

Dr Qazi Rashid awarded for literary activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Dr. Qazi Abdul Rashid Ziaei Nadvi, a distinguished academic, literary scholar and reformative figure from Poonch, J&K, has been honoured with a prestigious educational award on the historic occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Jamia Zia-ul-Uloom, Poonch. The award was presented by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, in recognition of Dr. Nadvi's exceptional scholarly contributions and his esteemed status among the institution's most distinguished alumni.

Dr. Nadvi, widely respected in academic circles, has made significant contribu-



Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah presenting award to Dr. Qazi Abdul Rashid Ziaei Nadvi.

tions to Arabic and Urdu literature, having authored more than a dozen valuable and research-oriented books.

His academic excellence is further reflected in his role as a member of the editorial board of the International

Research Journal Al-Tilmeez, underseoring his recognition at the global level. With an illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades, he currently serves in a highly esteemed academic position abroad. The grand Golden Jubilee event of Jamia Zia-ul-Uloom was a momentous celebration, made possible through the blessings of the Jamia's Founder, Hazrat Maulana Ghulam Qadir Sahib (may his blessings endure), and the tireless efforts of the Chairman of the Zia-ul-Uloom Institutions, Maulana Saeed Ahmad Habib Sahib, the School Principal Waheed Ahmad Bandy, Khalil

Ahmad Bandy, and their entire dedicated team. Their unwavering commitment, day-and-night efforts and sincere devotion transformed the fiftieth anniversary into a dignified and memorable occasion for all distinguished guests. Dr. Qazi Abdul Rashid Ziaei Nadvi's honour not only highlights his own remarkable achievements but also serves as an inspiration for the academic community of Poonch and beyond. On the conferment of this historic award, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes are extended to Dr. Nadvi for his continued success and scholarly contributions.

Western Railway to run Superfast Special Train between Bandra Terminus and Bhuj

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Western Railway has announced the operation of a fully reserved Superfast Special train between Bandra Terminus and Bhuj to accommodate increased passenger demand and manage the festive travel rush. According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, this bi-weekly special will run a total of 24 trips. Train No. 09037 Bandra Terminus - Bhuj Superfast Special will depart from Bandra Terminus every Thursday and Saturday at

14:40 hrs, arriving in Bhuj at 05:50 hrs the following day. These services will operate from 6 December 2025 to 15 January 2026. In the return direction, Train No. 09038 Bhuj - Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will leave Bhuj every Friday and Sunday at 17:40 hrs, reaching Bandra Terminus at 08:30 hrs the next day. The return trips will run from 7 December 2025 to 16 January 2026. The train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Dhrangadhra, Samakhiali, Bhachau, and Gandhidham stations in

both directions, ensuring convenient connectivity for passengers across major locations on the route. This special service will consist entirely of AC 3-Tier coaches, offering comfortable travel for long-distance passengers. Bookings for Train Nos. 09037 and 09038 will open on 4 December 2025 at all PRS counters and through the IRCTC website. Passengers seeking further details regarding timings, halts, and coach composition are advised to visit the official railway enquiry portal at www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Advocates Day highlights role of Lawyers in Justice and Human Rights: Nirmal K. Kotwal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior Advocate Nirmal K. Kotwal delivered a message at a gathering of the Lawyers for Justice and Human Rights in Jammu. He spoke on Advocate Day, a day that honors the work of lawyers who fight for justice, rights, and fairness in society.



Every year Advocates Day is celebrated on December 03, 2025 in observance of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Independent India's first president and a highly esteemed lawyer. Advocates Day serves as a reminder of the vital role legal professionals play in the administration of justice as well as their dedication to preserving the rule of law. It's also a chance to emphasize the value of professionalism, legal ethics, and lawyers' obligations to guarantee that everyone

has access to the justice system. Advocates Day is significant because it offers the legal community a period for introspection, acknowledgment, and celebration. In essence, celebrating Advocates Day in modern times is a way to honor the legal profession, promote legal awareness, and reflect on the evolving role of lawyers in a changing society. It's an occasion to reaffirm the commitment to justice, ethics, and the rule of law.

