

57th Annual General Meeting of Institution of Engineers (India) Jammu Centre held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 57th Annual General Meeting of The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre was held at Institutional Complex, Sector - 3, Channi Himmat, Jammu today. It was presided over by Prof. Dr. Bhawna Sharma, FIE; Chairman of Jammu Local Centre. A large number of Corporate Members from all disciplines of Engineering attended the AGM.

Er Sachin Tickoo, Honorary Secretary, while welcoming the members, presented the Annual Report for the year 2023-2024 and highlighted the activities of the Jammu Local Centre. The Audited Annual Accounts for the year 2023-24 were presented and approved by the house. An account of various activities conducted by the Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre during the year which included Seminars/



Newly Elected Committee Members of the Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre.

Paper Presentations in which local problems were deliberated upon beside holding of events on the occasion of various statutory days as per the calendar of Institution of Engineers (India).

Results of elections to the Committee of Jammu Local Centre for the Sessions 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 were announced by Er. B. B. Gupta, FIE, Convener BOS & Past Chairman of IEI, Jammu Local Centre. Er. Anil Verma, FIE was declared as the new Chairman and Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE as new Honorary

Secretary for the sessions 2024 - 2025 & 2025 - 2026.

Prof. Dr. Bhawna Sharma, FIE Chairman, while welcoming the New Chairman, Honorary Secretary and the committee members expressed gratitude to the committee members for the term 2022-2024 for their overwhelming support during the tenure & expressed hope that the new committee shall take the institution of engineers to new heights.

The Committee for the sessions 2024 - 2025 & 2025 - 2026 comprised of Er. Anil

Verma, FIE; Chairman, Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE; Honorary Secretary Prof. Dr. Bhawna Sharma, FIE; (Past Chairman), Er. Sachin Tickoo, MIE; (Past Honorary Secretary), Er. Sudhir Sethi, MIE; Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE; Er. B. L. Rawal, FIE; Er. Sarthak Naresh, AMIE; Er. Aastik Verma, AMIE; Er. Samir Sharma, FIE; Er. Sanjay Sharma, MIE; Er. Sumeer Khajuria, MIE; Er. Amit Sethi, AMIE; Er. Rahul Sharma, AMIE; Er. Hemdeep Singh, AMIE. Er. Anil Verma, FIE, the

new Chairman of the Centre is working as Executive Engineer in Power Development Department, J&K Govt., Jammu. He has also remained as Honorary Secretary of this Centre for the term 2007- 2009& was the youngest engineer to hold this position in any of the IEI Centres in the country, at that time. He is quite active in Jammu's civil society also & has remained as Member of the Managing Committee of Jammu Club, Jammu for the term 2016-2018 which is considered as the elite club of the Service Class Officers of J&K.

Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, the new Honorary Secretary is working as Executive Engineer in Power Development Department, J&K Govt., Jammu.

Er. Sachin Tickoo, MIE, Honorary Secretary of the Centre conducted the proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks.

JK Tyre celebrates 20 years of fleet management excellence in Singapore

Honors Dr. Anand Sankeshwar with 'Logistic Icon of the Year' Award

STATE TIMES NEWS

SINGAPORE: JK Tyre marked two decades of leadership in fleet management solutions with a high-profile conference in Singapore, attended by the top 100 fleet owners from India. The event, which brought together industry veterans, innovators, and key stakeholders, focused on the transformative role of fleet management in modern logistics. The conference also served as a platform to honor notable industry figures, with Dr. Anand Sankeshwar, Managing Director of VRL Logistics, receiving the prestigious 'Logistic Icon of the Year' award. The milestone event was presided over by Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director of JK Tyre, who emphasized the company's journey from a tyre manufacturer to a comprehensive provider of fleet management solutions.



Dr. Anand Sankeshwar, Managing Director of VRL Logistics, receiving 'Logistic Icon of the Year' award.

He noted, "Over the last two decades, JK Tyre has pioneered advancements in tyre technology and fleet management, with a commitment to enhancing the operational efficiency and safety of India's logistics sector. Today, as we celebrate our legacy, we also celebrate the achievements of individuals who have helped transform this industry."

