

Vigilance Awareness Program on "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers" held at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU : PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, successfully hosted a One-Day Vigilance Awareness Program focused on "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI)", under the guidance of Principal Prof Dr. Geetanjali Andotra and was organized by the College IQAC and the Department of Political Science in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology, UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme, held at the Smart Class room drew an engaged audience of students, faculty, and administrative staff who came together to strengthen understanding of whistleblower protection, institutional transparency and the ethical responsibilities of citizens and public servants.

The event opened with the symbolic gestures during the



Principal Prof Dr. Geetanjali Andotra presenting memento to chief guest, Kamal Sangra Dy.SP.

inauguration including the presentation of planters to the Chief Guest Kamal Sangra Dy.SP, Guest of Honour Shruti Khanna Assistant Director (JKSTIC), Special Guest, Ms Ieshita Choudhary, Account Officer and Principal Dr Geetanjali Andotra served as reminders of growth, purity and the nurturing of strong civic values.

Graced by Principal Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, the event started with the open-

ing remarks reaffirmed the college's commitment to cultivating integrity and civic responsibility among students.

The proceedings featured an illuminating session by the Chief Guest and resource person, Kamal Sangra (DySP, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu), who explained the practical avenues available for public interest disclosure and outlined the safeguards that PIDPI provides to protect informers from retaliation.

The welcome address, delivered by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Head of the Department of Political Science, set a reflective and determined tone for the day by underlining vigilance as both a personal duty and a collective necessity.

Throughout the programme, speakers emphasized that whistleblowing is an act in service of the public good that must be protected and supported. Participants discussed real-world scenarios, procedural

steps for reporting wrongdoing, and the institutional mechanisms that can transform awareness into action. An interactive question-and-answer session allowed students to raise concerns and seek practical guidance, reinforcing the event's objective of converting knowledge into informed, courageous practice.

The event ended with Vote of Thanks by Prof Suman Bala who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, the Principal, faculty and students for their active participation and constructive engagement. They reiterated the college's resolve to continue organising programmes that foster ethical leadership, transparency and accountability on campus and beyond. The event was attended by IQAC Convener Prof. (Dr.) Aran Kumar, Prof. (Dr.) Pooja Charak, Prof Paramjeet Singh and Prof. (Dr.) Anuradha.

Special lecture on "Accession of Jammu & Kashmir" organized at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC), organised a special lecture on the theme "Accession of Jammu and Kashmir" at the Seminar Hall, DSRS.

Prof. Prakash Anthal, Dean Students Welfare, JU, graced the event as the Chief Guest. In his presidential address, Prof. Anthal emphasised the contemporary relevance of studying the constitutional, historical, and geopolitical context of Jammu & Kashmir's accession to India. He underlined the importance of academic discourse in countering misinformation and promoting national integration.

Delivering the keynote address, Major General (Retd.) Sanjeev Dogra, a renowned defence and strategic expert, spoke in depth about the future Indo-Pak trajectory in light of current regional and global conflicts.

He explained the stark contrast between India's democratic-institutional approach and Pakistan's military-dominated strategic culture. General Dogra elaborated on India's short-, mid-, and long-term strategic outlook vis-à-vis Pakistan, and discussed the operational threshold of the Indian Armed Forces in the



Major General (Retd.) Sanjeev Dogra with JU faculty at a programme.

context of evolving doctrines-particularly after Operation Sindoor.

He also shed light on emerging domains of warfare, including cyber and information warfare, and highlighted the critical role of Jammu & Kashmir as India's first responder in national security preparedness.

Dr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Professor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, focused his lecture on the historical narrative of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India. He provided a detailed account of the events leading up to the accession, addressing misconceptions and debunking myths surrounding Maharaja Hari Singh's role.

Dr. Sharma emphasised that the decision to accede was constitutional and legally under the authority of Maharaja Hari Singh, and underscored the diplomatic complexity surrounding the events of 1947.

Earlier in his welcome address, Prof. Virender Koundal, Director, DSRS, highlighted the department's continued efforts in fostering research and dialogue on national security, regional studies, and contemporary geopolitical issues.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where students and scholars raised thought-provoking questions. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Ganesh Malhotra, while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam. The programme was attended by Sahil Sharma from JKSC, Arun Prabhat, youth leader and former President of Jammu University Students Union, Dr. Surinder Mohan, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, Dr. Sunil Kumar, research scholars, and students from various departments of the University.

Rakesh Wazir re-appointed Chairman PHD CCI Jammu Region Chapter

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The President of PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Rajeev Juneja, re-appointed Rakesh Wazir as Chairman of the Jammu Region Chapter.

While speaking on the occasion, Juneja said that Wazir is no stranger to leadership within PHDCCI, having previously served as Chairman and Mentor of the Jammu Chapter on different occasions.

He expressed confidence that the business community in the Jammu Region will be further strengthened under Wazir's leadership, creating new opportunities for collaboration, innovation and growth.

