

POWERGRID organizes seminar during Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna company under Ministry of Power, Government of India, observed Vigilance Awareness Week with the theme 'Vigilance: Our Collective Responsibility' from 27th October to 2nd November, 2025 in all its offices.

During this week, several programmes were organized for creating awareness amongst masses, employees and their family members, highlighting evils of corruption and its impact on society.

Taking of Vigilance pledge, organizing of walkathon, Vendors' meet, holding sensitization programmes, Inter School and Inter College debate competitions, Nukkad



Tarun Bajaj, ED (NRTS-II) honouring a winner.

Natak, organizing awareness programs in Gram panchayats were the highlights of the Vigilance awareness Week-2025.

As part of this week, a seminar was organized by POWERGRID at its Regional office, Jammu where Dr. R.Gopinath, IPS, Member Secretary Pollution Control Committee (J&K) was invited as an external speaker.

He was welcomed by Tarun Bajaj, ED (NRTS-II). In his address Dr. R.Gopinath emphasized on the fact that there has been an appreciable decrease in corruption in our country in past few years with transparent and stringent measures in place.

He appreciated the working culture of POWERGRID and conveyed his best wishes to POWERGRID in all its

endeavors. Speaking on this occasion, Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POWERGRID, NR-II highlighted zero tolerance policy of POWERGRID towards corruption and complimented POWERGRID employees and Management for having proper checks and balances in place to fight this menace. Ashutosh K Sharma, Sr. Deputy General Manager(HR) in his welcome address briefed about the significance of observation of Vigilance awareness week and various activities carried so far.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions on this occasion. The event was attended by all senior officers and their family members. Harjinder Kumar, DGM(Vigilance) presented vote of thanks.

Western Railway crosses Rs 300 crore mark in scrap sale

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Western Railway has reaffirmed its commitment towards making all its railway establishments and units scrap-free under the ambitious "Mission Zero Scrap" initiative. In the current financial year 2025-26, Western Railway has achieved total scrap sale of over Rs 302 crore as on 29th October, 2025. According to a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the scrap sale performance is almost 21 per cent higher than the proportionate target set by Railway Board. This significant milestone has been achieved two weeks ahead of last year's record date of 13th November, 2024, when Western Railway had crossed the Rs 300 crore mark. With this achievement, Western Railway has joined the Rs 300 crore club in scrap sale along with South Central Railway, further strengthening its position as one of the leading zones in efficient material management and resource optimization.

GGM Science College observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2025



Faculty members and students during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Women Empowerment/Development Cell and the Department of English, GGM Science College, Jammu, observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 under the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." An Intra-College Symposium Competition was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the College. The

competition was judged by Dr. Seema Rani Minhas, Dr. Jatinder Kour; and Dr. Sunita Kumari. The event was graced by Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Head, Department of English; Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Dean; and Dr. Yasmeen Mughal, Convener, Women Empowerment Cell.

In her address, Dr. Vandana Khajuria emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in promoting vigilance

and transparency. Mammeet Kour secured the first prize, Jaspreet Singh won the second, while Anirudh Sodhi and Haresh Dev Singh shared the third prize. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Yasmeen Mughal, highlighting the significance of integrity and ethical awareness among students.

WR to run a one way special train between Udhna-Kasganj

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: For the convenience of passengers and to clear the extra rush of passengers, Western Railway has decided to run a one way Special Train on Special Fare between Udhna and Kasganj.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Train No. 09171 Udhna-Kasganj Special will depart from Udhna on Saturday 01st November, 2025 at 22:00 hrs and will reach Kasganj at 19:00 hrs, the next day. Enroute, this train will halt at Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Vadodara, Godhra, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagda, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaura City, Bharatpur, Mathura and Hathras City stations. This train comprises of Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches. The booking for Train No. 09171 is open at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Dr. Varinder backs crackdown on terror-linked Govt employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Varinder Sharma, Co-Convenor of the Health Cell, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, today emphasized that the termination of government employees aiding militancy should not be politicized, as the safety and integrity of Jammu & Kashmir take precedence over all political considerations. "Those who misuse government positions to nurture terrorism and fundamentalism have no place in public service. The Lieutenant Governor has taken a bold and necessary step to protect the future of our youth and ensure peace and sovereignty," he stated.

