

Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB - G RAM G
(विकसित भारत - जी राम जी) Act, 2025

Wherever there is work, there should be adequate arrangements for essential facilities, clean water, shade for rest and first-aid box at all times

Attends Dyar Daham celebrations at Mata Bhadrakali Temple in Thalwal LG calls upon people to celebrate India's grand renaissance

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called upon the people to celebrate India's grand renaissance. He said for thousands of years, the sacred land of India has journeyed toward spiritual excellence, with our saints and great souls reaching the pinnacle of consciousness. "In near future, India alone will guide the world towards the right path. The society, especially the youth should also recognize and harness its spiritual fire alongside its technological & scientific prowess to surpass other nations in developmental journey," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Dyar Daham celebrations, part of Mahashivratri Festivities, at Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan in Thalwal, Jammu. He paid obeisance to Maa Shakti and Lord Shiva, and offered his prayers for peace and prosperity to bless everyone. The Lieutenant Governor



LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Mata Bhadrakali Temple in Thalwal.

observed that India has always placed the pursuit of truth above all else. "Our ancient culture has long championed peace, global brotherhood, the erasure of social divides, mutual love among all, and steadfast adherence to dharma. In today's world, where nations race ahead with one technological marvel after another, we must connect hearts just as deeply," he said. The Lieutenant Governor said that India is sparking two revolutions at once - "The outer one empowers infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy. The inner one transforms consciousness, values, and a global vision for society." "We are not just conquering quantum computing, we are awakening a quantum consciousness in daily life. This dual revolution will make India not merely prosperous, but a balanced superpower," he said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that India's strength lies not just in its human resources, innovations, startups, science and space tech but also in inner spiritual flame,

ignited for millennia through wisdom and meditation. "India's ancient wisdom proves spirituality and scientific discovery aren't foes but allies. For India, science labs and ashrams aren't rivals; they are twin milestones on the same path. Our rishis and sages were the original scientists, excelling in both realms. The world now acknowledges that India gifted humanity knowledge and spirituality, paving the way for modern progress," the Lieutenant Governor further said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone for the cultural heritage centre at Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan. He also commended the NHPC for undertaking the works worth Rs 6.60 cr for infrastructure development at Thalwal including community facility enhancement, development of ghat, parking, yagya shala, protection and compound wall, fencing and installation of gate.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Chandrakar Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Dileep Pandita, President, Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Trust Thalwal; Ram Swaroop, Executive Director, NHPC, Regional Office Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner; senior officials, members of Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Trust and people from different walks of life also joined the celebrations.



Dr Darakhshan lays foundation for construction of Ladies Sabaat

Inaugurates newly constructed Kiosks at Makhdoom Sahib Shrine

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board & Minister of State, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday visited the prominent spiritual shrine of Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib (RA) at Srinagar, paid obeisance and prayed for the welfare and peace for all. She was accompanied by Executive Magistrate Ishtiyak Mohiuddin and other dignitaries of the Board & the members of Civil Society.



JKWB Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurating newly constructed Kiosks.

Syed Darakhshan laid foundation for the reconstruction of ladies Sabaat at the shrine. She said that during the past three years, many important changes have been implemented at this shrine and many construction and facilitation initiatives have been taken up here which has created much required changes here. Darakhshan said that the people have appreciated our efforts. "I am happy that today we laid the foundation stone for construction of a new Sabaat for women, which is of dire need here. It will be made aesthetically beautiful to synchronize with the serene environ of the shrine", said Andrabi. She assured that it will be completed within a few months. Later, Dr Darakhshan inaugurated the newly constructed Kiosks alongside the main stairs by the Board replacing old khokhas which were giving a very shabby look to the entrance of the shrine complex and were not even safe and secure for the small business operators

here. The allottees were excited and praised Andrabi for these beautiful Kiosks. Andrabi said that a long standing demand of the visitors was also met as these Kiosks are aesthetically complimenting the shrine's atmosphere. She thanked the people with whom she interacted, for their appreciation of the transformative work done by the Board all shrines. Earlier on her arrival, Dr Andrabi was given a rousing welcome by the local populace and the visitors to the shrine. Waqf Board administrator and the Imams & Khateebes were also part of the event.

