

Addresses SKUAST-K's Student Induction Programme

# For developed India, objective should be to achieve consistent 5 pc annual growth rate: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: "We must sprint ahead in agriculture and allied sectors to fuel India's growth story," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said to build a developed India, our prime objective should be to achieve a consistent 5% annual growth rate.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need for cultivating change in agriculture education to ensure sustainable practices in future.

"Educational institutions like SKUAST should focus on AI-powered farming and diversification into high-value crops with strategic planning to boost productivity and income of farmers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was speaking at the SKUAST-Kashmir's 'Deeksharambh', a Student Induction Programme, titled as "Aneka Mein Ekta



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at SKUAST-K's 'Deeksharambh', a Student Induction Programme.

Diwas" held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In his address, he also lauded the academic achievements of SKUAST-Kashmir and expressed his happiness over its overall ranking and attracting students from across states and UTs.

"Today, it is 150th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel and I am extremely happy that the presence of youth from every state from Arunachal to Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu to Telangana and Kerala to Karnataka in this campus has transformed it into a "Mini India". The transformation at SKUAST-Kashmir in the last 3-4 years has brought

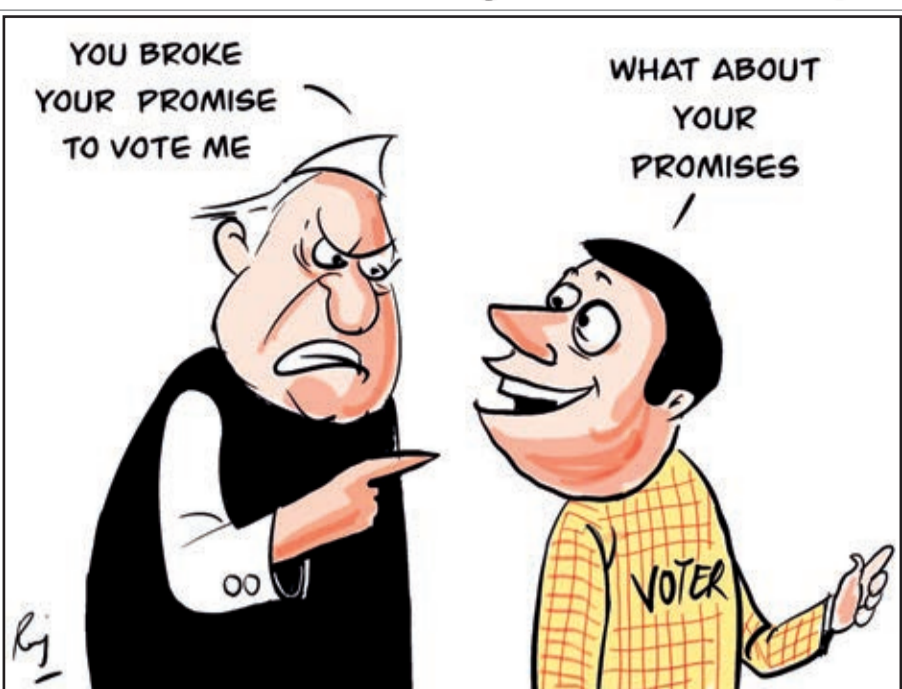
about such a revolutionary change that a "mini-India" is visible in this campus today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"You are the inheritors of Sardar Patel's vision. You are the ambassadors of unity. As we honour the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today, let us also reaffirm our duty to continue strengthening our country. Let your education

be not just about degrees but about making a difference in the lives of people," the Lieutenant Governor told the students.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated social workers and prominent citizens for their contribution to the society. He also visited the Chrysanthemum Garden in the campus. The cultural performances by the students received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students were present.



## Surana & Surana Trial Advocacy Moot Court Competition (North Round 2025-26) begins at JU



Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, JU lighting ceremonial lamp.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Department of Law, University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai, inaugurated the Surana & Surana Trial Advocacy Moot Court Competition (North Round 2025-26) at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium. Teams from 19 universities across North India, including National Law Universities, Central, and State Universities, are participating in the prestigious competition.

The event began with registration, orientation, and the draw of lots, followed by an impressive inaugural ceremony marked by the lighting of the traditional lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and justice.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Former Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and an alumnus of the Department of Law, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

In his address, Justice Tashi commended the University and the Department of Law for organizing a competition

that bridges theory and practice.

He expressed pride in being part of his alma mater's academic endeavor, especially as the event coincided with his recent designation as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India.

He advised budding lawyers to master case facts, study legal provisions meticulously, and observe courtroom proceedings to build confidence and discipline.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, JU, attended as Guest of Honour. Congratulating Justice Tashi on his new designation, he lauded the Department of Law led by Prof. Manju Janwal, Head and Dean, for enhancing the University's academic stature. Prof. Rai emphasized that moot court competitions cultivate advocacy, drafting, and analytical reasoning skills essential for the legal profession.

