

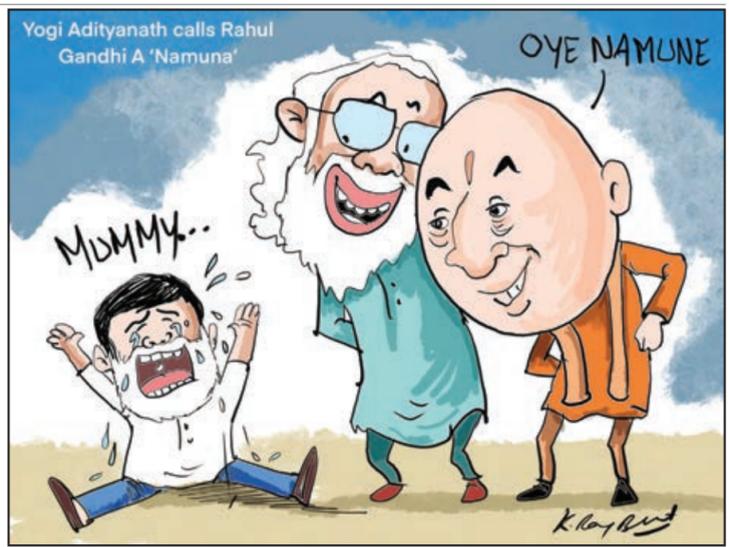
# LG releases 7th edition of 'Kailakh Sandesh Panchang Calendar'



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha releasing 7th Edition of 'Kailakh Sandesh Panchang Calendar'.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday released the 7th Edition of 'Kailakh Sandesh Panchang Calendar', published by Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust. Acharya Mahamandaleswar Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj was also present. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Mahant Rohit Shastri, President,

Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan, editorial team, and all the members of the Trust. The Panchang Calendar will provide information about Vedic traditions, auspicious occasions, religious rituals, festivals and cultural events. Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, and members of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust including Dr. Govind Sharma and Dr. Meena Sharma, were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.



## Dr Jitendra shares with Lok Sabha Govt's global vision with Indian ethos

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today shared the Modi government's vision for fostering innovation through the newly established National Research Foundation (NRF), named "Anusandhan," in the Lok Sabha. Designed to boost India's innovation ecosystem, the NRF aims to play a pivotal role in advancing research and development by encouraging private sector participation. Dr. Singh highlighted that a substantial portion of the NRF's funding will come from non-government sources, ensuring robust support for scientific initiatives. Dr. Singh elaborated on the structure of NRF, noting that it has been modeled after global frameworks, including those in the United States, but with a unique adaptation to India's needs. He expressed confidence that India's model would be a more refined and structured version of existing ones. Responding to queries on fund distribution, Dr. Singh explained that allocation will be based on merit and resource availability, with states like Rajasthan receiving a larger share,



and private investments playing a key role in funding. The NRF will operate with four key funding heads, including the ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, and Society for Engineering and Research Board, integrated into the NRF. A special Rs 20,000 crore fund will be dedicated to research, development, and innovation. Out of the Rs 50,000 crore corpus, Rs 14,000 crore will come from the government, while Rs 36,000 crore will be sourced from private partners and philanthropies. Dr. Singh cited India's success in space and vaccine development as examples of effective public-private collaboration. He also highlighted the rise of India's innovation ecosystem, noting that India now ranks third globally with 1.75 lakh start-ups and sixth in patent filings, with 56% of patents filed by resident Indians. Concluding, Dr. Singh reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing India's research capacity, aiming for further global recognition by 2029. "The age of working in silos is over," he said, stressing integrated efforts for global research leadership.

## Dr Sapna Sangra attends United Nations 69th Commission on Status of Women

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Dr. Sapna Sangra, Senior Faculty Member at the Department of Sociology, University of Jammu, participated in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 10 to 21, 2025. Her participation follows her engagement in the UN Women Asia-Pacific Review of Beijing +30 in Bangkok in November 2024. As a UN Women CSO Steering Committee Member for the Beijing +30 Review, Dr. Sangra has been pivotal in planning, organizing, and moderating virtual and in-person consultations at regional and national levels. Working alongside Gender at Work and Point of View as the anchoring agencies, she has been instrumental in ensuring the representation of diverse voices, particularly those from marginalized and rural border communities. Dr. Sangra's nomination for CSW69 was put forward by IT for Change, Bangalore, in recognition of her extensive contributions to Women, Peace, and Security. With a distinguished career spanning over two decades, she has been at the forefront of efforts to empower women in conflict-



Dr. Sapna Sangra with Smriti Irani at a roundtable organised at Permanent Mission of India to the UN on the sidelines of CSW69 in New York.

