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# LG Kavinder Inaugurates Udyamitsav and PRAGYAAN 2026 at IIT Jammu

Proposes Ladakh Admin-IIT Jammu MoU to boost innovation, entrepreneurship in border areas

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday inaugurated Udyamitsav and PRAGYAAN 2026 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, Jagti Campus, describing the initiatives as a strong reflection of India's innovation-driven and future-ready vision.

Addressing students, innovators, educators and entrepreneurs, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that innovation, entrepreneurship and scientific temperament are the true pillars of nation-building. He said premier institutions like IIT Jammu are not merely centres of learning but dynamic laboratories shaping the future of New India.

Highlighting Udyamitsav, Kavinder Gupta said the platform symbolizes India's journey from ideas to innovation and from startups to nation-building. He appreciated the participation of nearly 1,000 young entrepreneurs from Jammu & Kashmir and neighbouring



Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta lighting ceremonial lamp.

regions, calling them job creators whose innovative solutions address local challenges with global relevance.

Speaking on PRAGYAAN 2026, the Lieutenant Governor described it as more than a science exhibition, calling it a movement that nurtures curiosity and scientific thinking among children. He said such platforms encourage young minds to question, experiment and innovate, laying a strong foundation for future scientists and innovators.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Shri

Kavinder Gupta said India's youth will be the driving force in transforming the country into a global innovation powerhouse. He added that government policies are increasingly focused on empowering youth, promoting startups, and strengthening research and innovation ecosystems.

Sharing his recent visit to the University of Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the presence of world-class laboratories and modern research infrastructure even in high-altitude regions. He said these facilities are enabling youth from border and remote areas to access

global-quality education and research opportunities.

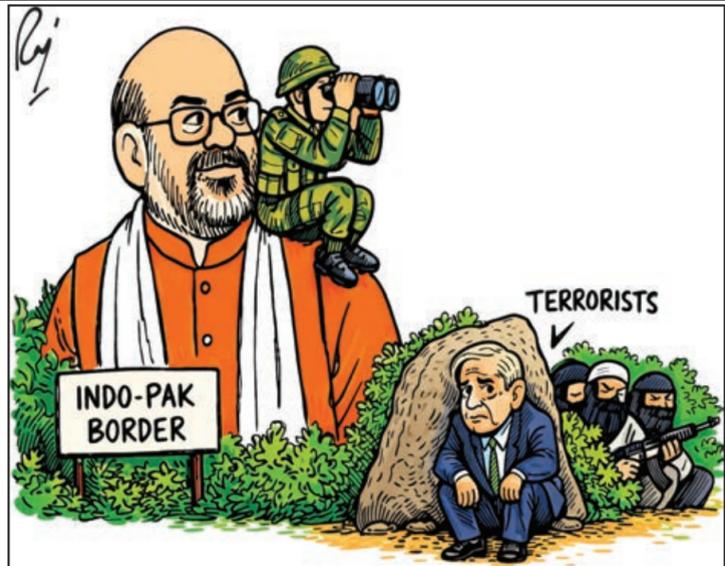
The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the vast potential of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and the Himalayan regions in sectors such as green technologies, agri-startups, tourism innovation and digital services, noting that geographical challenges are now emerging as strengths with focused policy support. He praised IIT Jammu for evolving as a hub of research, innovation and startup culture, and proposed exploring an MoU between the Ladakh Administration and IIT Jammu to promote

entrepreneurship, particularly among students from border areas.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu, highlighted the institute's vision of fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and experiential learning. Faculty members detailed the wide range of activities under Udyamitsav and PRAGYAAN 2026, which is hosting over 6,000 students and educators, featuring exhibitions, STEAM activities, innovation challenges and creative platforms.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof. M. T. Arvind, Chief Innovation Officer; Prof. Anurag Misra, Dean (IPM); Dr. Ankit Kathuria, Faculty-in-Charge (Sponsorship), along with senior officials, faculty members, industry experts, students, and visiting school representatives.

Following the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor visited various innovation stalls, interacted with student innovators and appreciated their creativity and technological solutions.



## JKBOSE notifies dates for re-evaluation, photocopies of answer scripts

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has announced opening/closing dates of the online links for submission of forms for re-evaluation and obtaining photocopies of answer scripts of class 11 Annual Regular 2025, WZ, Jammu Division (Oct-Nov session).

According to a notification issued by Joint Secretary, Secrecy, Jammu Division, the interested candidates can submit their online forms for re-evaluation and collection of photocopies of answer scripts with effect from February 09. The link for submitting re-evaluation/photostat copy of answer scripts will be made

live w.e.f. February 09 on the official website of JKBOSE (jkbose.jk.gov.in). The link will close on February 22 and the concerned candidates have been intimated to adhere to the timelines. The notification is available on the official website of JKBOSE and candidates are advised to go through contents before availing the service.

