

Group Captain Shukla to accompany mission to International Space Station: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Of the four astronauts undergoing rigorous training for the upcoming human Space mission "Gaganyaan", one of them Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected to accompany the mission to the International Space Station, while others remain in an intensive preparatory phase for "Gaganyaan" mission.

Replying to a question addressed to the Prime Minister, this announcement was made in the Lok Sabha today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.



Dr. Singh said the other astronauts continue intensive training for Gaganyaan, which is expected to make India the fourth nation to send humans into space. The Minister also provided

insights into Chandrayaan-4, a landmark mission designed to test advanced docking technology and lunar sample collection, marking a crucial step toward India's goal of establishing a space station by 2040. He explained that the mission will involve two launch vehicles carrying five components, executing complex maneuvers such as in-orbit docking before reaching the Moon. The descender module will collect lunar samples, while the ascender module will dock with orbiting components before returning to Earth, simulating crewed

lunar mission procedures. Dr. Singh emphasized that Chandrayaan-4 will help India master docking and undocking techniques, essential for future interplanetary missions and space station operations. The mission is part of India's long-term objective of sending an Indian astronaut to the Moon, with Chandrayaan-4 serving as a precursor to this historic feat. Highlighting space technology's impact beyond exploration, he noted that India's advancements now aid urban planning, disaster management, healthcare, and agricul-

ture, benefiting the general public. In a touching tribute, Dr. Singh also acknowledged Sumita Williams, who returned to Earth today after spending over 300 days in space. He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's congratulatory message and his earlier meeting with Williams in 2007, when he was Gujarat's Chief Minister. With Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-4, India is positioning itself as a global space leader, paving the way for deeper space exploration and future lunar missions.



Yudhvir Sethi resolves subway issue in Bajalta-Pargalta, ensures road widening for public convenience

Reiterates commitment of Modi Govt in ensuring people-centric infrastructure

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Wednesday visited Bajalta and took stock of the ongoing construction of the subway under the railway bridge in the area.

During his visit, local residents apprised the MLA of their concerns regarding the sub-standard construction, specifically highlighting the inadequate height of the subway, which was causing inconvenience to vehicular movement.

On the occasion, Ravinder Kumar (Project Leader, BPCL), Princy Manwani (Engineer, BPCL), Vikas Kumar (Senior Manager, Railways), and Engineer Vikas Lalit Rawat (JGM, Railways) were present. Several prominent local leaders, including Sh. Ajay Sharma (Ex-Mandal President, Bajalta), Sh. Mohan Lal Verma (OBC



Morcha President), Sh. Sunny Sharma (General Secretary), Sham Singh (Vice President, Bajalta), Sh. Baldev Sharma, Sh. Banshi Lal, Sh. Virender Sharma (Shaakti Kendra Pargalta), Sh. Ashok Kumar, Sh. Dheru Ram, Sh. Yograj Sharma (Booth President), Sh. Rampal Sharma, and Sh. Nand Kishore (Booth President, Pargalta) were also present.

Taking serious note of the issue, Sethi asked the engineering officials to raise the height of the subway in accordance with public aspirations, ensuring smooth passage for all types of vehicles. He strongly emphasized that development projects should meet the needs of the people of Pargalta and Bajalta without any compromise on quality.

Furthermore, Sethi also informed the approval of a parallel road project along with the widening of the existing road, which will significantly ease traffic con-

gestion and improve connectivity for the residents.

Yudhvir Sethi reiterated the commitment of the Modi Government to ensuring holistic development and people-centric infrastructure. He emphasized that the BJP-led government prioritizes quality and efficiency in all development projects, ensuring that public concerns are promptly addressed.

Sethi assured the residents that no compromise would be tolerated in executing projects that directly impact their daily lives and connectivity. He further stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Jammu is witnessing unprecedented growth, with infrastructural advancements aimed at enhancing the ease of living for every citizen.

The people of Bajalta expressed gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi for his proactive approach in addressing their concerns and ensuring timely implementation of development projects in the region.

While assessing the institute's operations, he emphasized the need for enhanced maintenance and infrastructural improvements. In a meeting with the officers, the Chief Secretary

DGP holds public grievance redressal programme in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To strengthen public-police relations and promote transparency, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday conducted a public grievance redressal programme at the Police Control Room (PCR) in the valley.

