

LG pays obeisance at Daati Maa Dev Sthan at Changiya, Arnia



LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Daati Maa Dev Sthan in Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the border village of Changiya in Arnia Jammu and paid obeisance at Daati Maa Dev Sthan of Mahajan Phagetra Biradari.

Tara Chand demands statehood for J&K with constitutional guarantees for job, land Seeks early regularisation of all daily wagers

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Working President, Pradesh Congress Committee and former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand demanded early announcement for statement to Jammu and Kashmir with constitutional guarantees for land , job and other property rights for local people.

Addressing the workers especially members of various block committees of Chhamb and Akhnoor constituencies former Deputy Chief Minister demanded immediate restoration of full-fledged statehood to Jammu and Kashmir calling it the legitimate right of its people because it was an old princely state with all natural resources and world widely known for its natural beauty also. A happily state was degraded to Union Territory on 5th of August 2019 in a very undemocratic way , the reason best known to Govt's at the helm of affairs.

He reminded that the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister have assured the poor populace of Jammu and Kashmir on floor of august



JKPC Working President, Tara Chand along with partymen after the meeting.

House that statehood would be restored as early as possible but nothing has done in this regard. Advocating for unemployed both educated and trained , Tara Chand demanded early regularization of all the daily wagers , need based and engaged on contractual basis. He said these youth had great expectations from Central as well as State Govt's. He also demanded immediate filling of more than one lakh vacancies in Jammu and Kashmir as most of the educated youth got over-aged waiting for the posts to be advertised.

He also reminded that 12

cylinders for a family in a year; 10kg ration per head and special packages for people especially for border areas residents were the commitments made by the parties which are in Govt's now right months have passed but nothing concrete is visualizing on ground for the satisfaction of the people.

One fails to understand that despite ensuring supply of electricity on cheaper rates besides promises with regard to providing 200 units free as was promised, the unnecessary economic burden is being put on the Consumers. Govt must realize that people are under stress due

to the economic crisis, so the government is required to provide 200 units of free electricity to poor; Tara Chand added. Tara Chand reiterated Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and LOP Rahul Gandhi's commitment to raise every single issue being

Union Agriculture Minister to visit J&K today

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on 3rd and 4th July 2025. During his visit, he will chair high-level meetings and participate in key programmes related to agriculture, rural development, and academia. On the morning of July 3, Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar with senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Department of Rural Development.

In the afternoon, he will attend a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Natural Farming and the National Oilseeds Mission. In the evening, he will attend a courtesy meeting hosted in his honour by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan. On the second day of the visit, Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest at the sixth convocation ceremony of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), Srinagar, which will be held at the university's Shalimar Convention Centre. The event will also be attended by Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of the University, Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister and Pro-Chancellor of SKUAST-K, Omar Abdullah. During the convocation, 5,250 students will be awarded undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD degrees. In addition, 150 gold medals and 445 merit certificates will be awarded to outstanding students in recognition of their academic excellence. After the convocation ceremony, Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit saffron and apple orchards at the SKUAST-K campus and interact with horticulture scientists and farmers. Following this, the Union Agriculture Minister will meet 'Lakshmi Didi' - women symbolising empowerment and rural prosperity - in Khomoh village. The visit by Shivraj Singh is considered a significant step toward promoting sustainable agriculture, natural farming, and rural development in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, as part of the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', he had visited Jammu and held direct interactions with farmers. In continuation to that engagement, Chouhan has been regularly visiting various states and villages to directly connect with the farming community.

Retired from government service, not from service to nation: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing the first-ever "National Workshop on Pension Litigation" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: In a significant move aimed at reducing pension-related legal disputes and ensuring swifter justice for India's growing population of retired government employees, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday, while chairing the first-ever "National Workshop on Pension Litigation" organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare at Vigyan Bhawan here, said that in no case should the vital energies of our elder citizens be allowed to be consumed inconsequentially for avoidable reasons because they may be 'retired from government service but not retired from service to the nation'.

Addressing a packed hall of senior officials, legal experts and pension administrators, Dr. Jitendra underlined the Centre's firm commitment to pensioners' welfare, while also drawing attention to the mounting pressure on government finances due to litigation. He noted that with over 60 lakh pensioners today - a figure that now exceeds the number of serving Central Government employees - the challenges of pension administration have entered a new phase that requires urgent institutional coordination and systemic reforms.

"Pension-related litigation often arises from misinterpretation of rules, and unresolved grievances can lead to unnecessary hardship for senior citizens," Dr. Jitendra said.

Currently, over 300 pension-related cases are pending in various forums, with nearly 70% before Central Administrative Tribunals

(CAT). The Minister acknowledged that the Government is impleaded in nearly all of these cases, indicating the systemic nature of the problem. "Litigation is usually the last resort, not the first," the Minister said, cautioning against underestimating the grievances of pensioners. He also reflected on how, in many cases, both winning and losing parties in tribunals often appeal further; underlining the depth of discontent and the challenge of resolution.

To address these concerns, the workshop focused on legal training for nodal officers, stronger real-time coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs, and the potential use of technology - including AI-driven dashboards and repositories - to improve decision-making and case tracking.

However, Dr. Jitendra emphasized that no algorithm can replace human empathy and administrative sensitivity. "AI can assist, but welfare must be guided by intelligence of the humane kind," he remarked.

He ended on a poignant note, calling for a mindset shift in how retirees are viewed: "They may retire from government service, but not from serving the nation."

As part of the workshop proceedings, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra launched a set of key publications and initiatives aimed at enhancing awareness and grievance redressal mechanisms related to pension matters.

