

ICAI J&K Branch, NZATI conduct Financial Literacy & Capacity Building Programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), J&K Branch, in collaboration with the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu, organized a two-day Financial Literacy & Capacity Building Programme on 22nd and 23rd January 2026 at the NZATI campus, Muthi, Jammu.

The programme is aimed at enhancing financial literacy and strengthening practical knowledge of accounting and taxation among officers and officials, particularly Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs). The inaugural session was graced by the Chief Guest, Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, Director General, Local Fund, Audit and



DG Local Fund, Audit and Pension, J&K, Neeraj Gupta Bakshi with other dignitaries posing for a photograph.

Pension, J&K Government. In her address, she emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and robust financial management in public administration, and appreciated the initiative taken by ICAI and NZATI in capac-

ity building. CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman, ICAI J&K Branch (NIRC), delivered an inspiring address highlighting the evolving role of Chartered Accountants in governance, public finance, and nation building. He underlined ICAI's

commitment towards spreading financial awareness and supporting government institutions through structured training programmes.

Rajesh Talwar, Director Finance and Principal, NZATI, Finance Department, J&K Government, also addressed the gathering and emphasized the relevance of such programmes in improving financial discipline, compliance, and operational efficiency within government departments.

The technical sessions on Day 1 were conducted by

CA Vaseem Ahmad and CA Vineet Kohli. CA Vaseem Ahmad covered fundamentals of accounting, including basics of accounting, trial balance, balance sheet analysis, and profit & loss account. CA Vineet Kohli delivered a comprehensive session on Income Tax, focusing on provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and compliance requirements applicable to DDOs.

The session was effectively moderated by CA Sanchit Aggarwal, Treasurer of the ICAI J&K Branch, who ensured smooth conduct of the programme and active interaction between faculty and participants.

Senior members of ICAI J&K Branch, officials from NZATI, and participants from various departments attended the programme. The sessions witnessed active participation and practical discussions.

The programme reflects ICAI's continuous efforts towards capacity building and strengthening financial governance in collaboration with government training institutions.

Deep Mala programme organised at Warehouse on 2nd Anniversary of Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram Lalla



Warehouse members writing "Jai Shri Ram" with flowers and lit 501 earthen lamps.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the completion of two years of the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, a grand Deep Mala programme was organised on Thursday evening at Ware House. The programme was organised under the leadership of Deepak Gupta, President of the Traders Federation Warehouse-Nehru Market.

During the event, traders and employees decorated the main road of the warehouse by writing "Jai Shri Ram" with flowers and lit 501 earthen lamps, creating a devotional atmosphere while chanting the glory of Lord Shri Ram. Priests performed special prayers with Vedic chanting and the programme concluded with the recitation of the Gayatri Mantra.

On this occasion, devotees offered flowers to Lord Shri Ram and pledged to follow the path shown by Him. Traders enthusiastically offered lotus flowers at the holy feet of Shri Ram Lalla as a mark of devotion and faith.

Addressing the gathering, Federation President Deepak Gupta said that the 2nd anniversary of the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram Lalla was being

celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervour to convey a message of idealism and values to society. He described Lord Shri Ram as Maryada Purushottam and an ideal human being who incarnated on earth to destroy evil and protect society and saints by defeating arrogant forces like Ravan.

Gupta further said that through devotion to parents and adherence to high moral values, Lord Shri Ram showed a new path to society. He urged the youth to adopt Lord Shri Ram as their ideal and walk on His footsteps to serve and protect society. He emphasized that Lord Shri Ram has always been the protector of society and today's youth should follow His teachings to guide the nation in the right direction.

Senior Vice President of the Federation Dheeraj Mahajan, Vice President Vishal Gupta, General Secretary Abhimanyu Gupta, Secretary Rahul Gupta, Treasurer Nitin Gupta, along with a large number of traders and mandi employees were present on the occasion. The programme concluded with the distribution of prasad and exchange of greetings on the auspicious occasion.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi addresses public grievances at Janta Darbar



MLA Yudhvir Sethi listening to public grievances at Janta Darbar on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi today organised a Janta Darbar at Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, where he interacted directly with the public and listened to their grievances.

The event witnessed the presence of Bajalta Mandal President Shiv Sharma and East Mandal President Adarsh Jathiar, along with several local party workers and residents.

A large number of people from different localities participated in the Janta Darbar and raised issues related to roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage, sanitation, ration cards, pensions, health services, and revenue matters.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi took note of the complaints and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned departments for immediate redressal in several cases, while assuring time-bound solutions for others.

Yudhvir Sethi said, "The main purpose of organizing a Janta Darbar is to ensure that the voice of the common man reaches the elected representative directly. Public service is our foremost duty and we are committed to resolving the problems of people on priority."

He added that ensuring effective implementation of government schemes and reaching benefits to the last person in the queue remains his top priority.

