

# CM hands over regularisation orders to 863 CPWs

## Launches Vidya Samiksha Kendra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday handed over regularisation orders to 863 Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department from multiple districts of Jammu province. The occasion also witnessed the formal inauguration of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra under Samagra Shiksha and the launch of a suite of new ICT and analytics platforms aimed at strengthening the education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The ceremony was attended by Cabinet Minister for Health, Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education & Social Welfare Sakina Itoo; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Members of Legislative Assembly Pyare Lal and Er. Khurshid Ahmed; Secretary, School Education Department Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Bhawani Rakwal and Director, School Education Jammu Naseem Chowdhary.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed satisfaction over the fulfilment of a long-pending demand, commend-



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah handing over regularisation order to CPWs on Thursday.

ing the dedication and patience of CPWs awaiting regularisation. He lauded Minister Sakina Itoo, the School Education Department and the administrative leadership for their coordinated efforts in achieving this milestone. The Chief Minister announced that nearly one thousand infrastructure works are currently underway in the education sector, with approximately 7450 crore earmarked for civil works under the School Education Department. He stated that by March 2026, all Higher Secondary and High Schools in Jammu and Kashmir would be equipped with smart classrooms and laboratories, enabling students to compete with their peers nationwide. Reflecting on the govern-

ment's first year, the Chief Minister said the journey had presented challenges but also immense satisfaction in achieving meaningful reforms. He called upon the newly regularised employees to dedicate themselves to public service, reiterating that "the future of the next generation depends on the quality of education we deliver today." He also felicitated 25 NEET and JEE achievers from the Jammu region, presenting them with certificates and tablets, and encouraged them to continue striving for academic excellence. Minister Sakina Itoo described the regularisation as a "moment of relief and recognition for hundreds of families." She credited the Chief Minister's steadfast

determination for making this day possible. She said that in Kashmir, about 400 CPWs have already been regularised, with pending cases being processed expeditiously. Reviewing the government's first-year achievements, she highlighted accelerated disposal of DPCs and staff promotions, fast-tracking of recruitment in Higher Education, and revival of dormant colleges. Under Samagra Shiksha, she stated, around 600 development works are underway, including smart labs and infrastructure improvements aligned with the National Education Policy. Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani described the day as historic, symbolising one year of constructive governance under CM Omar

Abdullah. He praised the CPWs' unwavering dedication and reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate governance and service delivery. Wani observed that regularising CPWs is a testament to the government's commitment to justice and inclusivity.

At the outset, Secretary Ram Niwas Sharma delivered the welcome address, highlighting the government's resolve to strengthen the education sector through institutional reforms, technological infusion, capacity building, and equitable access.

He noted that the regularisation of CPWs reflects the administration's commitment to providing stability and dignity to long-serving workers who have contributed selflessly to public service.

Simultaneously, the Chief Minister unveiled Vidya Samiksha Kendra, a holistic educational monitoring and analytics platform under Samagra Shiksha.

The School Education Department also rolled out several new ICT initiatives, including J&K Digilearn, Shikshak Sahayak, JK Edu Insights, JK MIS, JK CRM and Teachers Analytics Portal.

# GSI declares Guryul Ravine Geological Section in Srinagar as National Geoheritage Site



Info graphics board on the occasion of Guryul Ravine National Geoheritage site declaration by GSI.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Geological Survey of India (GSI), under the Ministry of Mines, celebrated the 4th edition of UNESCO International Geodiversity Day 2025 and the 9th edition of International Geo-Ethics Day 2025 on Thursday. The workshop themed "Harnessing Geodiversity for Geoconservation" witnessed a landmark announcement by the Director General of GSI, declaring two new National Geoheritage sites, including the Guryul Ravine Permian-Triassic Boundary section in Khomhoh, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. Recognized for its global geological importance, the Guryul Ravine section records a continuous sedimentary succession from approximately 252 million years ago, capturing the peri-

od of the Late Permian Mass Extinction (LPME)-the most severe extinction event in Earth's history that wiped out about 90% of marine species and 70% of terrestrial life. The site, one of the few complete Permian-Triassic Boundary sections worldwide, hosts rich fossil deposits including Bryozoa, Brachiopoda, Bivalves, Gastropods, Ammonoids, and Conodonts, offering critical insights into the earth's greatest biological revolution and ancient climate changes.

Alongside Guryul Ravine, fossiliferous supplementary sections near Barus, Mandhakpal, and Pastun in Pulwama district were also declared National Geoheritage sites, highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's rich geological heritage.

