

India surpasses major economies with 105% growth-A decade of Modi's visionary leadership: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson J&K Gaurav Gupta, accompanied by spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan and Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, where he hailed India's historic economic milestone as highlighted in the latest IMF report. The report showcases a 105% GDP growth in the last 10 years, reflecting the transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government. Gupta



BJP spokesperson J&K Gaurav Gupta briefing media.

stated, "India's remarkable rise to \$4.3 trillion from \$2.1 trillion is a testament to PM Modi's visionary policies. Despite global challenges, including the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, India

has not only recovered but has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy in the world."

Comparing India's performance with other leading economies, Gupta pointed out

that while India achieved 105% growth, the United States grew by only 66%, China by 76%, and Germany by 44%. Japan, a former economic powerhouse, saw zero growth, while the UK, France, and Italy lagged far behind at 28-39%. He remarked, "These figures are not just statistics; they reflect India's resilience, our strong economic policies, and the unwavering commitment of the Modi government to making India a global powerhouse."

Highlighting the major contributors to this success, Gupta emphasized the impact of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, GST reforms, Digital India, and massive infrastructure investments. He added, "From strengthening domestic industries to boosting digital payments through UPI, India is setting benchmarks that the world is recognizing today."

Speaking on the COVID-19 period, Gupta stated, "The pandemic was an unprece-

dent crisis that brought economies to their knees. However, under PM Modi's leadership, India ensured a swift recovery through decisive policies, a record-breaking vaccination drive, and economic stimulus packages. The world saw India's strength in crisis management, and today, we are leading the global recovery."

He further asserted, "This is just the beginning. With a clear vision to become a \$5 trillion economy and achieve 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, BJP remains committed to taking India to even greater heights. While the opposition continues to engage in negativity, we are focused on progress, development, and making India the economic superpower of the 21st century."

Ending on a strong note, BJP spokesperson J&K Gaurav Gupta declared, "India's rise is unstoppable. The world is watching, and under PM Modi's leadership, we are moving towards a future of prosperity, strength, and global dominance."

Rekha Mahajan emphasizes role of Yoga in holistic well-being at SCR Centre

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan graced the Fourth Anniversary Celebration of the Senior Citizen Rejuvenation (SCR) Centre in Trikuta Nagar as the Chief Guest, reaffirming her commitment to promoting health and wellness through yoga.

The event, marked by a vibrant Yoga Shivar, witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens who have been diligently practicing yoga for the past four years.

The function was presided over by S.C. Verma, with K.S. Samyal, President of the SCR Centre, initiating the session with Ishwar Bandana and warm-up exercises.

The gathering then engaged in various yoga practices led by renowned instructors Ravinder and Shakti Sharma from Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, who demonstrated essential Asanas to enhance physical flexibility and mental peace.

Adding an element of joy and laughter to the session, Sansar Chand conducted Hasya Yoga, while T.R. Puri,



Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan and others during the event.

Vice President of the Centre, guided the attendees through Pranayama and Meditation techniques, fostering inner harmony and mindfulness.

In her address, Rekha Mahajan lauded the efforts of the Senior Citizen Rejuvenation Centre in promoting yoga as a way of life. She emphasized that yoga, an integral part of India's rich cultural heritage, is essential for maintaining good health, especially for senior citizens.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, yoga has gained global recognition. It is heartening to see that our senior citizens are actively

embracing this ancient practice for physical and mental rejuvenation," she stated.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by T.C. Taggar, General Secretary of the Centre, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and yoga instructors for making the celebration a success. Other prominent members present included Subh Chander (Advisor) and key office bearers of the Centre.

The SCR Centre has been actively organizing yoga sessions for the past four years, and its commitment to holistic well-being continues to inspire the community.

Dr Dev Raj emphasizes upon urgent need for awareness about protection of Environment

Elections of office bearers of BVP Taushi Shakha held



Office bearers of BVP Taushi Shakha and dignitaries during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Dev Raj Sharma, National Chairman (Environment), emphasized upon the urgent need to create awareness about protection of the Environment, and impressed upon the members of Bharat Vikas Parishad to redouble their efforts in this regard. He stated this while delivering his address as the Guest of Honor on the occasion of the Annual General Body meeting cum Parivar milan of Taushi branch convened at Amar Singh Club, Jammu to elect the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the branch.

Earlier, the Annual Report and the Financial Statement of Taushi Branch for the financial year 2024-25 was presented by Ajay Khajuria JKAS (Retd),

President and Prof Ajay Khajuria, Treasurer, of the branch, respectively, wherein the contributions made by Taushi branch towards strengthening the social fabric of the citizens in terms of health, economic empowerment, moral values and environment during the year 2024-45 were elaborated.

