

# IIM Jammu inaugurates trekking-based MDP for leadership skills for NTPC Managers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC's) dynamic young leaders at the Prahalad Classroom on Tuesday.



IIM Jammu faculty with NTPC's young leaders at inaugural ceremony of MDP.

The program includes field-based experiential learning activities such as trekking in the Himalayas, empowering leadership, team building, sustainability and good governance, conflict resolution, negotiating solutions, intrapreneurship skills, strategic thinking, mastering communication for leadership, and digital transformation. Through initiatives like these, IIM Jammu reaffirms its role in shaping future-ready leaders who can make meaningful contributions to society and industry.

The program's objectives and its alignment with NTPC's leadership vision. The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Prakrit Silal, Program Chair, IIM Jammu.

## Govind Sareen presents book on Mata Vaishno Devi to Balbir



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Renowned literary person and senior journalist Govind Sareen presented a Hindi written book, "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi - Ek Alankit Siddh Peeth", to BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan.

Shridhar and Baba Bhairavnath, Maa Kol Kandoli Temple, Maa Deva Mai Temple, Bhoomika Temple, Darshani Deodhi, Ban Ganga, Charan Paduka Temple, Ardhkuwari, Hathi Mattha, Sanjhi Chhat, the sacred cave temple, and a brief history of Jammu and Kashmir. The book is authored by a prominent Dogri writer Dr. Neelam Sareen, a member of the All India Dogri Board of the Sahitya Akademi and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, J&K. She has written over 26 books in the Dogri language, for which she has received numerous awards and honours, including the State and Sahitya Akademi Awards. Expressing his gratitude to Govind Sareen, Balbir stated that this book would help him gain precise knowledge on various topics. He emphasized that books serve as an essential source of knowledge, inspiration, and personal development. They expand our imagination, promote critical thinking, and improve communication skills. Furthermore, Balbir highlighted that books act as a gateway to history, science, literature, and philosophy, playing a vital role in guiding individuals and society.

## HRAK urges CS for increasing stay of Yatris Katra would be made as focal point for diverting tourists to other tourist destinations: CS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Responding to the demands of the Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra, Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Atul Dulloo, emphasized the importance of diverting one crore pilgrims and tourists to other Tourist and pilgrim attractions and elaborated that the main object and aim of it would be to increase the stay of tourists so that it may contribute to the economic growth of the Union Territory. Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Public Works Department Bhupinder Kumar, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma Mehta, President Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra & Chairman PHD-CCI Jammu Region Chapter Rakesh Wazir were prominently present. Rakesh Wazir, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the success stories of various tourist destinations around Katra which became popular within years and tourists flow increased from bottom to top and the common thing in all those destinations was this that their

main focal and originating point was Katra and to elaborate gave the examples of places of Tourist interests around Katra where tourists flow increased many times in last few years including Shiv Khori from one lakh to 20 lakh, Nau Devian from thousands to 25 lakh, Baba Dhansar from thousands to 15 lakh, Sear Baba from thousands to lakh, Patnitop from one lakh to more than 10 lakh, Bhaderwah from thousands to in lakh and the need of the hour is to increase it further besides adding more places of tourists interests in it and to site example he elaborated places like Devi Pindian, Mathwar, Ambaran, Showa Mata, Raghunath Temple, Bawe Wali Mata etc. He said that to increase the flow of yatries certain steps are required to be taken including starting of Light & sound show on the history of Maa Vaishnodevi ji at Katra, enhancing the beauty and infrastructure of Mansar Lake, including the introduction of battery-operated cars for tourists for ferrying the Tourists for taking round, around mansar Lake, setting up of a museum with interactive exhibits showcasing Jammu's destinations, introduc-

ing of integrated tour packages for heritage, culture, adventure, eco-tourism, religious tourism and wellness, launching of an effective digital campaign and setting up of proper signages on roads to promote tourism, advanced publicity and promotional activities of all tourist destinations and tourism products, pamphlets and publicity materials for all tourism destinations to be made available at all hotels at Katra and Jammu. He also emphasized for promotion of Mata Ki Parikarma Yatra to extend the stay of yatries besides promotion of the old traditional route of Maa Vaishnodevi which includes Kol Kandoli-Jagti, Bamyal, Oli Mata Temple-Deva Mai etc. The Chief Secretary listened to each and every point patiently and assured that the government would focus on these initiatives to establish Katra as a tourism hub and ensure the holistic development of nearby destinations. He said that this strategic move will definitely diversify the tourism sector, enhance economic opportunities, and enhance visitor experiences in the region.

## Five days training session on new laws concludes in District Court



Participants of five days training session on new laws with law officers at District Court.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A well-organized and informative five-day training session on new laws concluded on Tuesday at the Conference Hall, Saddar Court Jammu. The session aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Niab Courts posted in Jammu, in pursuance of the instructions of DDP Jammu, Prashant Mahajan. A structured training module was framed, ensuring comprehensive legal discussions.

