

## Seminar on Legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel held at JU

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with the Office of the DIG, Jammu Samba Kathua Range, J&K Police, organized a seminar to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, JU.

The event was themed "Strong Leadership in Modern India: Sardar Patel's Legacy" and "Sardar Patel's Policy of National Integration and its Continued Relevance."

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Rai highlighted that remembering Sardar Patel's legacy provides an opportunity to reflect on the foundations of modern India. From leading the Kera and Bardoli Satyagrahas to the historic integration of over 565 princely states, Patel's leadership was instrumental in uniting India.

Prof. Rai emphasized that



Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU speaking during the event.

Patel's clarity of purpose, empathy, and administrative foresight continue to guide the nation. He also announced a monthly student-led lecture and discussion series under the Department of Students Welfare to foster debate, critical thinking, and civic awareness among students, ensuring that national unity and responsible citizenship remain living values.

Sanjay Sharma, SSP and Staff Officer to DIG, extended greetings on behalf of the J&K Police, noting that the seminar, organized under the Civic Action Programme, reflects the police's commitment

ment to engage youth through dialogue and education. He described Sardar Patel as the architect of India's administrative and police framework, stressing his belief in honesty, discipline, and devotion to the Constitution. Sharma also spoke about Patel's contributions to rural empowerment, the cooperative movement, and women's leadership, urging students to draw inspiration from his integrity and vision of a united India.

The resource persons, Prof. Virender Koundal, Head, Department of Strategic and Regional Studies, and Prof. Baljit Singh Mann, Head, Department of Political

Science, offered in-depth reflections on Patel's enduring legacy.

Prof. Koundal emphasized Patel's extraordinary role in integrating princely states into the Indian Union through negotiation, diplomacy, and firm resolve-transforming India from a fragmented subcontinent into a cohesive nation.

Prof. Mann traced Patel's journey from his early involvement in the freedom struggle to his leadership as Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, highlighting his vision of inclusive nationalism, secularism, and cooperative economic development.

## PNB Jammu observes Vigilance Awareness Week with Integrity Pledge



Officials taking pledge during the programme.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 from 27th October to 2nd November 2025 with the objective of promoting integrity and eradicating corruption. In this connection, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Circle Office, Bahu Plaza, Jammu, along with all its branches under Jammu Province, commenced the observance by taking the Integrity Pledge

on 27th October 2025, reaffirming its commitment to transparency and ethical conduct.

As part of the week-long observance, a Health Check-up and Blood Donation Camp will be organized by PNB at its Branch Office, Gandhi Nagar (eOBC), Jammu on 29th October 2025. PNB continues to play a vital role in implementing vigilance measures and remains dedicated to the service of the people, contributing to the vision of a

corruption-free India.

The observance aims to raise public awareness about the adverse effects of corruption and to inspire citizens to actively participate in its eradication. Every individual is encouraged to pledge that they will neither engage in corruption nor tolerate it in any form. PNB Circle Office, Jammu, has also planned a series of awareness activities and outreach programs to make the Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 a resounding success.

## Interaction-cum-Meeting held at SBI Zonal Office Jammu to discuss pensioners' welfare and service improvements



Prominent persons along with SBI officials after the meeting.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An interaction-cum-meeting was held at the State Bank of India (SBI), Zonal Office, Jammu, in the office of the Deputy General Manager (Business and Development) to discuss key issues related to pensioners' welfare and banking services.

The meeting was attended by several eminent personalities, including B. R.

Sharma (Retd. Chief Secretary), Kuldeep Khoda, IPS (Retd. DGP and President, CGPWA), K. B. Jandial, IAS (Retd. Member, J&K Public Service Commission), and Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd. DGP). Ajay Kumar Kamdi, Regional Manager, RBO-2, Jammu, also participated in the session.

During the meeting, participants engaged in in-depth deliberations on

improving coordination between the bank and senior citizen customers, ensuring timely redressal of pension-related grievances, and enhancing the quality of customer service. The discussions also touched upon the broader aspects of financial development and digital service delivery in the region.

The Deputy General Manager appreciated the constructive suggestions and reaffirmed SBI's commitment to transparency, efficiency, and customer satisfaction, particularly for pensioners and senior citizens who form a vital part of the bank's customer base.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated the General Management Programme for Middle Management - Batch I for National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited, a Government of India Navratna enterprise, at the Vedanta MDP Centre, Jagti Campus. The programme aims to enhance managerial capabilities, leadership effectiveness, and strategic thinking among NHPC's middle-level executives, reinforcing IIM Jammu's commitment to executive education and industry collaboration.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, along with Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C); and Dr. Mahesh Gadekar and Dr. Gaana J., Programme Directors. Twenty NHPC professionals from across India participated in this six-day programme. The event began with registration and a campus tour, showcasing IIM Jammu's state-of-the-art infrastructure



Officials of IIM and NHPC posing for photograph.

such as Smart Classrooms, the Vedanta Executive Education Block, and the Nalanda Library, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. In his address, Prof. Sahay welcomed the participants and emphasized that the programme offers a meaningful and interactive learning experience. He urged participants to approach the sessions with dedication and highlighted that learning is a continuous journey. The final session will be project-based, requiring participants to solve real-world managerial problems. He invited them to share professional

insights and constructive feedback for the institute's growth.