The highlight of the evening was the felicitation of Dr. Anand Sankeshwar, who was recognized for his enduring contributions to the Indian logistics landscape. Under his stewardship, VRL Logistics

has become one of the largest and most respected logistics service providers in the country. Known for his innovative approach and commitment to high standards of safety, Dr. Sankeshwar has led VRL Logistics into new territories, setting benchmarks in both efficiency and sustainability.*

Accepting the award, Dr. Sankeshwar expressed his gratitude, attributing the success of VRL Logistics to his team, the guidance of his father Dr. Vijay Sankeshwar & the trust of countless partners and customers including the role of JK Tyre.

POWERGRID organizes Walkathon during Vigilance awareness week



Shafat Ahmed Wani, Sr. General Manager(AM), Northern Region-II flagging off walkathon.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna company under Ministry of Power, Government of India, is observing Vigilance Awareness Week with the theme Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity from October 28 to November 3, 2024 in all its offices. During this week, several programmes are being organized for creating awareness amongst masses, employees and their family members, highlighting evils of corruption and its impact on society. A walkathon was organized for employees of Regional Head Quarters, Jammu on Tuesday to spread awareness in around the areas of POWERGRID office premises. The walkathon was flagged off by Shafat

Ahmed Wani, Sr. General Manager(AM), Northern Region-II. Shafat Ahmed Wani on this occasion emphasized on the fact that with the support of every citizen the dream of realizing Self-reliant and Intergral India is possible. He highlighted the importance of weeding out corruption from our society and nation as a whole and making India a leading economy of the world. Before flagging off the walkathon, Shafat Ahmed Wani administered the Integrity pledge to all the employees. Anil Marwah, Sr: GM (Engineering), Ranjan Bohla, General Manager (Commercial), Vinod P Baxla, General Manager (HR), Jagat Ram, General Manager (AM) and all senior officers and employees of POWERGRID participated in this walkathon.

Deepanjali Mela lightens at SPPND GDC Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra (SPPND) Government Degree College (GDC) Samba organized a first of its kind event 'Deepanjali' - Diwali Mela, in collaboration with J&K Police and Take One Television and Technologies Pvt. Ltd with zealous participation from Government colleges of Samba District and Government and private organizations.

This mela was inaugurated by Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri and the aegis of IQAC was a vibrant blend of culture, creativity and celebration bringing a spirit of joy, prosperity and unity in the campus. The event highlights featured live performances of traditional contemporary dance and music by talented students, food festa presenting delicious festive dishes, artisan stalls of handmade crafts like Mandala art, Bamboo ,Calico printing, Fabric painting etc. offering environmentally conscious



Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri visiting a stall.

décor. Earlier the mela was inaugurated by the Principal of the college. In her welcome address, she commended the creativity and hard work of the students in creating a festive environment that embraced cultural values. She acknowledged this mela as a reflection of Commitment of the college in celebrating tradition in meaningful ways that inspire both learning and community spirit. The stalls were put by students of the GDC Samba, GDC

Ramgarh, GDC Vijaypur; Social Welfare Department, Department of Handicraft and Handloom, Samba, J&K, and various private firms of Samba, Akhnoor and Jammu District. The event also displayed an array of stalls with beautifully crafted diyas and candles made by students symbolizing sus-

tainability and traditional artistry. A key attraction of the mela was encapsulating presence of the students engaged in fun games and exciting competitions.

Special invitees gracing the occasion included Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Vinay Sharma and Principal GDC Ramgarh.

The event marked the celebration of the festival of lights and also empowered the students to showcase their entrepreneurial spirit. The event was particularly noteworthy as it was first of its kind in Samba District.

It did not only had invitees and participants from colleges but was open for general public also and had participation from

a wide range of organizations.

In the stall competition, Bamboo Art by Rajinder Kumar won first position, Jute Bags by the Department of Home Science, SPPND GDC Samba secured second position, and Mandla Art by Anzel Sharma took third position. In the Cultural Category, Dogri Dance by Anjali and Punjabi Dance by Sia and group in third place, all from GDC Samba. Prizes were sponsored by Kanish Jewellers, Samba.

Rohit Sharma from 'Take One Digital Network' anchored the proceedings of the event.

Formal Vote of thanks was given by IQAC Coordinator Dr. Banpreet Kour.