He reiterated the University's commitment to experiential learning and innovation in legal education aligned with the Bar Council of India's evolving standards.

Prof. Neel Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, and Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, were Special Guests.

Prof. Rohmetra highlighted that such events foster discipline, ethics, and poise among young advocates, while Prof. Joorel stressed that consistent practice builds the foundation of sound legal reasoning.

Preetam Surana, Partner, Surana & Surana International Attorneys, reflected on the ethical duties of advocates and the need to ensure accountability and timely justice.

In her welcome address, Prof. Manju Janwal underlined the role of trial advocacy in honing practical legal skills. The programme, conducted by Dr. Navdeep Kour Sasan, also featured a cultural performance by Law Department students.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Satinder Kumar. The exchange of memorials followed, officially marking the start of the competition rounds scheduled from November 1 to 3, 2025.

# PM Modi's vision has transformed Ladakh into a model of good governance, transparency & sustainability: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: The 6th Foundation Day of the Union Territory of Ladakh was celebrated with great patriotic fervour at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, Leh.

On this historic occasion, Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurated a series of digital citizen-centric initiatives, marking a significant step in Ladakh's journey toward transparency, efficiency, and technology-driven governance.

Ladakh was established as a separate Union Territory on October 31, 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370. Over the past six years, it has witnessed transformative growth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Among the major initiatives launched by the Lt Governor were the Grievance Redressal P o r t a l



LG Leh Kavinder Gupta speaking at a programme.

([grievance.ladakh.gov.in](https://grievance.ladakh.gov.in)), Raj Bhawan Website ([rajniwas.ladakh.gov.in](https://rajniwas.ladakh.gov.in)), Swagatam Portal ([swagatam.gov.in](https://swagatam.gov.in)), Online Building Permission & Occupancy System (OBPOS) ([obpos.ladakh.gov.in](https://obpos.ladakh.gov.in)), and the SIDCO Loan Management P o r t a l

([sideo.ladakh.gov.in](https://sideo.ladakh.gov.in)). He also unveiled the Sindhu Darshan magazine, highlighting his first 100 days in office.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor extended warm greetings to the people of Ladakh and described the day as a proud milestone in the UT's developmental journey.

"In just six years, Ladakh has emerged as a model of balanced growth and progressive

governance. Despite harsh climatic and geographical challenges, we have made remarkable progress in infrastructure, education, healthcare, power, water, and tourism," he said.

Commending officials for their efforts, he added, "These digital platforms symbolize the principles of good governance - efficiency, accessibility, and accountability. Ladakh today stands as a beacon of transparent and citizen-oriented administration."

The Lt Governor reaffirmed that Ladakh's development reflects Prime Minister Modi's commitment to holistic regional growth. He highlighted sustainability and renewable energy as core priorities, stating, "The dream of a Carbon-Neutral Ladakh is becoming a people's movement. Our advances in solar energy and environmental conservation demonstrate the region's determination toward sustainable

living."

Praising the dedication of UT officials and youth, Gupta said, "Ladakh's youth are excelling in sports, innovation, and entrepreneurship. True development lies in ensuring that every family lives with dignity and happiness." He also emphasized Ladakh's enduring communal harmony, where people of all faiths live in peace and mutual respect.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal congratulated the people and highlighted key collaborations with the Government of India. The celebrations included a cultural performance by students of Druk Padma Karpo School, Shey, and a documentary on six years of Ladakh's progress.

The event was attended by DGP Dr. S.D. Singh Janwal, administrative secretaries, Deputy Commissioner Leh Romil Singh Donk, senior officials, and students.

## Div Com, IGP flag off Unity March to mark 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel



Div Com Ramesh Kumar in presence IGP Bhim Sen Tuti flagging off unity march.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Sardar @ 150 Unity March, a district-level Padyatra was organised on Friday here from Gulshan Ground.

The march was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar in the presence of IGP Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy

Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas, DIG Shiv Kumar and ADC Anusuya Janwal.

Director Mera Yuva Bharat, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Nisar Ahmed Butt was also present on the occasion. The march passed through Gujjar Nagar Bridge and culminated at Hari Singh Park. Bands from the J&K Police and BSF along with

NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, school students and officers and staff of the district administration participated in large numbers and pledged to uphold the unity and sovereignty of the nation. Patriotic performances were presented by school students and artists from the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. Tableaus were also showcased as part of the Unity Run.

On the occasion, Advisor

## Omar unveils Kashmir Marathon Exposition at Polo View

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated the exposition of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at Polo View, Srinagar.

The exposition marks the final leg of preparations for the much-anticipated second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2 in the picturesque city.

The Chief Minister inspected various stalls and counters set up by different government departments, private sports firms and event partners. The exhibition showcases a wide range of sports gear, equipment and accessories aimed at promoting fitness and outdoor activities.

It also includes dedicated bib collection centres and on-spot registration counters for participants of the upcoming marathon.

