

Dr Jitendra hosts J&K school children visiting Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: It was an evening filled with warmth, inspiration, and hope as Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh, hosted an informal interaction over high tea for a group of bright young school children from erstwhile militancy-affected areas of Jammu & Kashmir, currently in the national capital, as part of Bharat Darshan tour.

For many of these students-visitng Delhi for the very first time-the journey itself was symbolic: from regions once clouded by unrest to the heart of the nation's capital, carrying with them dreams, aspirations, and a newfound optimism for the future.

Over dinner, Dr. Jitendra interacted with the students, encouraging them to make technology and information their most trusted companions in shaping career choices, and to focus on capacity building through skill development, StartUps and entrepreneurial ventures.

Welcoming them with warmth, Dr. Singh praised their courage to step beyond familiar boundaries and overcome the shadows of the past. He urged them to break free from the traditional "Sarkari Naukri" and coaching-centre mindset, and instead draw strength from transformative success stories such as the Purple Revolution and the Aroma Mission



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh interacting with school children from J&K, currently in Delhi, as a part of the Bharat Darshan tour.

originating from J&K, which have brought prosperity to many youth in the region through lavender cultivation and allied agribusiness ventures. He also shared that a cannabis cultivation project for medicinal purposes would soon come up in collaboration with CSIR.

With pride, the Minister narrated the inspiring journey of a young girl from Poonch who, in her very first attempt, secured All India Rank 11 in the Civil Services Examination, another girl from Sopore cracked IIT-JEE without coaching. "Such stories," he said, "are not just personal

victories-they are symbols of the democratisation of opportunities and aspirational youth in today's India, where determination and talent from even the remotest corners can shine on the national stage."

Dr. Jitendra also reflected on the historic transformation that Jammu & Kashmir has undergone under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-better roads, faster air connectivity, stronger digital networks, and modern educational and research facilities.

These changes, he emphasised, have created an environment where

the youth from all backgrounds, including those from areas once affected by militancy, can dream bigger and achieve more-whether in hospitality, engineering, aviation, civil services, sports, or cutting-edge startups.

The Minister spoke with admiration of how J&K youth are now making their mark across India's workforce-from luxury hotels and engineering projects to entrepreneurial ventures and international sports arenas. "This is your moment," he told them. "You are not just the future-you are the present. The world is waiting for your ideas, your courage, and your leadership."

In a heartfelt message, Dr. Jitendra Singh reminded the students that their journey from conflict to confidence is an inspiration for the entire nation. "Your generation stands at the threshold of unprecedented opportunities," he said. "Your story will be the story of a rising India. Aim high, stay informed, and take that leap of faith. The nation is with you, and so am I."

The evening ended with a renewed sense of purpose among the students, carrying back not just memories of Delhi, but a vision for the future-a vision where the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, especially those from areas once marred by militancy, lead with innovation, courage, and pride.



Khatana, Yudhvir lead Tiranga bike rally in Jammu East

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JAMMU: BJP Bajalta Mandal of Jammu East Constituency under the leadership of Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Ali Khatana, Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, and BJP Jammu Zila President, Rajesh Gupta took out a massive "Har Ghar Tiranga" bike rally from Sidhra Chowk, here today.

The rally was organized by Shiv Kumar Sharma, BJP Bajalta Mandal President of Jammu East Constituency under the supervision of MLA Yudhvir Sethi, and attended by a large number of BJP Karyakartas.

The Rally was held under the nationwide campaign inspired by the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which over the past three years has transformed into a mass movement uniting citizens from all walks of life.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from BJP workers, local residents, and youth, all waving the Tricolour with pride and raising slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Matram.

The National Flag, the Tiranga, was carried high by the participants, symbolizing the unity, pride, and identity of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Khatana, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said, "Today, as we march with the Tiranga held high,



MP Ghulam Ali Khatana and MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi leading Tiranga Rally.

we reaffirm our commitment to a united and strong India. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, every Indian has the right to live with dignity and pride. Let us reject divisive forces and stand together as one nation. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, we are witnessing a new era of development and empowerment."

Yudhvir Sethi lauded the overwhelming response from the people of Bajalta Mandal. "Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is more than just hoisting a flag - it is about reaffirming our commitment to the values of our nation," he said.

"The Tiranga is not just a piece of cloth; it represents the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters, the dignity of our armed forces, and the aspirations of 140 crore Indians," Sethi remarked.

"I appeal to every citizen to actively take part in this movement by hoisting the National Flag at their

homes and workplaces. By doing so, we are not only honouring our heritage but also strengthening the spirit of unity in diversity."

Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Gupta emphasized that the campaign provides an opportunity for the younger generation to understand and connect with the legacy of India's freedom struggle. "When the youth hold the Tiranga high, they carry forward the dreams and sacrifices of our forefathers," he added.