All prosecutors posted at Saddar Court Jammu also actively participated in the session. Expert lectures were delivered by PP Jammu, Anil Mangotra, CPO Manzar Khayam, APP Rohini Manhas, and Additional PP Sunil Sharma. The session was graced by the presence of CPO Manmohit Sharma, Vikram Parihar, Ashwani Kumar, Rajveer Thapa, Joginder Lal, Yuvraj Singh, Pawandeep Kour, Neha Sharma, Anandita Thass, Sonali Parihar, and Manasvi Mahajan. The proceedings were conducted by Additional PP Arvind Rathore. The participation of experienced legal professionals made the sessions highly insightful. Continuous training on new laws is essential for keeping prosecutors and police officials updated with the latest legal developments, ensuring effective implementation in the justice system.

## Court frames corruption charges against Ward Officer SMC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Srinagar Raizan ul Haq Iqbal on Tuesday framed charges against Mohammad Maqbool Bhat Ward Officer Srinagar Municipal Council (SMC) in trap case. According to the ACB that a written complaint alleging therein that Ward Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Hawal, Srinagar is demanding Rs 50,000 as bribe for allowing construction in favour of the complainant. The complainant requested to the ward officer and pleaded for justice, who however remained adamant on his demand of bribe. He had asked the complainant to pay a bribe of Rs 20,000 as first installment. However, before paying the bribe amount to the accused person, the complainant approached Anti Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law. On receipt of the complaint a Case FIR No. 33/2022 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered with this Bureau and investigation taken up. During the course of investigation a trap team constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Mohd Maqbool Bhat, son of Ali Mohd Bhat, resident of HMT Srinagar, Ward Officer, Hawal SMC Srinagar red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 20,000 from the complainant as first installment of Rs 50,000. Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Srinagar Raizan ul Haq Iqbal after hearing both the sides observed that there is sufficient material on record which offers this court grounds for presuming that the accused has committed offence under section 7 of the prevention of corruption act 1988. Accordingly the accused is prima facie involved in commission of offence U/S 7 PC Act 1988 and formal charge is accordingly framed against the accused today who has denied the commission of offence alleged against him and claimed trial of the case.

# Tarun Bajaj leads plantation drive under "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam"



Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POWERGRID Northern Region Transmission System -II with others at a plantation drive in Jammu on Tuesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director POWERGRID Northern Region Transmission System -II, kicked off the plantation drive under the campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam/Plant4Mother' by planting a sapling at Ambedkar Rotary at Panama Chowk, Jammu. Senior officials and all employees of POWERGRID joined Tarun Bajaj on this occasion by planting the trees in the rotary and adjoining parks. 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' is a

movement, launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi that reflects India's commitment to a sustainable and environmentally conscious future. By combining respect for mothers with a call to action for environmental protection, this initiative offers a way for citizens to contribute directly to creating a greener planet. Tarun Bajaj emphasized on the importance of collective efforts to improve the environment. He stressed that the essence of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke

Naam' is a symbolic gesture-planting a tree in the name of one's mother. This simple act serves a dual purpose: honoring the role of mothers in nurturing life and contributing to the health of the planet. Trees are life-sustaining, and just like a mother, they provide sustenance, protection, and a future for the next generation. POWERGRID has set a target of planting around 5000 trees in Jammu region till March 2025 with Support of J&K Forests, Department and Jammu Municipality.

## Balvinder meets Sakina Ito, calls for urgent healthcare reforms

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prominent RTI and social activist Balvinder Singh met with Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Masood Ito, to discuss key healthcare challenges and propose critical reforms aimed at improving patient care management. During the meeting, Singh presented several recommendations/suggestions, including: Ensuring Nutritious Diets for Patients: Introducing strict conditions in the new tender process to guarantee patients receive nutritious meals, including eggs and milk. Enhancing Transparency in Diet Distribution: Implementing stringent monitoring to ensure fair distribution of meals. Incentivizing Rural Postings for Doctors: Doubling the Housing Rent Allowance (HRA) for doctors serving in peripheral areas to make rural postings more attractive. Establishing an online, uniform, and transparent transfer system ensuring that doctors who complete rural postings are automatically transferred to urban areas and vice versa free from bureaucratic and political



RTI activist Balvinder Singh meeting with Health Minister, Sakina Ito.