The MLA further said that public participation is essential

for the overall development of Jammu East.

"We want people to come forward without hesitation and share their problems so that timely action can be taken. The holistic development of the constituency is possible only through collective efforts," he remarked. Bajalta Mandal President Shiv Sharma stated that such Janta Darbars help in strengthening the bond between the public and their representatives, making governance more transparent and accountable.

East Mandal President Adarsh Jathiar said that the party is working towards taking central government welfare schemes to every ward and mohalla and ensuring that public grievances are resolved in a time-bound manner.

Several issues raised during the Janta Darbar were resolved on the spot, creating a sense of satisfaction among the people.

The participants appreciated the initiative taken by MLA Yudhvir Sethi and expressed confidence that regular interaction with public representatives would help in improving civic amenities and governance in the area.

UFBU calls All India Bank strike on Jan 27, demands 5-day work week

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella organisation representing nine major unions of bank employees and officers, has announced an All India Bank Strike on January 27, 2026, demanding the implementation of a five-day work week in the banking sector.

The strike is expected to be observed by nearly eight lakh employees and officers working in public sector banks, private banks, foreign banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks across the country. UFBU comprises the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBE), All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE),



UFBU members talking to reporters.

All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA), Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI), Indian National Bank Employees Federation (INBEF), Indian National Bank Officers Congress (INBOC), National Organisation of Bank

Workers (NOBW) and National Organisation of Bank Officers (NOBO). The unions have demanded immediate government approval for declaring all Saturdays as bank holidays, thereby introducing a complete five-day work week. At present, banks observe holidays only on

the second and fourth Saturdays. UFBU stated that the demand is based on the recommendation of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), the Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 7, 2023, and the Settlement and Joint Note dated March 8, 2024.

UFBU leaders recalled that under the 10th Bipartite Settlement and 7th Joint Note signed in 2015, it was agreed that remaining Saturdays would be considered for holidays in due course. In 2022, the Government and IBA agreed to explore increasing daily working hours to enable a five-day week, and in 2023 it was decided to extend weekday working hours by 40 minutes. However, despite these agreements, the pro-

posal has been pending government approval for over two years.

The unions expressed disappointment that assurances given earlier, including during the deferred strike in March 2025, have not materialised.

They pointed out that institutions like RBI, LIC, GIC, stock exchanges and government offices already follow a five-day work week.

UFBU said declaring all Saturdays as holidays would not inconvenience customers due to the availability of digital banking services. The unions appealed to the public for cooperation, stating the strike is aimed at achieving long-pending work-life balance and parity with other sectors.

Frustrated NC resorting to communal statements: Vibodh

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Senior BJP leader and Former MLC Vibodh Gupta termed the recent statement of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, wherein Jammu Province was referred to as "two zilas", as highly unacceptable, unfortunate, and deeply insulting accusing it of deliberately insulting and undermining the dignity of the people of Jammu Province, while interacting with media personnel.

"National Conference is making such communal statements out of sheer frustration, in a desperate attempt to hide its complete failure on the ground and should apologise to people of



Senior BJP leader Vibodh Gupta talking to reporters.

Jammu. During the last one and a half years, the NC-led government has done nothing

substantial to fulfil the promises made to the people, and instead of delivering gov-

ernance and development, it has resorted to diversionary and divisive rhetoric", said Vibodh.

Clarifying the factual position, the BJP leader asserted that Jammu Province is not limited to two districts, but is a vast and diverse province comprising ten districts, each with its own historical, cultural, and administrative significance. He said that such a remark clearly exposes the true mindset of the NC leadership and reflects their habitual tendency to make divisive and communal statements to create fault lines between the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vibodh further accused the NC government of having consistently exploited the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch for narrow vote-bank politics, while failing to deliver justice, development, and equal opportunities to the people of these areas. He recalled that the imposition of the inter-district recruitment ban during the past NC regime was one of the most regressive and unfortunate decisions, which severely harmed the youth of the

border belt, particularly the tribal Gujjar and Bakerwal people. He added that this unjust decision was later rectified by the Modi-led Government, restoring fairness and opportunities for the tribal people.

Vibodh asserted that if the NC leadership is genuinely concerned about the welfare and future of Rajouri and Poonch, it should move beyond hollow statements and announce concrete developmental initiatives. In this regard, he demanded the establishment of National Law University (NLU) in the Rajouri-Poonch, stating that such an institution would not only promote higher legal education but also act as a catalyst for socio-economic development in these strategically important border districts.

Vibodh reaffirmed that the BJP remains firmly committed to safeguarding the dignity, rights, and development of Jammu and Kashmir and its people, and will continue to expose and oppose any attempt to divide Jammu and Kashmir for political gains.