Prof. Sahay also underscored IIM Jammu's rapid progress, its international accreditations-BGA Institutional Accreditation and EFMD Programme Accreditation-and its pursuit of AACSB accreditation, aiming for Triple Crown status. He encouraged participants to explore further academic opportunities like the Executive MBA (Hybrid) and Ph.D. programmes for working professionals. Prof. Jabir Ali highlighted that such programmes foster mutual learning and professional growth,

with modules curated to meet the needs of middle management. He noted that participant diversity enriches peer learning and promotes network building. Prof. Sanjeev Pathak stated that inaugurating the programme on Chhath Puja reflects IIM Jammu's belief in lifelong learning. He added that the curriculum was developed collaboratively with NHPC's IIR team to address real organizational challenges, emphasizing the institute's three guiding principles-high-quality learning, industry relevance, and measurable impact.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar high-

lighted the programme's holistic design, covering strategy, finance, project management, geopolitics, and mindful communication, while Dr. Gaana J. delivered the vote of thanks. Participants shared their expectations, fostering early engagement and camaraderie.

Coordinated by the EE&C vertical of IIM Jammu, the week-long programme integrates case studies, simulations, and leadership exercises to strengthen managerial competencies, reaffirming IIM Jammu's mission to develop future-ready leaders for India's public sector enterprises.

## 'Run for Unity @100' to promote national integration and collective strength: Rekha Mahajan



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan chairing meeting.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: BJP Jammu and Kashmir Vice President and Prabhari District Samba Rekha Mahajan chaired a preparatory meeting in Samba district to review the arrangements for the upcoming 'Run for Unity @100' programme scheduled for October 31, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. The Run for Unity will commence from Samba Fort and culminate at Main Samba Chowk on 31st October at 11:00 AM. The meeting was organised under the Presidencyship of District President Asha Kumari. District General Secretaries Rakesh Sanyal, Amit Dubey and team members were present in the meeting, who discussed the detailed plan for successfully organizing the event across the district. The 'Run for Unity @100' programme aims to promote the message of national integration, unity, and collective strength-values championed by Sardar Patel throughout his life. Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the importance of celebrating the legacy of Sardar Patel, who played a crucial role in integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union. She said, "The Run for Unity is not merely an event; it is a tribute to the vision and determination of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who laid the foundation of a united India. Every citizen, especially the youth, must participate with enthusiasm to strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'" Rekha further urged all party workers to ensure maximum public participation in the run and to organize awareness drives in schools, colleges, and local communities. She also reviewed the logistics, route arrangements, and coordination among various departments for the smooth conduct of the programme.

Prominent BJP leaders and district functionaries assured full cooperation and pledged to make the event a grand success. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a call for collective effort to uphold the ideals of unity and nationalism.

## Sainik Colony residents meet SCHBS Chairman over civilian rights concerns

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A deputation of prominent residents of Sainik Colony, Jammu, under the banner of the Sainik Colony Civilians Rights Association (SAACCA), met Col. Shiv Chaudhary (Retd.), Chairman, Sainik Colony Co-operative Housing Building Society (SCHBS),

management committee. The delegation, led by Er. Keshav Singh Jamwal (Convener), included Subash Singh Jamwal, Vijay Jamwal, Sham Langer, Sukhdev Chaudhary, Col. R.S. Jasrotia (Retd.), Sanjeev Manmotra, Adv. Bharat Singh Jamwal, Rakesh Chaudhary, Sachin Salthia, Parkash Singh Jamwal,

Bhatti, and Santosh Sharma, among others.

After detailed discussions, Col. Chaudhary clarified the management's stance and assured equal rights for all civilian residents. He further informed that the transfer process of plots has already resumed, and all transfer cases will be cleared within 15 days of receiving



Sainik Colony residents meeting with SCHBS Chairman Col. Shiv Chaudhary (Retd.).

to register their protest against the alleged anti-civilian agenda adopted by the

Rajinder Jamwal, Sant Kumar Sharma, Yogeshwar Jamwal, Ashwani Kumar

the required documents, ensuring transparency and fairness.

## PHE daily wagers hold protests in Jammu, demand tabling of report on regularisation in J-K assembly

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Daily wagers of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department on Monday staged a protest here to demand tabling of the report of the committee set up by the Jammu and Kashmir government on regularisation of their services.

This is the second time in five days that the PHE Employees United Front of Jammu province held protests over the issue. They had earlier held protests on the first day of the Assembly session on October 23.

Amid slogans of "We want justice", "Report ko Assembly mein table karo" and "Daily wagers ko regularise karo", hundreds of workers sat on a protest dharna at the Jal Shakti office in the city.



PHE daily wagers taking out protest rally.

"We have held a major protest here for the second time during this Assembly session. We want the government to fulfil our long-pending demand for the regularisation of daily wagers. We want the government to table the report of the committee in the Assembly immediately during the current session," PHE Employees United Front (Jammu Province) leader Ravi Hans told reporters here.

He said that opposition members should also raise the issue and pressure the government to table the report in the House, as the term of the committee had ended in September.

"We do not want to come on the roads and cause inconvenience to the public. But if the government forces us, we will have no option

but to hit the roads to press the government for the regularisation of daily wagers and for bringing out a policy," he said.

Hans noted that the Omar Abdullah government had set up a committee to prepare a report on the regularisation of daily wagers during the last Assembly session.

"When we were on the roads during the last session, the committee was announced by the chief minister, and a period of six months was given to it to table the report. It was to be submitted by September 19, but till now, we do not know the fate of the report," he said.

The union demanded that the government table the report on regularisation in the Assembly during the current session.

## LIC rebuts Washington Post report as 'false, baseless'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: The allegations leveled by the Washington Post that the investment decisions of LIC are influenced by external factors are false, baseless, and far from truth.

No such document or plan as alleged in the article has ever been prepared by LIC, which creates a roadmap for infusing funds by LIC into Adani group of companies.

The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board approved policies after detailed due diligence. Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in such decisions.

LIC has ensured highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its stakeholders.

These purported statements in the article appear to have been made with the intentions to prejudice the well settled decision-making process of LIC and also to tarnish the reputation and image of LIC and the strong financial sector foundations in India.