

Dr Jitendra inaugurates IIM Jammu hostel, Director authorised Rs 200 cr tender approval

Addresses IIT Jammu meet, Rs 1 L. Cr. earmarked to boost private investment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday delivered a powerful and engaging address at IIM Jammu, during its Orientation Programme, urging students to seize the moment and contribute meaningfully to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Earlier , the Minister inaugurated a new hostel in the campus comprising four aesthetic blocks , together providing 688 single rooms occupancy. He also noted that only last week, the union cabinet had authorised the Director Rs 200 cr tender approval.

In his keynote, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated, "You are born at a time when India is at the cusp of historic change. Your birth in this era is not your achievement, but how you use this opportunity will define your legacy." He described the youth as the true architects of Viksit Bharat, emphasizing their crucial role in shaping the India of 2047. Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the institute's focus on student welfare and infrastructure development, noting that such facilities not only enhance the residential experience but also contribute to a more productive academic environment. The Minister appreciated the aesthetic design and thoughtful layout of the hostel, emphasizing that world-class infrastructure is vital for nurturing talent and fostering innovation on campus. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Government's youth-centric governance model has created a dynamic ecosystem fostering education, innovation, startups,



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating the new hostel complex comprising four blocks at IIM Jammu on Monday. Also seen is Director IIM Prof Sahay.

and research. He cited the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as a game-changing reform that empowers students with interdisciplinary choices. "You are no longer prisoners of subjects chosen by your parents. Today, you can blend literature with science, or management with medicine. That is true empowerment," he said. The Minister noted that structural reforms, such as the relaxation of General Financial Rules (GFRs) and empowering Directors to approve Global Tenders up to Rs 200 crore, have significantly improved the ease of conducting research and managing institutions. These measures, he added, reflect the government's deep trust in academic leadership and the scientific community. Touching upon India's innovation journey, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated, "From just 350 startups a decade ago, India now has over 1.75 lakh startups-creating 17.56 lakh jobs, more than many governing recruitment initiatives." He urged students to shift their mindset from being job seekers to becoming job creators, leveraging the enormous support available through various start-up schemes. Having been associated with IIM Jammu since its inception, Dr. Jitendra

Singh lauded its dynamic growth and rapid strides in institutional development. "Among the IIMs established in the last 11 years, IIM Jammu has emerged as a standout performer," he remarked. He also inaugurated a newly constructed four-block hostel complex, featuring 688 single-bed rooms, and commended the institute's modern infrastructure and student-centric facilities. He advised the institute to initiate in-house B2B startup meets, leveraging its proximity to IIT, AIIMS, IIM, and the Institute of Mass Communication in Jammu. He said this rare cluster of premier institutions within a few kilometers offers an exceptional ecosystem for interdisciplinary learning and early industry-academic .

"You will be the ones to celebrate India's 100 years of independence in 2047. The responsibility of building Viksit Bharat lies with you. Take it not as a burden, but as a gift from destiny," he said.

At the same time, he reminded students and faculty to use their newfound autonomy with responsibility, observing that "every freedom carries an inherent obligation. The purpose of relaxing controls is not for comfort, but for greater creativity

and accountability."

Among the prominent attendees were Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD and CEO, J&K Bank; Prof. Upadhyay, Dean (Academics); and Dr. Sarbjit Singh, along with esteemed members of the faculty and student community.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Monday delivered a compelling address at the NITI Aayog "Regional Consultative Committee" meeting on "Ease of Doing Research and Development", at IIT Jammu on Monday. The event witnessed the participation of faculty , NITI Aayog representatives, eminent scientists, academicians, and institutional leaders. Reflecting on the genesis of IIT Jammu, Dr. Jitendra recalled a conversation from over a decade ago with the late Arun Jaitley, then Finance Minister, which ultimately led to the sanctioning of the IIT for Jammu in the Union Budget. He noted that setting up the institution from scratch was a Herculean task, but expressed pride that it is now thriving under dynamic leadership and advancing in academic excel-

lence. In a historic move, Dr Jitendra noted, the government has also opened up the nuclear sector to private participation- an unprecedented step reflecting deep trust in India's domestic scientific capabilities. Furthermore, the creation of the Rs 1 lakh crore National Research Foundation (NRF-Amusandhan) marks a significant push to encourage private sector investment in R&D, thereby strengthening the country's overall research ecosystem.

The Minister noted that this transformative initiative is further bolstered by recent reforms that empower Vice Chancellors to approve global tenders up to Rs 200 crore, significantly simplifying and expediting the procurement of advanced research equipment and infrastructure.

The event was also attended by Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, and Prof. V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog.

EPFO RO Jammu conducts seminar on Employment Linked Incentive Scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Regional Office Jammu, organized a seminar on the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme here on Monday. The event aimed to spread awareness among establishments about the ELI Scheme and educate them on its features, benefits, and operational implementation.

The ELI Scheme is a transformative initiative launched to support employment generation, boost employability, and strengthen social security, particularly in the manufacturing sector. It offers incentives to both employers and first-time employees entering the formal workforce.