These included a Compendium of Case Studies on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, and a Booklet on last year's Special

Campaign on Family Pensioners' Grievances. He also formally launched the Special Campaign 2.0, a month-long nationwide drive dedicated to resolving pending grievances of family pensioners and super senior pensioners.

These initiatives are expected to support capacity building, promote best practices, and ensure targeted outreach to some of the most vulnerable sections among pensioners.

Joining the workshop virtually, Attorney General of India R. Venkataramani stressed the need for a structured national approach to litigation management, with a special focus on pension disputes. He proposed an ambitious target of achieving "zero pension litigation" by 2028 through anticipatory administrative measures, timely grievance resolution, and a culture of accountability.

Earlier in the day, Secretary of the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, V. Srinivas, outlined the rationale behind convening the National Workshop, stating that the initiative was conceived to strengthen the capacities of nodal officers, streamline administrative processes, and reduce avoidable pension-related litigation.

The plenary session of the workshop was graced by a distinguished panel of dignitaries, including Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare), Dr. Niten Chandra; Secretary (Law), Dr. Anju Rathii Rana; Learned Additional Solicitor General, Vikramjit Banerjee; Member (A), CAT Delhi, Dr. Chhabilendra Roul; and Joint Secretary (Pension), Dhruvrajyoti Sengupta.

- ▶ **Reiterates Government of India's commitment to inclusive development of the border areas**
- ▶ **Says, sacred Daati Maa Dev Sthan will be brought to religious tourism map**

perity of J&K UT. I also pray to Mata Daati for a safe and smooth pilgrimage for all the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji, he said. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the courage displayed by the residents of border villages during Operation Sindoor. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of India to the inclusive development of the border areas. "Border areas are the first line of defence. Vibrant Village Programme is transforming our border villages through improved infrastructure, and it will be ensured that the villages of this area will be taken up under the programme," he said.

Responding to the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured that

appropriate steps will be taken by the GoI to bring the sacred Daati Maa Dev Sthan on the religious tourism map.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated all the members of Akhil Bharatiya Mahajan Phagetra Biradari for their valuable contribution to the development of the Daati Maa Dev Sthan.

Rajeev Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bishnah; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Rajesh Gupta, President VHP Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh; Bharat Choudhary, President and other members of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Phagetra Biradari, prominent citizens and people from all walks of life were present.



DC Kishtwar reviews progress of PMGSY Projects in District



DC Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the progress of road infrastructure projects being carried out under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across the district. The Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation during the meeting. He informed that out of 99 sanctioned projects, 58 have been completed and 41 are in progress. In Division Marwah , 13 out of 21 schemes have been completed, with 5 currently ongoing.

A detailed review was carried out for key road projects under various stages of PMGSY implementation. These include roads from Gahan to Chandali, Novapachi to Hanzal, Ikhala (Block Boundary Kishtwar) to Lopara, Margi to Sukhna, Cherji to Semna Bhata, Hidyat to Hargadi, TKN (Km 5th) to Mori, Afani to Jar, Shashoo to Sazar, Shiwas to Ongayee, Atholi to Palali, Kuriya to Keshwan, Kandni to Ohli, and Karool to Badhat, among others. The progress of bridge works under PMGSY was also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to

monitor the progress of PMGSY works regularly in their respective jurisdictions. He also instructed the PMGSY department to initiate both phases of road works simultaneously, wherever applicable, to ensure faster execution.

To improve transparency and planning, the DC asked the Executive Engineers PMGSY to submit a month-wise completion plan for all ongoing works, including scheme-wise progress details and a list of projects delayed due to legal or court-related issues.

He further directed the inclusion of proper drainage systems and water outlets along all roads and bridges to ensure long-term durability.

The DC instructed the department to take disciplinary action, including blacklisting, against non-performing contractors.

He reiterated the district administration's zero-tolerance policy towards substandard work and stressed the need for strict quality control across all projects.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, CPO Kishtwar, Shah Nawaz Bali, Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar, Rajesh Sharma; Executive Engineer PMGSY Marwah, Mohd Farooq; AEEs along with other concerned Staff.

Historic Shri Amarnath Yatra is symbol of harmony in Kashmir: Darakhshan Welcomes first batch of Yatris at Baltal, inaugurates Bhandara

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BALTAL: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi visited Baltal Base Camp today afternoon. She took a tour of the entire Camp area and took stock of the arrangements for the pilgrims. Dr Darakhshan welcomed the first batch of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris and felicitated them. She interacted with the pilgrims and wished them a successful yatra. Waqf Board Chairperson inaugurated the Bahandara of Mahadev Seva Samiti at Baltal which will be serving to the yatris during the entire yatra period. Andrabi interacted with service providers and other departmental representatives about the yatra preparedness. Dr Darakhshan spoke to media



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi welcoming pilgrims at Baltal Base Camp.

and said that this yatra was synonymous with our tradition of spirituality and cultural excellence. "Historic Shri Amarnath Yatra is the strong symbol of harmony in Kashmir. It signifies Hindu-Muslim unity and we all are committed to strengthen this bond", said Dr Darakhshan. She said that Shri Amarnath

Ji Shrine Board in coordination with the government departments and the people of J&K have ensured a fool proof Yatra as per the precedence of the land. She said that this Yatra brings in people from whole of India here and it is the best example of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat'.

Traffic Advisory

The yatris, travelling to seek blessings of Shri Amarnath Ji, in their own/rented cars/buses or any other mode, are requested to travel in the main Yatra convoy only, starting from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu daily; in the interest of smooth and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2025.

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