## JMC takes action against unauthorized construction, illegal shop shutters demolished in Pouni Chak



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Saturday carried out a major enforcement drive in the Pouni Chak area of Jammu city, during which newly installed shutters of nine shops were demolished for violating building norms. The shop owners had constructed the commercial units and installed shutters without obtaining the requisite permission and approval from the Jammu Municipal Corporation, thereby flouting prescribed building regulations.

Upon noticing the unauthorized construction, the matter was brought to the notice of the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who took immediate cognizance of the violation. Acting on his directions, the Enforcement Wing of JMC initiated demolition proceedings and action was taken against the erring shop owners under the relevant provisions of the Jammu Municipal Corporation Act, 2000.

While addressing the issue, Dr. Devansh Yadav reiterated that no resident of Jammu city is per-

mitted to undertake any residential or commercial construction activity without prior approval from the Jammu Municipal Corporation. He emphasized that such unauthorized constructions not only violate the law but also hamper planned urban development. He explained that obtaining proper permissions is essential to ensure systematic development of roads, lanes, drainage systems, sewerage networks and other vital civic infrastructure.

The Commissioner further stated that illegal constructions often lead to traffic congestion, blockage of drains, sanitation issues and inconvenience to the general public. To prevent such challenges and maintain a clean, hygienic and well-planned urban environment, strict enforcement of building norms is necessary. He added that the Jammu Municipal Corporation remains committed to ensuring planned and sustainable development of Jammu city.

Dr. Yadav also highlighted that the Hon'ble High Court has issued clear directions to all concerned authorities to curb illegal and unauthorized constructions in Jammu city. In compliance with these directives, JMC has intensified its enforcement drives and will continue to take strict action against violators without any discrimination.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation has been consistently creating awareness among residents about the importance of adhering to building bylaws and obtaining prior permissions before initiating any construction activity. Citizens have been urged to cooperate with JMC and seek necessary approvals to avoid penal action.

The Corporation reiterated that such enforcement drives will continue across the city in the coming days and warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found indulging in unauthorized construction, in the larger interest of planned development and public welfare.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday strongly criticised the budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, terming it visionless, directionless and biased towards the National Conference.

Addressing a joint press conference Party Spokespersons Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Advocate Parimoksh Seth, Media In-Charge Dr Pardeep Mahotra at party headquarters here today asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to step down from the Chair as he has totally failed on fronts due to his visionless and biased approach.

Senior BJP leader and J&K UT BJP spokesperson Zorawar Singh Jamwal in his address termed the budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as visionless, directionless and biased towards the National Conference.

Zorawar Singh said the Chief Minister himself has admitted that the budget is NC-centric, which, according to him, clearly exposes his inability to govern the Union Territory in a fair and inclusive manner. He further pointed out that "A Chief Minister who openly accepts such bias has no moral author-



BJP Spokesperson Zorawar Singh Jamwal talking to reporters at Jammu on Saturday.

ity to continue in office and should vacate his chair for a more competent person".

Zorawar said the budget has failed to address the real issues of Jammu and Kashmir and has disappointed every section of society. Referring to the National Conference election manifesto, he said the party had promised twelve free LPG cylinders to women belonging to the BPL category, but the promise has now been reduced to six cylinders, that too restricted only to AAY households.

He pointed out that AAY beneficiaries run into only thousands, while women in Jammu

and Kashmir are in lakhs, calling it a clear betrayal of poll promises. The BJP spokesperson said the Chief Minister has virtually taken a U-turn on his commitments and has no moral grounds to continue in office.

He added that during budget consultations, the BJP had suggested several reforms to make the Union Territory self-reliant and financially strong, but the Chief Minister ignored all such suggestions.

Now, by admitting that there is no "magic wand" and that the government will largely depend on Union Government schemes, Omar Abdullah has openly accepted his failures,

Zorawar Singh said. He further criticised the government for making tall claims about employment. Zorawar said the budget talks about providing 23000 jobs on a fast-track basis, but the Chief Minister has conveniently forgotten the promise of creating 4.25 lakh jobs under Mission Yuva. He said such contradictions reflect poor planning and a lack of seriousness towards the youth of the Union Territory. Jamwal also accused the Chief Minister of discriminating against non-NC legislators. He claimed that more development works are being tendered in constituencies represented by NC legislators, while areas represented by non-NC legislators are being ignored. However, he said that development has not completely stopped in those areas only because of the timely intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the implementation of various Central Government schemes.

In his address Spokesperson,

Advocate Parimoksh Seth said the current budget has nothing concrete for women, youth and elderly citizens.

Advocate Parimoksh Seth said that there is no clear policy mentioned in the budget to save the youth from the menace of drugs or to rehabilitate those already affected.