He said advocates help you raise awareness about social issues, influence laws, and support people who face discrimination. He explained that advocacy shapes public debate and improves access to justice. He noted that the work of lawyers comes from a long history that began in ancient legal systems and grew into the modern profession. Senior Advocate Nirmal K. Kotwal said today's environment brings serious challenges. He pointed to the use of harsh laws by the State and the rise of violence by non state groups. He urged the legal community to protect human rights, defend the rule of law, and stop interference in constitutional institutions. He described how events on Advocate Day help build knowledge and teamwork.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The two-day National Seminar on Re/Presentation of Women in Indian Literature, organised by the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, concluded today with thoughtful reflections on the evolving portrayal of women across Indian literary traditions. The valedictory session brought together distinguished scholars, faculty members and participants to revisit the insights and academic exchanges that emerged during the seminar. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Registrar, IGNOU, delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Rohmetra commended the seminar for weaving together diverse linguistic and



JU faculty felicitating a dignitary.

literary traditions to explore how women have been represented in literature across ages. She observed that such parsers often embed their lived experiences into their creative work, transforming literature into a powerful repository of cultural memory and social history. She noted that such scholarship not only deepens academic inquiry but also inspires social change and broadens cultural understanding. Stressing the importance of preserving linguistic heritage,

she remarked that languages carry the emotional imprint of societies and help us understand how communities evolve and respond to their times. She further encouraged scholars, particularly women, to harness their inner strength, convert challenges into opportunities and pursue research with confidence. Prof. Srivastava, in his address, emphasised the need to advance rigorous, gender-sensitive research in contemporary academia. He urged scholars to engage meaning-

fully with current issues affecting women and ensure their integration into mainstream literary discourse. Reflecting on the multifaceted representation of women in Hindi, Urdu, Kannada, Sanskrit and other Indian literatures, he traced the shifts in portrayals across time, drawing attention to seminal women-centric writings. The seminar began with a Plenary Session chaired by Prof. Sushma Devi, Dean, Faculty of Arts. Esteemed panellists-including Prof.

Lalit Magotra, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Anupama Vohra, Prof. Kashmata Choudhary and Dr. T. R. Raina-shared valuable perspectives aligned with the seminar's central themes. Academic discussions continued through six parallel technical sessions chaired by senior faculty members and literary experts. These sessions featured diverse research presentations exploring women's representation across genres, languages and cultural contexts. Earlier, Prof. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava, Director, CDOE, welcomed the participants. Prof. Anju Sharma presented a detailed seminar report, while Dr. Hina Abrol introduced the keynote speaker. Dr. Neelam Choudhary delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all involved in making the seminar a success.

UGC Refresher Course concludes at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A two-week online Refresher Course (RC) in Environmental Sciences (interdisciplinary), organized by Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu in collaboration with UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), concluded today. Prof. S.K. Pandita, Director MMTTC, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In the beginning, Prof. Deepika Slathia, Head and Course Coordinator of the Refresher Course welcomed the Chief Guest, other dignitaries and the participants to the valedictory session and presented a comprehensive report on the activities conducted during the refresher course. She informed that a diverse group of nearly 84 participants representing various parts of the country, including Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi, Noida, Haryana, in addition to Jammu and Kashmir, participated in the refresher course. In all, the RC covered a total of 72 contact hours and 48 sessions spread over 12 days, with four sessions conducted daily. Three sessions each day were led by internationally and nationally acclaimed resource per-

sons, while the fourth session was reserved for the participant presentations, with 6-7 presentations per session. In total, 34 eminent resource persons from premier institutions such as the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun; National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee; GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment; Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), New Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University; University of Delhi; Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi; Central University of Himachal Pradesh; Central University of Punjab; Aligarh Muslim University; Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Patna University; Amity University (Haryana and Mohali); Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru; Dr. R. M. L. Avadh University, Faizabad; Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad; and representatives from the Government of New Zealand, along with experts from SKUAST-Jammu, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, and the University of Jammu, delivered their talks during the Refresher Course. During these sessions, the resource persons delivered lectures covering diverse and interdisciplinary dimensions of environmental

