

# Dr Jitendra delivers ‘Platinum Jubilee’ address at Kolkata’s premier Glass-Ceramics Institute

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: The CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI), Kolkata, concluded its year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations, commemorating 75 years of pioneering contributions in glass and ceramic science.

At the closing ceremony held at the M.N. Saha Auditorium, Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between scientific institutions and industry to accelerate India's technological growth.

Dr. Singh called for Indian research institutes to move beyond government dependency and actively engage with industry to foster innovation and economic impact. He cited successful examples like lavender cultivation in Jammu & Kashmir and COVID-19 vaccine development, where industry partnerships transformed research into livelihood opportunities and market-ready products. Stressing integration, he noted that emerging sectors such as semiconductors, green hydrogen, and



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiling the Platinum Jubilee plaque of the "Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute" (CGCRI), Kolkata.

quantum technologies require joint efforts between institutions, departments, and industry.

He praised CGCRI for its rich legacy since its inception in 1950 as one of CSIR's earliest laboratories. The institute has significantly contributed to India's development by supporting traditional industries and advancing high-tech innovations such as optical glass, radiation-shielding materials,

insulating bricks from waste, and bio-ceramics for healthcare.

CGCRI's work aligns with national missions including Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and Jal Jeevan Mission, and it maintains active collaborations with partners across Europe, the USA, and Asia.

The ceremony featured a welcome address, lamp lighting, and special remarks from academic leaders

including Prof. Indranil Manna (BIT Mesra) and Prof. Suman Chakraborty (IIT Kharagpur), during which MoUs were signed to strengthen collaborative research. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma (IIT Kanpur), Chairman of CGCRI's Research Council, also addressed the gathering. Dr. Singh unveiled a commemorative plaque titled "Rededicating to the Nation", visited core research facilities, and released the Pan-CSIR Safety Manual. A video message from former CSIR Director General Dr. Shekhar C. Mande was also screened.

Looking forward, the Minister noted CGCRI's potential in shaping India's future through technologies like advanced ceramics, solid oxide electrolyser cells for green hydrogen, quantum materials, and 3D printing.

He urged the institute to nurture young researchers, support startups and artisans, and contribute to India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

"CGCRI's legacy proves that science and innovation can shape a nation's destiny," Dr. Singh said, calling it a key driver of India's progress through the Amrit Kaal and beyond.



# DC reviews flood relief, restoration measures in Jammu City

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas on Thursday conducted a tour of the flood-affected areas of Jammu city and reviewed the ongoing relief and restoration measures.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Greater Kailash, Jogi Gate and Gujjar Nagar areas to assess the situation and interacted with residents.

At Greater Kailash, Dr Minhas inspected the power receiving station which had suffered extensive damage due to floods. He directed immediate restoration of power supply and addressed several other concerns raised by the people. He assured that long-term flood protection measures will be taken up on priority adding that Power supply has been restored in Jammu city except Greater Kailash which will be restored by evening.

"The removal of muck and debris from houses is being taken up on priority," the Deputy Commissioner said



DC Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas interacting with flood-affected area residents.

while interacting with the residents at Jogi Gate. For removal for muck and debris the administration has put 40 JCBs in service and Tehildars and BDOs are coordinating. He added that ensuring availability of food was equally important. "Nobody should go hungry in this situation. The administration is distributing ration and cooked food in the affected areas," he stated adding that 10,000 food packets have been distributed till now.

Dr Minhas further informed

that water supply is being restored in a phased manner. "Drinking water supply will be back to normal by tomorrow" he said. He added that medicines are also being provided to citizens in the affected localities.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Rajesh Kumar; Tehsildar Jammu Khas Paramdeep Singh, besides other officers of the district administration.

# CS reviews availability, distribution of petroleum products in far-flung areas of J&K

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting on Thursday to review the availability and distribution of petroleum products in the remote and far-flung areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, Deputy Commissioners of Ramban, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Controller of Legal Metrology, Director FCS&CA Kashmir/ Jammu, Director Finance FCS&CA, Special Secretary FCS&CA, SSP Traffic, State Level Coordinator for Oil companies, representatives from Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum.