The rally concluded with the singing of the National Anthem, as the Tricolour fluttered proudly in the hands of the participants.

Shiv Kumar Sharma, in his vote of thanks, expressed gratitude to all those who took part and pledged to continue spreading the message of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign across the constituency.

Urban Planning Failure in Jammu RTI reveals demolition of Smart City Signages worth Rs 3.4 Crore: Balvinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned RTI activist Balvinder Singh, while sharing the detail with media, revealed that a one of his RTI response from ACEO Jammu Smart City has uncovered a deeply troubling lapse in the functioning of Jammu Smart City Projects Limited (JSCPL), exposing a massive waste of public funds stemming from negligent planning and procedural violations.

Under the ambitious Smart City Mission, JSCPL installed started the installation of 682 wayfinding signages across Jammu in 2020 & completed the work on December 31, 2022, at a cost of Rs 10.20 crore, with the aim of modernizing urban navigation and enhancing civic infrastructure. However, the initiative has now become a symbol of public disillusionment and administrative failure.

In a deeply troubling display of administrative apathy, 58 major wayfinding signages-worth a staggering Rs 3.4 crore-were demolished during



the recent widening of the Satwari-Kunjwani road, barely two years after their installation. Three large signages, each amounting to Rs 35,50,000, and another three, each costing Rs 7,50,000, were among the 58 signages. These installations, funded entirely by taxpayer money, now lie in ruins-silent witnesses to a planning failure that could have been easily avoided. What makes this waste even more egregious is the fact that these signages were erected without securing the mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI). This procedural lapse ignored a critical safeguard: ensuring alignment with future road expansion plans and protecting the "Right of Way" reserved for utilities and infrastructure. In bypassing this essential step, the authorities not only violated regulatory norms but also betrayed the trust of citizens whose hard-earned contributions sustain public development.

In a glaring oversight, 58 major signages-worth Rs 3.4 crore-were demolished during the recent widening of the

Satwari-Kunjwani Road. These installations, funded by taxpayer money, were erected without securing mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)-a critical step to ensure alignment with future road expansion plans and safeguard the "Right of Way" reserved for utilities and infrastructure.

Singh pointed out that ordinary citizens are routinely required to obtain NOCs from departments such as Revenue, Nazool, PWD, PDD, and NHAI before constructing

near roadways. Shockingly, JSCPL bypassed this process entirely, leading to the premature destruction of public assets within just five years of installation.

Despite the scale of the financial loss and the procedural violations, no official has been held accountable, raising serious concerns about governance, transparency, and institutional integrity.

Singh stated that he had filed an RTI request seeking inspection of the workshop where dismantled signages were reportedly being stored, but JSCL denied access. Undeterred by the refusal, he personally located the dumping site and documented the condition of the discarded signages through photographs.

Balvinder Singh has made an appeal to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, urging them to initiate a high-level investigation by an agency of proven integrity to identify those responsible and ensure accountability.

Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan: Div Com flags off JMC's Swachh Jammu Run 2025



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar flagging off JMC's Swachh Jammu Run 2025.

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JAMMU: The spirit of patriotism and civic responsibility came alive in Jammu on Sunday as Jammu Municipal Corporation organised the Swachh Jammu Run 2025 under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyaan. The event formed a key part of a series of activities being held to commemorate the 79th Independence Day and to sustain the momentum of cleanliness initiatives following the successful culmination of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

The auspicious beginning of the run was marked by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, who flagged off the Swachh Jammu Run from Bahu Plaza. He was accompanied by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr Devansh Yadav along with senior administrative and police officials. The run was designed in two categories - 10 km and 5 km - charting scenic yet significant routes across the city, passing through Railway Station, Panama Chowk, University Road, Gujjar Nagar, Hari Singh Park, Jewel Chowk and culminating back at Bahu Plaza.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 2,000 participants from all walks of life including enthusiastic youth, senior citizens, fitness enthusiasts, children and a large number of women all uniting under the banner of Clean Jammu, Healthy Jammu. The Swachh Jammu Run was also integrated into the Fit India Challenge, underlining the dual focus on public health and environmental consciousness.

In the 5 km category, Ek Love secured first place, followed by Kanish in second and Hardeep in third. In the 10 km category, Raghav emerged the winner, with Surendra Kanhaiya claiming second position and Sunil Kumar finishing third. All winners were hon-

oured with medals, certificates and mementoes during the prize distribution ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar emphasised that the Swachh Jammu Run was not merely a sporting event, but a strong social message. "This run reflects our shared commitment to building a cleaner, healthier and more vibrant Jammu. It also ties in with the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, which inspires every citizen to proudly hoist the national flag and instils a deep sense of patriotism. Cleanliness and respect for our environment are integral to our national pride," he added.

At the prize distribution ceremony Dr. Devansh Yadav addressed the participants, commending their enthusiasm and underlining the importance of community-led cleanliness drives.

