

## CISF holds weekend 'Mela' in Delhi



Savitri Singh wife of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurating the Mela on Friday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Delhiites can get a glimpse of some exclusive handicraft items and cuisine this weekend as part of a special fair being held by paramilitary CISF here.

The force is hosting a three-day 'Mela' bringing together household and other items at one location from various parts of the country.

The fair, called 'Navrang', was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh's wife Savitri Singh and will continue till 17th January at the forces' camp in south Delhi's Saket area.

Gunita Singh, President of the Wives Welfare Association of the force and wife of Central Industrial Security Force chief Surender Singh, said the proceeds from the sale of this

fair will be used for troops' welfare.

Savitri said that it was a good and sincere effort by 'Sanrakshika' and it would bring joy to CISF personnel and their families from strenuous daily routine and operational duties. She also distributed the scholarship and sports meritorious certificate to the wards of CISF and wished that this will act as catalyst in motivating other wards to reach this milestone. She took a round of all stalls installed by North, South, East, West, North East, Airport and Training Sectors of CISF and praised for collection of items and articles.

Vote of thanks was presented by Nita Pachnanda, wife of R.K Pachnanda, ADG CISF.

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## Pak's joint probe team to seek DNA, finger prints of terrorists

**AGENCY**  
ISLAMABAD: The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) set up by Pakistan to probe the Pathankot attack today decided to seek from India the DNA reports and finger prints of the slain terrorists amid its keenness to expedite the probe, an official said.

The team, headed by IG Rai Tahir of Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department, held a meeting here Islamabad to discuss the progress in probe investigation into the incident.

The meeting deliberated on the information received from interrogation of several suspects held so far, the official said.

According to the official, the team decided to expedite the probe, whose progress is clearly linked to the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries which was to be held today but was deferred.

The team decided to seek information from India about DNA reports and finger prints of killed attackers, he said.

The team also decided to seek other information from India like how the terrorists entered the country, about their stay and whether there was any insider link.

It is expected that the team will also visit India to probe the attack.

The JIT comprises officials from Intelligence Bureau (IB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence.

## Ghulam Ali performs in Kerala amid Shiv Sena protests

**AGENCY**  
THIRUPURAM: Protests by Shiv Sena activists notwithstanding, Pakistani ghazal legend Ghulam Ali today enthralled music buffs here as he belted out his popular numbers before a packed house.

The 75-year-old maestro, who is in on his maiden visit to the 'God's Own Country', mesmerised the audience at the Nishagandhi Auditorium in the city late this evening.

He was accompanied by famed ghazal singer Pandit Vishwanath and son Aamir Ali. More than the 5000 strong music lovers enjoyed the evening with applause.

Ali began by singing his famous number 'Chup ke chup ke' from the Bollywood movie 'Nikah' along with Aamir.

Sena activists, who had demanded cancellation of the concert in the wake of the Pathankot terror strike, were stopped nearby the venue by the police.

Water cannons were used to disperse around 200 Sena activists, who also burnt a Pakistan flag as a mark of protest, police said. PTI

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प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister

My dear farmer brothers and sisters,

The news of the **'Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana'** must have already reached you. Farmers in our country have often felt at risk - at times from crop losses due to natural disasters, at times by falling market prices. Over the last eighteen months, we have taken several steps to help those of you who faced such difficulties.

There have been insurance schemes for farmers in the past as well. However, they were unsuccessful because of various reasons - ranging from high premium rates to low claim value and non-coverage of localised crop-loss. As a result, not more than 20 percent of farmers opted for crop insurance; and those who did faced many difficulties to get their due. Eventually, farmer's faith in insurance schemes eroded over time.

It was against this backdrop that we engaged in detailed consultations with States, farmers and insurance companies; following which I now place before my farmer brothers and sisters, the farmer-friendly Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

This Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana has the following highlights:

- This is the **biggest-ever government contribution to crop insurance**
- As a result, farmers will have to pay the **lowest-ever premium rate**
- Government will bear the remaining financial burden - even if the Government's share exceeds 90%
- There will be only **one premium rate for each season** for all foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses - removing all variation in rates across crops and districts within a season - Kharif: 2% only - Rabi: 1.5% only
- Farmers will get **full insurance cover** - there will be no 'capping' of the sum insured, and consequently, claim amounts will not be cut or reduced
- For the first time, **inundation** has been included under localised risk cover
- For the first time, **post-harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rain** have been covered nationally
- For the first time, emphasis has been given to mobile and satellite **technology** to facilitate accurate assessment and quick settlement of claims

This scheme will be implemented from the forthcoming Kharif season. It is simple to join and offers maximum security. **I welcome your wholehearted participation.**

Yours sincerely  
*Narendra Modi*  
**Narendra Modi**

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