While speaking on the



occasion, Wazir expressed gratitude to Juneja & Ranjeet Mehta CEO & Secretary General and entire team of PHDCCI for entrusting him with this responsibility and pray to almighty that he may come upto the expectations of leadership.

He assured that he,

along with the entire chapter team, will leave no stone unturned in addressing issues faced by the industry, presenting them effectively before authorities, and working as a bridge between the business fraternity and the government.

He further added that his prime focus would be to broaden the base of PHDCCI across every nook and corner of the Jammu Region by adding new members and by establishing functional units at the local level.

This will ensure that members need not travel to Jammu for every minor issue, and that unit heads may resolve matters locally in coordination with authorities, with regional intervention wherever required.

Rajesh Gupta slams Traffic Police, demands probe into misconduct

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Marking one year in the National Conference, Rajesh Gupta expressed gratitude to Dr. Farooq Abdullah for his guidance and trust.

Addressing the media, Gupta launched an attack on the Jammu Traffic Police, accusing it of "complete failure and selective policing."

He alleged that traffic cops target only two-wheeler riders while ignoring mini buses, the main cause of congestion.

Citing a viral video of a Sub-Inspector slapping a biker, Gupta said such incidents expose "arrogance within the force" and amount to "public humiliation under the shield of uniform."

He questioned the administration's silence, urging the



Home Department under LG Manoj Sinha to ensure accountability. Highlighting poor enforcement against speeding, wrong-lane driving, and overloading, Gupta demanded an impartial probe, strict action against erring officers, and immediate reforms to restore public trust.

Western Railways commissions Effluent Treatment Plant in Bandra Terminus Depot

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Western Railways', Mumbai Central Division has commissioned a state-of-the-art Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) with a capacity of 100 Kilo Litres per Day (KLD) at Bandra Terminus Depot.

This is in alignment with Indian Railways' efforts to protect the environment. It focuses on treating wastewater from washing lines and depot activities, ensuring responsible management of effluents before their discharge or reuse.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, the plant treats more than 12 lakh litres of wastewater each month, converting it into treated water that is suitable for non-potable purposes, such as coach washing, cleaning of platforms and circulating areas, gardening and maintenance activities. This initiative reduces the consumption of fresh water, thereby promoting water conservation and the sustain-



able utilization of resources.

The installation of this Effluent Treatment Plant highlights Western Railway's proactive commitment to environmental stewardship, pollution control and compliance with national sanitation and sustainability goals. By combining advanced treatment technologies with eco-friendly operational practices, Western Railway sets an example of how infrastructure development and environmental responsibility can progress together, paving the way for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable railway network.

OIC should stop echoing Pakistan's lies and speak on atrocities in PoJK : Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU : Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson for Jammu and Kashmir UT, has strongly criticised the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for issuing yet another biased and misleading statement on Jammu and Kashmir from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

In its latest statement, the OIC said, "The General Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers, reaffirms its unwavering and full support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for their fundamental human rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination. It also urges India to respect the fundamental human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Responding to this, Gupta said that the OIC's remarks are deeply uninformed and politically motivated, driven by Pakistan's false narrative rather than facts. "It's unfortunate that the OIC continues to act as Pakistan's mouthpiece instead of recognizing the reality of a peaceful, democratic, and rapidly developing Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India," he said.

He added that while the OIC keeps issuing statements against India, it remains completely silent on Pakistan's grave human rights violations including the killing of Afghan cricketers by Pakistani



forces, the terror attacks in Kabul, and the abductions and disappearances of Baloch citizens. "When Pakistani security forces opened fire on peaceful protesters in Muzaffarabad, Dheerkot, Rawalakot, and Mirpur killing at least ten civilians and injuring over a hundred the OIC didn't even issue a single line of condemnation. That silence exposes its hypocrisy," Gupta said.

Citing European writer and West Asia expert Michael Arizanti, Gupta referred to his article in the Times of Israel, where Arizanti criticised the OIC and Arab nations for ignoring Pakistan's atrocities in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Arizanti wrote, "Why is

the death of a Palestinian in Gaza a global headline, but the death of a Kashmiri Muslim in Muzaffarabad a footnote?" Gupta said this observation perfectly captures the double standards and moral blindness of those who pretend to care about human rights but ignore Pakistan's state-sponsored violence against its own people.

Gupta further stated that Jammu and Kashmir has completely transformed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessing unprecedented growth in infrastructure, education, healthcare, tourism, and employment. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir today stand firmly with the Constitution of India, the Tricolor, and the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' not with those who seek to divide our nation through lies and propaganda," he said.

Concluding strongly, Gaurav Gupta said, "There is no dispute left in Jammu and Kashmir: The only issue that remains is for Pakistan to vacate its illegally occupied territories of PoJK and return them to India.

