

**Weather**  
**Jammu**  
 Maximum: 19°C  
 Minimum: 07°C  
**SRINAGAR**  
 Maximum: 08°C  
 Minimum: -2°C

# 29-X-NEWS

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## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 55th GST Council meeting in Jaisalmer

### GST Council meet to decide on lower taxes on insurance policies, ATF inclusion

JAISALMER, DEC 21

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is chairing the 55th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council which is underway in Jaisalmer of Rajasthan on Saturday. The participants in the meeting include the Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya and Odisha. The Deputy Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana are also present in the meeting along with the Finance Ministers of States/UTs, Secretary of



Department of Revenue, 55th meeting of the GST Council, in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, today." The GST Council, consisting of the Union Finance Minister and representatives from all States and Union Territories, was established to make decisions on various aspects of GST, including tax rates, exemptions,

and administrative procedures. Though official agenda for the meeting is not in public domain, but sources asserted that the proposed rationalisation of GST rates on health and life insurance products will be on the agenda in Saturday meeting. Sources had said that the Group of Ministers on insurance, chaired by Bihar Minister Samrat Chaudhary, has submitted the report to the GST Council. The Group of Ministers was tasked to look into GST rates related to medical insurance and come up with a report so that the GST Council could take up the matter. Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums

## Proposed 28% GST hike will destroy Kashmiri art, says Mehbooba Mufti

29XNEWS SRINAGAR, DEC 21



Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has strongly criticized the proposed 28% GST hike on textiles, warning that it will devastate Kashmir's rich artistic heritage, including shawls and handicrafts. She also called on National Conference vice president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue and safeguard the region's traditional industries. Speaking to reporters, Mehbooba said, "Today, when you increase GST by 28% in the capital of Kashmir, our art will

automatically end. Efforts are being made to destroy it by doing development work on horticulture land and by imposing GST on shawls and handicrafts. Both these things kept Jammu and Kashmir alive in difficult times." Mehbooba urged Omar Abdullah to take concrete steps to address the issue. "I request Omar Sahab, what are you doing to save it? What are you doing on the matter of increasing GST by 28%? I hope that Omar Sahab will pay attention to this and solve the problems of the people," she added. The PDP chief's remarks come amid widespread opposition to the proposed GST hike, which many fear will severely impact

## Govt committed to nurture, promote creative talent: Dy CM

### Attends screening of Dogri Movie

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the present government is committed towards nurturing and promoting creative talent in the region. "Jammu and Kashmir has been gifted with immense creative talent as our artists have created a niche for themselves nationally and globally," maintained the Dy CM while assuring all requisite facilities and platform for the budding talents.



The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with filmmakers and artists during the premiere of Dogri Movie Gang War 86, which he released the other day.

## Dr Jitendra Singh chairs DISHA meeting; reviews progress on development projects in Doda

### Chattergala tunnel to be game changer in providing all weather connectivity between Doda, Lakhapur

29XNEWS DODA, DEC 21

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, today said the prestigious Chhatergala tunnel connecting Doda and Baderwah with Lakhapur via Basohli-Bani will be a game changer in providing all weather connectivity to the region while



boosting employment opportunities for the local youth. The Union Minister was speaking during the District Development

Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) held here today. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress on various centrally sponsored schemes and key infrastructure projects in the district. Dr Jitendra Singh said the region which had remained untouched by development for the past many decades is now connected by a wide web of highways, improving connectivity in far-flung areas of Doda. He called for early completion of the important projects, including Khellani

## Centre sanctions 9 projects worth Rs 85 cr for J&K Universities, Colleges under PM-USHA

### JAMMU, DEC 21:

The Union Ministry for Education, has approved projects worth Rs 85 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for nine higher education institutions in Jammu & Kashmir. The decision, taken during the third Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting announced on December 20, 2024, underscores the government's

## GCW Parade mourns demise of Faculty member

### JAMMU, DEC 21:

The Principal, staff and students of Government College for Women, Parade Ground Jammu deeply condole the sad and untimely demise of Dr. Asha Rani, Asst. Prof. in Sociology who left for heavenly abode the other day. She was known for her generosity and unwavering spirit and also inspired those around her. She left the world too soon living behind an academic

## DHSJ conducts Field Epidemiology Training Program in One Health to Build Integrated Response Preparedness

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

The three-day Sector Connect Training Program on Field Epidemiology in One Health (FEPOH), organized in Jammu with the support of National Health Mission J&K and State Surveillance Unit of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu, concluded successfully, here today. The program, aimed at enhancing preparedness



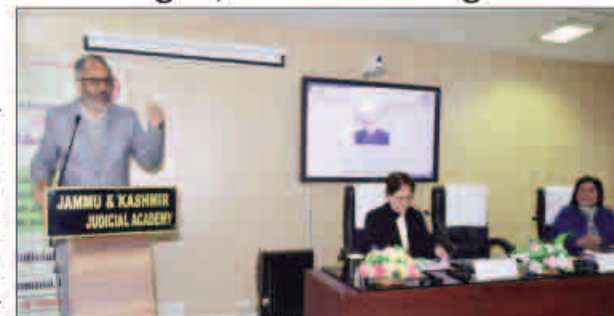
for Integrated Public Health Responses to emerging Zoonotic Diseases, Climate change antimicrobial resistance and Biodiversity loss. This workshop aims to provide a platform to share knowledge, exchange ideas and develop strategies that

bridge the gaps between Health Sectors. This workshop is represented by professionals from Health, Animal Husbandry, Wildlife, and Food Safety departments across all districts of the Jammu division. This workshop was held under the leadership of Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary Health and Medical Education J&K and attended by Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services

## Judicial Academy holds workshop on "Leadership role of Judges; Court Management"

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy today organised one day workshop on



The workshop was inaugurated by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who also served as resource person for the first session of the day. Jammu province at Bala Jyoti, Former Janipur, Jammu.

## Commissioner JMC takes stock of Christmas Eve arrangements

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive tour of various areas across Jammu city to take stock of the arrangements put in place for celebrations of Christmas. The purpose of his visit was to review the arrangements made on the Eve of Christmas and ensure all necessary civic amenities were in place. During the tour, the Commissioner visited various churches,



including prominent ones like St. Mary's Church, Valmiki chowk, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, St. John's Catholic Church, Bakshi Nagar, Joseph Colony and Church New Plot, St. Peter Church and Christian Colony, Residency Road etc. Along with several key locations in the vicinity

## DIPR empowers students by hosting seminars on Cyber Crime, health & hygiene

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu today organised a Symposium on the topic "Cyber Crime" at Little Angels Paradise Higher Secondary School Udhampur. The objective of organizing the event was to educate the students regarding cyber crime. The programme started with Sarswati Vandna. The students expressed their views in Hindi and English. They



shared valuable information on the topic and also presented poems and songs etc. Students were judged on parameters of Pronunciation, Modulation of Voice, Factual Representation, confidence etc. Payal and Arvind Raina were the Judges for the day. As many as 13 students participated in the Symposium competition. First Position was bagged by Gouri Khajuria, second position went to Sonia Devi and third position

## Jammu & Kashmir leads in delivery of PM Vishwakarma Toolkits to artisans

29XNEWS JAMMU, DEC 21

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness

Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all parts of the Country. The PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir