

R.S. Chib elected President of FORCE



FORCE office bearers with newly elected President R.S. Chib.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant development, R.S. Chib, former Minister, was unanimously elected as the President of the Forum of Recognized Colleges (FORCE) during a meeting of its members held on Monday at Ranjit College of Education, Jammu.

The meeting was chaired by Harbans Singh, the outgoing President of FORCE, and attended by representatives of various colleges of education affiliated with the University of Jammu.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Ashok Khajuria, General Secretary of FORCE, who

briefed the members on the steps taken to secure recognition for colleges from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). He highlighted the ongoing efforts and initiatives of FORCE under the leadership of Harbans Singh to resolve key issues concerning the affiliate colleges and to improve coordination with regulatory bodies such as the UT Government, NCTE, and the University of Jammu.

In his address, Harbans Singh appreciated the collective role played by all members in overcoming challenges faced by B.Ed. colleges. Emphasizing the need to strengthen

FORCE for safeguarding the interests of teacher education institutions in the Jammu region, he expressed his desire to step down as President due to health reasons.

While members urged him to continue, he declined and proposed the name of R.S. Chib to take over the responsibility. He said Chib had previously held the position and possessed the necessary experience to lead the forum effectively.

All members present unanimously supported his proposal. Accepting the decision, R.S. Chib expressed gratitude for the confidence reposed in him.

He appreciated the guidance and leadership provided by Harbans Singh during his tenure and assured that he would continue to seek his advice as the Chief Patron of FORCE.

Chib pledged to work collectively with all members to address the concerns of B.Ed. colleges and to strengthen the organization further.

The meeting also deliberated on key issues including the admission process in affiliated colleges and recent decisions of the NCTE regarding seat allotment.

Representatives from several institutions attended, including Khalsa College of Education, Chenab College, Galaxy College, Ranjit College, Tariq College (Rajouri), Kalra College (Udhampur and Kud), Bhartiya College (Udhampur), Rajiv Gandhi College (Kathua), R.B. College, Surya College, New Age College (Billawar), R.S. College, and L.B.S. College of Education (Kathua).

DHS visits Sub Dist Hospital Jagti to inspect services

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar on Monday visited Sub District Hospital Jagti to assess the health care services and facilities being provided to the patients. He discussed with the Medical Superintendent the routine functioning of the hospital and asked to put forth the deficiencies that the hospital is facing in terms of infrastructure and staff strength. He assured the Medical Superintendent that the Digital X-Ray, Dental X-Ray, CBC Analyzer and Generator will shortly be installed to improve the existing facilities for better patient care. Besides, he also assured that the work on the dialysis centre will soon be started so that the people of Jagti and surrounding areas will be benefited. He also inspected different sections including ER Room, Emergency Ward, NCD Section and interacted with staff members. He asked them to be patient-friendly and work with utmost care and dedication. He appreciated the hospital staff and urged them to continue providing dedicated services to the Community.

FTC in collaboration with SDAO R S Pura organizes workshop on Soil Health Management



Farmers Training Centre Director Karuna Nidhi with other dignitaries at a workshop.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Farmers Training Centre (FTC), under the guidance of Deputy Director Karuna Nidhi and in collaboration with the Sub Divisional Agriculture Office (SDAO) R S Pura, led by Arun Jaral, organized a comprehensive workshop on Monday on Soil Health Management at Panchayat Sarore Upper, Zone-Channi Himmat.

The event aimed to enhance farming techniques and promote sustainable agricultural practices among local farmers.

The session covered key topics such as soil analysis, soil amendment, crop rotation, and the use of organic fertilizers.

Experts Om Singh and Guldev Raj delivered detailed lectures on these crucial subjects, while Vibhu Kapoor and Julee Raina conducted on-the-spot demonstrations of soil testing, providing farmers with valuable hands-on experience.

In addition to the informative session, the Centre also distributed agricultural implements to local farmers to help improve productivity and encourage the adoption of modern, efficient farming practices.

The Deputy Director, Nidhi, along with Arun Jaral, emphasized the vital role of soil health as the foundation for sustainable and successful agriculture.

A total of 100 farmers from

various villages of Panchayat Sarore attended the workshop, gaining valuable insights into improving soil quality and boosting crop yields. Other officers present at the event included Dolly John (Training Officer) and Upwan Koul (SMS-SDL), who also interacted with the participants and encouraged them to adopt scientific methods of farming.

The event, held in Panchayat Sarore Upper, Zone-Channi Himmat, was appreciated as a collaborative effort between the Farmers Training Centre and SDAO R S Pura-marking an important step towards empowering farmers and ensuring the long-term health of agricultural lands.