The programme was attended by senior police officers, including IGP Kashmir V K Birdi, DIG Central Kashmir Range, SSP Srinagar, and SSP Security and SSP PCR Kashmir.

"The event offered citizens a unique opportunity to engage directly with the top police leadership, voice their concerns, and seek resolutions for their grievances," a



DGP Nalin Prabhat listening to public grievance at Srinagar.

police spokesperson said.

Around 200 public delegations, representing individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds, actively participated in the programme. All the grievances were taken note of for appropriate action, the spokesperson said.

The DGP heard the concerns of the citizens, assuring them that their grievances would be addressed promptly and fairly.

He directed the concerned officers to take swift action on the issues and ensure timely follow-up on cases requiring further investiga-

tion. Several applications were addressed and resolved with on-the-spot directions by the DGP, the spokesperson said.

DGP Prabhat encouraged citizens to maintain open communication with the police and assured them that their concerns would be treated with the highest priority.

The officer also emphasised the importance of such direct interactions, urging the public to approach the police without hesitation. The spokesperson said that these engagements play a vital role in resolving issues at the grassroots level, enhancing community safety, and fostering a positive, collaborative relationship between the police and the public.

IGP Jammu reviews operational preparedness at Border Outposts in Kathua, Samba



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti during visit to a BOP at Hiranagar on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive visit to various Border Outposts (BOPs) in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua and Samba districts, assessing the operational preparedness of security forces deployed along the International Border. The visit covered key locations, including BPP Sanyal in Hiranagar, Chakra, Mawa, Babbar Nallah, Sherpur, and Harya Chak.

IGP Jammu interacted with officers and personnel

stationed at these critical outposts and reviewed security measures, and deployment strategies to counter any potential threats along the border.

The visit was aimed at ensuring a robust security grid and addressing any logistical or operational challenges faced by the personnel.

DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; SSP Kathua, Shobit Saxena; SSP Samba, Virender Singh Manhas; SP Operations Kathua, Nasir Khan and other officers were also present.

During the review, the effectiveness of surveillance systems, including CCTV cameras was also reviewed.

A significant emphasis was placed on strengthening coordination and synergy between the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the BSF to ensure seamless border management. The condition of border infrastructure, including roads, fencing, and communication networks, was also evaluated.

IGP Jammu emphasized the importance of round-the-clock vigilance and intelligence-sharing.

He reiterated the need for proactive measures to prevent infiltration, smuggling, and cross-border mischief. The officers at the posts were briefed on emerging security threats and the latest counter-infiltration strategies to strengthen border security.

IGP Jammu acknowledged the dedication of the personnel deployed in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions and assured them of full logistical support in terms of resources.

He also instructed officers to enhance night patrolling, maintain high alertness, and utilise advanced surveillance technology to fortify border security.

CS reviews functioning of Music & Fine Arts Institute

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday visited the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, Jammu University, Talab Tillo, to inspect its functioning besides reviewing the academic operations there.

He was accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary, Education, Shantmamu.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the institute's curriculum, which offers training in nine arts disciplines including four visual arts and five music-related streams.



CS Atal Dulloo during visit to Institute of Music & Fine Arts, JU at Talab Tillo.

While assessing the institute's operations, he emphasised the need for enhanced maintenance and infrastructural improvements.

In a meeting with the officers, the Chief Secretary

underscored the necessity of providing the institute with additional land and resources for its optimal functioning. He directed the district administration to transfer a sizeable portion of

land, approximately 8-10 kanal, including the area where the current institute building stands. He also reviewed other pressing issues including recruitment rules, building requirements and the need for modern equipment.

Atal Dulloo highlighted the importance of creating new

infrastructure to establish studios, enhance storage facilities for educational implements and ensure effective implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the institute.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Dean Academics, Professor Anju Bhasin; Dean Social Sciences, Suman Jamwal; Registrar Jammu University, Dr. Neeraj Sharma; HoD Fine Arts, Rakesh Sharma; HoD Painting, Dr. Milan Sharma; Instructor Vocal Dr. Deepali Watal and other senior officers.