interference. Mandatory Rural Service for Doctors: Introducing a five-year compulsory service bond for doctors seeking admission to post graduate and super-specialty courses in government Medical colleges, with a penalty clause of ₹50 lakh for violations. Singh emphasized that since taxpayer money is used to train doctors, they must be available where they are most needed-ensuring better medical access in rural areas and addressing the ongoing shortage of

healthcare professionals. Singh also demanded the closure of 15 Urban Health Centres (UHCs) located between 1.3 km and 8 km from existing health institutions like PHCs, CHCs, SDHs, DHs, and GMC Jammu. He named these UHCs as rehabilitation centres for influential individuals, citing RTI data showing that some doctors have been stationed in these UHCs for 10 to 25 years while rural areas face severe doctor shortages. As a result, patients in remote regions compelled to travel over 50 km for treatment. Singh criticized the government's unnecessary expenditure of lakhs of rupees on UHCs with two to three Medical Officers and 5-10 staff members, despite their limited utility. Singh also updated the Minister regarding his petition pending in the Hon'ble High Court of J&K concerning the shortage of doctors. He filed this petition after obtaining information under RTI in 2018, which revealed a shortage of 50 to 55 Medical Officers (MOs) and 35% shortages of Non-Gazetted and Class

IV employees in the Jammu region. Additionally, Singh raised serious concerns over the exorbitant pricing of medicines at AMRIT Pharmacies within state-run hospitals, citing RTI data. He also flagged irregularities in procurement via GeM (Government e-Marketplace), exposing a nexus between suppliers and buyers, who allegedly manipulated the process to purchase items at rates higher than prevailing market prices. Singh said his revelations were substantiated by Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) who on the basis of my Press Conference regarding the scam in GeM procurement, constituted a team under AIG (Policy) ACB who after verifying the facts issued an Alert Note vide No: ACB-E-218491 dated September 19, 2022. Minister Sakina Masood Ito assured the RTI Activist that his recommendations/suggestions would be thoroughly examined, and any measures beneficial for strengthening healthcare delivery and management would be seriously considered for implementation.

## People in Kashmir inspired by Modi's good governance: Sat



J&K BJP President, Sat Sharma with party leaders and members of civil society.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma, while speaking to party leaders and members of civil society of Kashmir, said that people in Valley are coming forward to further strengthen BJP in their respective areas, which is indeed a good development. BJP senior leader Rakesh Mahajan, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, and Brijesh Gupta were also present on the occasion. Sat Sharma CA said that a wave of transformation is sweeping across Kashmir as people in

large numbers on daily basis are expressing confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance, which has laid a strong focus on development, security, and economic growth and as a result, the UT has witnessed unprecedented progress over the past few years. Sat Sharma CA said that from improved infrastructure to economic revival, the central government's initiatives have reshaped Kashmir's landscape. Major projects, including enhanced road networks, new rail links, and upgraded airports, have boosted connectivity, facilitating

trade and tourism. The government's commitment to peace and security has also contributed to a significant decline in terror-related incidents. The influx of tourists, breaking all previous records, is a testament to growing stability. Various schemes of the Modi government have improved healthcare, housing, and water supply, enhancing the quality of life. Sat Sharma CA said that the people of Kashmir envision a future filled with hope and progress. With continued support from the central government, Kashmir is rapidly emerging

as a symbol of India's developmental story under PM Modi's visionary leadership. "The people in Kashmir are convinced that it is the BJP and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who have real concern and pain for them", Sat said adding that return of peace and normalcy have resulted in normal functioning of educational institutions, business establishment, transport, etc and every citizen in valley want the situation remain secure, which they think is due to the bold and historic decisions of Modi government. Prominent among those who called on Sat Sharma CA at party headquarters included Mehbooba Akhtar, BJP Mahila Morcha district president, Kulgam, Constituency President Dr. Majid Hussain Hakeem, Civil Society prominent persons Ashiq Hussain Shah, Rayees Ahmed Halla, besides office bearers of transport and business community of Kashmir.

## Sunil raises concern over rising crime in Jammu with LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary & Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, has raised serious concerns over the increasing crime rate in Jammu, urging Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to take immediate action to ensure public safety. Sunil Sharma had called on the LG to discuss the prevailing situation in the UT, Jammu in particular regarding spurt in incidents of thefts, murders, robbery. Sunil Sharma stressed that the growing law and order problem is causing fear among residents and called for enhanced policing, stricter enforcement of laws, and effective initiatives to curb criminal activities in Jammu. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a secure environment. Rising crime not only threatens public safety but also impacts tourism and economic development,"



J&K BJP General Secretary, Sunil Sharma meeting with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Sunil stated. He urged the administration to increase police patrolling, set up special task forces, and leverage technology such as CCTV surveillance to deter criminals. Sunil also emphasized the need for stronger measures against the drug menace, which is affecting the youth. He called for rehabilitation

programmes, awareness campaigns, and stringent action against drug peddlers to tackle the crisis. Sunil reaffirmed his party's commitment to work with authorities to ensure a safer and more prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. He urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.