Dir Information felicitates Gagan Jamwal on clinching Gold medal



Director Information, Nitish Rajora felicitating gold medal winner employee, Gagan Jamwal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Information and Public

Relations, Nitish Rajora on Monday felicitated Gagan Jamwal an employee of the

Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) for clinching gold medal in District, J&K UT Roller Skates and 2nd J&K Master Games-2025 Championships recently held at MA Stadium Jammu.

Joint Director Information (Iqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina was also present on the occasion.

The Director termed the victory of Gagan and his team as phenomenal and applauded them for clinching Gold medal. He appreciated the talent of Gagan and expressed optimism about his success in upcoming Roller Hockey Championship.

68th meeting of Empowered Committee on MSMEs for J&K and Ladakh held at RBI Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 68th Meeting of the Empowered Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for the quarter ended September 30, 2025, was held on Monday at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Chandrashekhar Azad, Regional Director, RBI Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director, Industries and Commerce Department, Jammu, Assistant Director, MSME-Development and Facilitation Office, controlling heads and senior officials of J&K Bank, State Bank of India,



Regional Director, RBI Jammu, Chandrashekhar Azad chairing a meeting.

Punjab National Bank, J&K Grameen Bank, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and ICICI Bank, besides representatives from the convener banks of UTLBC J&K and UTLBC Ladakh. Office-bearers from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Trade and Industry in India, and the Association of Small & Tiny Industries

also participated. In his opening remarks, Azad commended the MSME sector's resilience, adaptability, and entrepreneurial spirit, terming it a vital pillar of India's economy. He highlighted recent regulatory measures aimed at easing sectoral challenges, such as the elimination of prepayment penalties on floating-rate loans for individuals and

micro and small enterprises, and the simplification of reporting requirements under the Export and Import Data Processing and Monitoring Systems (EDPMS/ IDPMS) to reduce compliance burdens for small exporters and importers.

Reviewing regional progress, he informed that as of September 30, 2025, the UT of Jammu &

Kashmir had achieved 61 per cent and Ladakh 78 per cent, of their MSME Annual Credit Plan targets for FY 2025-26. He urged all stakeholders to embrace formalisation, maintain credit discipline, and prioritise Udyam registration and onboarding on TREDS.

The Committee subsequently reviewed banks' performance regarding TREDS, Udyam registration, credit flow to MSMEs, NPA levels, CGTMSE coverage, and progress under PMEGP. It also discussed the rehabilitation of stressed units under the Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation (FRR) of MSMEs and the availability of banking facilities in MSME clusters across both UTs.

JU students gain experiential learning during environmental sciences field visit to Amritsar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu (ju), organized a two-day educational field trip for M.Sc. 1st and 3rd semester students, aimed at providing experiential learning and practical exposure in landscape ecology, environmental and cultural heritage, and conservation education.



JU students during visit to Amritsar.

The students travelled from Jammu to Amritsar via the Punjab Plains, studying the region's landscape ecology with a focus on agricultural transformation and its ecological implications.

Along the route, they examined agrarian ecosystems, cropping patterns, irrigation practices, and harvesting techniques. Field discussions centred on the ecological impacts of intensive agriculture, land-use changes, and the importance of sustainable farming. In the evening, the

group attended the Retreat Ceremony at the Attari-Wagah Border, witnessing an inspiring display of national pride and border coordination. On the second day, students visited the Golden Temple and its museum to explore Punjab's religious, cultural, and historical heritage, followed by a visit to Jallianwala Bagh to reflect on a defining moment in India's freedom struggle. The ac-

ademic component of the visit included an interactive session at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, where students explored the Botanical Garden and visited research and instrumentation laboratories of the Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences. Engaging discussions with professors and research scholars provided valuable insights into current

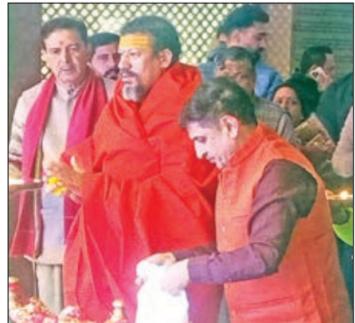
environmental research and sustainability challenges. The field visit was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Deepika Sathia, Head of the Department, with Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Associate

Professor, as the teacher-in-charge. Faculty members Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Anshu Gupta, and Dr. Suresh Kumar accompanied and mentored the students.

Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj pays obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of the Niranjani Akhara, on Monday paid obeisance at the ancient and revered Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulla Mulla in Ganderbal district.

