

Create unique individuals for future challenges: LG to schools

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon the schools and educational institutions to have a single aim: "Create unique individuals for future challenges".

"The world is experiencing transformative changes driven by cutting-edge technologies and schools must focus on using new tools to aid creativity, curiosity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was speaking at the 40th Anniversary celebration of Lawrence Public School at Abhinav Theatre in Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor applauded the legacy, enduring values and efforts of the School to holistic learning and shaping modern leaders. He said the school carrying forward its core values has produced successful alumni, who are proudly serving the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor said the critical thinking and curiosity is the greatest



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at an event in Jammu.

strength of students. He urged the teachers and parents to allow students to study based on their interests, passions, and abilities to develop talent without pressure.

"Educational Institutions must pay special attention to four key aspects: Access, Equity, Quality, and Outcome. The dual goals for educators are to make students college-ready and future-ready and to familiarize them with continuously evolving skill sets, transforming them into 21st-century global citizens," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the introduction of Artificial Intelligence will revolutionize the classroom, enabling teachers to use data analysis to understand student abilities and provide better mentoring.

He said, the hybrid classroom model, leveraging digital platforms, will ensure technology-driven education is accessible to all. "The role of teachers will shift from being mere information providers to mentors. Their core responsibility will be to instil necessary skills, creativity, and give children

dreams and determination. This also includes introducing them to their traditions, language, values, love, compassion, non-violence, and brotherhood," he further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated women achievers for their significant contributions across various fields.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Wg. Cdr MM Joshi (Retd.), Chairman, Lawrence Public School; Manish Joshi, Managing Director; Manya Joshi, Trustee; Shivani Joshi, Principal of School, teachers, students and parents were present.

Devyani Rana, Member of Legislative Assembly, Nagrota; Priya Sethi, former Minister of State; Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, President, Gandhi Global Family; J&K; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President, J&K Ex-Services League; heads of various institutions and senior officials also attended the celebrations.

Club Elections



JKIMPARD, CBC organise workshop on 'Development of Capacity Building Plans' for Govt. departments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD), in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), New Delhi, organized a one-day workshop on the development of Departmental Capacity Building Plans (DCBPs) for various government departments of the Union Territory. The event, held at the Convention Centre, was e-inaugurated by Radha Chauhan, Chairperson of CBC. Commissioner Secretary, GAD and Information, M. Raju, in his address, emphasized the pivotal role of structured and data-driven capacity-building strategies in enhancing public service delivery. He underscored the need for Capacity Building Plans to be dynamic and aligned with key governance priorities such as digital transformation, process re-engineering, and outcome-oriented planning. Appreciating JKIMPARD and CBC for leading the initiative, he highlighted that department-specific frameworks would substantially improve institutional efficiency and equip government personnel



JKIMPARD and CBC New Delhi officials and others at a workshop.

with the skills required to meet emerging administrative challenges. He urged all departments to adopt a coordinated approach to ensure that capacity-building efforts yield measurable improvements on the ground. Director JKIMPARD, Rehana Batul, also stressed the importance of systematic capacity building in strengthening governance and service

delivery mechanisms. In her virtual address, the CBC Chairperson reiterated the necessity for each department to institutionalize structured capacity-building processes. She noted that the formulation of department-specific DCBPs represents a crucial step toward achieving outcome-driven governance in line with the national Mission Karmayogi

vision. Principal Advisor (States), CBC, Chandrakha Mukherjee, delivered a detailed presentation on drafting Capacity Building Plans using AI tools and shared insights from similar initiatives undertaken in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Member (Admin), CBC, Dr. Alka Mittal, addressed the participants virtually. More than 200 officers

from diverse departments—including GAD, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Rural Development, IT, Police, and others—participated in the workshop. They prepared draft Capacity Building Plans for their respective departments, followed by presentations that marked a major step toward finalizing data-driven DCBPs for the Union Territory.

