

Yogi Adityanath, Dr Jitendra lay foundation of Rs 1,000 cr ‘Green Data Centre’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAHIBABAD: Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday laid the foundation stone and performed the Bhumi Pujan of a state-of-the-art "Green Data Centre" - a collaboration between Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a Govt of India PSU affiliated with CSIR under Ministry of Science & Technology and ESDS - at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The project with 30 MW capacity, entails an investment of about Rs 1,000 crore.

Describing the state-of-the-art data centre as a "milestone in India's journey toward becoming a self-reliant global digital power," Dr. Jitendra emphasized its strategic importance.

Yogi Adityanath lauded Central Electronics Limited (CEL) for its pioneering contributions in solar photovoltaic technology. He acknowledged that CEL's advanced solar panel technology played a crucial role in implementing solar-based electricity solutions across tribal and remote regions of the state, helping bring renewable energy to the last mile.

The Chief Minister emphasized



Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and Union Science & Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh laying the foundation stone of state-of-the-art "Green Data Centre" at Sahibabad, UP on Thursday.

sized that CEL's impact extends far beyond the defence sector, contributing significantly to areas like digital literacy and railway safety. He noted that CEL's innovations have helped bridge development gaps and strengthen critical infrastructure, reaffirming its role as a key enabler in India's inclusive growth journey.

Recalling CEL's historic legacy, Dr. Jitendra shared that it was established in 1974 with the objective of commercially exploiting indigenous technologies developed by national laboratories and R&D institutions in the country.

He highlighted how this pioneering PSU introduced India's first solar cell in 1977

- long before the world recognized the potential of solar energy. In recent years, however, CEL faced a severe financial crisis and was on the verge of being disinvested. Through a successful Public-Private Partnership model, CEL underwent a remarkable transformation and was awarded "Mini Ratna" status last year.

Dr. Jitendra also underlined CEL's contributions to strategic sectors, noting that it has developed numerous critical components for defence applications. He specifically referred to the radars used in the Akash Missile System, which proved instrumental during Operation Sindhoor, showcasing India's technological

strength. "Not limited to defence alone, it is a trusted name in innovation-led manufacturing across Defence, Railways, and Solar sectors," he added.

"This transformation of CEL is a model for other PSUs - a story of revival, resilience, and responsibility through strategic collaboration," said Dr. Singh.

Designed with sustainability and performance at its core, the upcoming data centre will feature a scalable infrastructure with a 30 MW capacity, capable of accommodating 200 high-density racks per floor.

It is being developed to meet Tier III/TIA/Uptime-compliant standards, ensuring high availability and

operational resilience. The centre will be equipped with a 40 Gbps ring fibre network supported by multiple ISPs and will offer dual 10 Gbps links for seamless cloud integration and disaster recovery replication.

Dr Jitendra announced the establishment of a Biotechnology Industrial Park in Lucknow and the hosting of a Startup Conclave in Uttar Pradesh after the Independence Day celebrations, underlining the state's growing prominence as an innovation and entrepreneurship hub.



Rajnath Singh refuses to sign SCO statement as cross-border terrorism concerns remain unaddressed

Massive infra boost for J&K: BJP credits PM Modi's vision for Rs 10,637 Cr sanctioned projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K BJP spokespersons, while addressing a press conference at the party headquarters on Thursday, celebrating the Centre's sanctioning of Rs 10,637 crore worth of infrastructure projects, including two strategically significant tunnels-Pir Ki Gali Tunnel on Mughal Road and Sadhna Tunnel on the Kupwara Highway.

BJP Spokesperson Arun Gupta, addressing the media, said the sanctioning of such high-magnitude projects is the result of "intense and continuous efforts" by the J&K BJP unit in coordination with the Central leadership.



BJP Spokesperson, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference at Jammu on Thursday.

Rajouri, Poonch, and Kupwara. Mughal Road remains cut off for half the year, affecting development and logistics. With this, an alternate national highway link becomes a reality," he stated.

Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, senior BJP leader and spokesperson, also highlighted the strategic importance of these tunnels, especially in improving troop mobility, emergency access, and tourism connectivity.