Under the scheme, first-time employees earning up to Rs 1 lakh per month are eligible for a one-time wage subsidy of up to Rs 15,000, provided in two installments after 6 and 12 months of continuous employment. The scheme also promotes financial literacy by saving a portion of the incentive in a deposit instrument. Employees enrolled through this scheme are entitled to full EPFO benefits, including pension, insurance, and retirement savings.

Court rejects bail in minor rape case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Presiding Officer Fast Track Court Amarjeet Singh Langeh rejected the bail application of one Sohan Lal who was facing trial in rape with minor.

The Petitioner is facing trial in FIR No.139/2015 for offence under section 376 of RPC. Charge against petitioner for aforesaid offence was framed on September 7, 2015.

Petitioner is charged with the allegation that on May 2, 2015 when minor victim aged 6/7 years went to a grocery shop to purchase onions and when she was on the way back to her home, petitioner allegedly took her in his lap and carried her to the nearby wheat field and committed rape upon her.

Presiding Officer Fast Track Court Amarjeet Singh Langeh after hearing both the sides observed that wading through the evidence led by prosecution, in particular evidence, of victim-child and account of occurrence put forth by other material witnesses- would drive one to note that prosecution case is not that weak and feeble

Devotees flock to temples during holy Shravan Maas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The auspicious month of Shravaan Maas continues to witness a massive influx of devotees at various Shiv temples managed by the J&K Dharmarth Trust, reflecting deep spiritual fervor among the Hindu community. The Trust has made elaborate arrangements to ensure the comfort and well-being of pilgrims during this sacred period.

Dr. PS. Pathania, President of the J&K Dharmarth Trust, stated that extensive preparations have been undertaken to facilitate a smooth pilgrimage experience. "We have ensured availability of essential amenities and services for the safety and convenience of devotees at key temples," he said.



Prominent temples such as Shri Ranbireshwar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Abhi Mukteshwar Temple in Uterbehni, Umapati Mahadev Temple in Purmandal, Shiv Gauri Temple at Pahalgam, Shiv Temple Satwari, and the iconic Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar have been fully

equipped to manage the significant footfall during Shravaan Maas.

Dr. Pathania emphasized the Trust's commitment to upholding the spiritual sentiments of devotees under the esteemed patronage of Dr. Karan Singh, Hon'ble Chairman Trustee. "Our goal is to provide a serene,

meaningful, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for every devotee," he added.

Ashok Sharma (IPS Retd), Secretary of the Trust, urged temple priests to actively engage with visiting pilgrims by narrating the historical and spiritual significance of Shravaan Maas and the heritage of these ancient temples-many of which were built by the great Maharajas of Jammu and Kashmir.He also encouraged devotees to bring their children along, emphasizing the importance of instilling cultural and spiritual values in the younger generation. Visiting temples during Shravaan, he said, fosters a sense of devotion, historical pride, and respect for one's rich heritage.

JMC Com reviews cleanliness scenario to ensure comfortable stay of pilgrims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav on Monday took stock of cleanliness in different parts of Jammu city including the Municipal wards where lodgements centres have been established for Shri Anarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims. The JMC Commissioner visited Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, Vikram Chowk, Jewel, Kacchi Chowki, Parade Area, Karan Nagar, Ampallah, Rehari and Narval and other areas witnessing huge footfall of pilgrims. Dr. Yadav took stock of the sanitation operations and interacted with the staff and officials deployed at these locations. He checked the condition of streets, public areas and



JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav interacting with officials.

waste management facilities. He also reviewed the attendance of sanitation workers across different wards and expressed displeasure over the absence of some staff members. He directed the Health Officer to take strict disciplinary action against the absentee employees to ensure that no lapses occur in maintaining cleanliness.

The Commissioner also examined the deployment of vehicles, waste collection points, and treatment facilities, and instructed the teams to remain vigilant and responsive, especially at sensitive and crowded spots. He emphasized that maintaining a clean, hygienic and welcoming environment for pilgrims and residents is the top

District Jammu Urban Women Wing of JKPC's OBC Department constituted



Women Wing of the JKPC's OBC Department for District Jammu Urban with other members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a move aimed at political empowerment and grassroots inclusivity, the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has constituted the Women Wing of the OBC Department for District Jammu Urban.

This significant step, guided by the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and implemented through the tireless efforts of Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman of the OBC Department, marks a new chapter in strengthening women's participation in politics, particularly from the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Harwant Kour has been appointed as Chairperson of the newly formed Women Wing, symbolizing the rise of OBC women leaders ready to shape policy, raise critical issues, and act as change-makers across Jammu & Kashmir. A total of 27 OBC women have been nominated to key positions, each committed to grassroots activism and social reform. The newly formed wing has taken a strong

stand against the Chitta (synthetic drug) menace plaguing Jammu's youth. Under Harwant Kour's leadership, these women have vowed to combat drug abuse and protect future generations, filling the gap left by what they describe as the BJP regime's administrative failure on this front.