JMC seals bulk waste generators for violating solid waste management rules

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the directions of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), the Health Officer along with his team sealed the Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) - MD Resort (W63, Bantalab) and Gurukul (W65, Akhnoor Road, Muthi Barnai) for violating Solid Waste Management Rules and failing to create a facility for managing waste within their premises.

The JMC has taken strict action against these viola-



tors to ensure compliance with waste management regulations. The corporation urges all domestic and commercial establishments to segregate their waste into dry and wet categories and for BWGs to establish prop-

er facilities for managing wet waste within their premises. Further stringent actions will be taken against any violators to maintain cleanliness and uphold the city's waste management standards.

Northern Army commander reviews operational preparedness of force in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the force in the Kashmir valley.

Lt Gen Kumar was also briefed on domestically procured equipment under Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and innovative ideas incorporated in technical domain to enhance efficacy, the Army's Northern Command said.

"Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, #ArmyCdrNC along with GOC, #ChinarCorps reviewed operational preparedness and the integration of state of the art equipments at Srinagar," the Northern Command said on X.

"The #ArmyCdrNC commended all ranks for their commitment, operational readiness and outstanding professionalism," it added.

Goonj 2025: A grand celebration of Culture, Sports and Best practices inaugurated at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Goonj 2025- a two-day multi-genre festival celebrating cultural and literary excellence, sports, and institutional Best Practices was on Wednesday inaugurated at the University of Jammu (JU).

The festival was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside Dr. S.P. Vaid, former Director General of Police, J&K, who attended as the Guest of Honour.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Umesh Rai highlighted Goonj 2025 as a platform that brings together culture, sports, and academics, allowing students to explore their potential beyond the classroom.

He noted that such events encourage collaboration across disciplines, helping students think critically, express themselves creative-

ly, and engage in meaningful learning experiences. He emphasized that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but about developing a well-rounded perspective that prepares students for the future.

Prof. Rai spoke about the university's efforts to integrate innovative teaching and learning practices, applauding the Best Practices for offering a space where departments could share their most impactful initiatives.

Acknowledging the remarkable efforts of faculty and students in showcasing their best academic practices, he called upon everyone to take ownership of their institution.

"The strength of a university lies in the dedication of its students and faculty. When we take pride in our institution, we contribute to its growth, making it a hub of



Vice Chancellor JU Prof. Umesh Rai along with other dignitaries inaugurating fest.

excellence and innovation," he stated.

He concluded by encouraging students to take an active role in their education, embrace new opportunities, and contribute to society with confidence and creativity.

Earlier, Prof. Rai, accompanied by the Guest of Honour and senior functionaries of the University, inaugurated Best Practices stalls set up by teaching

departments and offsite campuses of the University.

Acknowledging the faculty and students for their relentless pursuit of academic advancement, the Vice Chancellor emphasized that Goonj serves as a catalyst for knowledge exchange and intellectual growth.

Dr. Vaid emphasized the significance of Goonj in fostering teamwork, creativity, and a competitive spirit. Reflecting on his own experi-

ences, he underscored the need for synergy across disciplines and institutions to drive national progress.

"India's growth depends on breaking down traditional silos and fostering collaboration. The showcase of the Best Practices at Goonj is a commendable initiative that highlights how institutions can work collectively to enhance learning and innovation," he stated.

Encouraging students to

realize their full potential, Dr. Vaid urged them to actively contribute to nation-building, particularly in alignment with India's Vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Anju Bhasin, while addressing the inaugural function of Goonj 2025, highlighted the festival's role in cultivating resilience, teamwork, and creativity among students.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, described Goonj as a vibrant cultural and intellectual platform that allows students to showcase their artistic, literary, and creative talents. Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, provided an overview of the festival. Among others present included Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and

Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Prof. Naresh Padha, seniormost faculty, Prof. Rajiv Rattan Sharma, Director Colleges, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director CDOE, Deans, Rectors, Directors, Heads of teaching departments, faculty members, officers, office bearers of various associations, staff, scholars and students.

Around 500 students from the teaching departments of the University of Jammu, its offsite campuses, affiliated colleges and Cluster University of Jammu are participating in various activities of Culture, Sports and Exhibition of Best Practices. The vertical of Best Practices is being looked after by Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Culture by Prof. Monika Chadha and Sports by Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba. The inaugural function was

conducted by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee who also presented the vote of thanks.

The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalun Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur & Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Ms Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Supriya, AR, Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer).