

AIIMS, ACB Jammu takes stand for corruption-Free India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu, in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu, organized a Vigilance Awareness Programme at its campus to reinforce the national vision of a transparent and corruption-free India. Conducted under the theme "Vigilance - Our Shared Responsibility," the event highlighted the crucial role of every citizen in upholding honesty, integrity, and accountability in public life.

The programme was graced by senior officers from the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu, including Vikas Gupta, DIG, Shiv Deep Singh Jamwal, SSP, and Kamal Sangra, DySP, along with four Inspectors and other officials. Their presence emphasized the strong partnership between AIIMS Jammu and ACB in fostering ethical governance.

The event began with the administration of the Integrity Pledge, where faculty, staff, and students committed to performing their duties with dedication and avoiding corrupt practices. A documentary produced by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, J&K, was launched, showcasing the Bureau's initiatives, achievements, and strategies in promoting transparency, leveraging



Dignitaries and attendees taking pledge during the programme.

technology for complaint redressal, and empowering citizens to report corruption.

Shri Kamal Sangra, DySP, ACB Jammu, delivered a detailed presentation on the types of corruption complaints received across sectors, focusing especially on the health domain. He explained the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act), shared real-life case studies, and guided participants on preventive vigilance measures. Shri Vikas Gupta, DIG, ACB

Headquarters Jammu, highlighted the societal and economic impact of corruption, emphasizing that combating corruption requires active participation from all individuals, not just law enforcement agencies. An interactive question-and-answer session followed, allowing participants to seek clarification on grievance redressal mechanisms and preventive strategies.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS

Jammu, said, "AIIMS Jammu stands committed to building a corruption-free institutional culture. Vigilance is not an annual observance-it is a continuous responsibility. Each one of us must act as a guardian of transparency, ensuring that every decision we make reflects fairness, justice, and the highest standards of public service." He encouraged active participation in all activities organized during Vigilance Awareness Week, including poster-making, essay writing, and quiz competitions designed to foster ethical awareness among students and staff.

Over 120 participants attended the programme at AIIMS Jammu, demonstrating strong engagement and support. Feedback was collected digitally via a mobile application to assess awareness levels and gather suggestions for further strengthening anti-corruption initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Vigilance Awareness Programme at AIIMS Jammu served as a powerful reminder that vigilance is not the responsibility of a few-but a shared duty of all. By promoting ethical governance and citizen engagement, AIIMS Jammu is actively contributing to the vision of a just, transparent, and corruption-free India.



Stop illegal encroachments on Nallahs, Nikki Tawi: Yudhvir Sethi in Assembly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday raised serious concerns in the Legislative Assembly regarding the ongoing encroachment of Nallahs by land grabbers in the Nikki Tawi and Bajalta areas, warning that unchecked construction on these water channels could lead to yet another flood disaster in the region.

Sethi pointed out that the floods last year had caused massive destruction in these areas, washing away nearly 70 houses, most of which were built illegally on encroached land.

"Last year, around 70 houses were swept away during the floods, and all of them belonged to encroachers who had constructed on the Nallah land," he said, adding that despite the devastation, the same people have once again started building houses inside the same Nallahs. Expressing concern over the recurring pattern, Sethi cautioned that allowing such illegal constructions to continue will only result in repeated losses in the future.

"If the same situation continues, these houses will again be washed away in the next flood, causing not only property loss but also endangering lives," he warned.

He urged the administration to take immediate preventive action to avert future tragedies. "I request the concerned minister to instruct the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and DC Jammu to issue strict



instructions ensuring that no encroacher is allowed to build houses inside the nallahs," Sethi said.

He emphasized that stopping illegal encroachments now would save both lives and government resources later, as compensation and relief funds are repeatedly spent on the same avoidable incidents.

The MLA also appealed to the government to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent future encroachments and to take firm action against violators.

"Preventive measures today will safeguard the people of Jammu East from future calamities," he added.

New buses arriving, border districts to be prioritised: Satish Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma on Tuesday said that new fleet of Buses is arriving and the government will deploy them as per the needs and requirements of people, besides border areas will be covered adequately.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Ajaz Ahmad Jan on SRTC Buses in Legislative Assembly.

He added that Border districts of Poonch and Rajouri will be prioritised as soon as the deployment of new fleet of buses is done.



While replying to a question, the Minister informed that JKRTC plies bus services in the Haveli

Constituency on the Jammu-Poonch and vice versa route continuously, adding that due to cross

border shelling, the said service was discontinued for one week and the same service was restored immediately after one week.

He further informed that JKRTC provided two vehicles for Poonch Haveli constituency on 10.05.2025 for shifting of affected people to safer zones. He added that JKRTC also plied bus services for shifting of stranded passengers to their home town Districts during the said period on the request of District Administration, Poonch.