A presentation was also delivered for the benefit of the people gathered on the occasion, by resource persons from ANU-GRAHA, an NGO working in the field of creating awareness about the 'Rights of Senior Citizens' on behalf of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi.

Arun Sharma, Regional Joint General Secretary, North 1, BVP and Shiv Ram Sharma,

General Secretary, J&K Prant, BVP, who were the observers appointed by Bharat Vikas Parishad, supervised the conduct of elections and declared the results. Ajay Khajuria JKAS (Retd) was re-elected as President of Taushi branch, Er Jagmohan Sharma was re-elected as Secretary, and Prof Ajay Khajuria as Treasurer of the Branch.

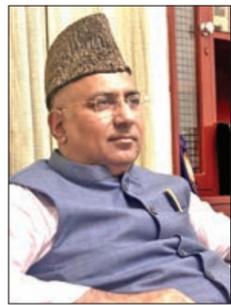
The proceedings were coordinated by Chandermohan Sharma, Sanskar Pramukh, and other administrative support was provided by Kamini Kesar, Vyavastha/Sampark Pramukh, and Vinod Kumar, Joint Secretary of Taushi Branch. The vote of thanks was delivered by Er Jagmohan Sharma, Secretary of the branch.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a Special Mention admitted in the Rajya Sabha on March 18, 2025, Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana raised critical concerns regarding the arrangements for Indian Muslims undertaking the Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia this year.

Haj 2025 is scheduled for the month of June, and while the Indian government-working in coordination with Saudi authorities-has made notable improvements in recent years, Khatana underscored that several challenges still persist and require urgent intervention.

Addressing the Upper House, the Jammu and Kashmir MP called for bet-



ter travel logistics, affordable airfare, improved accommodation, and enhanced medical support, especially in pilgrimage sites such as Mina and Arafat.

He emphasized the need for more flights at reason-

able prices, smoother transportation, and dignified lodging arrangements for pilgrims.

Khatana placed special focus on elderly and ailing pilgrims, urging the deployment of mobile clinics, round-the-clock medical support, and trained volunteers to provide on-ground assistance.

"The journey of faith should not be a struggle for survival," he said, highlighting the emotional and physical toll many pilgrims face due to infrastructural shortcomings.

A recurring issue in recent years, according to Khatana, has been the absence of an effective communication system

between Indian Haj officials and pilgrims. He noted that delays, confusion, and lack of timely updates-especially during flight rescheduling or emergencies-have caused undue hardship. A real-time grievance redressal and information mechanism, he suggested, is vital.

Crucially, Khatana also flagged the issue of escalating airfares, which continue to be a major deterrent for many prospective pilgrims, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

"Haj must not become a privilege only for the affluent," he stated, urging the Government to take meas-

ures to make the pilgrimage more financially accessible.

Furthermore, Khatana also highlighted the broader diplomatic context, noting the deepening ties between India and Saudi Arabia. He called for leveraging this relationship to further streamline the Haj mission and deliver a smoother, more dignified experience for Indian pilgrims.

As thousands prepare for this year's pilgrimage, Khatana's remarks serve as a timely reminder that while progress has been made, a comprehensive overhaul of the Haj support system is both necessary and urgent.

AM KIA inaugurates exclusive workshop in Jammu, setting new standards in automotive service excellence

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AM KIA has taken a major step forward in its commitment to delivering exceptional automotive services with the inauguration of its exclusive, state-of-the-art workshop at SICOP Industrial Estate, Plot No. 52 & 52A, Gangzal, Jammu. The new facility is designed to provide world-class service and customer satisfaction, reinforcing AM KIA's position as a leader in automotive care.

The grand event was graced by Dr. Arun Manhas, Director of Industries & Commerce,

Dr. Tahir Choudhary condemns Dy CM's misconduct, emands apology

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Strongly reacting to a recent controversy, BJP spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary has condemned the Deputy Chief Minister for allegedly misbehaving with a female government employee during an official visit.

In a viral video, the Deputy CM was reportedly heard speaking harshly and disrespectfully to the female employee during a discussion about encroachment issues and development work. The minister's intimidating tone has sparked concerns regarding the treatment of government employees. Condemning the incident, Dr Tahir Choudhary called the Deputy CM's conduct "highly inappropriate" and "unbecoming of a senior leader." He further stated that such behavior not only undermines the morale of government officials but also reflects poorly on the administration.

"I strongly condemn the Deputy CM's behavior. Government employees, especially women, must be treated with respect and dignity. Such disrespectful conduct is unacceptable, and I demand that the Deputy CM issue a public apology without delay," said Choudhary. He also urged Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and take appropriate action to address the matter.



Dr. Arun Manhas, Director of Industries & Commerce, Jammu and others during the launch ceremony.