Chairman Madan Lal Chalotra emphasized that this initiative shatters the narrative that OBC women lack leadership. By organizing them into a formal structure, the Congress is ensuring that voices from backward communities are not only heard but also included in decision-making processes. This development marks a direct challenge to social exclusion and political marginalization, as the Congress Party positions itself as the true representative of social justice, equity, and empowerment. With a strong commitment to education, employment, healthcare, and safety, the newly constituted Women Wing is expected to bring visible and impactful change across the region.

CS pushes for 100 pc digital health records under ABDM



Ganderbal District has been honoured with the National ODOP Award for its outstanding efforts in promoting Willow Wicker under the One District One Product initiative, contributing to the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital

Mission (ABDM) in Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on ensuring seamless integration of healthcare data and digital services across the UT.

Taking stock of the ongoing

initiatives under ABDM, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgency of linking patient health records with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs, emphasizing that no stone should be left unturned to complete this vital digital transition without any further delay. He called for interlinking of Sehat, ABDM and HMIS portals, to create a unified digital ecosystem that empowers the patients, healthcare professionals and institutions to access and share data effortlessly through a single platform. Dulloo stressed that continuous updating of patient health records must be ensured so that individuals need not carry paper records when visiting any hospital or doctor. He called for universal implemen-

tation of the Scan and Share facility across all health institutions. He directed the department to rationalize manpower, especially for data entry tasks critical to success of the HMIS module. In a significant push towards improving accountability and data integrity, the Chief Secretary instructed the department to expedite the Health Professional Registry (HPR) and take strict measures against professionals delaying compliance.

He also advised for seeking technical support from BISAG-N to professionally and swiftly conclude digitization targets under the ABDM framework. Secretary H&ME, Dr. Shah, briefed about the steps already taken to accelerate digital transformation.

which in all probability would end up in absolving petitioner from charge he is facing trial in. The primary contention advanced by Ld. Counsel for petitioner to articulate his case for allowance of this application is that right to speedy trial is a fundamental right of petitioner and because petitioner is in incarceration for a very long period of time, he therefore-according to Ld. Counsel -needs to be bailed out on this premise alone. In the process however; ld. counsel for petitioner misses woods for trees, in that, not only the trial of the case in hand is at flag end but case is posted for final arguments. Essentially also, the nature of allegations

and character of evidence led by prosecution and the severity of punishment that offence under section 376 of RPC carries-can also not be ignored, impermissibility of exhaustive exploration of pattern emerging from prosecution evidence notwithstanding. Above apart, the medical record annexed with bail application qua brother of petitioner would-show that he suffered nasal bleeding for one day. Beyond this no record of immediate medical urgency has been placed on record. For the foregoing reasons, I am of the considered opinion that no case for grant of bail is made out by petitioner. Instant application is accordingly dismissed.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo		10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet		11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express		12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express		1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo		1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo		6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo		11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express		12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet		12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express		2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo		3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo		5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE		
11078 Jhelum Express		
Departure		: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express		
Departure		: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express		
Departure		: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)		
Departure		: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival		: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop		: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 715		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)		
Departure		: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival		: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 660		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		

HELPLINE		
TELEPHONES		
Directory Enquiry		197
Fault Repair		198
Local Assistance		199
Trunk Booking		180
Trunk Assistance		181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638	
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415	
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955	
Change No. Announcement	1951	
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953	
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291	
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444	
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357	
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637	
Emergency	2549669	
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638	
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012	
Dental Hospital	2544670	
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041	
Emergency	2431740	
Child Hospital	2577023	
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270	
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413	
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248	
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705	
City	2544263	
Canal	2554064	
Roop Nagar	2595752	
Gangyal	2480026	
Bari Brahmana	220020	
Akhnoor	252481	
Kathua	234313	
Samba	234280	
Katra	232451	
Udhampur	270897	
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82	
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Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920	
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920	
Hot Line	383	
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917	
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078	
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554	
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262	
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475	
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562	
Punjab Roadways	2542782	
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh	2542582	
Parade	2544979	
Bakshi Nagar	2543557	
Panjthirni	2547501	
Narwal	2430031	
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal	2554147, 2554199	
Parade	2542289, 2543398	
Nanak Nagar	2430776	
Gandhi Nagar	2430180	
Shastri Nagar	2430781	
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari	2452816	
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)		
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality	2547846, 2542192	
Health Officer	2547440	
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440	

FIND CINEMA		
Maalik		
Wave one movie Jammu	10:00 AM / 01:05 PM / 07:15 PM / 10:20 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	09:45 AM / 4:20 PM / 10:45 PM	
SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR HINDI		
Wave one movie Jammu	07:50 PM	
PVR KC	7:30 PM	
JURASSIC-WORLD-REBIRTH		
PVR KC JAMMU	0 1:20 PM	
Wave one movie Jammu	09:30 AM / 05:30 PM / 10:55 PM	
SUPERMAN (HINDI)		
Wave one movie Jammu	09:00 AM / 02:45 PM / 11:00 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	04:15 PM / 9:55 PM	