Welcoming the recent dismissal of two government employees found aiding terrorist networks, Dr. Sharma said the action reflects the Government's firm stance against terrorism and its

support structures within the Union Territory. "This year alone, six employees have been dismissed in three separate orders, and last year several officials were rightfully removed. These measures are part of a consistent approach to eliminate terror networks from government institutions," he added.

Expressing concern over the involvement of educators in radicalizing children, Dr. Sharma noted, "Two teachers - Ghulam Hussain of Reasi and Majid Iqbal Dar of Rajouri - misused their positions to support Lashkar-e-Taiba, aiming to poison young minds rather than perform their duties. Their dismissal, based on credible intelligence, is fully justified."

He recalled a previous case where a teacher aided terrorists responsible for the Baisaran, Pahalgam massacre, highlighting the need

for proactive action.

Responding to former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks on dismissal without conviction, Dr. Sharma said, "This is a matter of national security, not political ideology. The law empowers the government to remove individuals posing threats when credible intelligence exists. Terror supporters do not deserve the privilege of serving the State."

He assured that the rights of genuine citizens and employees remain protected, while stressing that strict action against anti-national elements must be swift and decisive. Dr. Sharma appealed to political parties and civil society to support firm measures against terrorism, stating, "Peace, progress, and the future of Jammu & Kashmir depend on rooting out terrorism from every corner-be it jungles, borders, or offices."

DIET Jammu's 5-day workshop concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A five-day capacity-building workshop on "Designing Assessment Tools as per NEP 2020," organized by the IFIC Wing of DIET Jammu, concluded on Friday at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Canal Road. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor and the supervision of the Principal, DIET Jammu, R. G. Dogra.

The workshop sensitised 50 teachers from across Jammu District to design competency-based assessment tools grounded in Bloom's Taxonomy, focusing on holistic progress and learning outcomes. Over five days, participants explored the NEP 2020 vision of assessments and school-based assessments, practised creating rubrics, checklists, digital tools and



DIET officials along with participants posing for photograph.

engaged in hands-on sessions on Holistic Progress Cards (HPC) and inclusive assessment practices.

The valedictory function was graced by Principal, Government College of Education Jammu, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, as the Chief Guest. Chief Education Officer Jammu, Ajeet Sharma, attended as the Guest of Honour, while Principal, GGHSS Canal Road, Anita Koul was the Special Guest.

In her address, Dr. Jyoti Parihar commended DIET Jammu for bridging the

gap between policy and practice, stating, "Teachers must act as facilitators of learning rather than mere examiners, ensuring that assessment captures creativity, collaboration and socio-emotional growth."

Principal DIET Jammu, R. G. Dogra, congratulated the team and observed that, "NEP 2020 envisions assessment as an integral part of learning - not a judgment, but a journey of growth."

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET

Jammu, assisted by Monika Gupta and Suniya Mehta, Lecturers DIET Jammu, as Co-ordinators, while teachers Akash Khajuria and Sanjay Lal extended technical support throughout the programme.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and certificate distribution, reaffirming DIET Jammu's commitment to advancing assessment literacy, reflective pedagogy and teacher professionalism in line with national educational reforms.

SNA, JKAACL organize "Praatigya" at Abhinav Theatre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), organized a special programme titled "Praatigya - A Series of Experience Sharing by Stalwarts in Performing Arts" at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

The event brought together three eminent figures of Indian performing arts - Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, Khem Raj, and Maharaj Krishan (Hari Kishan) Langoo - who shared their creative journeys, experiences, and philosophies with a captivated audience.