To mark the declaration,

GSI Jammu & Kashmir, led by Deputy Director General Dr. P. S. Misra and Director Abdul Qayoom Paul, organized an awareness and Swachhta Hi Sewa (SHS) campaign coupled with a plantation drive at the Guryul Ravine site. The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from GSI geoscientists, officials from the Department of Geology and Mining (DGM), Forest and Wildlife departments, local administration, academic institutions, NGOs, and the general public.

An informative infographic signboard was installed at the site to educate visitors about its significance. The cleanliness drive and plantation activities further emphasized the importance of preserving this unique geological archive. Safai Mitras were felicitated for their dedicated efforts during the event.

Eminent geoscientists, including Prof. Ghulam Jeelani from the University of Kashmir and Prof. G.M. Bhat (Retd.) of Jammu University, actively participated, enriching the outreach with their expertise. The event also featured cooperation from the Environmental Policy Group and local schools and colleges, fostering community involvement.

# Chief Engineer CPWD pays courtesy visit to LG; briefs on ongoing development works



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: The Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, at the LG Secretariat, Leh.

During the meeting, the Chief Engineer briefed the Lt

Governor about the status of ongoing development projects being executed by CPWD across the Union Territory. He gave an overview of the progress in infrastructure development, including public buildings, road connectivity, and housing projects, aimed at strengthening civic facilities

and administrative efficiency in Ladakh. The Chief Engineer also apprised the Lt Governor about the introduction of geothermal technology for heating and energy generation in select projects, highlighting its cost-effectiveness and sustainability in Ladakh's climatic conditions. He informed that the adoption of this green technology would significantly reduce energy costs and dependence on conventional fuels. The Lt Governor emphasized the need to incorporate sustainable and energy-efficient technologies like geothermal systems in future projects to make Ladakh a model of green and resilient development.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Director Prof. B.S. Sahay, hosted a key session of the ongoing Military Civil Fusion Capsule (MCFC) at the Patanjali Classroom.

The session, themed "Enhancing Defence Capability Integration with Academia and the Private Sector," brought together senior military officials, civil administrators, and academic experts to discuss collaborative approaches for bolstering India's defence preparedness. The Military Civil Fusion Capsule, which commenced on 15th October at Tiger Division, Jammu, will run till 29th October 2025. It aims to promote synergy among the Armed Forces, Civil Administration, Academia, and Security Agencies. The initiative seeks to strengthen regional stability and foster



IIM Jammu faculty with Tiger Division officers and officials posing for a photograph.

institutional collaboration not only at the strategic level but also through grassroots governance-addressing both traditional security challenges and emerging issues in cyber and social domains. Present during the session were Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Professor of Practice; Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Publications; Prof. (Brig. Retd.) Neeraj Soni, Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Dr. Karan Nathwani, Associate Professor, IIT Jammu; and

Dr. Samareesh Bera, Assistant Professor, IIT Jammu. Prof. Nitin Upadhyay emphasized the critical role of academia in capacity building and national security. He highlighted IIM Jammu's significant growth and its standing among Institutes of National Importance in the region. He called for greater collaboration among academia, the Armed Forces, and private sectors to develop proactive and preventive strategies for national development under the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The session began with strategic insights from Tiger Division senior officers, who stressed the importance of academic and private sector collaboration in enhancing operational effectiveness, innovation, and strategic outcomes. They cited operations like Sindoor, Rahat, and SANJY as examples of successful military-civil cooperation. A focused session on "Technology Absorption as a Force Multiplier" was led by Dr. Nathwani and Dr. Bera, who discussed the integration of AI, drone systems, and

cyber technologies into military operations. Prof. (Brig. Retd.) Neeraj Soni delivered an engaging lecture on "Designing Strategic IIR Practices for a Future-Ready Army," stressing the need for digital transformation, junior leadership development, and ethical leadership in the age of AI and exponential change. The event reaffirmed IIM Jammu's commitment to national service, innovation, and fostering a "Whole-of-Nation" approach, reinforcing Jammu's legacy as the Gateway to Jointness.

# Three-Day Fast at GGM Science college honors agitation martyrs that shaped Jammu's education



VC CLUJ, Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar paying tributes.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In solemn observance of Students' Martyrdom Day, GGM Science College, Jammu, marked the commencement of a three-day relay fast at the Shaheed Sthal to pay heartfelt tribute to the brave student martyrs of the 1966 agitation. The event honors those who laid down their lives for the cause of establishing higher education institutions in Jammu and in protest against the relocation of the Agriculture University from Jammu to Kashmir. The com-

memorative event was graced by Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, and Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College, Jammu, along with faculty members and students. Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta reflected on the supreme sacrifices of Brij Mohan Sharma, Subhash Chandra, Gulshan Handa, and Guru Charan, whose martyrdom laid the foundation for

prestigious institutions such as the University of Jammu, Government Medical College, and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). He expressed deep pain that the heads of these institutions rarely remember these student heroes, stating that their presence at the Shaheed Sthal would have been a true homage to their memory.