DIPR organises workshop 'CINE CONNECT' on Cinema Art



Director Information, Nitish Rajora along with other dignitaries at a workshop.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Thursday organised a one-day workshop 'CINE CONNECT'- a workshop on Cinema Art at Media Complex here. The workshop was attended by students from Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu, Government Polytechnic College Gandhinagar as well as Artists from Academy of Art Culture and Languages. The workshop was conducted by DIPR as part of ongoing efforts to promote film culture and create awareness about opportunities in the cinema industry under the Film Policy of Jammu & Kashmir. Speaking during the concluding ceremony of the workshop, Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora said that the initiative aims to strengthen the cinematic ecosystem and provide valuable exposure to aspiring artists and filmmakers in Jammu & Kashmir. He added that the department will organise such kind of workshops on regular basis to acquaint the aspiring students and young minds about the nitty gritty of filmmaking and art. Joint Director Information

(HQ), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina in his address appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of such workshops in nurturing local talent. He reiterated the commitment of DIPR towards implementing the J&K Film Policy effectively to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination and to generate employment opportunities in the creative sector. In his welcome address, Nodal Officer, Film Policy J&K, Maheer Thakur highlighted the objectives of organizing the workshop. He emphasized that Cine Connect aims to bridge the gap between aspiring artists and industry professionals by providing first-hand exposure to various aspects of cinema art. He also underlined the significance of the J&K Film Policy in fostering a vibrant film ecosystem in the Union Territory. The workshop featured eminent resource persons from the film industry like Actor & Director, Ajay Paul Singh Andotra; Filmmaker & Founder, AVD Motion Pictures, Atul Vinod Duggal and Bollywood Actor, Mir Sarwar briefed the participants about performing arts, acting and film making. Mir Sarwar conducted an

engaging and interactive session on acting techniques. He provided a live demonstration explaining different types of acting, including method acting and situational performance, and actively involved participants in practical exercises. His interaction with the youth encouraged them to develop confidence, discipline, and dedication towards pursuing a career in acting. Ajay Paul Singh Andotra spoke in detail about the scope and career opportunities in acting and direction. He shared insights from his professional journey and guided participants on the skills, training, and perseverance required to succeed in the film industry. He also emphasized the importance of theatre as a foundation for aspiring actors. Atul Vinod Duggal delivered a comprehensive presentation on filmmaking, outlining the various departments involved in film production such as direction, cinematography, editing, sound design, production management, scriptwriting, and art direction. He elaborated on the vast scope of employment in Bollywood and regional cinema, encouraging participants to explore diverse technical and creative roles beyond acting.

The Resource persons also provided participants practical exposure and professional insights in the field of performing arts, particularly in acting, film-making, and theatre arts. An interactive session was also held by resource persons with the students and artists. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and artists, who posed queries related to career pathways, auditions, filmmaking techniques, and industry challenges. Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora; Joint Director Information (HQ), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Nodal Officer, Film Policy J&K, Maheer Thakur; officers and officials of DIPR; faculty members from Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu and Government Polytechnic College, Jammu were also present on the occasion. Presently, the workshop marked a significant step towards strengthening the film culture in Jammu & Kashmir and empowering the youth with knowledge and opportunities in the field of cinema.

Nivedita Dubey appointed Member (HR), AAI

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Nivedita Dubey, who belongs to the Khajuria family from Ghagwal, District Kathua, has created history in the Indian aviation sector by being appointed as Member (Human Resources), Airports Authority of India (AAI). With this appointment, she becomes the first woman officer to hold this prestigious position on the AAI Board. Her roots are deeply connected with Jammu & Kashmir. The family is presently settled in Chhani Himmat, Jammu. Her father, D. N. Dogra, was a leading psychologist with the Services Selection Board (SSB) and guided numerous boys and girls of J&K to join the Armed Forces. Through his mentorship, many young aspirants achieved their dream of serving the nation in uniform. Her brother, Maj General Sanjeev Dogra, retired as Deputy



Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA), reflecting the family's strong tradition of national service, discipline, and leadership. Academically, Nivedita Dubey completed her schooling from St. Mary's Convent, Prayagraj, followed by graduation from Allahabad University and post-graduation in management from Monirba Institute of Management. She joined AAI in 1995 as a Management Trainee and has served the organization for nearly three decades with distinction.

