees from across the globe. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts to make this event a grand success are commendable.

Swami Charanashrit Giri Maharaj,
Mahamandaleswar Shri Panch Dashnam
Juna Akhara & Swar Yoga
Peethadheeshwar

Mahakumbh is a living symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shreshthta Bharat'. Kumbh is a huge event organised under valuable guidance of country's PM Narendra Modi and the able leadership of 'Karmayogi' Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath. It is a celebration of the ritual of faith and spirituality.

Nirmala Sitharaman
Union Minister
Finance and Corporate Affairs

This morning has been the most beautiful morning in my life when I took a holy dip in the Sangam. I didn't want to leave that place. It was an amazing and beautiful experience. I thank the police and everyone who has made such good arrangements.

Juhi Chawla, Actress

We may be different in terms of language or culture, but our religion is one. We are Sanatanis, and Mahakumbh is the biggest moment for every Sanatani. Taking a dip at Mahakumbh was my biggest wish for the last many decades, which has been fulfilled. It is the greatness of our heritage and Sanatan Dharma that such a large and peaceful event takes place with such grandeur and divinity on the basis of public faith.

Pawan Kalyan, Deputy CM, Andhra Pradesh
& Actor, South Indian Film Industry

The Prayagraj Mahakumbh stands as a magnificent symbol of India's unity, harmony and deep-rooted scientific tradition. Celebrated as the world's largest spiritual gathering, it has brought together millions of devotees and visitors from across the globe, transcending boundaries of caste, creed, and nationality. More than 62 crore people have witnessed the 'divine and grand' experience of the Prayagraj Mahakumbh which has become an indelible symbol of India's cultural pride on the global stage. The arrangements are a prime example of how such events can be organised in a grand manner with the touch of the divine. This year's Mahakumbh is all set to surpass the previous one in both grandeur and divine essence.

ANCIENT WISDOM MEETS MODERN TECH

A blend of ancient wisdom and modern technology is being fostered close to the sprawling tent city of Mahakumbh. 'Batuks' (students) here are mastering challenging Sanskrit, Vedic mantras, knowledge of Puranas, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita while also acquiring expertise in computers and smart software. Using these tools, they are learning how to preserve and share Vedic scriptures and knowledge on a global scale. Embodying the vision 'Digital India', these



Vedic scholars are learning traditional Vedic education along side English, mathematics and computer sciences. **TECH-INTEGRATED VEDIC EDUCATION** Students are taught AI concepts, Hindi and English typing, Microsoft Office tools, PowerPoint presentations, Excel, photoshop, and other practical applications. This knowledge helps

them preserve Ancient manuscripts and use AI to reconstruct lost materials, ensuring survival of invaluable texts. Scanning handwritten and printed Vedic texts into digital formats makes them accessible for research and global dissemination. Advanced technologies like text analytics, machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) aid in interpreting the Vedas, translating their wisdom into multiple languages and making them accessible to diverse cultures.

BIRD FESTIVAL IMPRESSES FOREIGNERS

Several international tourists who participated in the Bird Festival, a special event organised as part of Mahakumbh have showed keen interest in learning about conservation efforts for birds and wildlife, appreciating the initiative as an extension of the festival's spiritual and ecological significance. According to these visitors, Kumbh is not just congregation for human spirituality but also a divine event that fosters the well-



being of all living beings, including birds and animals. Expressing their gratitude, foreign visitors described the experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness a spiritual awakening and cultural grandeur on an unparalleled scale.

Emma from UK, visiting India for the first time, was fascinated not only by the divinity of Kumbh but also by the Bird Festival. She praised efforts in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection. Another foreign tourist recalled his interaction with Indian conservation experts at the Bird Festival as a truly memorable experience, lauding Prayagraj as a city rich in both spirituality and ecological consciousness.

KUMBH MODEL FOR 2027 NASHIK FAIR

A 20-member team of senior officials from Nashik visited Prayagraj to study the management strategies implemented by the Yogi gov't at the Mahakumbh and apply insights into the planning of Nashik Trimbakeshwar Kumbh

in 2027. The team visited various sites in Prayagraj, studying key aspects of the Mahakumbh, including crowd control, emergency response, traffic and transport management, ghats and river water management, health

and medical facilities, tent city and housing, sanitation and waste management, drinking water and toilet services, and coordination with 'akhara' and 'mahants', along with security and protocol arrangements.

Unity, faith and spirituality are the cultural strengths of Sanatan Dharma. Through Mahakumbh-2025, Prayagraj, the whole world is getting acquainted with the eternal spirit of India's diversity and divinity.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

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SHELTERS FOR RAILWAY PASSENGERS



- The Indian railways has made comprehensive arrangements for its passengers at its railway stations of NCR, NR and NER by creating holding areas equipped with basic facilities.
- Prayagraj Junction - 115572 sq ft
- Prayag Junction - 107639 sq ft
- Naini - 114495 sq ft
- Cheeki - 80729 sq ft
- Rambagh - 43055 sq ft
- Phaphamau - 94453 sq ft
- Jhansi - 193750 sq ft
- Overall 749693 sq ft area has been provisioned for the same

MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Establishment of 23 shelters equipped with all basic facilities. Capacity of 1.40 lakh at all railway stations
- Movement of trains through 9 railway stations of NCR, NR and NER
- 8500 buses operational
- 750 shuttle buses operational
- Lost and found centres at all railway stations
- Establishment of mini hospitals at all railway stations, more than 1.25 lakh people received treatment
- Deployment of Quick Response Team with response time of 2 minutes
- Deployment of Rapid Action Team and Fire Fighting team
- More than 13700 trains operational including 5419 special trains

MAHAKUMBH HELPLINE	1920 Mahakumbh Mela Helpline	112 Emergency Service	1010 Food and Supplies Helpline	102,108 Ambulance Service	18004199139 Railway Helpline
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