"Such long-pending projects are only possible due to the serious commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari toward J&K's

development," he noted.

BJP Spokesperson Vikram Malhotra underlined the tunnels' significance for national security and their role in strengthening alternate connectivity for border areas.

"The Sadhna Tunnel, connecting key regions in north Kashmir, will be a game-changer for Kupwara and surrounding areas, both from a security and tourism perspective," he said.

The leaders also responded to opposition criticism alleging regional bias in project allocation.

Arun Gupta clarified that both Jammu and Kashmir divisions are beneficiaries,

citing the Pir Ki Gali tunnel on the Jammu-Poonch-Rajouri axis as a clear example.

He also addressed concerns raised about pending urban projects in Jammu city, citing technical challenges and ongoing evaluations.

"Unlike previous regimes, BJP ensures projects are not just started but completed with sustainable planning and execution," he said.

The BJP leaders affirmed that J&K's development is a top priority under PM Modi's leadership and reiterated that the region is finally witnessing long-overdue infrastructure and economic growth.

ETI Nagrota organises marathon to raise awareness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To mark the International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking 2025, a marathon was organised on Thursday by ETI Nagrota to generate awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and drug-free style among the public.

The marathon was flagged off jointly by the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Sanjay Bhat and Deputy Excise Commissioner (Accounts & Audit) Tinna Mahajan with additional charge of



Participants posing for photograph with officials.

Principal ETI Nagrota in presence of Excise & Taxation officers, trainees of the institute and staff of the Excise Department.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the stakeholders including students of Pushpak Public School, Jagti, Nagrota, representatives of NGOs and locals.

The rally commenced from the Training Institute premises and marched through key areas of the town carrying placards with messages of staying away from drugs and leading a healthy lifestyle.

The event concluded back on ETI campus where the officials exchanged ideas with the staff and students of Pushap Public school about the strategies required to tackle this social evil. The participants appreciated the Excise Department for organising such events and felicitating the best participants.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for forthcoming pilgrimages

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the civil and security arrangements for the safe and smooth conduct of different major and minor pilgrimages originating from different districts of the Jammu division.

The meeting, attended by DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from Jammu Division, SSP Security, Commissioner JMC, CEO Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Executive Director NHPD-CL, RO, NHAI, representatives of AIIMS,



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti jointly chairing a meeting.

DoorDarshan, AIR, BSNL, Fire & Emergency Services also reviewed security of vital installations and major tourist destination.

Reviewing the preparations for the district wise pilgrimages, the Div Com and IGP Jammu took stock of necessary arrangements pertaining to civic amenities and security arrangements to be ensured by the respective district administrations for the smooth and safe conduct of the Pilgrimages.

The pilgrimages based in different districts include Shri Buddha Amarnathji Yatra, Shiv Khori Yatra,

Lohar Devta Yatra, Ram Kund Yatra in Poonch and Khandli Mata Yatra in Rajouri, Kousar Nag Yatra, Sudhmahadev Yatra, Kailash Kund Yatra, Jodiyan Mata Yatra in Kathua and pilgrimages in Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar.

Directions were issued to

the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to convene detailed meeting on the arrangements for all the major and minor pilgrimages involving the stakeholders and organizers.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu also reviewed the security arrangements of vital installations, critical infrastructures and Tourist destinations falling in Jammu Division.

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Sufi saints are beacons of light teaching humanity: Andrabi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi paid obeisance and participated in the celebrations of the Annual Urs of Peer Baba Kunju Shah on Thursday at his shrine at Kunjwani in Jammu.

Waqf Board had made adequate arrangements for the people visiting the shrine.

After the up-gradation of the facilities at the Sufi shrine during the past year, Dr Andrabi was hailed by the devotees on the occasion of Urs for the development and up-gradation of arrangements for the people.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Darakhshan said that the Waqf Team was working 24x7 to facelift the spiritual shrines



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi paying obeisance at Peer Baba Kunju Shah Shah at Kunjwani Jammu.

and upgrade and update the facilities for the devotees visiting the Sufi shrines in both the divisions of the Union Territory.