The OIC should stop spreading falsehoods and instead speak about the real victims - the people suffering under Pakistan's military oppression. India's sovereignty over Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh is absolute, final, and non-negotiable. No amount of propaganda can ever alter this truth."

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU : Renowned RTI Activist Balvinder Singh has once again brought to light the glaring inefficiency of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Singh revealed that on April 30, 2022, he had exposed massive irregularities in purchases made by DHS and rural development department through Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Following the disclosure, the ACB constituted a team, supervised by G.S. Ghuman JKPS, AIG (Policy), ACB JKUT, to investigate the allegations. The team's findings fully corroborated Singh's allegations, confirming a loss of several lakhs to the state exchequer while establishing a clear nexus between departmental buyers and vendors.

The report detailed significant financial discrepancies, including: Overpricing of USG Machines, with an excess of Rs 19,60,800 paid. Inflated costs for Radicon Binoocular Polarizing Microscopes, leading to a loss



Renowned RTI Activist Balvinder Singh addressing a press conference at Jammu.

of Rs 1,63,000.

Excessive pricing on 32GB pen drives, purchased at ₹850 each despite a market rate of Rs 400. Similarly 16GB pen drives purchased @Rs. Unjustified bulk orders, violating financial regulations and favouring select vendors. Exorbitant cartridge purchases, with items priced at Rs 4800/each despite a market rate of Rs 630/. This shows that the same cartridge has been purchased by the DHS at an Exorbitant rates about 900% of the original cost.

Singh said that my latest RTI reply received from ACB vide No:ACB/E-7295058/RTI/CPIO/13491 Dated:25.09.2025, reveals that till date no FIR is registered against any person may it be vendor or buyer. Singh said despite clear evidence of procurement fraud, the ACB's final recommendation was limited to recovering the financial loss from the vendor-completely sidestepping any legal action against the government officials who facilitated the criminal misconduct. Singh expressed surprise at this conclusion, noting that while the ACB explicitly confirmed the existence of a nexus between the buyer and supplier, it failed to hold the departmental buyers accountable.

"Why penalize only the vendor," he asked, "when the buyer manipulated the process by placing over 40 orders to a single vendor in one day-an act that blatantly violates both the Central Vigilance Commission guidelines and Rule 166 of GFR 2017?" Singh sharply criticized what he described as a toothless and evasive response, asserting that the bureau-despite having competent officers-appears to have been rendered ineffective under pressure from higher authorities.

Singh said RTI reply of

answer to Q.No 6 said that ACB concluded the whole matter by simply forwarding the Alert Note to GAD with the request to widely circulate the note upto HoDs level so that they may be alerted to the practices in departments and stem the loss being caused to exchequer.

Singh emphasized that the General Financial Rules (GFR) clearly state that every Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) must act with the conviction that each rupee spent is from their own pocket, as they are custodians of public funds. It is, therefore, their paramount duty to ensure judicious and transparent use of every penny.

So all present over there urged the Government and especially the General Administration Department (GAD) to direct the ACB to immediately register an FIR against the erring officials and other beneficiaries involved in the GeM procurement scam. Singh cautioned that if the government fails to act, they will be compelled to pursue other lawful remedies to ensure recovery of the hard-earned taxpayers' money. Prominent persons who were present in the Press conference are Rajinder Singh Sudan, Mannohan Singh, Joginder Singh Sudan, Satinder Singh, Kotwal.

POWERGRID promotes ethical values among students with Debate, Nukkad Natak

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU : Power Grid Corporation of India (POWER-GRID) organized an Inter College Debate competition on the topic "Vigilance: Our Collective Responsibility" at Government MAM College, Jammu on Wednesday.

Around Sixteen contestants from various colleges participated in the Debate /lecture/ Declamation Competition conducted in a charged up spirit with all the speakers forcefully highlighting the evils of corruption and importance of morality in our education system, daily life and society at large.

Rabia Kouser and Ashok Kumar of Government MAM



Winner students with POWERGRID officials and other dignitaries.

College, Jammu bagged first two spots whereas, Manit Verma of CLUJ, Jammu and Ridham of Government SPMR College received 3rd and consolation

prize respectively.

Rakesh Saraf, General Manager(Commercial), Asutosh K Sharma, Sr. Deputy, General Manager (HR) POWERGRID

and Prof. Ruth K Masehiwere the judges of this event.

Senior officers from POWER-GRID including Harjinder Kumar, DGM(Vigilance), staff

and faculty of MAM College were present on this occasion.

In the evening, a Nukkad Natak in association with Theater Club, University of Jammu was organized in the JU to highlight the virtues of integrity and vices of corruption. The Nukkad Natak effectively showcased how we can eradicate the menace of corruption with collective responsibility. Senior officers from POWER-GRID including Asutosh K Sharma, Sr. Deputy, General Manager (HR), Chairperson Uttash (Theater Club) of Jammu University, Meena Sharma and other senior faculty members of JU were present during this event.