The meeting focused on addressing the challenges posed by geographical barriers, difficult terrain, and logistical difficulties in ensuring the timely and uninterrupted supply of



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Thursday.

petroleum products to remote regions of Jammu and Kashmir. During this meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized on the need to streamline the fuel supply chain to ensure timely delivery to remote areas. He stressed on the importance of inter-departmental coordination to create a more efficient delivery system capable of meeting the demands of far-flung areas.

While reviewing logistics and infrastructure improvements, the Chief Secretary stressed on strengthening fuel distribution networks, including the possibility of establishing additional supply points in

regions with high demand for petroleum products. He also called upon the officers to explore alternative solutions for remote areas like introducing mobile fuel supply units, to address the challenges of reaching areas that are difficult to access due to harsh weather or geographical limitations.

The Chief Secretary also asked the officers to launch a public awareness campaign to ensure residents are well-informed about fuel availability, distribution schedules and emergency requirements. He further directed the officers to engage with oil marketing

companies to explore opportunities for enhancing storage capacities and expanding infrastructure at strategic locations. Taking stock of disruptions in transportation due to adverse weather, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to allow the vehicles carrying essential supplies on priority basis to prevent any delays in the supply chain. He also asked the officers to prioritise the transportation of railway racks carrying petroleum products coming from Punjab to Jammu to ensure timely delivery to remote areas.

The Chief Secretary further called the representatives of

Oil companies to take immediate steps for ensuring minimum of 15 days stock is maintained at oil depots in Jammu, while 10 days stock is made available at retail outlets across the region. He asked them to maintain 20 days stock at depot levels and 15 days stock at retail outlets in Kashmir valley.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioner Kathua to monitor the movement of stranded vehicles on a priority basis and take necessary action to ensure the swift movement of goods and supplies. The Chief Secretary also passed directives to Deputy Commissioners of Ramban, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, and Kishtwar to monitor stock availability in far-flung areas. During the meeting, State Level Coordinator informed the meeting about the upcoming Common Utility Facility (CUF) at Bajalta, which will have a storage capacity of 1 lakh kilolitres and is expected to be operational by December 2025.

# Power shutdown

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Grid Station Canal, Pounichack, Katra Reasi, Rajouri, Draba, Jourian and Barn will remain off on August 29 and 30 from 6 am to 6 pm on continuous basis. During the period the power supply to district Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Part of district Jammu, Katra and Railway Traction System will remain affected. However, the power supply to the essential installations shall be made on phased manner.

# KPs begin Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in Valley

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri pandits in the Valley have begun festivities to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with fervour and devotion.

The festival, traditionally known as Vinayak Tchoram, is marked by the installation of Ganesha 'murtis' (idols) in homes and on elaborate 'pandals'.

This year's celebrations began on Wednesday, with grand religious ceremonies being held at the Siddhivinayak Ganpatyar temple here. All PM Package Employees Welfare Association in Indira Nagar, Shiv Temple, and Vessu KP

Colony in Anantnag.

Like the previous year, 'hawans' (sacred fire rituals) and 'prasad' distribution have been organised to celebrate the auspicious occasion.

These events are being held with an instrumental support from Shri Bausaheb Rangari Trust in Pune, headed by Punit Balan, who has provided eco-friendly Ganesha idols to ensure that the celebrations are environmentally responsible.

In addition to the religious ceremonies, five days of cultural and 'bhajan' evenings have been planned to bring

the community together in a celebration of devotion and culture.

The festival will culminate in a procession for the immersion of Ganesha idols, which will be carried from the Ganpatyar Mandir, Shiva Temple, and the Vessu KP Colony to the banks of the Vitasta Jhelum River.

This traditional procession, scheduled for August 31 and September 2, is a major highlight of the celebrations.

A unique feature of the festival, known as 'Pann Pooza', involves the preparation of sweet bread as an offering to Lord Ganesha.

This sacred bread is later distributed among family members and friends, symbolising unity and communal bonding.

Despite the challenges faced during the militancy years, the local Muslim community in Kashmir continues to witness and participate in the celebrations, reflecting the enduring spirit of communal harmony that transcends religious boundaries.

The participation of the local Muslim-majority population highlights the deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood and mutual respect in the Valley.

# Why delay in nominations out of POJK DPs & Kashmiri Migrants to Legislative Assembly even when there is no stay from High Court?