affected regions. Her participation at CSW69 underscores her dedication to amplifying grassroots women's voices on the global stage and advocating for inclusive policies that drive meaningful change. In addition to attending key sessions hosted by the UN Women's Commission, Dr. Sangra actively participated in high-level side events led by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. She attended the Ministerial-Level Roundtable Meeting, co-chaired by India and UN Women, where India's Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, Madam Annpurna Devi, led discussions on digital and financial inclusion for women's empowerment and the criticality of core resources for financing women's empowerment. Dr. Sangra also contributed as a panelist at an NGO CSW69 Forum discussion, titled Feminist Approaches to Justice: A Reassessment of the Beijing Platform for Action. The event was organized by the International Sociological Association and sponsored by the Division of Feminist Criminology of the American Society of Criminology and the World Society of Victimology. Dr. Sangra's engagement at CSW69 reaffirms her unwavering commitment to gender justice and policy advocacy, ensuring that the lived experiences of women in border and conflict-affected regions remain at the heart of global discussions on gender equality and empowerment.

## EC commences first ever training of over 1 lakh BLOs at IIDEM in batches

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: CEC Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the first ever training of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) along with EC Dr. Vivek Joshi at India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIDEM), New Delhi on Wednesday. Over 1 lakh BLOs with an average of one BLO per 10 polling stations will be trained in such training programmes over the next few years. These well-trained BLOs will form a corps of Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs) to strengthen the entire network of BLOs nationwide, who are the first and most important interface between the 100 Crore electors and the Commission.



CEC Gyanesh Kumar addressing at training programme of Booth Level Officers.

This unique capacity building programme will continue in phases focussing first on poll-bound states. Currently, 109 BLOs from Bihar, West Bengal and Assam are participating in this 2-day residential training programme along with 24 EROs and 13 DEOs from Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. The training is planned to familiarise the BLOs with their roles and responsibilities as per the RP Act 1950, the Registration of Elector Rules 1960 and instructions of the Commission issued from time to time and to equip them with requirements of filling relevant forms for an error free updation of electoral rolls. They will be familiarised with IT applications designed to sup-

port their work. BLOs are State Government officials and are appointed by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) after the approval of the District Election Officers (DEOs). CEC Shri Gyanesh Kumar while acknowledging the critical role of EROs and BLOs in error free updation of electoral rolls, stressed that the state governments should nominate SDM level or equivalent officers as EROs, who then should appoint BLOs giving due consideration to their seniority and who are ordinary resident of the polling station under their charge. CEC underscored that as per Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 20 of the RP Act 1950, only citizens of India who are above 18 years of age and ordinarily resident in the constituency can be registered as electors. He recalled his directions to all CEOs, DEOs, EROs for holding all-party meetings at their respective levels and resolve issues relating to their area of jurisdiction including correct updation of electoral rolls. He also cautioned that any complaint against ERO or BLO will be strictly acted upon. He said that all BLOs should be courteous in their interactions with the electors during house-to-house verification for updation of electoral rolls. He said that the Commission was, is and will always continue to stand with nearly 100 crore electors.

## Women empowerment through digitization of Self Help Groups



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To make transactions of SHGs more transparent and to make it available on digital platform training was conducted of Cluster Coordinators and CDEOs of all 10 districts which includes 148 CD Blocks in Jammu Division from February 4, 2025 at Panchayat Bhawan under overall Supervision of Mission Director JKSRIM Dr Shubhra Sharma. In this regard valedictory programme of training session was organised in Wednesday by Additional Mission Director Manpreet Kaur. Training was imparted to ensure transparency

and accountability. Real time data access and digital record keeping. During the programme she highlighted the benefits of training session and also got feedback from the participants. She said India is at the verge of becoming a developed country and Women empowerment would be a boast for it. Women are in every field today and rural women have potential to become prominent by sharpening their skills and Mission is a facilitator in making them empowered. In the function trainers, office staff and Nodal officers were facilitated for their contribution for successful completion of training programme.

## ADGP Armed J&K visits IRP 16th Battalion

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In line with ongoing efforts to review the functioning of various units, Anand Jain, ADGP Armed J&K, visited the IRP 16th Battalion at Pernote, Ramban. On his way, he laid a wreath at the Martyrs Memorial in Batote, Ramban, to honor Martyr Ct. Sarfraz Ahmad, who made the ultimate sacrifice on 15th August 2022 in Srinagar. Upon arrival at the Battalion Headquarters, the ADGP was welcomed and presented with a ceremonial Guard of Honour by a unit contingent. He was accompanied by



Anand Jain, ADGP Armed J&K with other officers during visit to IRP 16th Battalion.

