

# Dr Jitendra leaves for France to lead high-level official Indian Delegation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday left for France to lead a high-level official Indian delegation.

Scheduled to be held at the French picturesque coastal city of Nice, the Minister will represent India at the "United Nations Ocean Conference" (UNOC3) taking place from June 8 to 13.

The high-level international gathering will bring together leaders, scientists, policy-makers, and civil society actors from across the globe to discuss sustainable ocean governance and concrete actions for the health of the world's oceans.

The Earth Sciences Minister's visit to France marks a significant step by the Govt of India as it would reiterate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to India's global engagement on ocean sustainability and marine cooperation.

Over the next four days, he will participate in bilateral meetings with Ministers from key partner countries, deliver India's national statement at



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, flanked by Union Secretary Earth Sciences, shortly before leaving for France on Saturday.

the UNOC plenary and engage in crucial policy dialogues on ocean action.

Among the key highlights of his schedule is the India-Norway side event on Marine Spatial Planning aboard the Norwegian research vessel S/S Statsraad Lehmkuhl at Monaco Harbour on June 8. Co-hosted with Norway's Minister of International Development, H.E. Åsmund Grøyer Aukrust, the event will showcase the outcomes of the India-Norway collaboration on sustainable marine governance. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway is expected to grace the event as Guest of Honour.

In addition to the formal sessions of the Conference, Dr. Jitendra Singh is slated to hold bilateral meetings with representatives from France, Germany, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Chile, among others. These meetings are expected to strengthen India's cooperation with key global players on issues ranging from marine pollution to ocean science and financing for blue economy initiatives.

The third edition of the UN Ocean Conference - co-hosted by France and Costa Rica - will focus on key themes such as restoring marine ecosystems, reducing marine pollution, promoting ocean-based scientific cooperation,

and mobilizing resources for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 14. The conference will feature "Ocean Action Panels" involving governments, UN bodies, researchers, industry leaders, and NGOs to forge partnerships and propose practical, scalable solutions.

India has actively contributed to the build-up to UNOC3. In the lead-up to the conference, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) organized two Blue Talks in collaboration with the Embassies of France and Costa Rica in New Delhi. These sessions brought together scientists, officials, and stakeholders from multiple sectors to share best practices and develop concrete recommendations on marine governance and conservation. During the general debate at UNOC3, Dr. Jitendra Singh will articulate India's stance on ocean policy, highlighting the country's initiatives in marine research, coastal resilience, and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. India has also sought speaking slots in critical thematic panels,

including those on marine pollution and scientific cooperation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh's presence at the global forum reinforces India's commitment to multi-lateral cooperation for sustainable ocean use and signals New Delhi's proactive approach in contributing to global ocean policy frameworks. With oceans playing a central role in climate regulation, food security, and economic development, India's engagement at UNOC3 aims to position the country as a constructive and solutions-oriented partner in global marine governance.



## KVIC disburses margin money subsidy of Rs 300 cr to 8,794 beneficiaries under PMEGP scheme

Strong step towards self-reliance, self-sufficiency under leadership of PM Modi: Chairman KVIC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
MUMBAI: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India disbursed margin money subsidy of Rs 300 crore to 8794 beneficiaries across the country through virtual mode program organized under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

This disbursement was made against loan sanction of about Rs 884 crore. The event was held at KVIC Central Office, Irla Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai, wherein KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar released the subsidy to the beneficiaries through virtual mode. KVIC, CEO Roop Rashi along with other senior officers of the Central Office were present on the occasion.

On the occasion of the disbursement program, Chairman Manoj Kumar opined, "Under the visionary leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PMEGP scheme has presently created a strong and effective base of self-employment in India. Khadi and



KVIC Chairman, Manoj Kumar making the disbursement through virtual mode from Central Office in Mumbai.

Village Industries is not just a product today, but it is the essence of vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. This scheme has not only provided employment to lakhs of youth, but has also connected them with the power of entrepreneurship."

All the six zones of the country actively participated in this disbursement program. In total 2445 projects were approved for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry of South Zone, for which subsidy of Rs 80.26 crore was disbursed.

In the Central Zone, subsidy of Rs 91.13 crore was disbursed for 2366 projects of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. A subsidy of Rs 62.68 crore was provided to a total of 2167 projects in Eastern India for Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman Nicobar and Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura in the Northeast.

A subsidy of Rs 41.80 crore was given for 1320 projects of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, and Rajasthan in the

Northern region. At the same time, 496 projects in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa of the Western region received a subsidy of Rs 24.12 crore. In this way, it proved to be a comprehensive and effective campaign to empower self-employment in urban and rural areas across the country.

