

Addresses 2nd Special Convocation of JU

LG urges students, faculty to embrace change, focus on skill-first curriculum



Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha gracing the 19th (Second Special) Convocation Ceremony of University of Jammu on Thursday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, graced the 19th (Second Special) Convocation Ceremony of University of Jammu, on Thursday.

In his convocation address, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance of embracing change in the higher education sector and asked the faculty members to focus on skill-first curriculum, collaboration across disciplines and keeping pace with evolving trends to meet the demands of India's economy and the society.

"There is a need to strengthen research infrastructure and its focus on outcomes by exploiting cutting-edge technologies. Artificial Intelligence is a reality today, not a technicality, and the sooner we accept the need to cre-

ate a balanced blend of technology and human faculty, the more we will be able to adapt ourselves to modern transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor gave five fundamental guiding principles to the students for their life journey.

"First, never forget humility, hunger to learn, and work ethics to succeed in life. Your degree will open the door of opportunity for the first time but it is your talent, determination, dedication, reskilling and willingness to adapt to change that will ensure endless opportunities in future.

Second, be kind and compassionate. Skills get you hired but it is your character and your ideals that ensures that you grow in life. In your journey Sanskar, Integrity,

Reliability and Trust will define your career more than any other credentials.

Third, never stop learning in your life. The professional world rewards those who are adventurous and ever ready to learn, experiment, adapt, and turn mistakes into mastery.

Fourth, do not believe but be curious. It will help you to tread a new path and mentor coming generations.

Fifth, be resilient and flexible in re-skilling yourself. Always remember that if you have hunger for learning then the whole world will become a University Campus and it will help you in transforming ideas into solutions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the University of Jammu for its exemplary

contribution to the country's educational landscape.

He also extended his felicitations to the women students for their excellent academic performance across the subjects.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the security forces are determined to dismantle terror ecosystem but society must stand up against terror sympathisers.

Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University; Prof Ashok Kaul, Member Jammu University Council; Vice chancellors of various universities, Heads of Departments, faculty and students were present.

Er Gulam Ali Khatana and Sat Sharma, Members of

Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; senior officials and prominent citizens also attended the Special Convocation Ceremony.



AIIMS Jammu hosts twin international conferences with University of Michigan experts



ED & CEO AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta with dignitaries at international conferences with University of Michigan experts.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu, organized two major international academic events in November 2025 - a symposium on "Innovations in Lung Cancer Research and Precision Oncology" and a two-day conference on "Care of the Critically Injured."

Both programs featured eminent faculty from the University of Michigan, USA, and other leading institutions, reflecting AIIMS Jammu's growing global collaborations and commitment to advancing education, research, and patient care.

The Department of Radiation Oncology hosted a high-impact symposium on 'Lung Cancer Research and Precision Oncology' that brought together oncologists, researchers, and clinicians to discuss cutting-edge developments in thoracic oncology and precision medicine.

Dr. Nithya Ramnath, Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan, spoke on evolving paradigms in lung cancer treatment and immunotherapy. Dr. Shruti Jolly, Professor and Associate Chair of Radiation Oncology, Michigan Medicine, highlighted innovations in radiation ther-

apy and quality assurance through MROQC. Dr. Chandan Kumar Sinha, Associate Research Scientist, Michigan Center for Translational Pathology, discussed genomic profiling and its role in personalized cancer trials.

The event concluded with a dynamic panel discussion on AI in Lung Cancer Research, exploring artificial intelligence applications in diagnosis and treatment planning, and identifying areas for institutional collaboration.

The two-day international conference on "Care of the Critically Injured" (11-12 November 2025) focused on strengthening trauma care and critical care systems.

Key speakers included Dr. Krishnan Raghavendran, Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan; Dr. Ajai Malhotra, Professor of Surgery, University of Vermont; and Dr. Ross Blank, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology, University of Michigan.

Sessions covered trauma system development, the role of trauma centers, and practical training in mechanical ventilation and ARDS management. Hands-on bedside demonstrations provided partic-

ipants with valuable exposure to advanced critical care practices, emphasizing multidisciplinary teamwork and structured trauma protocols.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, commended the departments for organizing impactful academic events that fostered learning, collaboration, and innovation. He emphasized that partnerships with leading international institutions such as the University of Michigan are instrumental in enhancing clinical competencies, research output, and global exposure for AIIMS Jammu.

"Such collaborations strengthen our commitment to excellence, innovation, and patient-centered healthcare," said Prof. (Dr.) Gupta.