Various OBC organisations led by Advocate Malik meet OBC Dedicated Commission

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Mohd. Latif Malik, a renowned social activist and leader of the Teli Biradari, emphasized the ongoing fight for the rights of OBCs in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation led by Malik met with Chairman Justice (Retd) Janak Raj Kotwal and other commission members constituted by the J&K Government to recommend reservations for OBCs in the upcoming Panchayat and Municipal Elections.

Malik expressed gratitude to the commission for its patient hearing and highlighted that the commission was established following the directives of the Supreme Court in the K. Krishnamurthy vs. Union of India and Vikas Krishna Rao Gawali case. The court mandated state and UT governments to conduct a thorough inquiry into the backwardness of citizens concerning local bodies.

Advocate Malik praised the Indian Government's recent

amendment to the Reservation Act, which officially recognizes the term OBC (Other Backward Classes) instead of OSC (Other Social Classes), aligning it with constitutional terminology.

He hailed the decision to provide reservations for OBCs in Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies, describing it as a remarkable step towards the upliftment and development of OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, including prominent leaders such as Mohd. Latif Qureshi, Chairman of the All India Backward Classes Union, and Bansilal Choudhary, Convenor of the All J&K OBC Mahasabha, appealed to the Commission to recommend reserving 27% of seats in the forthcoming local body elections for OBCs.

Advocate Malik reiterated that the constitutional provisions exist to uplift OBCs and expressed confidence that the current government, led by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, is committed to fulfilling its promises to the OBC community.

The delegation also voiced high expectations from the UT government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, hoping for justice for OBCs, who have been deprived of their rights for over eight decades.

Other prominent who accompanied the delegations includes Mohd. Latif Qureshi, Chairman, All India Backward Classes Union Bansilal Choudhary (Convenor), All J&K OBC Mahasabha, F.C. Satia President All India Backward Classes Federation, Balwant Kataria, General Secretary, All India Backward Classes Federation, Keval Fotra President Sain Samaj, Manohar Lal Tidyad Advisor OBC Mahasabha, Vinod Kumar Kashyap Member OBC Mahasabha, Jagdish Chander Member OBC Mahasabha, Mohd. Shabir Sambyal President Dbohi Biradari.

Plus 2 PSC Lecturers' Association organises provincial meet, felicitates

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Plus 2 PSC Lecturers' Association held a provincial meet at Jammu Club to discuss significant developments regarding the long-standing demand for Career Progression (CP) for its members. The event was attended by Plus 2 Principals, office bearers from the central body, district presidents, and delegates from across the Jammu Province.

During the meeting, the house extended warm greetings to notable officials, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surrender Chowdhary, and Sakina Itoo, Minister for Education, along with other elected legislators.

M.A. Katoch, the General Secretary, highlighted the association's persistent



All J&K Plus 2 PSC Lecturers' Association member speaking at a meeting.

efforts over the past decade to secure Assured Career Progression (ACP) for the +2 cadre. He welcomed the recent establishment of a sub-committee by the Establishment Committee to assess the ACP case, viewing it as a positive and encouraging move.

Katoch emphasized the importance of unity among district presidents in the ongoing struggle against

undue notional effects and the implementation of Government Order No. 743 of GAD 2007.

Manjeet Chib, the association's president, provided updates on the status of ACP, proposed amendments to service recruitment rules, and the potential placement of senior lecturers as acting principals.

He noted that Plus 2 lecturers represent an intellectual class that remains

deprived of financial advancement, expressing confidence in the new government led by Omar Abdullah to resolve these issues. Chib urged the government to restore the direct recruitment quota for lecturers and fill all vacant teaching positions.

The meet also featured remarks from various invitees, including Dr. Neeraj Jandyal and Manmeet Bali, both Plus 2 Principals, who praised the association's dedication and efforts. Dr. Rishi Manhas, former vice president of the association, suggested involving education department officers in policy-making due to their expertise.

As part of the event, the central body of the All J&K Plus 2 PSC Lecturers' Association honored Plus 2 Principals and award-winning lecturers with tokens

of appreciation for their exemplary services in education. Honorees included Dr. Neeraj Jandyal, Manmeet Bali, Rishi Manhas, Virander Kumar, and Imran Siddique, while awardee lecturers recognized were Rakesh Chobber and Sandeepan Gupta.