"Praatigya," launched by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in May 2024, is a unique initiative that con-



Padma Shri Balwant Thakur along with other artists during the programme.

nects renowned artists, scholars, Akademi Fellows, and Padma Awardees with students and practitioners of performing arts. Held on the last Friday of every month, the series aims to inspire young talent while reinforcing that art is not merely a form of expression but a lifelong discipline that shapes character and culture.

The event began with the traditional Lamp Lighting Ceremony invoking Goddess Saraswati's blessings. The ceremony was led by Padma Shri Balwant

Thakur, Khem Raj, Maharaj Krishan Langoo, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Anil Tickoo, and Deepak Joshi of SNA, along with other dignitaries and artists, marking an auspicious start to the proceedings.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head, JKAACL Jammu, and noted writer and researcher, emphasized that "Praatigya" plays a vital role in fostering dialogue between masters and learners and in preserving India's diverse performing arts heritage.

The interactive sessions were marked by enriching exchanges where the artists shared personal stories, philosophies of creativity, and reflections on the evolution of traditional art forms. The audience witnessed live demonstrations, gaining deeper insight into the discipline and devotion that define performing arts.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, founder of Natrang, has revolutionized Dogri theatre, taking over 7,500 performances to national and international

platforms. His iconic play "Ghumayee" remains a milestone in Indian folk theatre.

Khem Raj, an SNA Awardee for Folk Dance, has preserved Jammu's traditional Kud Nritya, performing across India and serving as a resource person for the CCRT, New Delhi.

Maharaj Krishan (Hari Kishan) Langoo, a self-taught composer and theatre artist from Kashmir, is known for blending emotion and tradition in his music, earning accolades including the State Award (2016).

The programme concluded with the felicitation of the artists. Amar Chauhan conducted the proceedings, and Deepak Joshi (SNA, New Delhi) delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and attendees.

58th Annual General Meeting of Institution of Engineers (India) Jammu Local Centre



Dignitaries during the programme in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 58th Annual General Meeting of The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Local Centre was held at Institutional Complex, Channi Himmat, here on Friday.

It was presided over by Er. Anil Verma, FIE, Chairman of Jammu Local Centre. A large number of Corporate Members from all disciplines of Engineering attended the AGM.

Er. Avneet Gupta, Honorary Secretary, while welcoming the members, presented the Annual Report for the year 2024-2025 and highlighted the activities of the Jammu Local Centre. The audited annual accounts for the year 2024-25 were presented and approved. A detailed account

of various activities conducted by the Institution of Engineers India, Jammu Centre during the year which included Seminars/Workshops besides also holding International & National symposia.

Er. Anil Verma, FIE; Chairman, expressed gratitude to the members for their active participation in the management of day-to-day activities of the Institution and sought their valuable contribution in future also. He also exhorted upon all the non-member engineers of J&K to enroll themselves as Corporate Members of the Institution. Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Honorary Secretary of the Centre conducted the proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks to the august gathering present on the occasion.

IIM Jammu organizes Fit India Freedom Run 6.0, Debate Competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, organized the Fit India Freedom Run 6.0 on Friday, marking the grand culmination of the nationwide Fit India Freedom Run campaign initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. The event forms part of the Fit India Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed at inspiring citizens to integrate fitness into their daily lives. The central theme for this year's edition - "Swachhhta and Swasthya" (Cleanliness and Health) - underscored the significance of physical fitness and hygiene as twin foundations of a healthy and progressive nation.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from around 180 individuals, including students, faculty members, officers, and staff of the Institute. The Fit India Freedom Run, which was first introduced in 2020, has since evolved into a nationwide

movement motivating people to embrace walking, running, and physical activity as part of their everyday routines. The 2025 edition, observed from 2nd October to 31st October, concluded with a Unity Run on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, symbolizing national unity, discipline, and collective strength.