science, addressing a broad spectrum of national and global environmental issues such as climate change, global warming, biodiversity loss, and various mitigation efforts at both national and international levels. They also offered practical and workable solutions to address these challenges. Additionally, participants were introduced to the concept of green auditing for educational institutions, enriching their understanding of sustainable and eco-friendly practices. During the feedback session, many participants expressed their gratitude and shared positive experiences, commending the refresher course for being smooth, well-organized, and meticulously conducted. In his address, Prof. S.K. Pandita, highlighted various activities of MMTTC and emphasized the significance of such courses in enhancing and disseminating knowledge. He congratulated the participants on successfully completing the refresher course and encouraged them to integrate insights and learnings gained into their curriculum, so that students remain informed about the latest developments in the field of Environmental Sciences. Other present during the valedictory session included Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Anshu Gupta and Dr. Suresh Kumar.

JKMEF constitutes new body for DHS Complex employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) held a meeting on Wednesday under the presidency of Jaswinder Singh, President JKMEF. During the meeting, various key issues pertaining to employees' welfare and service conditions were discussed in detail. A major highlight of the session was the proposal to form a new organizational body for the employees of the DHS Complex, aimed at ensuring better representation and strengthening collective interests. All employees of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Complex unanimously agreed on the need for a dedicated body to address their concerns more effectively. Senior JKMEF leaders, including Sushil Sudan (Chairman), Prafulat



New body of DHS Complex employees posing with JKMEF members.

Singh (General Secretary), Mohd Nadeem (General Secretary), Harpal Singh (President X-Ray Tech.), Kulwant Singh, Tejinder Singh, and Bharat Bhushan (President Pharmacists Association), attended the meeting and supported the initiative. Following deliberations, a new body for the DHS Complex employees was formally constituted. The elected team includes: Parminder Sharma, President; Mohd.

Salim, Working President; Swarn Singh, Chairman; Rakesh Kataria, Advisor; Rohit Vohra, Advisor; Anil Sharma, Senior Vice President; Pawan Sharma, Vice President; Surinder Bakshi, Vice President; Surinder, Vice President; Chandan Singh, General Secretary; Roehika Sharma, Secretary; Sourab Bakshi, Secretary; Sanjeet Bakshi, Secretary; Sahil, Secretary; Ghar Singh, Joint Secretary; and

Kulraj, Publicity Secretary. The newly constituted body unanimously resolved to work with full dedication and commitment for the welfare, rights, and professional interests of all employees working within the DHS Complex. Members expressed confidence that the new team will strengthen coordination, address grievances proactively, and contribute to a more conducive working environment.

Vertical garden project launched to beautify Jammu City



MLA Jammu Esat, Yudhvair Sethi and JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav starting development work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step towards enhancing urban greenery and beautifying public spaces, a groundbreaking ceremony was held today for the construction of four new vertical gardens across Jammu city by the Member of Legislative Assembly Yudhvair Sethi and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav. The newly identified locations for the upcoming vertical gardens include the stretch from Bikram Chowk to Government

College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, the Rehari area, the SMGS wall along Shalimar Road, and the area in front of the Civil Secretariat. These green installations are expected to significantly uplift the visual appeal of these busy corridors, for which an amount of Rs 422.09 lakh has been allocated for the construction of these vertical gardens at the four designated sites. Jammu has already witnessed the success of an earlier vertical garden project, developed from the Bus Stand to Jewel Chowk, where lush green

plants now adorn the fly-over zone, adding charm to one of the city's most bustling areas. Building on this achievement, the new vertical gardens aim to extend the greenery further across the urban landscape. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Yudhvair Sethi emphasized that the creation of such vibrant vertical gardens will greatly contribute to enhancing the beauty and environmental quality of Jammu city. Dr. Yadav highlighted that special provisions have been incorporated to ensure the long-term maintenance, plantation, and irrigation of these gardens so they remain healthy and visually appealing throughout the year. Among others, Deputy Commissioner North JMC, Sanjay Badyal, Joint Commissioner Works Firdous Ahmed Qazi, Executive Engineer Project Division Lokesh Gupta, besides other senior officers of various wings were present on the occasion.