On the occasion, Advisor

to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob, event organisers and other senior officers were present. The Chief Minister interacted with stall owners, athletes and volunteers, appreciating their role in promoting a vibrant sporting culture in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier this week, the Chief Minister had unveiled the official merchandise of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at Royal Springs Golf Course. The merchandise includes a cap, medal and racing kit symbolising the spirit of endurance and unity.

While unveiling the collection, the Chief Minister invited all fitness enthusiasts to test their stamina and join the marathon, which aims to encourage healthy lifestyle and showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir to visiting participants.

Public Demand for Action: Civil society groups and legitimate journalists have called on the police and administration to identify and blacklist all fake or unregistered news portals engaged in such practices.

"This is pure blackmail, not journalism," said a journalist from a reputed media house. "It's time to clean up the digital media space before it completely loses credibility."

Police Assure Strict Action: Law enforcement

## DAAM, KU sign MoU to propel Archaeological exploration, excavation, preservation across J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In a landmark initiative to advance the Archaeological exploration, excavation and preservation of Jammu & Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums (DAAM) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir to promote archaeological research, scientific documentation, and cultural heritage management in the Union Territory of



Director DAAM, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal signing MoU.

J&K.

The MoU was signed by Director DAAM, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and Registrar University of Kashmir, Prof. Naseer Iqbal in presence of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nilofer Khan and Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma.

The Key Highlights under the MOU include collaboration for:

- Joint Excavations & Scientific Analysis-Both institutions will undertake collaborative explorations and excavations. Retrieved material culture will be shared between DAAM and CCAS for museum display and academic research.
- Advanced Research & 3D Documentation: CCAS will conduct 3D documentation of archaeological sites, museums, and artefacts, creating a comprehensive digital archive for long-term preservation and study.
- Boosting Heritage Tourism: The MoU aims

to develop on-site museums near major tourist destinations, transforming archaeological locations into engaging public spaces that enhance local tourism and economy.

Academic-Government Synergy: DAAM will provide budgetary support and necessary clearances, while CCAS will contribute through faculty expertise, postgraduate students, and laboratory facilities for field and post-excavation research.

Global Knowledge Dissemination: Research findings will be shared through national and international seminars, exhibitions, and publications.

After signing of this MoU, a joint excavation project will begin at Zehanpora, Baramulla in the first week of November, 2025 led by the experts from both CCAS and DAAM, a first of its kind in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Blackmailing portals on rise in Jammu; FIR lodged against "The Daily Truth News" for extortion attempt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In yet another case highlighting the misuse of digital media platforms, a local online news portal, The Daily Truth News, has come under police investigation after its reporter was found blackmailing a reputed hotel of Jammu City and demanded Rs 20, 000 to suppress a fabricated story.

According to the complaint filed with police, The Daily Truth News reporter Shivam (mobile number 9149920248) tried to extort money from management of a prominent hospitality brand in Jammu.

The hotel's management stated that Shivam recorded a fabricated video outside

the premises and uploaded it on his portal. He then contacted the hotel, demanding a sum of Rs 20 thousand to delete the video. Audio evidence submitted to the police reportedly captures the reporter Shivam demanding money to erase the video.

Police officials confirmed that the complaint has been received and that an investigation is underway. "We are examining the recordings and will take appropriate legal action," said an officer.

Unregistered Portals - A Growing Menace: This incident adds to the rising number of complaints in Jammu about unregistered "news portals" using journalism as a cover for blackmail and



extortion. Many of these unregistered portals operate without any registration, and often engage in coercion rather than legitimate reporting.

"These unregistered por-

tals damage the credibility of real journalists," said a senior member of the Jammu Press Club. "They approach businesses or individuals, shoot videos, and later use them as leverage for extortion. The government must introduce strict regulation of digital news outlets."

Political Cover and Misuse of Power: What makes such cases more serious is that several portal operators reportedly hold positions in political organizations. Their political links often discourage victims from reporting them to authorities, fearing repercussions or influence.

"This is a dangerous mix of politics and unethical jour-

nalism," said a local media observer. "When such individuals misuse both platforms for financial gain, it's not only criminal but also an assault on free press ethics."

Public Demand for Action: Civil society groups and legitimate journalists have called on the police and administration to identify and blacklist all fake or unregistered news portals engaged in such practices.

"This is pure blackmail, not journalism," said a journalist from a reputed media house. "It's time to clean up the digital media space before it completely loses credibility."

Police Assure Strict Action: Law enforcement

agencies have urged the public to immediately report any cases of blackmail or extortion by self-styled reporters or online portals. Cybercrime units are also tracking digital activity linked to unverified media pages to identify patterns of extortion.

Authorities have reiterated that freedom of the press cannot be misused for personal or political gain.

"We have started investigating and the case involving The Daily Truth News will become a precedent-setting example with the strict action against this alleged blackmailer reporter Shivam, police said.