

# J&K's Lithium holds key to India's 'Net Zero by 2070' target: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Referring to the recently discovered large stores of Lithium reserves in the same vicinity and district Reasi of Jammu & Kashmir where PM Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that these huge lithium reserves will be the key to India achieving the target of "Net Zero by 2070" carbon emissions by 2070.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a public gathering today in Katra to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the region.

Speaking before a packed audience and in the presence of Prime Minister Modi, Dr. Jitendra said, "Prime Minister ji, you will be delighted to know that recently, a large number of lithium mineral deposits have been found where we are sitting, a few kilometres away. When that lithium comes into use, it



will play a role in achieving a net-zero emissions target by 2070. There are many wonders in this area that have yet to be explored and have never been carved. But now, with your blessings, they are joining the journey of Viksit Bharat".

Dr. Jitendra appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership in transforming the railway infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a landmark

achievement that has redefined connectivity in the region.

He recalled how for decades, the dream of linking Kashmir by rail seemed distant, with projects repeatedly delayed or stalled. It was only under PM Modi's decisive intervention that the stalled work was revived, and ambitious projects like the world's highest railway bridge and the extension of rail services between Jammu, Udhampur, and beyond have finally come to fruition.

The Minister highlighted that these developments are not merely engineering feats but powerful symbols of national integration and progress, bringing the valley closer to the rest of the country. "What was once seen as a land of conflict is now being seen as a land of contribution," the Minister said, referring to the shift in perception of Jammu and Kashmir in national consciousness.

He further noted that this enhanced connectivity has opened new avenues for trade, tourism, and socio-economic development in the region. The Minister emphasized

that the approval of the express road corridor and the upcoming civilian flights from Udhampur airport reflect the government's holistic approach to improving infrastructure, making travel safer, faster, and more accessible for the people of these mountainous areas. He underlined that such sustained efforts by PM Modi's administration have turned once remote and inaccessible regions into thriving hubs of activity, thereby fostering peace and prosperity through connectivity.

"This is not just a change in physical infrastructure, it's a psychological transformation. Youth here are aspiring to become tech entrepreneurs, researchers, and start-up founders," Dr. Jitendra remarked.

As the nation races toward green mobility and renewable energy integration, the strategic importance of the region's lithium deposits could not be overstated. Dr. Singh's address underscored a vision where Jammu and Kashmir is not merely a stakeholder but a catalyst in India's future.



## PGCIL inks MoU with PEC Chandigarh for establishment of POWERGRID Centre of Excellence at PEC under CSR



Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director (Northern Region-II) on behalf of PGCIL and Prof. Rajesh K Bhatia, Director(ad-interim) on behalf of PEC signing MoU.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) signed an MoU on Friday with Punjab Engineering College (PEC) Chandigarh , a deemed university for establishing "POWERGRID Centre of Excellence" at PEC under CSR.

Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of POWERGRID, an MoU was signed, in an high profile event, by Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director (Northern Region-II) on behalf of PGCIL and Prof. Rajesh K Bhatia, Director(ad-interim) on behalf of Punjab Engineering College in the presence of Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary, Chandigarh UT, R.K Tyagi, Chairman & Managing Director, POWERGRID and Premra Puri, Secretary Education, Chandigarh Administration-UT.

Senior officers from POWERGRID including Vikram Singh Bhal, Executive Director CMG-Coordination,

Jasbir Singh, Executive Director (CSR), HODs & Senior faculty members of PEC and officials from technical education, Chandigarh were also present during the signing ceremony.

Punjab Engineering College ,Chandigarh sought support from POWERGRID for the establishment of a state-of-the-art facility to provide cutting-edge resources for its students, offering them the opportunity to engage in advance training with hand on practice in evolving & industry driven area of Power and Energy Engineering.

POWERGRID, as a responsible Corporate Citizen accepted the request and is rendering its helping hand in establishing the "POWERGRID Centre of Excellence" (CoE) at PEC.

Being established at an estimated financial implication of Rs 17,19,26,000, the centre envisages to open new avenues for students learning. It will help research scholars and fac-

ulty to strengthen research in Power and Energy sector.

This facility will focus on strengthening the course curriculum of Electrical Engineering disciple at PEC. The proposed facility is intended to enhance the laboratory set up in thrust area like numerical relays, Phasor Measurement Units (PMUs), inverters, cyber security, e-mobility, controller's laboratory etc set for real-time simulation for demonstration & training.

On this occasion Director PEC thanked POWERGRID for taking up this CSR initiative for providing this infrastructure in their Institute which is bound to benefit the students and researchers in the field of electrical engineering.

POWERGRID, Northern Region -II with headquarter in Jammu is having its Transmission System spread over in the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, parts of Haryana and UT of Chandigarh, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

## PM Modi fulfills Maharaja Pratap Singh's 127-year-old vision-first train reaches Kashmir: Gaurav

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Today is a historic day in the journey of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu & Kashmir," said Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson for J&K UT, reacting to the launch of the first-ever train service to the Kashmir Valley by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He described the moment as monumental, not only in terms of infrastructure but also in the emotional and historical legacy it carries. "This milestone is a living tribute to Maharaja Pratap Singh, the third and longest-serving Dogra ruler of Jammu & Kashmir, who first envisioned a railway link between Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1898," Gupta stated.

