

CM emphasizes on integrating patient safety, patient care to strengthen healthcare delivery

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Patient Safety (NCPS-2025) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), organized by Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. The theme of the conference is "Every Error a Lesson, Every Lesson a Safer Care."

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister expressed hope that such conferences will generate clear recommendations for the government to implement across health institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby ensuring better healthcare and patient safety standards.

"Through this conference, I hope actionable points emerge which the government can adopt in both major and smaller hospitals, ensuring that patient safety becomes as much a focus as patient care," Omar Abdullah said.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressing gathering at Srinagar on Saturday.

He emphasized that while patient care and patient safety are closely connected, they are distinct aspects of healthcare. "Patient care is about how we treat the disease—diagnosis, treatment, and empathy for the patient. On the other hand patient safety would mean taking every precaution to avoid errors that can endanger life. A treatment cannot be considered good unless both are ensured," he added.

Highlighting the purpose of the conference, the Chief Minister said the deliberations should not remain limited to academic discussions but translate into practical

measures that can be replicated in hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. "The biggest benefit of such conferences is that we can learn from the best practices of others and adopt them to our own unique circumstances," he remarked. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah released the Souvenir of NCPS-2025 and Annual Appraisal Report 2024-25 of SKIMS on the occasion.

Addressing the inaugural session, Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo lauded SKIMS as a premier medical institution envisioned by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad

Abdullah. She said, "We must remain eternally grateful to Sher-i-Kashmir and his team for establishing SKIMS. The government under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to strengthening our health institutions by providing modern equipment and facilities so that people need not travel outside J&K for treatment."

She underlined the importance of behavioural change among doctors and public awareness to build a stronger doctor-patient relationship based on trust.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, in his address, said that the

credibility of SKIMS lies in its strong commitment to patient care and safety, which has made it a trusted institution in Jammu and Kashmir. He lauded the contribution of SKIMS in producing thousands of specialist doctors who are contributing towards quality healthcare in J&K, other parts of the country and abroad. The inaugural session was also addressed by Secretary Health & Medical Education Dr. Abid Rashid, Director SKIMS Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Head of Hospital Administration Prof. G.H. Yatoo, and founder Director SKIMS Dr. A.K. Nagpal.

The conference is being attended by faculty members, senior doctors, researchers, scholars, and delegates from across the country. Among those present were several MLAs, former directors of SKIMS, Director SKICC Haris Ahmad Handoo, administrative officers, and senior faculty members of SKIMS.

Deepawali celebrates at GMS Rattanpur



Faculty members and management during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deepawali was celebrated with great enthusiasm and festivity at Government Middle School Rattanpur, Zone Marh here on Friday.

The event was graced by the Cluster Head Madam, Rita Angral, Principal of Higher Secondary School Gajansoo, as the Chief Guest.

The celebration was held under the guidance of the School Incharge, Anjna

Khajuria, who welcomed the chief guest and the audience warmly.

Students of the school presented a variety of cultural performances to mark the occasion. A special highlight of the programme was a skit on "Green Deepawali", aimed at spreading awareness about eco-friendly celebrations.

The students also showcased local culture through a vibrant performance of a

Dogri folk song, which was well-received by everyone present.

The Chief Guest appreciated the efforts of the students and staff in organizing such a meaningful celebration and encouraged everyone to celebrate festivals in an environmentally conscious manner.

The programme concluded with sweets being distributed among students and a vote of thanks by the school incharge.

Muslim Federation Jammu condoles demise of Th Gulchain Singh Charak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Muslim Federation Jammu organized a condolence meeting to mourn the sudden demise of Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, President of Dogra Sadar Sabha and Chairman of Lakshmi Narayan Management Trust. The meeting was presided over by Abdul Majid, President of the Muslim Federation.

H.A. Sidiqui, General Secretary of the Muslim Federation, expressed deep sorrow over the loss. He remembered Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak as a towering personality who dedicated his life to societal service during Jammu and Kashmir's turbulent times. Sidiqui highlighted his crucial role in maintaining peace and communal harmony in Jammu during the 1990s when many Kashmiri Pandits migrated to the region. Charak led various peace marches, spreading a strong message of calm and unity.