"In the spirit of Independence Day, we must also strive for freedom from pollution and unhygienic conditions. Clean surroundings are essential for the health and future of our younger generations. Each one of us must contribute towards keeping Jammu green, clean and inspiring for the years to come," he maintained.

The event concluded with lively interactions among participants and dignitaries, as the atmosphere at Bahu Plaza echoed with patriotic slogans and the pride of collective achievement. The presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sher Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, senior officers of JMC, volunteers, and citizens turned the Swachh Jammu Run into not just a race, but a vibrant celebration of community spirit.

Among others, senior officers from JMC, civil and police administration, besides a large number of locals and sports lovers were present on the occasion.

IIM Jammu concludes 5-Day Short-Term Training Programme on 'Hindi Word Processing/Hindi Typing'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, successfully concluded the 5-day short-term training (Validation Course) on Hindi Word Processing / Hindi Typing for its employees today. The training, held from 4th to 8th August 2025, was conducted under the guidance of Shri Santosh Kumar, Assistant Director, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Hindi Teaching Scheme, Gangwal, Jammu, who served as the expert resource person.

During the programme, participants were trained on essential topics such as Hindi word processing/typing, handwriting, letter writing, and data preparation.

The valedictory session was graced by Prof. Shyam



Participants of five-Day Short-Term Training Programme with IIM faculty.

Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Publications Division; Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer; and Dr. Ashish Kumar Isher, Hindi Rajbhasha Adhikari, IIM Jammu.

On the occasion, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Publications Division, IIM Jammu, and Chairperson, Anandam: The Centre for Happiness, highlighted the significance of such training

programmes in today's professional environment. He stated that mastering Hindi typing and its practical applications is not merely a linguistic exercise but a vital skill that enhances efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility in both administrative and academic workflows. He further remarked that such capacity-building initiatives foster inclusivity, bridge communication gaps, and uphold the cultural richness of India's linguistic heritage within

institutional operations.

Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, expressed his gratitude to Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, for his unwavering support and encouragement, noting that under his leadership, the institute has undertaken several initiatives to promote the progressive use of Hindi in alignment with the Government of India's Rajbhasha policy. He

emphasized that such efforts significantly contribute to preserving and promoting the national language in professional and academic spheres.

Such training programmes are a vital and commendable step towards strengthening the effective implementation of Hindi within the institute's administrative and academic processes. They not only enhance the linguistic proficiency of employees but also equip them with the technical skills needed to seamlessly integrate Hindi into official correspondence, documentation, and digital communication.

The completion of this programme reaffirms IIM Jammu's dedication to nurturing linguistic proficiency, promoting the progressive use of Hindi, and fostering a culture of efficiency, inclusivity, and national pride across all its academic and administrative endeavours.

GMC Srinagar's Neurosurgery Dept performs over 3,000 life-saving surgeries in 10 months

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a groundbreaking achievement, the Neurosurgery Department at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has successfully performed over 3000 neurosurgical procedures in just 10 months, solidifying its position as a center of excellence in the region.

The department has demonstrated unparalleled dedication, efficiency, and commitment to advanced patient care.

The remarkable journey is a testament to the tireless efforts of its surgical, anesthesia, nursing, and

support teams. From brain tumors and spine surgeries to trauma interventions and pediatric neurosurgical cases, the team has handled a wide range of complex procedures with precision and care.

This achievement is not just about numbers - it's about saving lives and restoring quality of life for thousands of patients.

The department of Neurosurgery runs OPD services in Super speciality Hospital and caters to casualty services in SMHS Hospital providing OPD consultation to 4000 patients monthly besides

OPD and OT services.

The department operates round-the-clock, handling emergency cases involving road traffic accidents, head injuries, and critical spinal conditions.

The high surgical volume is a reflection of the trust placed by patients not only from Jammu and Kashmir but also from neighboring states.

Despite a high patient load, the GMC neurosurgical team has continued to raise the standard of care through continuous training, teamwork, and adoption of modern surgical techniques. The depart-

ment's commitment to excellence has earned it a reputation as a leading center for neurosurgical services in the region.

As the department continues to grow, plans are underway to expand operation theatre facilities, upgrade imaging and navigation technologies, and introduce more sub-specialty services. The GMC Srinagar's Neurosurgery Department is poised to take its services to new heights, providing world-class care to patients in need.

The Neurosurgery Department at GMC

Srinagar has set a remarkable benchmark in the field of neurosurgery, and its achievements serve as an inspiration to healthcare professionals and patients alike.

The Department also runs a Post Doctoral Neurosurgery Training Program (Dr:NB Neurosurgery) under accreditation by the National Board of Examinations New Delhi since many years and every year the neurosurgeons who pass out from the department add to the pool of limited neurosurgeons across the country.