

JU inaugurates major e-Governance initiatives to enhance digital administration and services

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) on Thursday marked a major milestone in its digital transformation journey with the inauguration of three key e-Governance initiatives-Leave Management System, IT Service Desk Management System, and the Automated Official Email Creation System on the University of Jammu domain.

The initiatives were formally inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, JU Prof. Umesh Rai, who underscored the critical role of technology in ensuring efficient, transparent, and accountable governance. Prof. Rai appreciated the Centre for IT Enabled Services & Management (CITES&M) for its sustained efforts in modernising administrative and academic processes through innovative digital solutions. He stated that the newly launched systems would significantly improve transparency in leave processing, strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms, and serve as important steps towards transforming the University into a modern digital ecosystem.



Vice-Chancellor, JU Prof. Umesh Rai inaugurating three key e-Governance initiatives.

All three systems have been designed, developed, and implemented in-house by CITES&M, University of Jammu, under the guidance of Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan, Director, CITES&M. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan said that the initiatives aim to streamline workflows, enhance user experience, improve data security, and strengthen institutional efficiency, in line with the national objectives of Digital India and Good Governance. He emphasised that rapid adoption of technology is essential for institutions to remain relevant in the fast-evolving, AI-driven era. Elaborating on the Leave Management System, Dr.

Sudan informed that it has been implemented for teaching employees and officers of the University. The system offers a comprehensive online platform for submission, recommendation, and approval of leave applications, covering the complete leave lifecycle including Station Leave and Country Leave. While all 15 types of leave have been configured, in the first phase five categories-Casual Leave, Earned Leave, Maternity Leave, Paternity Leave, and Child Care Leave-will be available for online application across the main campus and off-site campuses. Speaking about the IT Service Desk Management System, Dr. Sudan stated that the platform will function as a

centralized mechanism for registering and resolving IT-related complaints and service requests. It ensures systematic tracking, prioritisation, monitoring, and timely resolution, thereby improving service delivery across the University. Regarding the Automated Official Email Creation System, he explained that the system will enable automatic generation of official email IDs on the University of Jammu domain for undergraduate and postgraduate students, significantly reducing manual intervention and enhancing operational efficiency. With the launch of these digital initiatives, CITES&M reaffirmed its commitment to technology-driven governance and

the delivery of student- and employee-centric services, reinforcing the Vice-Chancellor's vision of a modern, efficient, and digitally empowered University of Jammu.

Among others present on the occasion were Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. JP Singh Jooral, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu, Prof. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean Planning & Development, Prof. Prakash C. Anthal, Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, Sanjeev Mahajan, Controller of Examinations, Dr. Jatinder Khajuria, Finance Officer, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Director DIQA, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports & Physical Education, Dr. Sumita Sharma, Joint Registrar CD&OE, Dr. Dharmender Magotra, Joint Registrar CDC, Ms Rahila Parveen, Chief Account Officer, Er. Jaswinder Kour CITES&M, Er. Vinod Parihar, CITES&M, Er. Narender Anthal, CITES&M, Harsh Dutt Sharma, CITES&M, Er. Shubam Diga, CITES&M and Manish Singh Padyal, CITES&M.

Yuvraj Kumar announces feature film 'India Pakistan-The Final Resolution'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Filmmaker Yuvraj Kumar has announced his upcoming feature film



Filmmaker Yuvraj Kumar briefing media.

India Pakistan - The Final Resolution, a project that aims to address the long-standing India-Pakistan conflict through a research-driven and responsible cinematic approach. The film carries the central message, "Let's End the War Before War Ends Us," with "Let Kashmir Be the Beginning of Peace" as its thematic focus. According to the makers, the film does not take a political or adversarial stand

against any nation or community. Instead, it seeks to examine the realities and consequences of decades of unresolved conflict, particularly its impact on ordinary citizens living on both sides of the border. The narrative focuses on human stories rather than ideology or provocation.

"This film is not against any nation or people. It is against conflict without resolution," the team stated, adding that the project is intended to encourage dialogue and reflection rather than division. The makers further clarified that the film does not glorify violence or war and does not promote any political agenda.

Kashmir forms a central part of the film's narrative, presented as a region deeply affected by prolonged tensions and as a possible starting point for peace and reconciliation. The story highlights the emotional, social, and humanitarian costs of sustained hostility, focusing on lives disrupted by uncertainty and conflict.

Positioned as a serious and thought-provoking cinematic work, India Pakistan - The Final Resolution is aimed at audiences who believe cinema can contribute to awareness and meaningful discussion on complex issues. The filmmakers emphasised that the project seeks to present facts and perspectives often overlooked, while maintaining sensitivity towards the subject.

Further details regarding the cast, production schedule, and release plans will be announced in due course.

Mushroom Cultivation Training Program concludes at SBI RSETI Jammu



Officials along with participants with certificates posing for photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Mushroom Cultivation Training Program of 10 full Days conducted by SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (SBI-RSETI) Jammu which concludes in the RSETI Premises at Roop Nagar, Jammu. In this program, Women Trainees different blocks of Jammu District participated.