The Minister also informed the house that during Operation Sindoor, 58 RTC Buses were

deployed in several areas of J&K for shifting the stranded passengers coming back from other neighbouring States. He informed that in Poonch 2 buses, Mendhar 1 bus, Rajouri 3 buses, Jammu 4 buses, Bishnah 5 buses, Akhnoor/Khour 11 buses, Srinagar 2 buses, Doda 14 buses, Kishtwar 4 buses, Paddar/Nagsani 1 bus and for Bhaderwah 4 buses were deployed during Operation Sindoor for facilitation of public.

Legislators, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Baldev Raj Sharma raised supplementary questions on the subject.

Disparity in transfers: MLA Hiranagar seeks justice for Jammu Division teachers



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A serious issue concerning alleged discrimination against lecturers from the Jammu division was raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today by Advocate Vijay Sharma, Hon'ble MLA from Hiranagar constituency.

During the proceedings, MLA Sharma highlighted that while thousands of lecturers in the Kashmir division have recently been transferred, their counterparts in the Jammu division continue to be deprived of similar transfer opportunities. He pointed out that many lecturers in Jammu have completed more than 3.6 years of service in hard zones but are still awaiting transfers, which he termed as a clear case of disparity and neglect.

Calling for immediate attention from the government, Advocate Vijay Sharma urged the concerned authorities to ensure equal treatment for lecturers of both divisions and to address the long-pending grievances of the teaching fraternity in Jammu.

He further demanded that the Education Department adopt a uniform transfer policy across the Union Territory to maintain transparency, fairness, and morale among the staff serving in remote and challenging areas.

BJP tears into Dy CM over 'derogatory language'; accuses NC of insulting Jammu's dignity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a blistering attack on the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, accusing him of repeatedly using "derogatory, uncivil and unacceptable language" against the Leader of Opposition and others, and charged the ruling National Conference (NC) with "insulting Jammu's dignity" by appointing such a person to the post.

J&K BJP Spokespersons, Arun Gupta, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, and Zorawar Singh Janwal criticized the NC and its leaders while addressing a joint press conference at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Arun Gupta said the Deputy Chief Minister had "forgotten the language of a civilized society" and had "crossed all boundaries of decency and responsibility expected from a public office-holder." "When the Deputy Chief Minister speaks, he seems to forget how a leader in a civilized society should talk. He doesn't know where to stop or what dignity

demands," Gupta said, asserting that such conduct "tarnishes Jammu's image." He further reminded that the Deputy Chief Minister's post has no constitutional recognition, while the Leader of Opposition is a constitutionally defined position, deserving respect across the political spectrum. "The Deputy CM must know his limits. The Constitution doesn't even recognize his post, yet he dares to speak against a constitutional office with such foul language. This is not acceptable to any civilized society," Gupta declared.

Calling out the National Conference, Gupta alleged that the party had "knowingly chosen a person with an abusive temperament" to represent Jammu.

"The NC knew exactly what kind of man he is-someone who forgets decency and civility. Yet they made him Deputy CM to deliberately distort Jammu's image. We cannot tolerate this any longer," he said.

Dr Tahir Chowdhary echoed the sentiment, accusing the NC leadership of showing its "disregard and bias" towards

Jammu through its appointment choices.

"When the NC made him Deputy CM, they did it fully aware of his attitude. He doesn't understand political responsibility. Every time he speaks, his words expose his immaturity," Dr Chowdhary said.

He added that such language from a constitutional office sends a "dangerous message" to the next generation.

"We didn't want to drag this into public mudslinging because when you throw a stone in filth, you get splashed too. But now the situation is unbearable. The Deputy CM has become completely unrestrained," he said.

He further questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's silence, saying, "Why hasn't the Chief Minister acted? Why hasn't the NC corrected this behaviour? Their silence means endorsement."

Zorawar Singh Janwal drew a historical parallel, invoking the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's conduct as an example of parliamentary dignity.

"Atal ji, even while sitting in

the Opposition, spoke with such grace that the Prime Minister of the day would rise to appreciate him. He always said - political differences are natural, but personal bitterness has no place in public life," Janwal said.

He said that the Deputy CMs' "abusive and provocative remarks" reflect a "moral and political collapse" in the ruling camp.

"The problem is not just what he says - it's that his wrongs are being justified. The Chief Minister's silence is an endorsement. No society, no institution accepts this level of indecency," he added.

Janwal said the BJP will continue to raise this issue both inside and outside the Assembly. "The BJP believes in healthy, issue-based politics for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But we cannot allow any leader to insult constitutional positions or defame Jammu's civilizational ethos," he said. All three BJP spokespersons urged the National Conference to take immediate cognizance and remove the Deputy CM from his post.