Jammu Airport sees minimal impact as IndiGo flights face nationwide disruptions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Flight operations at Jammu Airport have remained stable and minimally affected during the recent IndiGo flight cancellations and delays reported across the country, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Jammu Airport director Devender Yadav said no security issues, medical emergencies, or left-behind baggage cases were reported during the IndiGo flight disruptions.

Flight disruptions in Jammu began on December 3 with the cancellation of an IndiGo flight, followed by four cancellations and six delays on December 4. The worst impact was on December 5, when all 11 flights of the IndiGo were cancelled.

"Despite disruptions at various airports across the country, Jammu Airport remained stable due to strong teamwork and proactive coordination among all agencies. Our priority was to ensure passenger comfort, safety, and clear communication at

every step," he said here.

The flight operations stabilised from December 6, though cancellations continued -- three each on December 6, 7 and 8, two on December 9, and one on December 10, he said.

He appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to maintain smooth operations and assist passengers during this challenging period.

"Jammu Airport reaffirms its commitment to delivering a safe, efficient, and passenger-friendly travel experience," the director said. He said barring some flight cancellations or delays by IndiGo, all other airlines operated normally, with no stranded passengers or aircraft at the airport.

Airport stakeholders, including Airport Authority of India, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), airlines, ground handling teams, service staff and housekeeping personnel, worked in close

coordination to ensure smooth facilitation, Yadav said.

He said special assistance was provided to senior citizens, children, pregnant women, and passengers with reduced mobility (PRM).

Additional housekeeping staff were deployed to maintain enhanced cleanliness, and all food and beverage outlets were directed to keep sufficient supplies, Yadav said.

IndiGo Airlines arranged hotel accommodation for passengers impacted by cancellations, provided refreshments during delays, and processed full refunds for all cancelled flights, he added.

Timely announcements, display updates and fully manned airline counters ensured clear communication with passengers, he said.

Refund for all cancelled flights at the Jammu airport has been processed, the airport director said.

'Project Hifazat' another hoax by CM Mann to fool Punjabis: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann owes an answer to the women of Punjab on why 'Project Hifazat', announced by his own government nine months ago, has failed to ensure even basic security.

In a statement, Chugh said that the tragic incident in Amritsar just two days ago, involving the rape of a minor girl, makes it painfully clear

that crime against women continues unchecked in Punjab.

Chugh said that the Mann government keeps launching new projects and making fresh promises, yet the ground reality remains unchanged. He said that like the so-called drug war 'Yuddh Nashiyan Virudh', 'Project Hifazat' is turning into another publicity-driven announcement without any visible outcome. He added that



posters and press conferences cannot replace actual law-and-order reforms that Punjab urgently needs.

Chugh said that instead of celebrating half-baked initiatives, the government should confront the disturbing rise in crimes against women. Across the state, families are living in fear, yet the administration is preoccupied with PR announcements, he said,

adding that the promises of improved policing and responsive systems remain unfulfilled even after repeated statements by ministers. Chugh asked why, even after nearly four years in power, AAP has still not fulfilled the basic promise of Rs.1000 per month for women.

Chugh said that it is time for Bhagwant Mann to stop fooling Punjabis with catchy announcements and start delivering on the commitments that brought him to office. He said that Punjab's daughters need real protection, not hoax projects decorated with big claims.

UNESCO tag will contribute to Deepavali's global popularity: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday welcomed the addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List, saying it will contribute to the festival's global popularity.

"People in India and around the world are thrilled," Modi said in a post on X, responding to a post from UNESCO listing Deepavali in its Intangible Heritage List. "For us, Deepavali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilisation. It personifies illumination and righteousness. The addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List will contribute to the festival's global popularity even further," the prime minister said.

"May the ideals of Prabhu Shri Ram keep guiding us for eternity," Modi said.

Deepavali -- the festival of lights -- was on Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the



Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The decision was taken during a key meeting of the UNESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the inclusion of Deepavali in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list is a "proud moment" for India signifying the importance of the country's ancient cultural ethos even in the modern era.

Deepavali or Diwali -- the festival of light -- was inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at a meeting of the global body hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi.