He recalled that Maharaja Pratap Singh had commissioned British engineers to survey the challenging Himalayan terrain for the ambitious project. Between 1898 and 1909, three detailed reports were prepared, but the dream remained unrealised due to the indifference of the colonial government.

"Today, 127 years later, that vision has finally become a reality under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi," he said. "This is not just about a train reaching Kashmir - this is about fulfilling a long-standing dream of national integration and regional connectivity. It is a symbol of inclusive growth, unity, and empowerment for the people of Jammu & Kashmir," Gupta added. He also praised the marvellous engineering that made this dream a reality. "Bringing a train to the Kashmir Valley is not only a political and emotional achievement - it is a stunning example of modern engineering overcoming one of the most



difficult terrains in the world. The tunnels, bridges, and alignments constructed through the mighty Himalayas are a testament to India's technological prowess and determination," he noted.

Gupta emphasized that this milestone also fulfills a much larger national aspiration.

"This was once a dream - a train journey from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. And today, under PM Modi's leadership, that dream has turned into a reality," he declared.

Gaurav Gupta congratulated the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire nation on this landmark achievement. He hailed it as a powerful example of the Central Government's commitment to transforming even the most remote regions through visionary planning and world-class infrastructure.

"This is New India. This is Modi's India. And this is the era of Viksit Bharat," he concluded.

## PM's Katra visit marks milestone in Kashmir connectivity, religious tourism revival: GNSCT Chairman

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The Chairman of Guru Nanak Seva Charitable Trust (GNSCT), Parvinder Singh Happy on Friday hailed the Prime Minister's visit to the holy town of Katra as a historic milestone for Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister inaugurated a flagship railway line that will now directly connect Kashmir to the national railway network-an achievement the Chairman called a "remarkable step" by the Modi government.

According to the Chairman, the direct rail connectivity to Kashmir will not only bridge physical distances but also open up vast economic opportunities for the region. The enhanced connectivity is expected to boost commerce, tourism, and employment, thereby contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of the Valley.

He also stated that the Prime Minister's visit has come at a crucial time, as the region prepares for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, scheduled to begin next month. The visit has instilled renewed confidence among potential pilgrims and tourists across the country. Following the unfortunate Pahalgam incident earlier this year, there had been a

noticeable decline in tourist activity. However, the PM's presence in Katra has served as a powerful message that the situation is stable and under control.

The Chairman emphasized that the visit has dispelled fears regarding security and has reassured the nation that Jammu and Kashmir is safe for pilgrimage and travel. He added that security agencies have assured the deployment of a comprehensive, high-level security grid for the upcoming yatra to prevent any mishap and ensure the safety of all devotees.

Praising the Modi government's continuous commitment to infrastructure and peace in the region, the Chairman stated that such visionary projects and high-profile visits contribute immensely to normalizing life in the Valley and integrating it more closely with the rest of the nation.

He concluded by saying that the inauguration of the railway line and the Prime Minister's visit are more than symbolic gestures-they mark the dawn of a new era of development, unity, and spiritual resurgence in Jammu and Kashmir.



## Gangyal Firing: Two gangsters injured, kingpin identified, vehicle seized

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a swift response to a broad daylight firing incident in the Gangyal area, Jammu South Police led by SP South Ajay Sharma have identified the main accused and seized the vehicle used in the commission of the crime. The incident occurred at approximately 2:20 PM today, leaving two gangsters injured.

According to police, the gangsters-Vikramjeet Singh alias Vicky alias Vikram, son of Mohan Singh of Model Town Gangyal (currently residing in Sehora), and Paramjeet Singh alias Pankaj alias Murga, son of Harnam Singh of Shiv Nagar Sehora, Tehsil Bishnah - are both known history-sheeters who were recently released from jail after undergoing preventive detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on March 31, 2025.



Immediately following the incident, a team from Police Station Gangyal arrived at the scene, ensured the safety of the injured individuals, and facilitated their emergency evacuation to GMC Bakshi Nagar for medical treatment.

In a major breakthrough, police have seized the Swift Dzire vehicle

(JK08C-1955) believed to have been used in the attack. The registered owner of the vehicle has been detained for questioning to determine their role, if any, in the incident and to reconstruct the sequence of events.

During preliminary investigations, Harjot Singh alias Anda, a resident of Digiana Camp and a known figure in

gang-related and organised criminal activities, has been identified as the main accused. He is suspected to have orchestrated the attack with the help of unidentified associates, all of whom are now being actively pursued by law enforcement.

A case has been registered under FIR No. 68/2025 at Police Station Gangyal under sections 109, 111, and 191(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with the Arms Act provision 3/25.