Assessment of the batch also carried out by the EDP Assessor Rajeev Mahajan from National Academy of RUSETI (NAR). All the candidates were successfully passed out in the assessment. On this occasion, a small but impressive function was organized in which certificates of participation were distributed among the candidates by Sunny Goja, Director SBI RSETI Jammu. Director RSETI interacted with all the candidates and guided them to take full advantages of the skill acquired at SBI RSETI Jammu. She also motivated the candidates to stand on their own by using the skill acquired at SBI RSETI. Mohd Sadiq, District Officer from Khadi and Village Industries Board Jammu was also present to grace the occasion.

He also guided the candidates about various Govt. Sponsored Schemes like Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) being run by Govt. of India and Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP) being run by UT of J&K which can be availed by the candidates for setting up their self employment ventures.

Director RSETI also, assured every possible help in opening their ventures and to get credit linked by the banks under different loan schemes.

Goja also maintained that various short term skill training programs are being organized at SBI RSETI Jammu like Beauty Parlor, Cutting and Tailoring of Women Garments, Soft Toys Making, Jute Products Making, Mushroom Cultivation and many other training programs with free boarding and lodging facilities which can be availed by the rural unemployed youth of Jammu District for self employment.

At the end of the program, vote of thanks was delivered by Shalhu Sharma and. Sheetal Faculties, SBI RSETI Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Environmental activists and civil society groups on Thursday strongly opposed the re-publication of the fencing tender for Raika Forest, terming it a renewed threat to Jammu's ecology, heritage, and future.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club Jammu under the banner "RAIKA: Jungle, Jeevan Aur Jammu Di Virasat," Anmol Ohri (Climate Front-Jammu), Bhushan Parimol (Environment Awareness Forum), and Rupchand Makhnotra (Nature Human Centric People's Movement) jointly said the move reflects a deliberate disregard for public resistance and environmental justice.

They highlighted that in December 2025, the government re-issued the fencing tender for Raika Forest, despite sustained public opposition in the past. They said this re-publication followed a PIL filed in November 2025, which cited delays in High Court construction and reduced a living forest into a so-called "pending project."

Various organizations warn against renewed threat to Raika Forest

Collectively raise call "Save Raika Forest. Save Jammu's climate"



Anmol Ohri Climate Front-Jammu talking to reporters.

According to the organizers, this is not the beginning of development but the return of a project that people had already rejected.

Recalling earlier resistance, they said that during August-September 2024, the initial fencing tender triggered 30 consecutive days of peaceful protests, forcing authorities to halt construction-related activities until 2025.

"That pause proved that people's voices matter when they are heard," they said, adding that public resistance against the Raika Forest-High Court project dates back to 14 February 2021, led by climate-conscious citizens and the Friends of Raika Forest collective.

Jammu city. The forest supports more than 150 species of trees and shrubs and wildlife including peacocks, foxes, porcupines, reptiles, leopards, and the endangered musk deer. They warned that forest clearance would lead to rising respiratory illnesses, soil erosion, flood risks, biodiversity loss, and increased human-animal conflict.

They further cautioned that once construction begins, urban sprawl in the form of private markets, offices, and encroachments would inevitably follow, leading to the complete urbanization of the forest belt.

"Jammu's Himalayan character is already disappearing due to unchecked concretization," the speakers said, adding that Sidra-Raika is a cultural, emotional, and ecological space deeply connected to the people of the region.

Highlighting social concerns, they organizers said that 59 Gujjar households face the loss of land and

livelihoods. These indigenous communities, they said, have pre-independence land records, ancestral graveyards, and legally protected rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which are being ignored.

The speakers asserted that development cannot come at the cost of environmental injustice. "Courts symbolize justice; they cannot be built on ecological destruction and displacement," they said, stressing that true development must work with nature, not against it. Sacrificing Raika Forest for infrastructure, they warned, would result in irreversible ecological and social loss for Jammu and Kashmir.

They said the threat to Raika Forest is immediate, the resistance is historic, and the consequences are well known. "Ignoring Raika now is a conscious decision to damage Jammu's future," they said, collectively raising the call: "Save Raika Forest. Save Jammu's climate."

LG Kavinder releases Lok Niwas Annual Calendar



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta releasing Annual Calendar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Thursday released the Annual Calendar titled "Yargyas Ladakh: Marching Towards a Prosperous Future" at Lok Niwas, in the presence of Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, Prof. Saket Kushwaha.

The vibrant calendar comprehensively showcases major festivals and events celebrated across the Union Territory, while also highlighting key transformative

initiatives undertaken by the UT Administration for the holistic development of Ladakh and the prosperity of its people.

Prominent themes featured in the calendar include sports development for nurturing local talent; the energy leap towards sustainable power; flagship healthcare initiatives such as PM Ayushman Bharat ensuring accessible medical care; marriage assistance schemes supporting new beginnings; Digital Ladakh for promoting transparency, accountability, and service accessibility; empowerment of entre-

preneurs and artisans; promotion of Ladakhi apricots in national and international markets; educational transformation; positioning Ladakh as a premier tourist and adventure destination; financial management transparency; food security; and rural empowerment.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the calendar as a visual roadmap reflecting the UT Administration's people-centric vision and encouraged its wide dissemination to inspire collective efforts towards building a vibrant and self-reliant Ladakh.