He also expressed serious concern over the complete neglect of daily wagers, stating that the government continues to mislead them by forming committees for regularisation, which have achieved nothing so far. Advocate Parimoksh Seth said such failures make it clear that Omar Abdullah should vacate office immediately and let some intelligent person assume the chair; who can take along the people from both Jammu as well as Kashmir jointly towards development and self reliance.

## Proposals for addl infra at Latti, Patnitop under examination: Dy CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday informed the House that the proposals for additional infrastructure at Latti and Patnitop are under examination and shall be considered subject to the feasibility and availability of funds.

The Dy CM said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly. He informed that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir regularly takes up proposals with NABARD for sanction of projects under the RIDF, wherein assistance is primarily provided in the form of loans, as per the prescribed norms. He said that the proposals are formulated and submitted in a phased manner, based on the readiness of projects, absorptive capacity and repayment capability. These will be processed for sanction strictly in accordance with the NABARD guidelines, he added. He apprised that delay in disbursement of compensation is mainly attributed to pendency of court cases, land ownership disputes and non-availability of funds for land compensation at certain stages.

Legislator Nazir Ahmad khan raised supplementary question on the subject.

## Next financial year will give a meaningful direction to Indian economy: Darakhshan



Chairperson JKWB Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi addressing a press conference at Pulwama on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

PULWAMA: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board & BJP National Executive Member Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday addressed the press at Pulwama regarding the Union Budget by Bhartiya Janata Party.

She was accompanied by BJP District President Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi, State General Secretary Kisan Morcha Arshad Bhat, District Vice President Avtar Singh & senior leader Mohammad Lateef and other party leaders.

Dr Andrabi presented main highlights of the Union Budget enveloping all sectors of society. She termed the budget as historic which is going to infuse vibrancy into Indian economy.

"Innovation and skill development will earn a much impressive position for the country in the global landscape. This Union Budget presented by Nirmala Sitaraman Ji under the stewardship of our Prime Minister Modiji is going to strengthen our businesses and establish our country as a great influencer in world economic affairs", said BJP senior leader.

She said that futuristic missions like AI Mission, Bio-pharma Shakti Mission, National Semiconductor Mission, MSME Growth Fund, Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage, Lithium Cell Manufacturing, Nuclear Power Projects, High Speed Rail Corridors

are going to be the change makers in India's economy and this budget has stressed on such innovative and long term result oriented programmes which are going to make us leaders at the global levels.

"Next financial year will give a meaningful direction to Indian economy. From innovation to infrastructure development, from health sector to education and research, from textiles to agriculture, this budget is the fiscal document of revolutionary changes and visionary decisions which is going to give more impetus to our sustainable growth and stable development", said Dr Darakhshan.

Waqf Chairperson hailed the decisions of continuing the free ration to the deserving people from economically weaker sections, tax reforms, boost to Aayush, rural economy boosters, promotion of indigenous health and wellness sectors, employment generation missions. "This budget has much positivity which will compliment the global trade deals which our country is making at a large scale under the leadership of PM Modi.

## AIIMS Jammu ushers in new MBBS Batch with Freshers' Day celebration

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu welcomed its newest MBBS batch with a grand Freshers' Day ceremony, marking the commencement of a significant academic and professional journey for aspiring medical professionals.

Presiding over the event, Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, delivered an inspiring and comprehensive address, warmly welcoming the new students and congratulating them on securing admission to one of the nation's premier institutions.

In his address, Prof. (Dr.) Sharma emphasized that medicine is not merely a profession, but a lifelong commitment to service, ethics, and continuous learning. He urged students to approach their education with sincerity, discipline, and humility,



Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma with title holders at Freshers' Day ceremony.

while always keeping patient welfare at the center of their efforts. He highlighted that technical competence must go hand in hand with compassion, communication, and ethical conduct.

Stressing the importance of holistic development, Prof. (Dr.) Sharma encouraged students to actively participate in academic, clinical, research, and co-curricular activities to emerge as well-rounded medical profession-

als. He advised them to make full use of the state-of-the-art infrastructure, experienced faculty, and learning resources available at AIIMS Jammu.

Calling upon senior students and faculty members, Prof. (Dr.) Sharma emphasized their vital role in mentoring and guiding the new batch. He urged them to create a supportive, respectful, and inclusive academic environment, ensuring that

every student feels motivated, safe, and empowered to excel.

The ceremony, held in the institute's auditorium, was marked by cultural performances by senior students, including traditional dances and skits, reflecting the vibrant campus life and fostering a spirit of camaraderie. A ceremonial lamp-lighting marked the formal induction of the new batch, symbolizing the institute's commitment to knowledge, service, and excellence.

The Freshers' Day celebration reflects AIIMS Jammu's unwavering commitment to nurturing competent, compassionate, and socially responsible medical professionals. With its expanding academic and clinical capabilities, AIIMS Jammu continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening healthcare delivery and medical education in the region.