

AIIMS Jammu shines on National Stage

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta honoured as ‘Healthcare Personality of the Year 2025’ by FICCI

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a moment of immense pride for AIIMS Jammu and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, has been honoured with the prestigious "Healthcare Personality of the Year Award 2025" by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) - one of India's highest recognitions in the field of healthcare.

The honour was bestowed during the 17th edition of the FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards 2025, held on October 8, 2025, in New Delhi. Themed "Inspire. Change. Together.", the event celebrated visionary leaders and institutions driving transformative change and innovation in India's healthcare ecosystem.

The event was graced by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog and Former Secretary, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, who lauded the exemplary contributions of healthcare leaders shaping India's healthcare future.

Prof. Gupta was selected for this distinction through a rigorous, transparent, and merit-based evaluation process conducted by an

eminent jury chaired by Mr. C. K. Mishra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and co-chaired by Dr. Harsh Mahajan, Chair, FICCI Health Services Committee and Founder & Chairman, Mahajan Imaging & Labs. The award stands as a testimony to Prof. Gupta's trail-blazing leadership, strategic foresight, and unwavering dedication to advancing India's health systems.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, hails from Ari village (LOC), Poonch, J&K, and is an alumnus of GMC Jammu (MBBS) and AIIMS New Delhi (MHA). Beginning his career as Assistant Surgeon in J&K Health Services, he later joined AIIMS New Delhi as faculty, heading the Department of Hospital Administration, mentoring over 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars, guiding 112 research studies and authoring 110+ publications and 20+ book chapters on hospital management and healthcare systems.

He led key WHO and national projects on hospital governance, PPPs and electronic medical records, making his department the first at AIIMS to receive ISO certification. A Fellow of multi-

ple medical academies and recipient of prestigious national and international honours-including the State Award for Meritorious Public Service (J&K Government), International Partner of the Year Award (Cologne University, Germany), Times Healthcare Achievers Award, Lifetime Achievement Award by Rotary Club Jammu Tawi, and numerous other accolades-he has also chaired several national committees on emergency care, patient safety, and hospital governance.

Under his leadership, AIIMS Jammu completed 43 world-class buildings in just 3.5 years and secured the 7th rank in Outlook Magazine's 2025 Government Medical Universities Ranking, the 2nd highest after AIIMS New Delhi, reflecting his transformative leadership, global recognition and unwavering commitment to excellence in Healthcare, Education and Research.

Owing to official institutional commitments, Prof. Gupta was unable to attend the ceremony in person. He extended heartfelt gratitude to FICCI and the distinguished jury for this national honour and humbly dedicated the recognition to the

team of AIIMS Jammu, acknowledging their relentless commitment, teamwork and service to humanity.

Prof. Gupta remarked that this recognition further strengthens AIIMS Jammu's resolve to emerge as a model of excellence in patient care, research and medical education, contributing meaningfully to India's vision of "Health for All."

Instituted in 2009, the FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards are among the most esteemed

accolades in the healthcare sector, recognizing excellence and innovation across a wide range of medical and healthcare domains.

This prestigious National honour for Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta not only celebrates his outstanding contributions to healthcare leadership and institutional development but also marks a shining milestone for AIIMS Jammu, reaffirming its growing prominence as a Centre of Excellence and innovation in Northern India.



Dr Navneet Kaur installed as President of Rotary Club Jammu for 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a prestigious ceremony marked by purpose and promise, eminent social reformer Rtn Dr. Navneet Kaur was formally installed as the President of Rotary Club Jammu Baahu for the Rotary year 2025-26. The event was graced by Past District Governor Rtn Dr. Dushyant Choudhary, a celebrated son of the soil, who served as the Chief Guest and Installing Officer.