G.A. Khwaja, Vice President of the Muslim Federation, recalled his long association with Charak, describing him as a matchless person with noble qualities. He praised Charak's contributions as an educationist who founded numerous educational institutions and commended his leadership as Dogra Sadar Sabha President.

Khwaja expressed condolences to the bereaved family, hoping Charak's son would carry forward his vision.

Rashid Ahmad Fani, retired S.E. and prominent Muslim Federation member, called Charak's death a huge loss for Jammu. He described him as a visionary and noble soul devoted to public service, education, and community welfare. Fani said Charak's values will continue to inspire generations.

In his presidential remarks, Abdul Majid recalled his over 40-year association with Charak and lauded his commitment to peace and communal harmony, standing shoulder to shoulder with Jammu Muslims during difficult times. He highlighted Charak's secular outlook, efforts to promote Dogri language, preserve Dogra art and culture, and protect the Mubarak Mandi Complex. Majid expressed personal loss, praying for strength and patience for the bereaved family.

Other senior members present included Choudhary Jamat Mir (Iambardar), Shabir Ahmad (retired SSP), Mujeeb Ahmad Tak (retired Chief Engineer), Raja Syed Ahmad, Shamoon Tak, and others.

DJSES honours academic toppers and Silver Jubilarians at 'Honour & Excellence' ceremony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar Education Society (DJSES) hosted its annual awards ceremony, "Honour & Excellence: Cherishing Service, Celebrating Excellence," at Carmel Convent School, Kunjwani, in a grand celebration of academic achievements and dedicated service.

The event began with a ceremonial band reception and NCC salute, followed by the Lighting of the Lamp, symbolizing knowledge, hope, and the spirit of Diwali. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation. Dr. Sindhukapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu,



Rt. Rev. Bishop Ivan Pereira, President, DJSES honouring JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

served as Guest of Honour, and Rt. Rev. Bishop Ivan Pereira, President, DJSES, presided over the function. Other dignitaries included Rev. Fr. Sebastian Nagathumkal, Vice President, DJSES; Padmashree Dr. S. P. Varma; Dr. Nancy Mengi;

and Dr. Vinay Kumar. In his welcome address, Rev. Fr. Shaiju Chacko, Secretary, DJSES, shared the Society's impact through 24 schools serving 28,000 students and supported by over 1,500 staff members. Of 1,886 students who appeared for

Board exams (JKBOSE, CBSE, ICSE/ISC), DJSES recorded a 98.7% pass rate, with 612 scoring above 90%. A total of 141 students were felicitated for academic excellence, while 10 staff members were honoured for completing 25 years of service.

Dr. Devansh Yadav praised DJSES for promoting value-based education, stating, "Academic excellence must build character and compassion. DJSES has created responsible citizens, not just achievers." He encouraged collaboration on civic education and life-skill exposures.

Dr. Sindhukapoor quoted Yeats: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire," applaud-

ing DJSES's transformative role across remote regions.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Ivan Pereira called education a "sacred ministry" and urged students to pursue excellence with humility.

Cultural highlights included a Rajasthani Folk Dance by St. Joseph's Convent High School, Nagrota; Kud Dance by Presentation Convent School, Reasi; and a Diwali play and choir by Carmel Convent School.

Testimonies by Mavleen Kour (St. Peter's Hr. Sec. School, Karan Bagh) and Hafsa Shah (St. Joseph's School, Baramulla) expressed heartfelt gratitude to teachers.

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Velankanni delivered the vote of thanks. The event was compered by Anhad Kour, Harleen Kour, Agrima Sharma, and Manya Choudhary of Carmel Convent School.

JCC Bank Employees form Adhoc Committee to address grievances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a general body meeting of Jammu Central Cooperative (JCC) Bank employees, an adhoc committee was unanimously constituted to address employee grievances and promote their welfare.

The committee aims to ensure timely redressal of issues and implement necessary support measures.