In his address, Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar lauded the unwavering spirit and courage of the student activists of 1966, emphasizing that their sacrifices not only transformed Jammu's educational landscape but also inspired generations of learners.

He urged the youth to uphold the values of dedication, resilience, and unity that the martyrs exemplified. The observance of Students' Martyrdom Day at GGM Science College serves as a poignant reminder of the power of youth activism and the enduring legacy of those who fought for the right to education and institutional equality in Jammu.

# Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School honoured with AIPA Shiksha Padam Award 2025



Ashok Kumar Magotra after receiving award.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

HIMACHAL: Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School has been honoured with the prestigious AIPA Shiksha Padam Award 2025, held at the beautiful Dalhousie Hilltop School.

Schools from all over India participated in this grand event, and around 200 Principals and Directors were felicitated for their remarkable contributions to the field of education.

Ashok Kumar Magotra, was honoured and awarded for his outstanding leadership, vision, and relentless commitment to nurturing young minds and uplifting educational standards.

His inspiring guidance continues to motivate our entire team to strive for excellence each day.

Cooperative Bank; Surinder Kumar, JKPS, SSP ACB Central JKUT; Manmohan Singh Jamwal, SSP (Dy CO IRP); Arun Kumar Sharma, AGM (Territory Manager), IIFL Finance JKUT; Abhishek Gupta, Branch Manager, IIFL Karan Market Jammu; Rajiv Gupta, Branch Manager, Talab Tillo Branch; and Narinder Gupta, owner of the building. IIFL representatives highlighted that the expansion aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a 'Viksit Bharat', empowering local communities through enhanced access to financial services.

# Yudhvir inaugurates IIFL Finance's New Branch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, today inaugurated India Infoline Finance Limited's (IIFL) new branch at Karan Market, Jammu, emphasizing the importance of financial inclusion and community empowerment in the Union Territory. Speaking on the occasion, Sethi said, "The opening of IIFL's new branch in Karan Market is a step forward in empowering local communities by providing better access to financial services. Initiatives like these strengthen the economy of Jammu and Kashmir and contribute to the vision of a



'Viksit Bharat'. Financial literacy and inclusion are vital for the holistic development of our region, and I applaud IIFL for its commitment to supporting local growth." The branch, located at Ground E Block, Karan Market, Jammu, is part of

IIFL's plan to expand its presence in Jammu & Kashmir with 10 new branches, following approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Sumant Singh Jamwal, Director, Citizen

# Traders Federation demands special relief package for flood-affected Jammu

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market, a prominent voice for the traders and citizens of Jammu, has made a strong appeal to the government for urgent relief measures in the wake of the devastating floods that hit Jammu on August 26. Addressing a press conference at the Federation Office, President Deepak Gupta highlighted the severe destruction caused by the floods, which left thousands homeless, resulted in tragic loss of lives, and caused massive damage to property, livestock, and farmlands.

While acknowledging the efforts of the administration and local citizens during the crisis, he criticized the authorities for their failure to undertake timely relief and rehabilitation work in the aftermath.

Gupta specifically pointed out the alarm-



ing condition of key infrastructure, especially the Bhagwati Nagar fourth bridge, which was washed away during the floods and remains unrepaired nearly two months later. "Why is there no progress? Who is accountable? Why is the government silent on Jammu's suffering?" he asked, demanding an inquiry into the bridge collapse and the delay in repairing other flood-affected roads like the Panjirthi-Sidhra Road and Manda Road. He also expressed concern over the apparent double standards in

infrastructure repairs, noting how roads are quickly refurbished for VIP visits while the common man's needs are overlooked. Appealing to LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Gupta urged immediate intervention to address these critical issues. He also called upon citizens to support local businesses during the festive season by buying Made-in-India products and avoiding online platforms that drain local revenue.

Lastly, the Federation made a heartfelt appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce a special relief package for the flood-hit region, stressing the dire condition of farmers and displaced families.

Senior office bearers Dheeraj Mahajan, Vishal Gupta, Abhimanyu Gupta, Rahul Gupta, and Nitish Gupta were present during the press conference.