Rotary, the world's largest non-governmental service organization with over 1.4 million volunteers globally, continues to make impactful contributions through its vast network. Rotary Club Jammu Baahu, a vibrant arm of Rotary International, upholds this mission through community-focused initiatives. Dr. Navneet Kaur, known for her unwavering commitment to social causes, has represented India on international platforms includ-



ing the United Nations in Geneva and New York. Her work spans across gender equality, anti-trafficking, human rights, global peace, and advocacy at the UN Women's Human Rights Summit 2025. In her acceptance speech, she outlined a transformative vision focused on eradicating cancer, advancing women and child

health, promoting environmental sustainability, and uplifting underprivileged women and girls through empowerment and education. She pledged to lead with compassion and action, launching initiatives such as vocational training for rural women, micro-business support, voluntary blood donation camps, and first aid train-

ing programs. Her leadership aims to bring sustainable change at the grassroots level, in line with Rotary's motto - "Service Above Self."

The installation ceremony also witnessed the induction of several prominent individuals into the Rotary fold. Among them were Dr. Rajiv Gupta, Head of Oncology at JK State Cancer Hospital Jammu; Retd. DIG Subhash Kumar, associated with the Khelo India campaign; Touqeer Bagwan, famously known as the Lavender Boy of India for pioneering lavender cultivation; Dr. Itinderpal Singh Bali, dental surgeon and national disaster management trainer with IRCS; Rtn Vivek Suri, veteran cricketer and senior journalist; Rtn Himanshu Purohit, an environmentalist and founder of NGO Being Indian Patriots; Nidhi Gupta, a social worker providing affordable meals to the underprivileged; and

Mehjabeen Nabi, founder of Care NGO and Vice Chairperson of the Global Goodwill Foundation. Social activist Rtn Wasim Jee was also among the newly inducted members.

In a significant announcement, PDG Dr. Dushyant Choudhary committed to donating 300 artificial limbs to the differently-abled, reinforcing Rotary's dedication to serving humanity.

The meticulously organized event was coordinated by Club Director Sr. Rtn Adeep Mehta, while Rtn Dr. Gurmeet Singh, Secretary of the Club, delivered the vote of thanks, marking a heartfelt conclusion to an inspiring evening of commitment and community service.

The Rotary Club Jammu Baahu under Dr. Navneet Kaur's leadership sets the stage for a year of impactful service and community transformation.

IIM Jammu concludes 12th Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program



Officials along with resource persons during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu concluded the 12th batch of its flagship Nurturing Future Leadership Program (NFLP) with a grand valedictory ceremony at the Vedanta MDP Centre. Held from 6th to 10th October 2025, the five-day leadership training was conducted under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, who lauded the Ministry's initiative to foster academic leadership and professional development. He emphasized the program's role in building collaborative, research-driven institutional

cultures and urged participants to pursue joint research, doctoral programs, and publications, underlining IIM Jammu's commitment to national progress.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, acknowledged the institute's rapid growth, sharing that IIM Jammu has already earned two international accreditations and is progressing toward the triple crown. He described the NFLP as a platform for institutional growth and knowledge exchange.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, stressed the importance of pedagogical innovation, academic leadership, and fostering critical thinking to transform India's higher education landscape.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, highlighted the program's goal to develop strategic leadership and decision-making skills, stating that the NFLP continues to nurture a pipeline of future-ready leaders.

A detailed Program Report was presented by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Director, summarizing key learnings and participant engagement. Participants described the program as transformative, praising its interactive pedagogy, real-life case studies, and the vibrant academic environment.

The event also featured a certificate distribution ceremony, followed by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sarbjit Singh, Program Director. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.

The 12th NFLP batch stands as a testament to IIM Jammu's mission to shape dynamic leaders aligned with India's growth vision for 2047. The program, executed by IIM Jammu's Executive Education and Consultancy division, reinforces the institute's growing reputation as a center for academic excellence and leadership development.

Sakeena reviews performance, functioning of School, Higher Education departments

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here on Friday to review the performance, functioning and progress of various ongoing projects of School Education and Higher Education Departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamm; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Director School Education Jammu, Mission Director, RUSA, Special Secretaries of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Finance/Director Planning of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Colleges, Chief Engineer PWD of Central



Kashmir/ South Kashmir/ North Kashmir/ Jammu/ Chenaly Pir Panjal zones, Chief Education Officers of all districts and other concerned officers of both departments.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena took comprehensive evaluation of key developmental initiatives, infrastructure projects, and academic reforms being implemented across J&K in both Higher Education and School Education departments.