"All accused have a history of organised criminal behavior and are being dealt with under the strictest legal provisions," a senior police official stated. "Efforts are ongoing to apprehend all those involved and bring them to justice."

Further investigation is currently underway.

## Rana participates in regional Power Ministers' conference

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana on Friday participated in the Regional Power Ministers' Conference, 2025, of Northern States/UTs held here in Chandigarh.

The conference provided a platform for deliberation on critical power sector issues affecting the region including resource adequacy, transmission capacity and cyber security.

During the conference, Javed Rana sought firm and assured power supply to Jammu and Kashmir from the Government of India during winters at reasonable prices.

He highlighted the challenges facing the state due to its geographical location

and the seasonal variation in power demand. He also stressed the importance of strengthening the transmission infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir. Javed Rana urged for upgradation of Kishenpur-Moga transmission line and completion of the 400 KVA Grid Station at Siot to ensure reliable power supply to the region.

Furthermore, Rana emphasized the need for promoting sustainable energy in Jammu and Kashmir.

He highlighted the potential for small hydro projects in the UT and the importance of green corridor connectivity with Ladakh for solar energy evacuation.

The Minister underlined the imperative of ensuring

cyber security in the power sector, recognizing the critical importance of protecting the UT's power infrastructure from potential threats. Javed Rana assured that the Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, is committed towards collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure a reliable, sustainable and secure power supply to the people of the region.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity for the JK Minister to engage with his counterparts from other northern states and UTs, as well as officials from the Ministry of Power, to discuss crucial issues and explore solutions to the challenges facing the power sector in J&K.

## LG, CM, Dy CM, ministers greet people on Eid-ul-Adha

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and ministers on Friday greeted the people on Eid-ul-Adha.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Eid Mubarak! Heartiest greetings and good wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

Eid embodies the spirit of sacrifice and forgiveness. Let us reiterate our resolve to strengthen the foundations of unity, harmony and brotherhood in the society and work with love and compassion to ensure the well-being of all.

May this festival spread peace and bring prosperity to all".

Extending his warm

greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, the Chief Minister wished them peace, well-being and prosperity.

In his message on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, the Chief Minister said the holy occasion imbues in us the spirit of making honesty, truthfulness and selflessness a way of life.

He added that the festival commemorates the timeless example of absolute faith and unwavering obedience set by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his devoted son Prophet Ismail (AS).

"Eid-ul-Azha is not only a celebration of faith but also a reminder of the profound sacrifice and complete submission to the will of Almighty. The

unwavering trust shown by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and the willing obedience of Prophet Ismail (AS) teach us the essence of selflessness, devotion and steadfastness in the face of trials," Omar Abdullah said.

He expressed hope that this auspicious occasion will further strengthen the bonds of communal harmony, mutual brotherhood, amity and tranquility across the region.

The Chief Minister also prayed for sustained peace, harmony and progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the occasion glorifies the spirit of sacrifice and everlasting faith in the Almighty. It inspires humanity to stay united through love, compassion and kind deeds that foster brotherhood and social harmony.

The Deputy Chief Minister also praised the celebration for fostering brotherhood and exemplifying the noble act of sharing with the less fortunate. He wished that the festival's message would strengthen unity, harmony and a spirit of selflessness in the society.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo said that Eid-ul-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice, is not only a celebration of faith and

devotion but also a time to reaffirm our commitment to compassion, humility, and unity. She added that Eid is a day that commemorates the unparalleled obedience and submission of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) to the will of Almighty Allah, a lesson that inspires us to lead lives of sincerity, selflessness and service to humanity.

"As we gather in prayer and offer our Qurbani (sacrifice), let us also remember the values this festival upholds - caring for the underprivileged, sharing our blessings, and strengthening the bonds of community and kinship. It is a time to embrace those in need with empathy and ensure that no one is left behind in our collective celebra-

tion", Sakeena said.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, in his message said, "May the blessed festival bring peace, prosperity and joy to us all. On this occasion, let us come together to celebrate the true spirit of sacrifice and compassion that defines Eid-ul-Adha."

The Minister prayed for well-being and happiness of all citizens and expressed hope that the festival will foster a deep sense of social harmony and brotherhood among the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Rana urged everyone to embody the true message of Eid-ul-Adha by helping the needy and underprivileged, spreading love,

kindness and generosity.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma said that Eid-ul-Adha is a celebration of deep spiritual significance, symbolizing unwavering faith, sacrifice and the spirit of giving. He noted that the festival serves as a powerful reminder of the values of compassion, solidarity and collective responsibility.

He urged the people to mark the occasion by extending kindness to the needy, fostering unity among communities and promoting peace and harmony in society. "Let this Eid strengthen our resolve to build a more

inclusive, progressive, and vibrant Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The Minister also prayed for well-being of all citizens and expressed hope that the festival would usher in an era of peace and prosperity across Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, has extended Eid-ul-Adha greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister wished that the blessed festival bring peace, prosperity and joy to all. Let us come together to celebrate the true spirit of sacrifice and compassion that defines Eid-ul-Adha, he asserted.