

PM Modi started tradition of honouring ‘unsung’ national heroes: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: The Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday visited Hiranagar Jammu to participate in a 'Namkaran' ceremony of Shaheed Nayak Vakil Singh Girls High School Hiranagar.

The event was marked by a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, paying tribute to the brave CRPF Jawan, Nayak Vakil Singh, who lost his life in the line of duty.

In his address, Dr. Jitendra emphasized that different governments have come and gone, but it is only Prime Minister Narendra Modi who started the tradition of honouring "unsung" national heroes and according them long overdue recognition.

He said that PM Modi's dedication to honour national heroes has ensured that the contributions of individuals like Nayak Vakil Singh are never forgotten.

Speaking about recognition of Nayak Vakil Singh's sacrifice, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "It is a big day for remembrance and inspiration and I am proud that this tribute is being realized now,



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating Govt Girls High School named after Martyr Nayak Vakil Singh at Hiranagar on Saturday.

after 41 years," he said. The minister emphasized the importance of memorials as symbols that immortalize the contributions of great individuals to the nation. He acknowledged the valiant efforts of Nayak Vakil Singh, who was dedicated to the service of the nation from his childhood. Talking about his life, the minister said that he was a patriot at heart who served in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), exhibiting remarkable zeal and disci-

pline throughout his career. Nayak Vakil Singh lost his life on June 28, 1984, when he was part of a convoy attacked by terrorists in Agartala. Despite being gravely injured, he fought back valiantly but later succumbed to his injuries.

Dr. Jitendra highlighted that Nayak Vakil Singh's courage continues to inspire all. In his remarks, the Minister reflected on the significance of renaming the school in Hiranagar in honor of Shaheed Nayak Vakil Singh. He stated

that this gesture would not only serve as a tribute to the soldier's immense sacrifice but would also inspire future generations to uphold the values of patriotism, dedication and selflessness.

Dr. Singh stressed the importance of memorializing great patriots like Nayak Vakil Singh. He recalled the patriotism that defined the nation during the time when Nayak Singh served and fought for the country. "In those times of desperation, people sold their assets to support the country. Today, it is important for us to reflect on that spirit of unity and sacrifice," he added.

During the event, Manjit Singh, the son of Nayak Vakil Singh, expressed his gratitude to the attendees for honoring his father's memory. He thanked the government and Dr. Jitendra Singh for ensuring that his father's name would be immortalized through the naming of the school, acknowledging that the entire family bears the emotional burden of his passing away.

The event was also attended by the representatives from the Group Centre CRPF Hiranagar; all of whom paid rich tribute to Nayak Vakil Singh.



Justice Shukla inaugurates free cancer screening-cum-awareness camp

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JAMMU: World Cancer Care, in collaboration with the District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu and HEWA, is being organized two-day free Cancer Screening and Awareness Camp at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar, Jammu, on 15th and 16th March.

Justice S.K. Shukla of the J&K High Court inaugurated the camp and commended the efforts of the World Cancer Care organization, led by Dr. Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal from the UK. He also lauded the contributions of the DGPC Jammu and HEWA for their unwavering dedication to serving humanity.

Hundreds of peoples got benefitted from this camp in the first day today. Ranjeet Singh Tohra President & Balvinder Singh stated that these camps aims to provide free and high quality cancer screening facilities in the



Justice S.K. Shukla of J&K High Court inaugurating the camp.

well equipped mobile units art vehicle.

They further stated that Breast Screening, PAP Smear-Cervical cancer Screening, PSA Test-Prostrate cancer Screening (for men) Oral & Throat Examination for throat cancer, Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Tests-Checks are being done. Dr Dhillon represented the WCC Team of Doctors.

Responding to a request from Balvinder Singh, Vice President of DGPC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GMC, deputed a team of doctors including Dr. Bhavna

Langar (Nodal Officer, Preventive Oncology Unit, SCI) and Dr. Sandeep Kour (Senior Consultant, Department of Radiotherapy).

Surjit Singh, General Secretary of DGPC Jammu, urged the public to attend the camp in large numbers on its final day.

Other prominent persons who were present were Ravinder Singh Retd JKAS, Avtar Singh, Karan Singh Bali, Tejinder Singh, Gurmit Singh all members DGPC Jammu, Dr Navneet social reformer, Ravinder Singh Rosi President HEWA.

JK Judicial Academy, e-Committee SCI organise refresher program

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JAMMU: The J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, on Saturday organized one day refresher programme for the Court staff and N-step Training (ECT 6 2024 & ECT 8 2024) for administrative heads, Court Managers, Nazarat, Record Keepers, Process Servers from the Subordinate Courts of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.

