

# AIIMS Jammu signed MoU under Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium (PARC), coordinated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the Dr. Ramalingaswami Board Room, AIIMS, New Delhi, where Directors of AIIMS institutions from across the country came together to strengthen inter-institutional research collaboration.

The Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium has been envi-



AIIMS Jammu and PARC members after signing MoU

sioned as a transformative national platform to foster collaborative, interdisciplinary and high-impact research across all AIIMS institutions. With India's vast and diverse healthcare landscape, the consortium seeks to leverage collective expertise, infrastructure

and innovation to address pressing health challenges and contribute to global health research.

The MoU was signed by 18 AIIMS institutions across the country, marking a significant step toward unified and coordinated research excellence within

the AIIMS network.

On this occasion, Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, stated: "The Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium marks an important step toward unified and high-impact research across the AIIMS network. By signing this MoU, AIIMS Jammu reaffirms its commitment to collaborative excellence, innovation and evidence-based healthcare solutions. This partnership strengthens research capacity and accelerates the translation of scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for society." Through this collaborative initiative, AIIMS

Jammu will actively engage in multi-centric research projects, knowledge exchange programs and interdisciplinary partnerships. The consortium is expected to enhance research training, promote resource sharing and build a robust innovation ecosystem across institutions, thereby contributing to national health priorities and global scientific advancement.

AIIMS Jammu remains steadfast in its mission to promote cutting-edge research, academic excellence and patient-centric healthcare delivery, aligned with the broader vision of strengthening India's medical research landscape.



# JKBOSE starts five-day workshop on introduction of HPC in secondary schools

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) and NCERT, organised a five-day workshop aimed at revolutionising assessment systems in education.

The workshop, held at the Conference Hall of JKBOSE, focused on two significant objectives: the implementation of a Holistic Progress Card (HPC) for the secondary stage and the standardisation of question paper templates.

The inaugural session was chaired by Chairman JKBOSE Gh Hassan Sheikh, who underscored the importance of modern, student-centric evaluation systems. He stated that these initiatives align with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which ensures an equitable assessment of students' cognitive, emotional and skill-based competencies.



A dignitary speaking at a workshop.

Director Academics Dr Parveen Singh addressed the gathering and stressed the importance of creativity and problem-solving abilities in question paper design. He highlighted the need to align classroom teaching methods with the new evaluation frameworks to foster holistic learning. In a special video message, Head PARAKH NCERT Dr Indrani Mukherjee highlighted the pivotal role of PARAKH, an independent pan-India assessment centre established under the framework

of NEP 2020. She said that PARAKH is mandated to standardize assessment practices, develop competency-based evaluation frameworks and promote equivalence of academic standards across state and central boards.

Earlier, Deputy Director Academic Dr Yasir Hamid Sirwal welcomed all participants and guests. He called for collective efforts to bring about the transformative changes envisioned by NEP 2020, adding that the workshop marks a significant milestone in the journey to modernise and standardize assessment systems. He

elaborated that this paves the way for a more transparent, equitable and student-centred education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Resource persons from PARAKH NCERT presented a detailed presentation on the concept of question paper templates, setting the tone for the next four days.

As many as 100 educators from the School Education Department, including representatives from private schools, DIETs and SCERT, participated actively in the event.

Academic Officer Sugandh anchored the inaugural session, ensuring smooth proceedings.

The officers of the Academic Division JKBOSE, especially Deputy Director Academics KD Dr Arif Jan, Academic Officer KD Iftekhar Imran, Academic Officers JD Syed Kashif Hashmi and Chander Kumar, were also present, demonstrating their commitment to the workshop's objectives.

# CSIR-IIM launches hands-on training on medicinal plants extraction and formulation under cGMP

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A four-day hands-on training programme on formulation and extraction of medicinal plants at a cGMP pilot plant began at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM) Jammu under the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative, bringing together young researchers, entrepreneurs and industry-linked participants from across India. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIM Jammu, who also holds additional charge as Director of CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ahmed highlighted the growing relevance of medicinal plant-based drug discovery and the need to convert India's rich herbal biodiversity into viable pharmaceutical and wellness products.

He emphasized that the training would expose participants to the full value chain



- from bioprospecting and extraction to isolation, identification of bioactive molecules and pilot-scale manufacturing under current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP).

He encouraged participants to go beyond classroom learning and use the exposure to pilot plants, fermentation facilities, GLP-compliant animal houses and medicinal plant farms to build practical understanding.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dr. Anil Kumar Katare, Senior Principal Scientist and coordinator of the programme, said the

training had drawn a diverse group from pharmaceutical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, Ayurveda and startups.

Dr. Rajkishor Rai, Senior Scientist and Head of the Quality Management & Instrumentation Division, said the programme was designed to bridge the gap between theory and real-world herbal processing.