The visit of the eminent spiritual leader drew a large number of devotees and followers who gathered to seek his blessings at the sacred shrine, dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi-revered as one of the most important spiritual sites for Kashmiri Pandits.



The Dharmarth Trust, under the guidance of Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust and Dr. Ritu Singh have made elaborate arrangements to facilitate the holy visit and ensure smooth conduct of rituals and prayers at the temple premises.

Darshan Sharma, Manager of the Dharmarth Trust, informed that all necessary arrangements including cleanliness, and provisions for Special Pooja were made in advance. He added that the Trust remains committed to preserving and

maintaining the sanctity of ancient temples and shrines, while continuing its mission of promoting spiritual and cultural harmony across the region. Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements and offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and spiritual awakening in the region.

Dr. Bharti Nair becomes first scholar of J&K to achieve PhD in Forensic Science

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Bharti Nair has achieved a distinct feat of becoming first scholar from Jammu and Kashmir to be awarded Degree of PhD in Forensic Science, marking a unique and significant academic milestone in the region.

Dr. Nair is a distinguished legal academic and researcher specializing in Criminal Law, with a strong command over both substantive and procedural laws of India. She has been awarded the Ph.D. Degree for her doctoral research titled "Relevance and Applicability of Forensic Science in the Administration of Criminal Justice System in India: Prospects and Challenges."

Dr. Nair has obtained her LL.B. from The Law

School, University of Jammu, and pursued her LL.M. in Criminal Law from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, where she was awarded the Gold Medal for outstanding academic performance.

Dr. Nair is presently working as an Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun, where she contributes to teaching, research, and curriculum development in the domains of criminal law, forensic science, and evidence law.

Her research work significantly contributes to advancing the understanding of the role of forensic science in ensuring accuracy, transparency, and effi-

ciency within the Indian criminal justice system. She focuses on bridging the gap between legal principles and scientific practices, while emphasizing the need for institutional reforms, capacity building, and policy frameworks to enhance the admissibility and credibility of forensic evidence.

She has published several research papers in reputed national and international journals, contributing valuable insights to the fields of criminal jurisprudence, forensic evidence, legal reforms, and judicial accountability.

Through her scholarship and teaching, Dr. Nair continues to advocate for a more scientific, just, and reliable criminal justice system in India.

IIM Jammu unveils live painting workshop as Part of 10-Year Celebrations

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of its ongoing 10-year celebrations, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu organized the unveiling ceremony of a two-day live painting workshop at its Jagti Campus, Mandapam Auditorium, on Monday.

The workshop, conducted on November 8-9, was led by eminent artist Bhushan Kesar, accompanied by his son, Ankush Kesar, offering an inspiring visual exploration of creativity and human expression.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the event. The ceremony showcased 27 paintings created by IIM Jammu students, depicting themes of creativity, culture, and human emotion. The highlight was the unveiling of the main artwork by



Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu being honoured at IIM Jammu.

turing creative moments from the workshop-were also screened. Welcoming the guests, Prof. B. S. Sahay highlighted IIM Jammu's initiative to adorn its campus with original artworks instead of purchased paintings, reflecting the institute's commitment to creativity and cultural learning. Recalling the beginning of this initiative with the renowned artist K. K. Bhushan Kesar's artistic journey and another cap-

Prof. Sahay commended Bhushan Kesar's artistic resilience, describing him as "an embodiment of grace and inspiration," and lauded Ankush Kesar's devotion and empathy toward his parents.

He further announced upcoming creative initiatives, including a Basohli Painting Workshop and international art collaborations, to nurture artistic engagement on campus.

Prof. Sahay also acknowledged Prof. Gupta's inspiration behind the initiative and expressed gratitude for AIIMS Jammu's support during IIM Jammu's academic collaborations.

In his address, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta praised IIM Jammu's unique efforts in integrating art

with management education, calling them "a model for creative collaboration in academia." He invited the Kesar duo to conduct a similar workshop at AIIMS Jammu and emphasized the role of art in fostering mindfulness and holistic growth.

Expressing gratitude, Ankush Kesar appreciated IIM Jammu for offering a platform where "art and academia converge seamlessly." He revealed that 26 paintings were completed during the workshop and announced plans for a Golden Jubilee Painting Week to mark 50 years of Bhushan Kesar's artistic journey.

Certificates were presented to participants from IIM Jammu and the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Jammu. The event concluded with the National Anthem, celebrating art, learning, and IIM Jammu's ethos of "Creating Leaders with a Heart."