Both events were widely appreciated by faculty, residents, and healthcare professionals for their interactive format, academic depth, and practical relevance, reaffirming AIIMS Jammu's vision to emerge as a center of excellence in education, research and global medical collaboration.

Sham Lal lays foundation stone for conservation and rejuvenation work of Water Pond at Upper Barnai

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for the conservation and rejuvenation work of the Water Pond at Upper Barnai, Ward No. 65, a project aimed at strengthening water conservation, promoting ecological balance, and improving civic infrastructure in the area.

He was accompanied by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Devansh Yadav and Executive Engineer, JMC Division 3rd, Er Akhil Dutt, along with other officials of the concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Sham said that the rejuvenation of traditional ponds and water bodies is an essential step toward restoring the natural ecosystem and addressing urban water challenges.

He directed officials to ensure that the work is carried out with utmost quality and transparency, maintaining high standards of workmanship and using only quality materials for sustainable and long-lasting results.

The MLA issued clear instructions to the R&B Department that BT (Black Topping) work should not commence without proper surface preparation and bedding, ensuring durability and



MLA Jammu North, Sham Sharma laying foundation stone for rejuvenation work of Water Pond at Upper Barnai.

resilience of the roads and surrounding infrastructure. He further directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to avoid any delays or compromises in quality.

Emphasising the importance of cleanliness and public hygiene, Sham instructed the JMC staff to ensure regular sanitation drives in and around the pond area. He stressed that maintaining cleanliness not only improves the aesthetic appeal of public spaces but also safeguards public health. To ensure accountability and local participation, he announced the formation of an 11-member local committee responsible for continuous monitoring, supervision, and maintenance of the pond.

Reiterating his vision for a clean, green, and progressive Jammu North, Sharma said that the constituency is witnessing rapid development across

multiple sectors including road connectivity, sanitation, and water conservation. He reaffirmed that the revival of natural resources remains a cornerstone of his developmental agenda, as these projects benefit both present and future generations.

Sharma also highlighted the government's focus on people-centric development, stating that initiatives like pond rejuvenation not only enhance local infrastructure but also revive the community's connection with nature. He urged residents to take ownership of such assets and work collectively with local authorities to sustain the progress achieved through these developmental works.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner JMC lauded the efforts of Sham Lal Sharma for prioritising conservation-oriented development in Jammu North. He assured complete cooperation from the Municipal Corporation to ensure timely and quality execution of the project.

The Commissioner also announced the installation of 300 new street lights in the area to further enhance civic amenities and improve safety for residents. He emphasised that rejuvenation of ponds and water bodies is crucial for maintaining ecological balance and promoting urban sustainability, while encouraging public participation in maintaining these assets.

The event was attended by prominent citizens, local residents, and party workers.

The event was attended by prominent citizens, local residents, and party workers.

Mig La Pass holds immense potential for adventure tourism: LG Ladakh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta stated that the newly constructed Mig La Pass possesses immense potential to emerge as a major attraction for adventure and high-altitude tourism, further enhancing Ladakh's reputation as a premier destination for explorers and thrill-seekers.

The Lieutenant Governor made these remarks during a meeting at the LG Secretariat with the outgoing Chief Engineer of Project Himank, Brigadier Vishal Srivastava, and Chief Engineer (designate), Brigadier Rajiv Ahlawat.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta with outgoing and designate Chief Engineer from Project Himank.

Kavinder emphasised that the opening of Mig La Pass by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) this year marks a historic achievement and will drive adventure tourism in Changthang, bring-

ing significant benefits to the local economy. He added that adventure sports such as high-altitude cycling and paragliding can now be explored in this remarkable region, attracting domestic and international

enthusiasts alike.

The Lieutenant Governor also underscored the need for strict safety standards and adequate facilities to ensure the well-being of tourists participating in such activities. He directed that all future developments related to adventure tourism in the area should be carried out in line with sustainability and safety benchmarks.

Additionally, Kavinder Gupta discussed ongoing infrastructure projects, including the double-laning of key roads such as the Kharu-Chang La-Durbuk stretch and the Sakti-Wari La-Agham route, aimed at further strengthening Ladakh's road

network and overall connectivity.

Similarly, delegations from Nyoma, in-charge lecturers from the School Education Department, and representatives from Shakar-Chiktan and Gramthang Minje also met with the Lt Governor to present their respective agendas for consideration.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed the UT Administration's unwavering commitment to the holistic development of Ladakh, with a special focus on improving road connectivity, boosting irrigation facilities, and ensuring the timely advancement and welfare of government staff.