26th Neurotherapist Annual Convention 2026 to be held in Haridwar from Jan 24

STATE TIMES NEWS

HARIDWAR: Under the aegis of the Lajpat Rai Mehra Neuro Therapy Research Training Institute (LMNTRTI), the 26th Neurotherapist Annual Convention 2026 is being organized from January 24 to 26, 2026 at Jammu Yatri Bhawan, Bhopatwala, Haridwar.

The convention will serve as an important national platform for professionals working in the fields of neurotherapy, research, and alternative healthcare systems.

Addressing the press, Ramesh Kumar, Media In-Charge of LMNTRTI, stated that this three-day national convention will commence on the morning of January 24 and conclude on the afternoon of January 26, 2026.

Around 350 neurotherapists from 18 different states of India, along with yoga experts, hospital-associated medical professionals, researchers, and specialists from various medical disciplines, are expected to participate. A special educational and training workshop on Neurotherapy will be a major



Media In-Charge LMNTRTI, Ramesh Kumar talking to reporters.

highlight of the convention. The workshop will focus on various diseases being treated through neurotherapy across India and the encouraging and practical results achieved. Neurotherapists from 18 states will share their clinical experiences, case studies, research outcomes, and best practices, providing valuable insights for experienced professionals as well as young practitioners and students.

The convention will witness the presence of Ajay Gandhi, President of the All India Neurotherapy Association (AINA), and Ramgopal Parihar, President of LMNTRTI, as chief dignitaries. Distinguished guests such as Jaidev (Patron, LMNTRTI and All India Hostel In-Charge) and Kulwant Bhau,

renowned surgeon from Srinagar, along with several other eminent personalities, will also grace the occasion. Members of LMNTRTI and AINA will actively participate in the event.

Ramesh Kumar further informed that this annual convention has been traditionally organized every year on 24th, 25th, and 26th January in Haridwar. The central theme for this year's convention, "Diagnostic Points and Research Patterns in Neurotherapy," will emphasize scientific diagnostic methods, research-based treatment approaches, and future directions in neurotherapy.

Sunit Mahajan, Treasurer of LMNTRTI, expressed confidence regarding the successful organization of the convention.

Reasi marks Day 4 of Vande Mataram Phase-II celebrations with series of patriotic activities



A student being honoured at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District Reasi witnessed a surge of patriotic fervour on the fourth day of the Vande Mataram Phase-II celebrations, as a series of well-coordinated activities were organised across the district under the guidance of the District Development Commissioner, Nidhi Malik.

The celebrations saw enthusiastic participation from students and government employees, reflecting a strong spirit of nationalism, unity and collective responsibility. The programmes were aimed at pro-

moting patriotic values, cultural pride and civic awareness among the participants.

A range of activities including patriotic assemblies, mass singing of Vande Mataram, cultural performances, pledge-taking ceremonies and awareness programmes were organised to highlight the importance of national unity, constitutional values and the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Students actively participated through songs, speeches, quizzes and creative presentations.

Government Degree College Katra organized a quiz compe-

tion, with participation of students from different semesters and academic disciplines. The quiz covered topics related to India's freedom movement, national symbols, constitutional values and cultural heritage.

Morning assemblies featuring the singing of Vande Mataram were held at Higher Secondary School Ghair Mari, while quiz competitions on the theme of Vande Mataram and India's freedom struggle were organised at PM SHRI Government Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi, Government Middle School Dheerti, GMS Kimdrorian and PM SHRI Government Girls High School Katra.

The activities not only fostered patriotism among the young generation but also reinforced the values of unity, discipline and civic duty. The district administration appreciated the proactive role of educational institutions in nurturing national consciousness and spreading awareness about India's glorious past.

DC Poonch reviews Youth Empowerment and Employment Plan

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office to review and strengthen the Youth Empowerment and Engagement Plan in the district.

The meeting focused on the effective implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes aimed at generating employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth.

The Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions with



DC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma chairing a meeting.

concerned officers on ongoing government initiatives aligning with local employment needs. Emphasis was laid on ensuring maximum outreach of welfare schemes and encouraging youth participation in skill development, entrepreneurship and livelihood generation programmes.

It was decided that eligible

youth would be provided employment opportunities under different government-sponsored schemes, with special focus on skill enhancement, vocational training and support for self-employment ventures. The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to identify potential beneficiaries, streamline procedures and ensure timely

delivery of benefits to the youth.

The DC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments to empower young people and make them active contributors to the socio-economic development of the district. He also called for regular monitoring and awareness campaigns to ensure transparency and effective implementation of the schemes.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Shama un Ahmed; Assistant Commissioner Development, Shakeel Ahmed Malik; Principal

GDC Poonch; Professors from GDC Surankote, Mandi and Mendhar; Chief Medical Officer; Deputy Director Employment; District Social Welfare Officer; District Panchayat Officer; Assistant Director FCS & CA; District Information Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Assistant Labour Commissioner; Assistant Floriculture Officer; Superintendent ITI Poonch; DYSSO; LDM J&K Bank, besides other concerned officers.