Since its beginning till the financial year 2024-25, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has become a pillar of entrepreneurship and self-reliance in rural and urban India. A total of 10,18,185 micro enterprises have been established under the scheme so far, for which the Government of India has sanctioned a loan of Rs 73,348.39 crore. In return, margin money subsidy of Rs 27,166.07 crore has been provided to the beneficiaries. So far, more than 90,04,541 people across the country have got direct and indirect employment through this scheme, which makes it one of the most effective self-employment schemes in the country.

## Secretary School Education Department holds introductory-cum-review meeting at Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, on Saturday convened an introductory-cum-review meeting with the senior functionaries of the Directorate of School Education, Jammu. Director, School Education Jammu, Dr Javid Naseem Chowdhary, Joint Director, Subah Mehta, Personnel Officer Manisha, Chief Accounts Officer, Monika Sharma, Senior Law Officer, D P Chhibber besides others attended the meeting.



cerning the transfers and postings, long-pending departmental promotions and filling of vacant posts. He asked the employees to work with added accountability and

transparency. He said that the outstanding employees would be rewarded with due recognition and institutional encouragement. He emphasised on strength-

ening the organisational sinews and enhancing the working capabilities of the educational machinery. He asked for laying special attention on the primary and middle level which is imperative for a bright future. The Secretary appreciated the recently declared results for 10th and 12th classes while lauding the hard work put in by the schools and staff whose diligence bore commendable fruit. He assured the employees that all their genuine issues including timely conduct of DPCs would be looked into for speedy redressal.

## Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra to commence from June 27; Committee appeals for administrative support

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: The Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra Managing Committee (Govt. Regd.) said that this year, the sacred Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra is scheduled to begin on 27th June 2025 from Dharalan Nagri, Kathua, and will culminate on 5th July 2025 at Village Nanth Nallah, Tehsil Dachhan, District Kishtwar.



Shri Hudh Mata Trisandhaya Yatra Managing Committee members talking to reporters.

on 4th July from Ram Mandir, Kaikooth, and conclude at Kishtwar and Jammu on 5th July.

The Committee also outlined a series of demands for the smooth conduct of the yatra and urged the District Administration Kishtwar and J&K UT Government to take immediate action. These demands include completion of helicopter service tenders from Kishtwar/Sounder to the shrine, urgent repairs to the bridge path from Sounder

to Bhawan, and macadamization of the Dangthoru road, provision of mobile connectivity at the Bhawan, and deployment of a medical team at the site from 15 June to 30 July to ensure medical aid for early and late pilgrims. The Committee requested additional tents for accommodation, round-the-

clock security cover throughout the yatra route, and subsidized ration supplies for langar arrangements.

The Department of Tourism was urged to widely publicize the shrine and yatra through electronic and print media and to install large hoardings to attract pilgrims. The Committee also called for the inclusion of Shri Hudh Mata and Trisandhaya Mata shrines in the official religious tourist circuit of

J&K UT.

To welcome the Trishul Yatra, which starts from Kathua, a Shobha Yatra is planned on 27th June 2025 at 3:00 PM in Jammu. The procession will pass through Ranbireswar Mandir Chowk, Indra Chowk, Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, and Raj Tilak Road, culminating at Geeta Bhawan, Parade Ground, followed by a Jagrata at Hudh Mata Mandir, Beli Charana.

Speaking at the event, Jagdish Raj Thakur, President of the SHMTYM Sub-Committee (Jammu), made a heartfelt appeal to the general public, religious bodies, saints, trade associations, and devotees to participate in this spiritually significant yatra and seek the divine blessings of Mata Rani. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a safe and sacred journey and sought full cooperation from all stakeholders and the government.

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, chaired a review meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here on Saturday.

The meeting focused on evaluating preparations and finalizing strategies for the upcoming events under the 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' campaign, which marks the completion of 11 transformative years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The meeting was attended by Campaign Incharge for Jammu & Kashmir and BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, BJP Headquarters Incharge and former Minister Priya Sethi, Abhiyan Co-Incharges Pawan Sharma, Rekha Mahajan, and Raghunandan Singh Bablu, along with senior leaders Rakesh Mahajan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Ved Sharma, Gourav Balgotra, Rajneesh Jain, Dr. Makson Tikoo and others.