In the first phase, Pawan Kumar, Ravinder Charak, Krishan Lal, Naveen Suri, Mohd Shafi, Bilal Yousaf, Parvez Ahmed, Manjoor Ahmed, and Ashish Kumar were nominated as members. It was also decided that more members will be inducted shortly.

Jamkash Vehicleades unveils All-New Maruti Suzuki 'Victoris'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jamkash Vehicleades Pvt. Ltd. unveiled the much-anticipated All-New Maruti Suzuki Victoris in a grand launch ceremony held at its flagship showroom in Jammu. The event marked a significant milestone for the dealership, drawing an enthusiastic response from customers, guests, and automobile enthusiasts.

The glittering ceremony was graced by Jayant Mani, DGM, SBI Jammu Zone, as the chief guest, along with Maj Gen (Retd) J.S. Isher, CEO, Jamkash Vehicleades; Sumit Malhotra, COO Sales, Vehicleades Group; Siddharth Manhas, COO Sales, Jamkash Vehicleades; and Sanjeev Kanwar, COO Bodyshops, Jamkash Vehicleades. Also present were Ajay Kamdi, RM SBI, heads of major banks, esteemed customers, and the dedicated Jamkash Vehicleades team. The launch witnessed vibrant



Jayant Mani, DGM, SBI Jammu Zone and others during launch ceremony.

participation, symbolizing Jamkash Vehicleades' continued commitment to innovation, excellence, and customer satisfaction.

The All-New VICTORIS, described as the SUV that has "Got it All," offers cutting-edge technology, unmatched comfort, and futuristic design. It comes equipped with the latest intelligent and hyper-connected features, including a 'Theatre on Wheels' experience powered by an 8-speaker Infinity by Harman sound system integrated

with Dolby Atmos 7.1 surround sound. The 25.65 cm (10.1") SmartPlay ProX touchscreen infotainment system offers built-in apps, Alexa Auto Voice AI, and over-the-air (OTA) updates for seamless digital integration.

The SUV also boasts a Smart Powered Tailgate with Gesture Control and a first-in-segment underbody CNG fuel tank design under the S-CNG technology, ensuring uncompromised boot space. Safety and performance take cen-

ter stage with the Advanced Level 2 ADAS system featuring over 10 intelligent driver-assist features and the Next-Gen Suzuki Connect Telematics offering eCall functionality and 60+ features for enhanced connectivity.

Earlier, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) had announced the introductory prices for the All-New VICTORIS, starting at Rs 10,49,900. Targeted at young, dynamic, and tech-savvy customers, the SUV embodies an "Always

Online, Always on the Move" lifestyle. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, MSIL, highlighted that the Victoris has received overwhelming appreciation since its national debut for its intelligent features, futuristic design, and strong hybrid performance.

Powered by advanced technologies like Strong Hybrid, ALLGRIP Select, S-CNG, and Smart Hybrid, the VICTORIS ensures robust performance, 5-star safety, and superior efficiency - making it a perfect blend of aspiration and accessibility for modern SUV enthusiasts.

Available in 21 variants and a wide palette of 10 colors (7 monotone and 3 dual-tone options), the All-New VICTORIS is now open for bookings and test drives at Jamkash Vehicleades ARENA showroom, bringing a new era of connected, sustainable, and premium mobility to the people of Jammu.

Western Railway announces additional stoppage for three trains at Vyara Station

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VYARA: In a welcome move to enhance passenger convenience, Western Railway has announced the provision of additional stoppages for three long-distance trains at Vyara station. The decision has been taken keeping in mind the growing passenger demand from the region. This development was shared through a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway. As per the release, Train No. 09029 Bandra Terminus - Rewa Express (Weekly) will begin halting at Vyara station with effect from the journey commencing on 23rd October 2025. The train will arrive at 09:38 hrs and depart at 09:40 hrs. In the return direction, Train No. 09030 Rewa - Bandra Terminus Express (Weekly) will begin halting at Vyara from 24th October 2025, arriving at 07:41 hrs and departing at 07:43 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 09033

Udhna - Barauni Express (Bi-weekly) will have an additional halt at Vyara starting from the journey on 25th October 2025, arriving at 21:03 hrs and departing at 21:05 hrs. Its return service, Train No. 09034 Barauni - Udhna Express (Bi-weekly), will begin halting at Vyara from 27th October 2025, with arrival at 17:56 hrs and departure at 17:58 hrs. In addition, Train No. 09069 Udhna - Samastipur Express (Weekly) will also begin halting at Vyara station from 26th October 2025, arriving at 21:11 hrs and departing at 21:13 hrs. The return train, Train No. 09070 Samastipur - Udhna Express (Weekly), will halt at Vyara from 28th October 2025, with arrival at 12:00 hrs and departure at 12:02 hrs.