In a message posted on X, Shah said, "Proud moment for India as Deepavali enters into the UNESCO's intangible heritage list. This signifies the importance of our ancient cultural ethos even in the modern era. "The festival of lights has inspired us since antiquity to believe in the victory of the good and the righteous. It is now profoundly heartening that it will now encourage global well-being." The 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and the first one hosted by India is underway from December 8 to 13 at the Red Fort. India currently has 15 elements inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, including the Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja of Kolkata, Garba dance of Gujarat, yoga, the tradition of Vedic chanting and Ramlila - the traditional performance of the epic 'Ramayana'.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Wednesday chaired a public outreach camp at Khour.

District Development Council Vice Chairman, Suraj Singh also remained present on the occasion.

The public meeting witnessed participation from representatives of market associations, former PRI representatives and a large number of citizens who presented their demands and submitted memorandums to the district administration.

Dr. Rakesh Minhas gave a patient hearing to all the demands and grievances raised by the public and assured appropriate and timely redressal of genuine issues.

One of the major public demands centered on the Jourian-Pallanwala Road, to which the Deputy Commissioner assured that the matter would be taken up on priority within three months and work would be initiated accordingly. Other road-related demands from various areas were also noted for appropriate action.

On the demand of ambulances, the

DC Jammu chairs public outreach camp at Khour



Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas speaking at public outreach camp at Khour.

DC assured that two ambulances would be kept at the disposal of the subdivision, thereby strengthening emergency medical services in the area.

Appreciating the patriotic spirit

and resilience of the border population, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the district administration remains fully committed to the welfare and service of the people living in border areas.

DM Jammu forms committee to review adherence to building plans and fire safety norms

JAMMU: The District Administration Jammu has constituted a committee to conduct a comprehensive review of adherence to approved building plans and fire safety norms across commercial establishments in the district.

As per order by District Magistrate, Dr Rakesh Minhas, the committee will be headed by Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Vidhu Shekhar, who will serve as Chairman.

The members of the committee include the Joint Commissioner (Revenue Enforcement) Jammu Municipal Corporation, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates, the Chief Electrical Inspector Inspection Division JPDCL Jammu, the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) concerned and the Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services Jammu.

The committee has been tasked with inspecting all commercial establishments with seating capacity exceeding 20 persons, including but not limited to bars and restaurants, hotels and theatres, to ensure conformity with safety norms and approved structural plans.

The committee has also been directed to submit its report to the District Magistrate within 10 days.

Issues pertaining to power supply were also prioritised, with the Deputy Commissioner issuing directions for immediate installation of necessary poles and transformers to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the affected areas.

Staff requirements in the education sector were also taken up. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Education Officer and concerned officials to make necessary arrangements for addressing the shortage of teaching staff.

The DC also took serious note of bunker-related feedback and requirements, terming it a matter of primary concern for the safety and security of border residents.

Encouraging the local population to explore opportunities in the agriculture sectors, Dr. Minhas urged them to attend future awareness camps and consider entrepreneurship ventures and avail loans for capacity building while also benefiting from various subsidy schemes of the government.

The Deputy Commissioner also asserted the district administration's firm resolve against drug peddlers and their agents, assuring that strict action will continue against such anti-social elements. Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vidhu Shekhar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Satish Sharma besides Tehsildars of Khour subdivision and other district officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Winter Vacations for J&K and Ladakh HC from Jan 1

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court will observe winter vacations from January 6 to January 31, 2025, with a "No Work Period" from January 1 to January 15, 2026. "It is notified for information of all concerned that the District Courts of Kashmir Province and the Courts located in

District Kishtwar; Districe Doda and Courts at Batote, Gool, Banihal and Uktulal in District Ramban and in District Kathua of Jammu Division in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as well as all Courts located in the Union Territory of Ladakh shall observe 15 days winter vacation from January 1 to 15, 2026 (both days include),"

reads a notification issued by M.K. Sharma, Registrar General. "The Principal District and Sessions Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates of all the concerned Districts shall make suitable arrangements for disposal of urgent criminal business arising during the period of such vacation in the areas within their respective jurisdictions." It added.