While reviewing the status of ongoing projects in Higher Education department under various schemes like Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Pradhan Mantri

Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), and CAPEX budget initiatives, the Minister emphasized on the timely execution of all ongoing works, particularly those related to infrastructure development, digital learning facilities, teacher training programs, and curriculum enhancement.

She directed the officers of executing agencies that college construction projects need to be completed within stipulated deadlines without compromising on quality. She called for stringent monitoring and field-level inspections to address delays and remove bottlenecks in project implementation.

The Minister asked the Director Colleges to maintain close coordination with Chief Engineers so that the projects which require minor works are completed by the end of this month.

Taking stock of faculty positions in colleges, the Minister called upon the officers of Higher Education department to look out for the feasibility of

increasing remuneration in favour of Academic arrangement teachers so that more persons are attracted to it till vacancies are filled on regular basis. She also directed the officers to create posts for all newly established degree colleges for better educational outcomes.

Similarly, while reviewing the school education department, Minister Sakeena spoke on the importance of digital transformation in school education, directing the concerned officers to expedite the installation of smart classrooms, ICT labs and e-content access facilities to bridge the learning gap, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. The Minister called upon all the CEOs to utilise funds under Samagra Shiksha efficiently so that required infrastructure can be created. She further directed the CEOs to monitor projects in their respective districts on regular basis and maintain coordination with project executing agencies for their early completion.

Taking stock of Human Resource issues, the Minister asked the officers of School Education department to appoint Nodal Officer in each district for maintaining coordination with ACB for timely obtaining of Vigilance Clearance certificates in favour of employees. She also directed the CEOs to submit report card on monthly basis to respective HoDs highlighting progress of ongoing projects and other achievements in every aspect of this vital sector. She also gave directions for early finalisation of proposal for de-freezing of teacher posts for timely recruitment process.

Highlighting that students in Government schools are equally talented as that of Private schools, the Minister called upon the officers to create awareness among students, especially in far flung areas, regarding JK SOS and NIOS admissions so that they can qualify the 12th level exams in other modes also.

Filling of MBBS-2025 seats on basis of NEET-UG by JKBOPEE & Process there of trapped in web of questions

In the era of e-governance & e-counselling should not also the administration respond the e-mail queries & requests with same speed?

DAYA SAGAR

J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) vide Notification No. 076-BOPEE of 2025 Dated July 17, 2025 had called for online Registration of NEET UG - 2025 candidates belonging to UT of J&K/ Ladakh for the MBBS degree course admission in Government and Private Medical colleges of J&K and asked to register themselves and upload the needed documents online w. e. f. July 18, 2025 (10:00 am onwards) to July 22, 2025 (midnight) so that Provisional UT Merit List (PUTML) of such eligible candidates belonging to UT of J&K/ Ladakh could be prepared. Accordingly BOPEE vide Notification No. 085-BOPEE of 2025 Dated 1, 2025 notified the merit list and invited applications. And it has been vide Notification No. 086-BOPEE of 2025 Dated August 5, 2025 that JK BOPEE notified for the information of all the eligible candidates that the online choice filling for NEET UG (MBBS/BDS) Courses-2025 commenced from August 6, 2025 (11:00 a.m. onwards) to August 10, 2025 (Midnight).

It is not out of place to mention here that NEET UG- 2025 result was declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on 14th of June, 2025 and sub-

sequently JK BOPEE Board vide Notification No. 073-BOPEE of 2025 dated July 10, 2025 issued a list of candidates belonging to the UT of J&K / Ladakh who had qualified the NEET-UG 2025 & having scored the cut-off marks prescribed by the NTA. And the process is still going on with online choice filling in rounds and is still on .The counselling for 25 HM (minority seats in private medical college) and 10 NRI seats has yet to start (of course the counselling date and the details of new 100 seats in two private medical colleges of UT of J&K are also to be still placed in public domain -NOTIFICATION No. 144 -BOPEE of 2025 Dated October 2, 2025 said 100 new MBBS seats of 02 Private colleges shall be filled in the 2nd round of counselling for filling of additional seats along with the shortfall/leftover of MBBS additional seats of 05 Government Medical Colleges) . While the process has been going on some queries of common interest of the aspiring candidates as raised/requests made to JK BOPEE as well the competent authority in the government have remained unanswered like the tuition fee as fixed by the competent authority & the mode of collection of the same by the college concerned (particularly regarding private colleges). The brief common interest issues that

need be addressed for the interest of the parents & and their aspiring wards who are distantly placed in time , distance & economic convenience and could be listed here.