"Sufi saints are the beacons of light, teaching humanity.

We get the enlightenment of the soul and learn the spirit of inclusivity at these power centers", said Dr Andrabi.

She was accompanied by the Administrator Waqf Board for Jammu Abid Hussain.

Slathia chairs meeting of LA Ethics Committee



MLA Samba, Surjeet Singh Salathia chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The maiden meeting of the Ethics Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba, Surjeet Singh Salathia at the LA Complex, Srinagar.

MLA's Javaid Iqbal, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Zafar Ali Khatana, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr. Sajjad Shafi,

Daleep Singh, Surinder Kumar, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh and Mehraj Malik attended the meeting.

While chairing the meeting, Slathia emphasized the importance of upholding the highest standards of conduct and integrity among the members of the House.

Reiterating the Committee's commitment towards maintaining the highest standards of credibility, he stated that the integrity of the democratic institutions rests on the ethical

behaviour of its members. "We have to keep in mind that we are the bearers of a tradition and should set an example in the discharge of our legislative responsibilities. Our conduct should serve as a benchmark to ensure accountability, dignity and respect in legislative functioning," he said.

It was decided that comprehensive guidelines on ethics and standards of behaviour would be framed to guide the conduct of members, both within and outside the House.

MLA's assured the Chairman that they will extend full cooperation to ensure effective functioning of the Committee. They resolved that they will work together to foster a culture of ethical values and responsible conduct in public life while institutionalizing ethical oversight and promoting integrity in the legislative process.

CITaG to ensure efficient, technologically advanced governance in J&K: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired the Empowered Committee meeting of the Centre for Innovation, Technology Adoption, and Governance (CITaG) at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, emphasizing its pivotal role in driving efficient, responsive and technology-driven governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the need for robust human resource support, the Chief Secretary stressed the timely selection of professionals, specialists and screening of advertised posts for timely manpower enhancement. He also called for robust internship engagements to strengthen project planning, documentation, field cooperation and on-ground implementation across the departments.

The Chief Secretary directed for a comprehensive capacity-building campaign, underlining the importance of training 450 officers to enhance project execution capabilities.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Thursday.

He noted that training sessions conducted so far have been instrumental in fostering innovation and identifying viable development projects.

"The focus areas must include Public-Private Partnership (PPP) implementation, project feasibility and appraisal, solid waste management and urban infrastructure," he stated.

The Committee was informed that 57 projects have been added under CITaG's purview, with work on 17 key projects expected to accelerate by mid July.

The meeting was informed that 12 major projects, including establishment of a

Skill University in J&K, solar power projects, proposals from the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and SKUAST-Kashmir besides three hydroelectric projects at Bhaderwah, SEWA II and Mohra. Besides, 13 hydropower projects, grouped into three regional clusters across the districts including Daksum (Anantnag), Suriender (Bandipora) and Sukhnag (Budgam) and other exclusive projects have been added.

To strengthen CITaG's operational framework, the Chief Secretary instructed the officials to activate all verticals

and build institutional capacity, ensuring that the government officers are equipped to function efficiently within the system. He emphasised that CITaG serves as a crucial coordination platform between the government and premier national institutions like IIT, IIM and AIIMS. He underlined the need to develop future-ready governance models that leverage technological advancements.

The Chief Secretary also reiterated the government's commitment to promote and protect the culture of the region. He highlighted the formulation of a comprehensive Cultural Policy that recognizes culture as an essential part of J&K's identity.

Talat Parvez Rohella, Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, presented an overview of the progress under CITaG, including notable achievements. He informed the Committee that IIM Jammu has conducted training for 113 officers, with 94 additional officers trained at SKUAST-K to enhance their administrative and technical skills. Professor B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, also addressed the meeting, offering insights and recommendations to further advance the project implementation under CITaG.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of various universities; MD and CEO of J&K Bank, Principal Secretary Finance; Director IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary GAD; Secretary Planning; Secretary Law and senior officers from IIM Jammu, CITaG, and other government departments.