CM stresses role of universities in empowering youth under Mission Yuva

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that his government has undertaken a series of transformative reforms to enhance access, quality and relevance in higher education across Jammu and Kashmir-reforms that directly benefit institutions such as the University of Jammu and, most importantly, its students.

He was speaking at the 19th (Second Special) Convocation of the University of Jammu, held at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium. The Chief Minister, who also serves as the Pro-Chancellor of the University, attended the event as the Guest of Honour.

The convocation was graced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Chancellor of the University as chief guest and attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Members of Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana and Sat Paul Sharma, Vice Secretary Atal Dulloo, Chief Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, Member University

Council Prof. A.K. Kaul, senior faculty members, distinguished achievers, degree recipients, students and proud parents.

In his address, the Chief Minister congratulated the graduating students, medal winners and Ph.D. awardees, describing the convocation as a "moment of pride, celebration and reflection" for the institution and everyone associated with it.

"To the parents, guardians and families-your support, sacrifices and faith have been essential in reaching this proud moment. This achievement belongs to you as much as to your children," the Chief Minister said, acknowledging the pivotal role of families and educators in shaping future generations.

He said that the University of Jammu has grown from strength to strength and today stands as a beacon of learning with 11 off-site campuses, 40 academic departments and over 160 affiliated colleges, serving the educational aspirations of students across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah speaking at 19th (Second Special) Convocation of the University of Jammu.

University's achievements, Omar Abdullah commended its NAAC A++ accreditation with a CGPA of 3.72, considered as highly ranked in the country, and noted its consistent presence among the top 100 universities in the National Institutional Framework (NIRF), securing the 51st position in the university category this year. He also appreciated the university's steady rise in the State Public Universities category from 23rd in 2024 to 21st in 2025-reflecting its growing stature as a centre of academic and research.

"The University's focus on employability through job

fairness and global placement drives, including partnerships with International organisations reflects a forward-looking approach that ensures education here translates into meaningful career opportunities," he added.

Commending Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai and his team for their relentless commitment to academic excellence, innovation and holistic student development, the Chief Minister said that the University's progress embodies the transformative vision of higher education his government seeks to strengthen across Jammu &

Kashmir.

In his address, Omar Abdullah also highlighted Mission Yuva, his government's flagship initiative designed to harness the creativity, potential and energy of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Mission Yuva aims to provide young people with a structured platform for capacity building, career guidance, entrepreneurship and civic engagement. By integrating education with skill development, innovation, and mental well-being, it seeks to prepare our youth not only for employment but for leadership and nation-building," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the synergy between Mission Yuva and the higher education ecosystem is already visible through mentorship programmes, startup incubation, cultural and literary engagement and outreach initiatives involving universities like the University of Jammu.

"Together, these efforts ensure that our young citizens are not only educated but empowered to contribute meaningfully to a progressive, inclusive and self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir," he asserted.

Calling education the "heart of transformation,"

the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir stands at the threshold of a new era of opportunity, where universities play a pivotal role in shaping innovators, entrepreneurs, and responsible citizens.

"As we march ahead, let us ensure that the light of knowledge reaches every corner from the campuses of Kathua and Baderwah to the remotest hamlets of Poonch and Kishtwar-for education remains our most powerful tool for equity and empowerment," he urged.

Encouraging the degree and medal recipients to carry forward the values instilled by their alma mater, Omar Abdullah said:

"The University has invested in you. Now it is time for you to invest in the world around you. Remember, success is not measured by what you achieve for yourself but by what you contribute to society."

The Chief Minister also reminded the young graduates that while the convocation marks the culmination of years of rigorous study and personal growth, it also signals the beginning of a new journey filled with purpose, challenges, and oppor-

tunities.

"The education you have received here has given you more than degrees and knowledge-it has equipped you with critical thinking, problem-solving, ethical judgment and lifelong learning. Wherever your journey takes you, be worthy ambassadors of the University of Jammu," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his concluding remarks, urged the youth to dream big, think boldly, and serve selflessly.

"The nation looks to your generation to build a future marked by progress, harmony and inclusivity. My wish for each of you is that you find work that gives you purpose and allows you to lead a life that balances ambition with compassion. My challenge to you is to be an agent of positive change in your families, your professions, and your communities," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the University of Jammu will continue to shine as a centre of excellence, innovation, and character building, and that its students will carry forward the legacy of knowledge and service to society.