Ashok Koul, while address-



BJP General Secy (Org), Ashok Koul chairing a meeting.

ing the gathering, emphasized that each programme under the Sankalp Se Siddhi campaign must reflect the vision and achievements of the Modi-led government. He stated, "BJP emerged as a people-centric alternative during a time when Congress was indulging in undemocratic practices across the country. Under Prime Minister Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented growth, be it in infrastructure, poverty alleviation, rural electrification, housing for the needy, or transforming India into the world's fourth-largest economy." He also lauded initiatives like Operation Sindoor as examples of India's assertive global presence.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta reviewed the readiness of party functionaries for the planned events and urged leaders to treat the campaign as an opportunity to present a "report card" of good governance to the people. "It is the BJP alone that has consistently delivered and transparently showcased its performance year after year since 2014," he said.

Priya Sethi stressed the need to connect with the people meaningfully. She said, "These programmes should not just be ceremonial. They must drive home the message that while other parties looted the public for decades, BJP has worked relentlessly to empower every citizen."

## DG Rural Sanitation visits Chandanwari, Nunwan base camps, reviews sanitation facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
ANANTNAG: As part of ongoing efforts to ensure smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra on Saturday visited Pahalgam and undertook a comprehensive inspection of key base camps and sanitation facilities at Chandanwari and Nunwan.

Malhotra reviewed the readiness of prefabricated toilets, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) mechanisms, greywater management and placement of IEC branding regarding Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) to guide and sensitize pilgrims. She issued on-the-spot directions for ensuring proper water supply, cleanliness of toilet units. She also directed for regular disposal of waste during the entire Yatra period.

In Chandanwari, the Director General interacted with the field officers and sanitation workers, encouraging them to maintain the higher standards of hygiene for pilgrims.

At Nunwan, she examined the layout and functioning of sanitation clusters and direct-

ed for speedy renovation of defunct CSCs while instructing for dedicated control rooms.

The DG reiterated that Swachhta (cleanliness) is not just a duty but a spiritual responsibility during SANJY, adding, all stakeholders must ensure a clean and safe Yatra for the devotees.

Anoo Malhotra directed the officials to complete toilet installation works by June 16 and ensure regular monitoring, surprise inspections and grievance redressal during the yatra period. She made it clear to the officials to ensure zero lapse in sanitation services. The visit marks the beginning of a series of inspections planned across both Pahalgam and Baltal routes to ensure full preparedness ahead of the holy Yatra.

## Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council to host Jammu Tawi Aarti ceremony on June 11

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council is set to organize a grand Jammu Tawi Aarti ceremony on Wednesday, 11th June 2025, at the newly developed Aarti Ghat along the beautiful Tawi Riverfront, a flagship project by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL).

This spiritually enriching event is part of a broader vision to reinforce Sanatan cultural values, instill reverence for sacred River Tawi among the younger generation, and present a vibrant religious ambience to pilgrims and tourists visiting the temple city of Jammu.

Rajesh Gupta, Chairman of the Council, shared that the event coincides with Jyeshtha Purnima and is dedicated to invoking Lord Shiva's blessings for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Buda Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025. The Havan Yagya will begin at 9 AM, followed by Purna Ahuti at



Rajesh Gupta, Chairman of the Council, addressing a press conference.

10 AM and Langar Prasad. The Maha Aarti will be performed in the evening as part of the formal commencement of Yatra preparations.

The Council also plans to launch a regular schedule of daily Maha Aarti at the same venue starting from 2nd July 2025, coinciding with the departure of the first batch of Amarnath pilgrims. Arrangements for transportation from Shri Amarnath Ji Yatri

Niwas to the Aarti site will be made for pilgrims' convenience.

Senior Vice-President Baldev Khullar described the Aarti as a "dedication to the divine and a celebration of Dogra culture," urging hoteliers and lodge associations across Jammu to encourage participation from their guests.

General Secretary Rajesh Dewan emphasized the Aarti's deeper purpose - reconnecting people with

nature, fostering unity, and reviving traditional Indian values through spiritual engagement at a new cultural landmark.

The event is open to the public, and is expected to draw large crowds of locals and tourists alike. Besides strengthening Jammu's identity as a spiritual hub, the ceremony is also anticipated to give a positive boost to the local economy.

Present at the announcement were Rajesh Gupta, President, Baldev Khullar, Senior Vice-President, Rajesh Dewan, General Secretary, Jitendra Gupta & Anoop Jain, Vice-Presidents, Vijay Gupta, Treasurer, Executive Members Bharat Bhushan Kotwal, Pankaj Mahajan, Ankush Sethi, Tanishq Mahajan, Ramesh Kumar Tak, and Sachin Raina.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council reaffirms its commitment to preserving Jammu's spiritual legacy and promoting the region as a leading pilgrimage and cultural tourism destination.