During her career, she provided effective leadership as Airport Manager at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, one of the busiest airports in the country. Later, as Regional Executive Director (Eastern Region), she played a significant role in strengthening airport operations and improving financial performance. As Member (HR), AAI, she will now lead critical areas such as personnel policies, industrial relations, training systems, capacity building, and workforce modernization. Her leadership is expected to contribute significantly toward

AAI's Vision 2047, preparing the organization for future challenges and growth. Airport Director, Jammu, Devender Yadav, stated that he had the opportunity to work under the guidance of Nivedita Dubey when she was the Executive Director (Eastern Region) and he was serving as Airport Director of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair. He stated that her dynamic leadership and strategic guidance enabled the airport team to excel in multiple operational and administrative areas, resulting in enhanced organizational performance.

CSIR-IIIM hosts Industry-Academia Meet 2026 to Accelerate Biotech and Pharmaceutical Innovation

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) hosted a two-day Industry-Academia Meet (IAM-2026) in Jammu, bringing together scientists, industry leaders, and regulators to accelerate phyto-pharmaceutical research and strengthen lab-to-market linkages. Aligned with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, the meet aims to transform traditional knowledge and natural product research into evidence-based, commercially viable drugs. Padma Shri Prof. V.K. Singh, Institute Chair Professor at IIT Kanpur and Mentor of CSIR-IIIM, attended as Chief Guest, while Dr. C.K. Katiyar, former CEO of Emami, was the Guest of Honour. Also pres-



CSIR-IIIM Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed with other dignitaries and students posing for a photograph.

ent were CSIR-IIIM Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head of RMBD & IST, Organising Secretary Dr. Qazi Naveed Ahmed, CDSCO representatives, members of the Phytopharmaceutical Mission, industry delegates, and academicians. The inaugural session featured the

release of the Institute Compendium and signing of MoUs with industry partners. Prof. Singh emphasized that research institutions must demonstrate tangible value to attract industry collaboration, noting that partnerships depend on practical and economic relevance. Citing global successes like

artemisinin, he highlighted the promise of natural products and the need to overcome regulatory and translational hurdles. Dr. Katiyar described CSIR-IIIM as a heritage institution and stressed scientifically linking traditional knowledge with chemistry and pharmacology. He pointed to challenges in pharmaco-

kinetics, clinical validation, regulatory clarity, and India's reliance on imported APIs. In his welcome address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed said IAM-2026 seeks to build sustained engagement between researchers, industry, and regulators. He noted that Phase III of CSIR's Phytopharmaceutical Mission involves ten laboratories, with

three leads ready for clinical translation. He identified gaps in GMP manufacturing and clinical infrastructure and called for industry support. He also highlighted cannabis research potential, urging policy dialogue for regulated clinical studies. Technical sessions addressed cultivation, authentication, validation, regulatory pathways, and market access. Experts including Prof. Ravinder Raina, Dr. Amit Chawla, Dr. Lal Hingorani, and Dr. Ajay Kumar shared insights. A high-level panel discussion examined clinical validation, claims substantiation, and compliance challenges. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Er. Abdul Rahim. Proceedings were conducted by Dr. Gurleen Kour.

FDA team seizes adulterated dairy products in Jammu; Rs 2.5 lakh fine imposed on erring shopkeepers

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Acting on the directions of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Smita Sethi, the Department of Food Safety (DFCO), Jammu, in coordination with Bus Stand police, conducted a surprise inspection at the Jammu Bus Stand today at around 9:30 AM.



"During the operation, officials intercepted 3 quintals of 'sub-standard' paneer and 60 kilograms of khyoya that were being transported from Kathua to Jammu," said, Deputy Commissioner, Food and Supply Department, Madan Magotra. Suspecting possible violations of food safety norms, Magotra said, the team seized the consignment for further scrutiny. One legal sample of the intercepted food items was lifted on the spot and sent for laboratory analysis to ascertain quality and compliance with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations. "In a related action, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jammu, who is also the Adjudicating Officer under FSSAI, imposed a total fine of Rs 2.5 lakh on twelve erring shopkeepers for violations of food safety standards," Magotra said adding that the action was taken following due legal proceedings in cases related to the sale and storage of substandard or non-compliant food products. Continuing its enforcement drive, Magotra said, the department also destroyed 2.5 quintals of seized mixed fat spread and around 50 kilograms of sweets at the Municipal Corporation Jammu (MCJ) dumping yard in Kot Bhalwal. The destruction was carried out in accordance with prescribed procedures to prevent unsafe food items from reaching consumers, he said. Officials reiterated their commitment to ensuring food safety and maintaining strict vigilance against the sale and distribution of adulterated or substandard food products in the region.