MBBS admission seats issue

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti to launch "Sanatan Jagran Yatra"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Core Committee of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti was held on Thursday at Geeta Bhawan here to deliberate on the controversy surrounding admissions to MBBS seats in the medical college run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The meeting was jointly chaired by the Samiti President, Colonel Sukhvir Singh Mankotia, and the President of Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Parshotam Dadhichi. The committee members expressed strong resentment over the alleged allotment of all MBBS seats to non-Sanatanis, terming it a serious injustice to the Sanatan community. Speakers accused the Shrine Board of acting in connivance and failing to uphold its original mandate.

They recalled that the Shrine Board, constituted in 1988, was entrusted with the respon-



Samiti President, Colonel Sukhvir Singh Mankotia and others during the meeting.

sibility of managing the offerings made by devotees, ensuring the safety and convenience of pilgrims, facilitating smooth darshan, and promoting Sanatan Dharma through initiatives such as gurukuls and gashalas.

During the meeting, members alleged that for the past nearly two decades, Shrine Board funds have been diverted towards projects such as hospitals, universities, and road construction, which they said fall under the purview of the government. The committee

asserted that the offerings made at the shrine should be utilised exclusively for the upliftment and promotion of Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing the gathering, Colonel Sukhvir Singh Mankotia outlined the future course of action of the Sangharsh Samiti. He announced the launch of a region-wide "Sanatan Jagran Yatra" aimed at transforming the issue into a mass movement. Through this initiative, the public would be informed about what the Samiti

described as the marginalisation of Sanatanis in institutions established using religious offerings. He further declared that a large-scale signature campaign would be conducted across the Jammu division to mobilise public opinion.

He also stated that protest demonstrations would be intensified to draw the attention of the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the Omar Abdullah-led government, warning that the Samiti would continue its agitation until its demands are addressed.

Parshotam Dadhichi, while addressing the meeting, criticised the silence of political representatives on the issue and stated that the time had come for elected leaders to take a clear stand. It was unanimously decided that letters would be sent to all MLAs from Jammu, urging them to boycott official programmes of the Lieutenant Governor. The committee also resolved to invite the Leader of the Opposition, Sunil Sharma, to Geeta Bhawan to publicly clarify his and his party's position on the matter.

Members including Akshay Kumar, Advocate Baldev Singh, Deepak Gupta, Sanjay Gupta, Shilpi Verma, Akshi Billowria, C.M. Seth, Subhash Jandial, and Sanjeev unanimously endorsed the resolutions.

The committee warned that if the administration fails to take concrete action in the near future, the movement would be intensified further.

CM Mann stifling voice of media, strangulating democracy : Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday took strong exception to the manner FIRs are being filed against journalists and social media voices who questioned the alleged misuse of the Chief Minister's helicopter. It's a blatant attempt to intimidate media persons and is nothing short of strangling democracy reminding the state of the Emergency days, Chugh said.

The AAP government, which once claimed to rise from a people's movement, has today turned hostile towards the very same people and democratic institutions. Chugh said this exposes that the Mann government fears transparency and relies on

intimidation. Chugh said that the media is the fourth pillar of democracy and this injustice will not be accepted. When journalists simply asked who was using a government helicopter in the CM's absence, the Mann government should have responded with facts and documentation. Instead, the Mann government chose to criminalize questions. Chugh said this reflects an authoritarian mindset and shows how the government is misusing state machinery to silence dissent. He added that silencing the media will not erase the truth.

Chugh stated that under the AAP's Party Punjab is already suffering. Extortion, mafia networks, drug syndicates, and gang wars are at their peak and

governance has collapsed on every front. Filing FIRs against those who speak up will not change the ground reality. Chugh said this is not negligence; this is a clear abuse of power, aimed at diverting attention from the government's failures and Punjab's deteriorating law and order.

Tarun Chugh demanded that CM Bhagwant Mann either give a clear, official explanation of who used the helicopter or resign from his post. Chugh said that accountability is non-negotiable and the misuse of power will not be tolerated.

He reaffirmed that BJP stands firmly with the media and the people of Punjab, and every attempt to crush free voices will be met with resistance.

CCI welcomes Rs 1,430 Cr Relief Package for Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a meeting of the office bearers of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry held today at the Chamber House, President Arun Gupta expressed gratitude for the allocation of Rs 1,430 crore by the Ministry of Home Affairs for Jammu.

He said the sanctioned amount is specifically meant for reconstruction and repair of public infrastructure damaged due to cloudbursts, landslides, and flash



floods, along with the implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation measures in the affected districts of Jammu.

Arun Gupta extended sincere thanks to Amit Shah,

Union Home Minister, and Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, whose efforts played a key role in securing the financial assistance for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The

President also stressed the urgent need for individual relief to affected citizens. He informed that a central team has already assessed losses to private, residential, and commercial properties, including vehicles. Details of the damages have been submitted by various NGOs, civil society members, and political parties.

He strongly urged the government to release compensation based on actual losses to affected families at the earliest.