The event featured contributions from various members, including Sanjeev Gupta, Chief Organizer, Arvind Kour, Vice President (Female), and Ajay Singh Baloria, Chief Spokesperson. Dr. Avaneet served as the stage secretary, while Sandeep Sharma, Chief Coordinator, delivered the vote of thanks. The gathering saw participation from founding members and other delegates, reflecting a united front in advocating for the rights and progress of the +2 lecturer community.

PM inaugurates India's biggest Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS New Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Another milestone in the healthcare facilities achieved under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) to enhance the accessibility of affordable healthcare by inaugurating a new Jan Aushadhi Kendra at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on October 29, 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the biggest Jan Aushadhi Kendra in the country in the presence of Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers. The main objective of this Kendra is providing affordable and quality medicines to the patients visiting AIIMS for treatment of various ailments.

The Jan Aushadhi Kendra has been set up by the Pharmaceuticals &



Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) which is the implementing agency of PMBJP. This Kendra, spanning an area of 1,724 square feet, aims to provide over 2,047 quality generic medicines and 300 surgical devices at prices significantly lower than their branded counterparts. Price of Jan Aushadhi Medicines is cheaper at least by 50% and in some cases, by 80% to 90% of the market price of branded medicines. During the last 10 years, total savings of approximately Rs. 30,000 crores have been possible for the citizens due to this noble scheme. Jan Aushadhi's

medicines will cover a wide array of therapeutic groups, including cardiovascular health, anti-cancer treatments, anti-diabetics, anti-infectives, anti-allergic medications, gastrointestinal solutions, and nutraceuticals. This initiative will revolutionize healthcare access for thousands of patients each day who flock to AIIMS, New Delhi in search of affordable, high-quality medical solutions. Under PMBJP, more than 14,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country and providing affordable and quality medicines to approximately one million people every single

day. The Government has set a target to open 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027. The Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS is a powerful testament to government's commitment to fostering a healthier nation, empowering individuals with the right to affordable healthcare.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today dedicated this Jan Aushadhi Kendra to the citizens of the country who visit AIIMS for various treatments. Like the other 15 AIIMS which have Jan Aushadhi Kendra; AIIMS, New Delhi will also have its own Jan Aushadhi Kendra on its premises.

Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers today visited the Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS Delhi and lauded the efforts for providing affordable and quality medicines for patients visiting AIIMS.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrated with fervour at IIM Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu commemorated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with a series of events to honour the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and a key figure in India's national integration on Tuesday at Vivekananda Classroom, Jagti.

The day commenced with a Unity Run in the morning organized at the Jagti Campus, where students, participated enthusiastically in the marathon. The run symbolized the spirit of unity and determination, echoing Sardar Vallabhai Patel's unwavering mission to unite the nation.

The day was followed by a lamp lighting ceremony, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and the spirit of unity among the participants.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, administered the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge, emphasizing the importance of national unity and integrity.

In his address, he highlighted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's piv-



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, administering the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge.

otal role in uniting 562 princely states, acknowledging that this was no easy task.

He celebrated Iron Man's contributions to India's rich tradition and culture, emphasizing that our unity is our strength.

He stressed that the progress and freedom we enjoy today are thanks to leaders like Sardar Vallabhai Patel and urged everyone to take a pledge to propel India forward, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 as articulated by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, reflected on the challenging task of uniting India's princely states, achieved by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which laid

the foundation for India's unity in diversity, making it a nation of unparalleled strength and beauty. Dr. V. Rajkumar, Chairperson, Student Affairs, IIM Jammu, highlighted that unity comes through mutual respect for each other, with IIM Jammu serving as a perfect example where students from different religions and castes study together in harmony.

Cmndr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, emphasized the importance of honesty and straightforwardness while reflecting on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in uniting India's administrative structure from East to West, North to South. Present on the

occasion was Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, IPM, IIM Jammu, alongside officers, faculty, staff, and students at the institute.

In addition to the pledge ceremony, the celebrations featured performances by students, highlighting the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Students delivered powerful speeches about his enduring contributions, his dedication to uniting the nation, and the significance of state and national integrity.

The event was coordinated by the Student Affairs Office, IIM Jammu, ensuring smooth execution and active participation from the entire IIM Jammu community.