Inaugural Session of ICSSR-Sponsored ten-day Research Methodology Course held at CUJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management (MSCM), Central University of Jammu, inaugurated a Ten-Day Research Methodology Course (03-12 December 2025) sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The programme began with a ceremonial lamp-lighting, symbolising the commencement of an intensive academic initiative aimed at strengthening the research competencies of emerging scholars across disciplines. The inaugural session was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, who underscored the growing significance of research and technology in shaping the modern world. He urged scholars to keep pace with rapid technological shifts that continue to redefine global knowledge systems and research priorities. Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Anil Gupta, Director, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Jammu, highlighted the importance of research in responding to real-world challenges. He stressed that interdisciplinary and methodologically robust research is essential in today's dynamic business environment. He encouraged scholars to adopt critical thinking, choose appropriate research designs and remain adaptable to evolving industry and societal needs. Prof. Vinay Chouhan, Director, The Business School, University of Jammu, emphasized the role of collaboration and

innovation as fundamental drivers of high-quality research. He urged participants to align their research objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and elaborated on current developments in research and development. He further guided participants to plan their research journeys with clarity, purpose and methodological rigor. Prof. Neelika Arora, Dean, School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu, shared the School's vision and highlighted the range of academic and professional initiatives undertaken to cultivate future-ready skills. She noted with pride that the School of Business Studies is the first among Central Universities to pursue AACSB membership, a milestone achieved under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor. The session was also attended by senior faculty members including Prof. Vandhana Sharma, Dean, School of Languages & Literature, and Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Head, Department of HRM & OB. The first technical session was conducted by Prof. Vinay Chouhan, while the post-lunch sessions were led by Dr. Bhagat Singh from ICAI Business School, Gurgaon. Earlier, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Head, Department of MSCM, delivered the welcome address and outlined the course objectives. The event was coordinated by Dr. Arun Yadav, Course Co-Director, with session coordination by Dr. Shahid Mushtaq. Dr. Naresh Sharma presented the formal vote of thanks.

Billawaria welcomes renaming of "Raj Bhavan" to "Lok Bhavan, Jammu & Kashmir"



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir B-JP General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, has warmly welcomed the Government of India's decision to officially rename "Raj Bhavan, Jammu & Kashmir" as "Lok Bhavan, Jammu & Kashmir." The change has come into immediate effect as per the communication issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, vide Memo No. 7/10/2025 (Part)-M&G dated 25/11/2025, following the directions of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

Billawaria stated that this renaming reflects the Government's commitment to strengthening democratic values and ensuring that key institutions resonate with the aspirations of the common people. He noted that the word "Lok" signifies people-centric governance, transparency, and an enhanced connection between the administration and citizens. Appreciating the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Billawaria said that Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed remarkable transformation under his dynamic and development-oriented governance. He highlighted the LG's emphasis on good administration, corruption-free working culture, improved public services, and fast-paced developmental initiatives, which have collectively ushered in a new era of stability and progress. Billawaria further pointed out that LG Sinha's focus on youth empowerment, infrastructure development, security reforms, and effective grievance redressal at the grassroots level has strengthened public trust and accelerated J&K's journey towards peace and prosperity. Describing the renaming as symbolic yet deeply meaningful, he said that "Lok Bhavan" reflects the administration's dedication to making governance more accessible, accountable, and citizen-centric. Congratulating the government on this progressive move, Billawaria added that Lok Bhavan will stand as a testament to democratic ethos and the commitment to serve the people of Jammu & Kashmir.