Even if sole discretion still LG has to consult ‘some’ one for retrieving the credentials & suitability so for that let it be council of Ministers

## ■ DAYA SAGAR

Elections to Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K were held from 18 September to 1 October 2024 in 3 phases to elect 90 members and results were announced on 8 October 2024 and the First session of the First LA of UT of J&K was held from 4th November 2024. It is now over 9 months since the LA was constituted but so far no any nomination has been made by LG of UT of J&K in reference to Sections- 15, 15A and 15B of the J&K Reorganisation Act 34 of 2019 as amended by Act No: 35 of 2023.

It is not out of place to mention here that the Sections 15A and 15B were added in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 by The Jammu And Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, No. 35 of 2023 keeping in view the representations of POJK DPs/1947 & Kashmiri Migrants and some recommendations / suggestions made by the Delimitation Commission for the reasons of giving some specific representation to these

communities in a way claiming to be suffering from less representation over decades& still living in a state of insecure future. No doubt the representation by nomination that was accorded to POJK DPs 1947/1965/1971 and the advantage that was to accrue has not yet reached the affected families . Why has not that been done is another question ?

Although no reason for the nomination having not been done has come in the public domain from the official sources but it has been commonly understood that may be that has not been done since some petition is there before the High Court of J&K , particularly pleading that the power to nominate should not be only on the discretion of the LG & LG should do that on the recommendations of the council of ministers and it has been reported that in the reply to petition related issues Home Ministry has stated that as per the Act 34 LG need not necessarily consult the council of Ministers.

But as per the information that is

available so far no any order has been issued by SC or J&K High COURT for staying the process of nominations by the LG in reference to the petition before the court. Nor is there any uncertainty about the stability of the present UT Government. As reported it was on 22-10 -2024 J&K high court refused to stay nomination of 5 MLAs by LG. A division bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri refused to grant a stay on the nominations, pending adjudication of the matter and it was also said that in view of the fact that the elected 1 govt has been formed in J&K , there is no urgency for grant of interim relief prayed for. The HC had then listed the matter for final consideration on Dec 5. The case is still in the court and fixed for hearing on 26-09-2025.

Only sufferers due to delay are the two communities of POJK DPs and Kashmiri migrants. As regards Section -15 for nomination upto 2

## A Look through the Mist



woman by LG the same is conditional i.e LG may nominate if in LG's opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly; going by the ECI website three woman have also been elected as MLAs (Shagun Parihar BJP Kishtwar , pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Electronics, defeating Sajad Ahmed Kitehloo by over 500 votes; Sakeena Masood ( Kulgam) and Shamim Firdous ( Habbakadal) of the National Conference so in case one out of the two nominated MLAs out of Kashmiri Migrants has also to be a woman then there will be atleast 4 woman MLAs in LA thereby having no inadequacy of woman members ( will with 4 members woman would be still inadequately represented in the LA ?).

So since the petition in HC is more of technical / procedural provisions in Act 34 ( say whether Sections 15, 15A, and 15B of the Reorganisation Act - which empower the LG to nominate addition-

al members beyond the elected Assembly strength - violate the Constitution's basic structure ? )and there is also no ultimate legal bar on the Government of UT to nominate the POJK DPs representative and Kashmiri Migrants representative to the LA the LG should have no problem in nominating one MLA out of the POJK DPs & atleast one MLA ( if felt LG may go for 2) out of Kashmiri migrants so that atleast some of their voice reaches the legislature. Even if it is assumed that LG is not bound to go for seeking aid and advice from council of Ministers in 'that' regard but still for picking up one or two persons out of such large communities LG has to consult 'some' one for retrieving the information and so for that let it be council of Ministers. Otherwise also there is no stay from any court.

As stated in the foregoing paras the wisdom and truthfulness of a very senior person like Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji in the chair as LG cannot be so simply questioned and also there being a provi-

sion under Section-53 for a council of Ministers to be there to aid & advise the LG in the matters for which Legislative Assembly can make laws/ can legislate so the nomination of members is related to LA , elected government there is with large majority , so let the LG nominate the members from two communities of POJK DPs & Kashmiri Migrants so that they are no more denied their voice any more ( even if the beneficiary communities are not fully satisfied with the numbers slated for nomination under the concerned Act.)

Yes there is also very genuine need even amending the Section -15B so as to increase the nominated members for POJK DPs 1947/1965/1971 ( to atleast 3 ) looking at the number of their families staying in UT of J&K as on date being much more than the Kashmiri Migrants ( it could be examined to fairness)

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