The first technical session was chaired by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who gave an introduction to e-Courts Project via PowerPoint Presentation. He educated them about the digital e-initiatives and management tools under e-Courts Project. He discussed the Case Information System (CIS) and National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). He also highlighted the advantages of display boards and their usage in daily court proceedings. He added that NSTEP (National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. The learned resource person delved upon the importance of e-filing, e-Courts services Portal and Process of e-filing. He stated that e-filing allows to submit court documents electronically, which saves time and paper.

Rajeev Gupta, Senior System Officer, Jammu and



Anupam Wangoo, System Officer, Reasi, jointly conducted the second technical session.

They provided a practical demonstration on CIS, NSTEP, ICJS and various submodules of CIS, highlighting their applications in court operations. Additionally, they explained the use of email in court proceedings, including how to send documents and summons electronically.

The session concluded with an interactive question and answer segment, where the participants dis-

cussed CIS and other related modules.

The third technical session of the day was jointly conducted by Govind Ram Sharma (Retd. CAO) and Anil Tripathi (Project Manager; Datasoft).

They emphasized that the digitization of case records is a vital step in modernizing judicial processes, enhancing record management efficiency, enabling quick retrieval and ensuring long-term preservation. They outlined the key steps involved in the process including preparation, scanning, indexing and secure storage, highlighting their significance in streamlining the court operations. The Resource Person explored that in the process of case file digitization, documents are categorized into Nathi "A" and Nathi "B" to ensure systematic organization and retrieval. Nathi "A" contain critical documents that are essential for case proceedings and typically include orders, judgments, evidence, witness statements and other key records. Besides, Nathi "B" comprises of supporting documents such as internal notes, administrative correspondence and other supplementary materials. All the sessions were interactive during which the participants actively participated and shared their experiences and discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

PM e-Bus Sewa: CS reviews measures taken to receive 200 new e-buses

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JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday chaired the maiden meeting of recently constituted UT Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) to take stock of the measures taken, so far, by the Housing & Urban Development Department to receive 200 more e-buses under PM e-Bus Sewa for both Jammu and Srinagar cities.

Other members of the committee who participated in the meeting included Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, Transport; MD, JPDCL; CEO, SSCL/JSCCL besides other concerned officers. The Chief Secretary took notice of the requirement of modalities and infrastructure to be raised to operate these buses in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar. He enquired about the costs to be incurred on development of the depots, charging stations and those to be made as operational expenditure to run this public transport system on per kilometre basis daily.

Dulloo further asked about the kind of infrastructure and quantum of expenses to be covered under the central assistance. He advised for exploring all the options to secure funding for the operation of these buses besides the National Clean Air Programme

(NCAP) to assuage some burden of expenses from the local government. He also examined the plans of the Department for establishment of depots for these buses at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu and Bemina in Srinagar. He advised the Finance Department to examine the requirement of funds for operation of these vehicles so that the same is made available to the Department.

Earlier, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D.Vaidya, also gave his inferences about the operation of these buses. He made out that the costs as per preliminary estimates could be around Rs 42 crore per year on their operation based upon the experience of running similar other vehicles in Jammu and Srinagar. On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, apprised the meeting that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of the "Depot Infrastructure" costing Rs16.72 crore and for "Behind the Meter Power Infrastructure" including 6.6-megawatt substation worth Rs 8.51 crore stands prepared for Jammu. Similarly, SSCL has also prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of the "Depot Development" costing Rs 14.50 crore and KPDCL has prepared DPR for "Behind the Meter Power Infrastructure" worth Rs5.78 crore.

International Collaboration in Healthcare: AIIMS Jammu hosts Prof Krishnan Raghavendran

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move towards fostering global partnerships in healthcare, Prof Krishnan Raghavendran, a renowned Professor of Surgery in the Acute Care Surgery Division at the University of Michigan, visited AIIMS Jammu on March 13, 2025.

During his visit, he was warmly received by Dr. Shaurya Darbari, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, who escorted him on a comprehensive tour of the hospital's facilities.

Prof. Raghavendran visited the emergency department, where he commended the diligent work of the doctors and staff.

He expressed his willingness to collaborate with the department by sharing protocols developed by the University of Michigan, one of the oldest and most prestigious medical institutions in



Prof Krishnan Raghavendran, renowned Professor of Surgery being honoured at AIIMS Jammu.

the world. These protocols are expected to enhance patient care and operational efficiency at AIIMS Jammu.

Prof. Raghavendran was particularly impressed by the Next Generation Sequencing Lab, highlighting its cutting-edge technology and potential for advancing medical research.

He also emphasized the importance of electronic health records (EHRs) in modern healthcare, commending the ED and CEO,

Professor (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta on his visionary approach to implementing "Digital AIIMS" from the hospital's inception. This digital initiative aligns with AIIMS Jammu's mission to integrate technology and healthcare for improved patient outcomes.