Passengers are advised to visit [www.enquiry.indian-rail.gov.in]([https://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in] for further details on timings, halts, and coach composition.

SKUAST-J inaugurates E-Studio to Boost Digital Agricultural Outreach

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of its state-of-the-art E-Studio, marking a progressive leap towards digital transformation in agricultural education and outreach. The E-Studio was formally inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, Prof. B. N. Tripathi, in the presence of Dr. R. K. Samnotra, University Librarian, and Kewal Raina, Estate Officer.

In his address, Prof. Tripathi lauded the initiative as a visionary step that will strengthen the university's efforts in knowledge dissemination, especially to farmers and rural communities. He emphasized that in the modern era, digital platforms are essential for



VC Prof. B. N. Tripathi inaugurating E-Studio.

bridging the gap between innovation and grassroots implementation. The E-Studio, he noted, will become an essential tool for recording expert lectures, conducting interactive sessions, and creating educational content for students and farmers alike.

Prof. Tripathi further reiterated SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to enhancing

academic excellence and providing career-oriented education while ensuring that the fruits of research directly benefit the farming community.

Dr. R.K. Samnotra expressed his enthusiasm for the E-Studio, describing it as a milestone in developing modern knowledge-sharing systems. He said it would serve as a repository

for digital academic and extension content, aiding in long-term information access and outreach.

The vision for the E-Studio was driven by Dr. Vinod Gupta, Head, Division of Agricultural Extension Education, whose consistent efforts and planning brought the idea to fruition. Dr. Gupta expressed pride in the team's achievement and thanked all contributors for their dedication and teamwork. The inauguration saw the presence and active support of faculty members Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. L. K. Sharma, Dr. Poonam Parihar, and Dr. J.S. Manhas, along with Prince Rajan, Mukesh Kumar, and other non-teaching and project staff.

The event concluded on a note of gratitude, with Rohini Mishra anchoring the proceedings.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP J&K Vice President and Rajya Sabha candidate from Jammu and Kashmir, Rakesh Mahajan, met B.L. Santhosh, National General Secretary (Organisation) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary and J&K Prabhari, at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

The meeting primarily focused on the party's preparations and strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the political developments in the Union Territory and the roadmap for ensuring a strong and united performance by the BJP in the forthcoming elections.

Both leaders-Santhosh and Chugh- reviewed the party's organizational strength in J&K and appreciated the efforts of



Rajya Sabha candidate Rakesh Mahajan calling on BJP National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh.

the local leadership for expanding the party's base across all districts and constituencies.

Rakesh Mahajan shared his insights on the current political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the BJP's commitment to development, peace, and stability in the region. He reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the

Union Territory has witnessed transformative progress in infrastructure, governance, and social welfare.

National General Secretary B.L. Santhosh appreciated Mahajan's dedication and organizational work, noting that his candidature reflects the party's confidence in grassroots leadership from Jammu and Kashmir. Tarun Chugh, while interacting with Mahajan,

emphasized the importance of strengthening booth-level coordination and maintaining close contact with the public to ensure smooth execution of the party's poll strategy.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing political outreach programs, public connect initiatives, and preparations for the forthcoming legislative sessions. Discussions included the BJP's broader vision for ensuring greater representation and political empowerment for Jammu and Kashmir at the national level. Rakesh Mahajan expressed gratitude to the senior leaders for their guidance and assured them of his full commitment to upholding the party's ideology and values while working tirelessly for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, reflecting the BJP's unified approach and determined focus on securing success in the Rajya Sabha elections from J&K.