Dr Priyanka represents J&K at Global Sanskrit Conference in Bali



Dr. Priyanka Arya, Assistant Professor receiving citation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Priyanka Arya, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sanskrit, University of Jammu, proudly represented Jammu and Kashmir at the Fourth Global Sanskrit Conference held at IGB Sugriwa Hindu State University, Denpasar, Bali (Indonesia), from October 14 to 16, 2025.

The conference was organized by the Global Sanskrit Forum, where Dr. Arya presented her research paper titled "Extension of Indian Knowledge System", highlighting

the depth and global relevance of India's ancient intellectual traditions.

This remarkable academic participation stands as a moment of pride for the University of Jammu, showcasing its continued commitment to promoting research and cultural exchange at an international level.

On this occasion, the officials of the University of Jammu extended their hearty congratulations to Dr. Priyanka Arya for her distinguished achievement and international representation.

Drug de-addiction centres functional in J&K: Sakeena

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said that all Drug De-addiction centres are fully functional in J&K and directed for fee regulation at all centres for affordable rehabilitation of victims.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a question of Legislator, Surjeet Singh Salathia on Drug Addiction, in Legislative Assembly. She highlighted that the Health and Education departments along with law enforcement agencies are playing an active role to fight the menace of drug abuse in society. She added that strict instructions have been issued to head of all educational institutions (colleges and schools) to install CCTVs in and around their campuses to check any kind of irregular activities.

The Minister also lauded the role of NGOs in dealing with this alarming situation across J&K, adding that their support is must for combating this social evil.

While giving reply to the question, the Minister said that 166 drug abuse cases have been reported in district Samba from the date of establishment of de-addiction centre at District Hospital Samba, with 114 Alcoholic and 62 Heroin & Cannabis affected, while as six patients have recovered



ered till date. She added that the Government is taking concrete steps to curb this menace in the UT of J&K in general and Samba district in particular, like awareness Lectures and Educational Activities, Establishment of De-addiction Centre, Outreach Programs in Educational Institutions and Communities, Panchayat-Level Awareness Activities, Door-to-Door Survey and Identification as well as Camps in Hotspot Areas where a roster has been constituted for the organization of awareness and

treatment camps in hotspot and other vulnerable areas. She added that these camps are led by psychiatrists and counsellors to provide both preventive education and initial treatment support.

The Minister also informed that Addiction Treatment Facility has been fully established at District Hospital, Samba since February 2024 sponsored by NDDTC (AIIMS New Delhi) under MOSIE, presently working on OPD basis with services like OPD by Psychiatrist, Counselling Services and Substance Substitute therapy. While commenting on the subject, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather advised the Minister to take suggestions from a scientific document prepared by political representatives of a party, as it outlines effective and detailed measures for combating this social evil. The Minister informed the house that Government has already started working on this report, besides the topics related to Drug Addiction have already been made part of the curriculum. Legislators, Justice (Retd) Husnain Masoodi; Dr. Shaif Ahmad Wani; Muzaffar Iqbal Khan; Pawan Gupta; Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Narinder Singh; Dr. Rameshwar Singh; Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veer; Balwant Singh Mankotia, raised supplementary questions on the subject.

CS favours AI-driven tools, enhanced conviction rates, stricter enforcement to defeat drug menace

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired the 15th Narco Coordination Centre (NCOORD) meeting to review the ongoing efforts and coordinated measures being taken to curb the menace of narcotics trafficking and substance abuse across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director General of Police (DGP); Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), CID; Principal Secretary, Home Department; and other senior officers from the civil and police administration.

Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from all districts participated through video confer-



encing. At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of strengthening the legal and institutional framework to ensure higher conviction rates under the NDPS Act. He directed the Police and Law Departments to collaborate closely to devise a strategy for improving prosecution outcomes.

The Chief Secretary further

called for developing an AI-enabled system to assist in the preparation of watertight charge sheets and directed IGP Jammu to lead the development of this module in coordination with the Prosecution and Law Departments.

He further instructed that all bails and acquittals granted in commercial quantity cases be promptly challenged, and directed the formulation of

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Investigating and Prosecuting Officers to avoid common procedural lapses that hinder successful convictions. Highlighting the need for vigilance in the health sector, the Chief Secretary asked for a robust monitoring mechanism to track medicines prescribed to de-addiction patients to prevent misuse. He directed the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to enhance the pace and quality of sample testing to ensure timely generation of credible reports. He also called for a review of long-pending NDPS cases, identification of reasons for procedural delays, and necessary corrective measures. He emphasized capacity building of investigating officers, prosecutors, and legal personnel to enhance the overall effectiveness of the anti-narcotics drive.