Present during the event were Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Co-Chairperson, Student Affairs; Prof. Brig. Neeraj Soni (Retd.), Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Prof. P. P. Maheshwari, Professor of Practice; Prof. Vinod Durge, Professor of Practice; and Cmr. Kesavan Baskkaran (R), Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, along with other faculty members and staff. The Unity Run inside the IIM Jammu Jagti Campus witnessed spirited participation, reflecting an atmosphere of enthusiasm, togetherness, and commitment to the ideals of "Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat." Participants pledged to continue supporting the



Director, IIM Jammu Prof. B. S. Sahay flagging off run.

national movement towards cleanliness, health, and sustainability. Addressing the gathering, Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that physical fitness and cleanliness are essential pillars of a progressive and resilient society. He stated that initiatives such as the Fit India Freedom Run not only promote discipline, endurance, and unity but also inspire individuals to take collective responsibility for their health and surroundings.

Emphasizing the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Prof. Sahay added that the theme Swachhhta and Swasthya resonates deeply with the dream of

a clean, fit, and self-reliant India. He reiterated IIM Jammu's steadfast commitment to nurturing a culture of physical well-being, emotional balance, and social responsibility, aligning with the Institute's core values of excellence, integrity, and service to the nation.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, noted that the Fit India Freedom Run reflects IIM Jammu's strong resolve to nurture disciplined, energetic, and socially responsible youth who contribute meaningfully to nation-building. He emphasized that such initiatives encourage students to integrate

physical fitness and moral strength into their daily lives, thereby fostering the qualities required for leadership and public service.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, lauded the initiative as a transformative step that embodies the spirit of a healthy and progressive nation. He added that promoting fitness habits instills perseverance, teamwork, and self-discipline among participants - traits that are crucial for holistic personal and professional development.

Dr. Harsha Jariwala, Co-Chairperson, Student Affairs, remarked that the event motivates students to embrace

active and balanced lifestyles while strengthening community bonds. She emphasized that such collective activities promote mental well-being, civic responsibility, and leadership among youth, inspiring them to lead by example.

As part of the day-long celebration, IIM Jammu also organized a Debate Competition in the evening on themes related to national unity, cleanliness, fitness, and civic sense. The event encouraged critical thinking and constructive dialogue, with students showcasing awareness, conviction, and enthusiasm for nation-building.

Devotees to observe Prabodhini Ekadashi with devotion fervour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prabodhini Ekadashi, also known as Dithwan Ekadashi, is celebrated on the Shukla Paksha Ekadashi of the Kartik month.

On this sacred day, it is believed that Lord Vishnu awakens from His divine sleep (Yoga Nidra), spreading righteousness, virtue, and auspicious energy throughout the universe.

Explaining the significance of the day, Swami Amit Shukla said that, according to the Padma Purana, when Narad Muni asked Lord Brahma about this Ekadashi, Brahma Ji revealed that Prabodhini Ekadashi destroys sins, increases virtue, and grants salvation. Observing a fast on this day is considered equivalent to performing a thousand Ashwamedha Yajnas and a hundred Rajasuya Yajnas.

Swami Ji added that those who observe this fast are blessed with prosperity, wisdom, happiness, and fulfillment of desires.

On this day, devotees should offer water in a conch shell with Tulsi leaves, perform Panchamrit Abhishek, and worship Lord Vishnu with sixteen ritual offerings (Shodashopachar). Bathing, donating, chanting, and performing Havan in Lord Madhav's name are said to yield eternal blessings. He further mentioned the special significance of Tulsi worship in the Kartik month-offering even a single Tulsi leaf brings immense merit. On this day, the Tulsi-Shaligram Vivah (divine marriage of Goddess Tulsi and Lord Shaligram) and sugarcane worship are also observed with devotion. Concluding his address, Swami Amit Shukla said that Prabodhini Ekadashi is not just a religious observance but a divine opportunity for self-purification, righteous living, and spiritual awakening. Even a small act of goodness performed on this sacred day brings infinite blessings. He urged devotees to engage in vigil, service, and devotion to fill their lives with harmony, peace, and divinity.