Prof. Raghavendran also had a meaningful interaction with the faculty members of AIIMS Jammu, engaging in discussions about potential areas of collaboration and

sharing insights from his extensive experience.

He highlighted the University of Michigan's Global Outreach Program, which has fostered numerous collaborations with hospitals in India, Africa, and other developing countries. This program has been instrumental in promoting healthcare advancements and capacity-building initiatives worldwide.

Prof. Raghavendran's involvement in this program underscores his commitment to global health equity and his role in bridging gaps between healthcare systems across different regions.

During his meeting with the ED and CEO, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Prof. Raghavendran praised the rapid progress AIIMS Jammu has made in patient care since launching its OPD services in August 2024.

He noted that the institute's infrastructure is comparable

to any top-tier hospital in America, underscoring its potential for international collaboration.

Prof. Raghavendran commended the director's tireless leadership, emphasizing the importance of such leadership in driving innovation and excellence in healthcare. He expressed admiration for Prof. Gupta's strategic vision, particularly in establishing AIIMS Jammu as a model for modern healthcare delivery. The two leaders agreed to explore future collaborations in research, academics, and patient care, marking a promising step towards enhancing healthcare standards globally.

The potential partnership between AIIMS Jammu and the University of Michigan could lead to significant advancements in medical research and patient care, benefiting both institutions and the broader healthcare community.

Director IIM inaugurates seven days advanced entrepreneurship skill development programme at Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), inaugurated a seven-day Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (A-ESDP) today at its IIM Srinagar Branch. The workshop, co-sponsored by CSIR's Integrated Skill Initiatives, aims to foster innovation and self-reliance among farmers and youth through training in medicinal plants, mushroom cultivation, honey production, and crop diversification.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu spoke about burgeoning culture of agri-startups and entrepreneurship. He underscored the program's alignment with Prime Minister Narendra



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu and others during inaugural ceremony of programme at Srinagar.

Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) and doubling farmers' income. In his presidential address, Dr. Ahmed emphasized the transformative potential of crop diversification in agriculture, citing IIM's pioneering work in lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission. "Lavender farming in

Jammu and Kashmir has become a success story, empowering farmers and boosting agri-startups. Crop diversification through medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) not only enhances income but also builds climate resilience and sustainability," he remarked. Dr. Ahmed also highlighted initiatives under Viksit

Bharat, urging participants to leverage scientific advancements to drive rural entrepreneurship. Dr. Ahmed emphasized the government's pivotal role in fostering innovation through initiatives like Startup India and the Aroma Mission. "India is witnessing a revolution in agri-startups, fueled by policy support, technological advancements,

and a young, dynamic workforce. From cultivation to value addition, waste-to-wealth technologies, and post-harvest management, agro-innovation is reshaping rural economies," he stated.

Dr. O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.) and former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), graced the event as Chief Guest. He elaborated

on Jammu and Kashmir's rich biodiversity, stressing its role in nurturing aromatic and medicinal plants. "The region's unique flora and fauna are invaluable assets for developing sustainable enterprises in herbal products and eco-tourism," Dr. Sharma stated. He encouraged participants to explore biodiversity-based ventures

to address global demand for natural products. Mr. Surinder Singh, DGM of NABARD, as Guest of Honour, outlined financial schemes and support mechanisms available for startups and entrepreneurs. He detailed NABARD's initiatives, such as the Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centre (ACABC) scheme, and urged youth to utilize these resources to scale their ventures. "NABARD is committed to providing technical and financial backing to innovative agri-startups, ensuring they thrive in competitive markets," he affirmed. Dr. Nasir Ul Rasheed, Nodal Scientist for Skill Development and workshop coordinator, welcomed the 24 participants from across India, detailing the workshop's curriculum. "Over seven days, experts will train attendees in high-value sectors like MAPs, mushroom cultivation, and apiculture. These skills are critical for

creating livelihood opportunities and reducing dependency on traditional crops," he explained. Er. Abdul Rahim, Head of IIM's Srinagar Branch, delivered the vote of thanks, applauding the collaborative efforts of MSME, CSIR, and NABARD. He reiterated IIM's commitment to bridging scientific research with grassroots entrepreneurship.

Participants expressed enthusiasm about launching their own startups, with many citing the workshop as a catalyst for exploring niche sectors in agriculture. The event also saw the presence of IIM scientists, scholars, and industry stakeholders, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas. The program proceedings were conducted by Dr Phaleesten Sultan.

Sponsored under MSME's ESDP Scheme, the workshop will continue for seven days, featuring hands-on training, expert sessions, and business plan development modules.