1. As regards the tuition for different categories and colleges the e- brochure of JKBOPEE as well as the Notification No. 086-BOPEE of 2025 Dated August 5, 2025 issued for admission to NEET UG (MBBS/BDS) Courses for the Session-2025: Online Choice Filling/Counselling Schedule thereof, for first round for filling the seats in government colleges and some seats in private medical college Fee fixed by competent authority was not mentioned. Any how in Notification No. 097-BOPEE of 2025 Dated August 14, 2025 (Filling up of MBBS Management Seats of Hindu Minority (HM) and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) Quota of ASCOMS, through Joint Counselling by J&K BOPEE) mention of tuition fee in the private medical college (ASCOM Jammu) as ordered by Competent Authority (Government Order No. 659-HME of 2019 dated July 10, 2019) was made but at the same time it was also mentioned that the figures of an order issued in 2019



A Look through the Mist Part-I

copy of the orders of the competent confirming the tuition fee per year for MBBS- session 2025 and the mode of collection of the same by the college but the same has not been received / found yet/ not found in public domain !As far as the private medical colleges are concerned what is difference in qualification parameters for Govt OM quota , OM Management seats , OM HM minority seats for MBBS degree course for which the tuition fee is fixed as Rs 4.95 Lakh per year by Competent Authority (J&K Govt). Ofcourse cut off NEET score has to be as fixed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for General category and the applicant has to be in addition also a Hindu ? In case there is no any other difference for seat categories mentioned at Sr 2 then why does not the JK BOPEE conduct counselling also for 25 Hindu Minority seats in ASCOMS right from first round itself where counselling for pre revision strength of 100 for the 400M Govt seats & 15 management seats (and also the 10 P&B seats) is also conducted with other seats in govt medical col-

leges? ?When the fee and criteria for qualification for the 40 OM govt seats and 15 Management seats is same for private college like ASCOMS then why these seats are mentioned separately?. There is a category of poor and backward (P&B) for which 10 MBBS seats are there in Pvt Medical college .Question here is when tuition fee (Rs 42900/yr orso) for these students is nearly the same as for government colleges (Rs 26500 per year) and students also apply/ opt in first round for these seats then why these students are given the choice to opt for change of college against OM General Category to Government Medical Colleges since they unduly put other General Category candidates to disadvantage ? Simply change of college can not be called upgradation since degree from all colleges is same if still they are allowed to shift a GMC then should' not vacated seats be first given to other GC candidates who are above other remaining candidates in P&B category? As per the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) of (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) for All India Quota /Central state Quota/Deemed schedule there have to be 3 online counselling rounds . So strangely BOPEE did not include the 161 new increased seats in 5 Govt Medical colleges in the

3rd round of on going counselling process for 967 seats for UT of J&K and instead started a new round vide NOTIFICATION No. 144 -BOPEE of 2025 of October 2, 2025 as 1st round for 161 increased seats . Not only that it did not also include the increased seats for 2 pvt medical college in this 1st round . Not only that it allowed the candidates who had already been slotted seats in other govt medical colleges out of 967 seats to change their colleges against new seats vide NEET-UG-2- NN-145 Dt. October 7, 2025] but did not allow the other candidates who had not been allotted seats in govt medical colleges or who had yet to be allotted seats against the seats vacated by candidates who had changed the govt college allotted earlier . This surely caused frustration / harassment to candidates who could change to some govt college from private college or who could get a seat on Merit in new 161 seats in addition to unduly making the process more lengthy . An explanation is surely due in this regard why the seats were not clubbed with left over of 2nd round & why the seats vacated not filled at same time ?

To be continued
(The writer is Sr Journalist & social activist dayasagr45@yahoo.com 09419796096)