Sarah Rizvi, DIG IR Jammu and SSP PCR Jammu Rajinder Singh. The ADGP conducted a detailed inspection of the Battalion establishments and offices. During a special Darbar, personnel raised service-related concerns, and immediate instructions were issued to address them. Anand Jain emphasized physical fitness, ongoing refresher courses, and med-

ical exams for all personnel. He also advised caution in using social media and stressed security measures like strong passwords and two-factor authentication. On the occasion, the ADGP inaugurated a new Gym Centre and Battalion MI Room. He urged officers to maintain cleanliness and encouraged a plantation drive to promote hygiene standards. Among those present were Sharidhar Patil, DIG DKR Range, Kulbir Singh, SSP Ramban, Sukhdev Raj, SSP Commandant IR 16th BN, Rohit Baskotra, SSP Traffic NHW Ramban, and other officers.

## Displaced KPs to celebrate Navreh in Jammu with vow to observe it in Kashmir next year

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The displaced Kashmiri Pandits will celebrate Navreh Mahotsav 2025 in Jammu by taking a pledge to celebrate the new year in the Kashmir valley next year. Kashmiri Pandits observe their New Year on the first day of the bright half of the month of Chaitra (March-April), calling it Navreh. This year, it falls on March 30. Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra has announced the commencement of the Mahotsav, a three-day event celebrating Kashmiri Pandits' heritage and connection to Jammu and Kashmir, a spokesperson said. The Mahotsav will be held from March 29 to March 31, with a grand finale on

April 1 at Abhinav Theatre in Jammu. This year's Mahotsav marks the 36th anniversary of the community's exodus, reaffirming their enduring spirit and aspiration to return to their homeland, he said. The festival will be structured around three key themes - Tyaga divas, a day of sacrifice on March 29, dedicated to honouring Pandit Shreya Bhat, a renowned physician of ancient times. It is followed by Sankalp divas - day of resolve on March 30, when the community will collectively pledge to celebrate the new year in the Valley next year and Shaurya divas - day of valour on March 31, commemorating the achievements of Kashmiri king Samrat Lalitaditya Muktapada of the Karkota dynasty.

The Mahotsav will feature a series of community-led events and celebrate migrant settlements in the Kashmir region. "Despite 35 years in exile, the community remains resolute, fueled by the spirit of Navreh. The Kendra calls upon all community members to actively engage and support this commemorative event," he added. Online essays and short video competitions have also been included to engage the younger generation, focusing on the inspiring lives and contributions of Pandit Shreya Bhat and Samrat Lalitaditya, he said. A keynote address by the chief guest and cultural performances will mark the closing ceremony on April 1, 2025.

## Jammu's rich legacy of kings, legends continues to inspire: Satish

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday launched Dogri calendar "Sadda Labba Saddi Pachaan" 2025 at the Fountain Light and Sound Stage, Bagh-e-Bahu. The launch event paid homage to the Dogra culture and celebrated the historic monuments of the Jammu district, renowned as the "Land of Maharajas." Admiring the event, the Minister praised the organizers for showcasing Jammu's unique heritage in such a captivating manner. "This calendar is not only a beautiful representation of our Dogra culture but also an



Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma launching Dogri calendar "Sadda Labba Saddi Pachaan" and honouring Hitesh Mahajan at Jammu on Wednesday.

important reminder of the rich history that our region holds. Jammu is a land of kings, of legends and of a proud legacy that continues to inspire," Sharma said. "It is our responsibility to preserve and promote this heritage for future generations and initiatives like this play a crucial role in that mission", he added.

The Minister also spoke about the importance of preserving Jammu's historic monuments, which serve as cultural treasures that define the identity of the region. "These monuments are more than just stones; they are living symbols of our history, our struggles, and our triumphs. This calendar, with

its stunning visuals, will serve as a reminder to all of us about the importance of safeguarding these landmarks," the Minister maintained. The 2025 calendar is dedi-

ated to showcase the timeless beauty and grandeur of Jammu's historic sites such as the Akhnoor Fort, Pandav Gufa and other iconic landmarks that bear witness to the region's royal history. Male and female models, dressed in traditional Dogra attire, added a vivid visual element, highlighting the craftsmanship and elegance of the region's costumes, which have been an integral part of Dogra culture for centuries. The event concluded with a stunning cultural performance, showcasing local music and dance, which added an extra layer of tradition and festivity to the evening. Urja Singh, Chairman of the event, said that Dogri calendar is now available to the public, allowing people to take home a piece of Jammu's glorious past while contributing towards promotion of the region's heritage.