On the first day, participants underwent laboratory orientation and an overview of instrumentation and quality management systems at the Quality Management & Instrumentation Division to familiarize themselves with

analytical tools and compliance frameworks.

A technical lecture on medicinal and aromatic plants and their industrial relevance was delivered by Dr. Suphla B. Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist from the Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division, who spoke on cultivation aspects and resource potential.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Suphla B. Gupta. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed, Principal Scientist.

**NIA raids house of retired Govt employee in Srinagar**

# ANTF Jammu arrests absconding accused in NDPS Case from Maharashtra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), J&K has arrested an absconding accused in connection with FIR No. 09/2023 registered under Sections 8/20/29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station ANTF Jammu.

The accused, identified as Arif Ibrahim Sayyed, son of Ibrahim Sayyed, a resident of Sooraj Apartment, Shadi Mahal, Insha Nagar, Mumbra (Thane, Maharashtra), was wanted as a co-accused in the backward linkage of the case and had been evading arrest for the past two to three years.

According to an official spokesperson, "During the course of investigation, credible evidence surfaced establishing his involvement in the narcotics supply chain linked with the instant case. Persistent efforts were being made to trace and apprehend him."



To secure his presence before the law, arrest warrants under Section 24 of the Police Act were obtained from the competent court in Maharashtra. Acting on specific intelligence inputs regarding his location, a dedicated team of ANTF Jammu proceeded to Mumbra in Maharashtra.

"The team, headed by Inspector Nayat Ali, SHO Police Station ANTF Jammu, under the overall supervision of SSP ANTF Jammu and Kashmir, Anwar-ul-Haq, and assisted by officer Ravinder Singh

Rakwal, coordinated closely with the local NDPS Police Team, Mumbra (Thane)," the spokesperson said. "After meticulous tracking and sustained surveillance, the accused was successfully apprehended on February 14, 2026."

Following his arrest, the accused was produced before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Thane, which granted police transit remand as per due legal procedure.

Officials termed the arrest a major step towards dismantling the inter-state narcotics network operating in connection with the case. "Further investigation is underway to unearth additional links and identify other associates involved in the drug trafficking chain," the spokesperson added.

The ANTF, J&K reiterated its firm commitment to combating drug trafficking and ensuring that all offenders are brought to justice, irrespective of their location.

# J&K records Rs 24,080.79 cr GST collection in 3 years, gets Rs 15,795.13 cr IGST share: CM

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir recorded a steady rise in GST collections, with total revenue amounting to Rs 24,080.79 crore over the past three financial years, reflecting improved compliance and a widening tax base, the UT government said on Tuesday.

Replying to a written question by National Conference MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmed in the Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said GST collections in J&K stood at Rs 7,272.15 crore in 2022-23, increased to Rs 8,128.44 crore in 2023-24 and further rose to Rs 8,680.20 crore in 2024-25. The Chief Minister said that the Union Territory also received Rs 15,795.13 crore as its share of Integrated GST (IGST) from the Centre during the same three-year period. He said J&K received Rs 4,922.57 crore in 2022-23, Rs 5,183.62 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 5,688.94 crore

in 2024-25 as IGST settlement.

The government said that GST is a destination-based tax under which revenue accrues to the state where goods or services are consumed rather than where they are produced.

"The GST regime, implemented in 2017, replaced a multi-layered indirect tax system with a unified structure, reduced cascading of taxes and improved compliance through technology-driven processes such as online registration, return filing, refunds and e-way bill generation."

The Chief Minister said that the single-tax system has eased compliance for taxpayers, strengthened tax administration and expanded the tax base, leading to a significant rise in monthly GST revenues in the Union Territory.

The steady growth in GST collections and IGST receipts indicates improved revenue mobilisation and more efficient

tax administration in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

He said that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the Union Territory since July 2017 has simplified the indirect tax regime, improved compliance and widened the tax base.

He said that GST replaced the earlier multi-layered tax structure with a unified system, reduced cascading taxes and leveraged technology for registration, return filing, refunds and e-way bill generation. "The reforms have eased compliance for taxpayers and strengthened tax administration, leading to a significant rise in average monthly GST revenue."

While the shift to an online compliance system initially posed challenges for small and rural businesses, these were largely addressed through measures such as the Composition Scheme, quarterly return options

and the QRMP scheme, along with the establishment of GST Suvidha Kendras in every district, he said.

Abdullah said that GST reforms have particularly benefited the handicrafts sector through rate rationalisation, placing most handicraft items in the 5 per cent tax slab and easing interstate trade.

"In horticulture, farm income remains outside GST, with only value-added activities attracting tax, while concessional rates apply to key inputs. In the tourism sector, subsuming of entry tax and lower GST rates for hotels have made travel to J&K more affordable", he said.

However, the chief minister acknowledged challenges for small, unorganised and home-based producers, including compliance burdens, delayed payments and IGST refunds, and said these issues are being addressed through continued simplification and support measures.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday carried out searches at the house of a retired government employee here in connection with a terrorism case registered in 2024. The searches were conducted at the residence of Nazir Ahmad Bhat in the Mehjoor Nagar area of the city, officials said.

## LG interacts with IDES probationers

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday interacted with the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) Probationers at Lok Bhavan. During the interaction, the Lieutenant Governor encouraged the young IDES officials to uphold the highest standards of public service and institutional integrity in their future assignments, contributing effectively to Defence land administration and governance.

Sonam Yangdol, Principal Director, Defence Estates, Northern Command, Ramswaroop Haritwal, Defence Estates Officer, Jammu Circle and Dr Nitish Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Cantonment Board were also present.

# CBSE Board Class X Examination begins with prayers, blessings at JKPS Kunjwani

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CBSE Board Class X Examinations commenced on Monday in a spiritually uplifting and encouraging atmosphere at the school campus. To mark this significant academic milestone, a special morning assembly was organized to bless and motivate the students as they stepped into this important phase of their academic journey.

The assembly began with a solemn prayer seeking divine grace, wisdom, and confidence for all the students appearing in the board examinations. The serene environment reflected the collective hopes and aspirations of the entire school fraternity.

Neelam Daluja, the Patron of JKPS Kunjwani, graced the occasion and conveyed her blessings to the students. As a gesture of goodwill and encouragement, she dis-



JKPS Kunjwani faculty blessing students at the beginning of class 10 examination.

tributed pens and sweets among the students. A ceremonial nariyal was also presented, symbolizing auspicious beginnings and success. Her gracious presence and blessings added warmth and positivity to the occasion.

Shashi Choudhary, Director JK Educational Society, addressed the students and extended her heartfelt best wishes. She encouraged them to remain calm, confident, and focused

while attempting their papers. Emphasizing the value of discipline and perseverance, she reminded them that sincere effort and self-belief are the true keys to success.

Principal Rajesh Rathore also spoke on the occasion, motivating the students to approach each examination with clarity of thought and determination. He reassured them of the unwavering support of their teachers and

urged them to trust their preparation and give their best.

The special assembly concluded on an inspiring note, with the entire school community coming together to wish the Class X students outstanding success.

The atmosphere was filled with optimism, confidence, and heartfelt blessings as the students embarked on their CBSE Board Examination journey.

## GOC reviews security situation in Poonch

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The General Officer Commanding of the Army's White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Tuesday visited Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and reviewed the security environment with the field commanders.

He also urged all ranks to remain vigilant and mission-ready at all times.

"GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC CIF Romeo, visited general areas of Potha and Thanamandi to conduct a comprehensive review of the prevailing security environment," the White Knight Corps said on X.

Lieutenant General Mishra assessed the ground situation, interacted with the commanders at various levels, and evaluated the operational preparedness of the units deployed in the area, it said.

# BJP MLA clarifies remarks amid uproar in Assembly

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed chaotic scenes for nearly half an hour after Question Hour as Congress and an Independent MLA raised objections to remarks made earlier by BJP legislator Vikram Randhawa regarding alleged encroachments on JDA land.

Congress MLAs Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftekhar Ahmad, along with Independent MLA Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad, displayed placards and raised slogans like "Chor Machaaye Shor", seeking an apology from Randhawa over his February 13 statement that 90 per cent of the encroachers on 688 kanals of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) land in his Bahu constituency were from Kashmir. As the House met this morning after a three-day holiday, Khurshed Ahmad tried to raise the issue but was asked to take his seat by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, who began proceedings with an obituary reference. The House paid tributes to former minister Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Shah and former MLC Brj Mohan Sharma, who died on February 13 and February 16, respectively. The members later observed a two-minute silence in memory of the deceased

leaders. While the Question Hour passed off without any disruption, the two Congress legislators and the Independent MLA stood up on their feet and started chanting slogans and displaying placards to press for an apology from Randhawa, claiming that he himself has occupied over eight kanals of JDA land and has no justification to point fingers at anyone.

PDP and National Conference members extended support to the Congress and the Independent MLA amid the war of words between Randhawa and the agitated members who accused him of trying to defame Kashmiri Muslims. The BJP leader tried to clear his position with the Speaker making repeated attempts to restore order.

The three agitating members also moved towards the front row and attempted to enter the Well of the House but were stopped by Assembly marshals.

On the intervention of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and senior BJP leader Sham Lal Sharma, Randhawa made a statement in the house, stating that he has not attacked any community as a whole, but his concern was with regard to certain individuals who have occupied land in his constituency.