Jammu, who praised AM KIA's efforts to bring cutting-edge automotive solutions and seamless after-sales services to customers in the region.

The inauguration was attended by prominent industry leaders, including Chairman Jatinder Gupta, Managing Director Sanjay Mahajan, and Directors Ankur Mahajan, Akshay Mahajan, Aryan Mahajan, Tarun Malhotra, and Sahira Mahajan.

The event also saw the participation of esteemed AM Family members, such as Raj Mahajan, Sharmila Mahajan,

Vandana Mahajan, and Sakshi Mahajan, whose visionary leadership has been instrumental in expanding AM KIA's presence.

The exclusive workshop is a testament to AM KIA's dedication to delivering superior vehicles. Equipped with advanced diagnostic technology and staffed by a team of skilled professionals, the facility is designed to ensure faster turnaround times, enhance service efficiency, and uphold the highest standards of quality.

During the event, Chairman Jatinder Gupta expressed his excitement about the launch,

stating "This workshop represents AM KIA's unwavering commitment to providing premium services to our valued customers. Our goal is not just to sell vehicles but to offer a complete ownership experience that reflects our values of quality, trust, and innovation."

The new workshop offers several key services, including state-of-the-art vehicle servicing and repairs using genuine KIA parts, advanced diagnostics for optimal vehicle performance, quicker service appointments, and expert care by highly-trained technicians.

Dogri Santha Jammu releases Jagdeep Dubey's three books in Dogri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogri Santha Jammu released well known Dogri writer Jagdeep Dubey's three books in Dogri in a simple but impressive function organized at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Karan Nagar, Jammu.

Darshan Darshi, eminent Dogri and English author was the chief guest, special guest was Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn', former Additional Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages whereas Prof. Veena Gupta, prominent Dogri writer, linguist and Vice President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function.

These three books namely Doun Adhe Ek Pura is a collection of short stories whereas Notice and Kaneez are theatre plays written in Dogri language.

While addressing the gathering, the chief guest Darshan Darshi said that Jagdeep Dubey is a well known name in dogri litera-



Prominent personalities releasing books.

ture for short stories and plays.

His dedication for mother tongue is appreciable and his command of language is commendable. He said that with 'Sarpanch' written by Pt. Dinu Bhai Pant, our mother tongue had already had the privilege of having a classical play. With the passage of more Dogri writers contributed to this genre of literature.

Dr. Arvinder Singh 'Amn' also congratulated the playwright for continuously writing in Dogri and providing a good literature to languages in the form of short stories and theatre plays.

He further added that

those who say that there are a few theatre plays available in Dogri language should have a thorough research on the subject as there are a number of quality plays written in mother tongue and Dubey's contribution is also appreciable.

Prof. Veena Gupta in her presidential address congratulated Jagdeep Dubey for continuously enriching the mother tongue with his literary works. She welcomed the books saying that it will help the local theatre directors with more options for producing and directing plays based on local contents.

A detailed paper on these

books was presented by Dr. Adarsh, a well known Hindi writer.

Jagdeep Dubey also shared his literary journey with the attendees and talked at length about his passion for writing plays that started with Radio plays.

Susheel Begana, Literary Secretary of Dogri Sanstha conducted the proceedings and Pawan Verma, well known theatre activist and Dogri poet who is also the treasurer of Sanstha presented vote of thanks.

A large number of litterateurs, literature lovers including family members of Jagdeep Dubey attended the book release ceremony.

DIG Traffic Range Jammu delivers lecture on New Criminal Laws at CUJ

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the J&K Police's initiative to spread awareness about the newly introduced criminal laws, Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Traffic Range Jammu, delivered an insightful and thought-provoking lecture at Central University Vijaypur, Jammu, on Monday.

Accompanying him was Sukhdev Singh Jamwal, DySP Traffic, Rohit Kumar, Senior Prosecuting Officer (Sr. PO), State Investigation Agency, J&K Jammu and Voonesh Kumar, Sr. PO Traffic Range Jammu. The session, held at the Rajinder Singh Auditorium (DDE Building), saw an enthusiastic turnout of faculty members and students from diverse academic backgrounds, including BA, MA, Public Administration, Economics, Mass Communication and Ph.D. scholars. The audience engaged keenly with the lecture, eager to understand the



CUJ officials honouring Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, DIG Traffic Range Jammu during the event.

evolving legal landscape.

Dr. Mohd. Haseeb Mughal, captivated the audience with a comprehensive analysis of the three newly enacted criminal laws, shedding light on their purpose, scope, and far-reaching implications for the justice system.

The session delved into how these laws aim to address contemporary legal challenges, including: Cybercrime - Tackling digital offenses and

safeguarding online security. Domestic Violence - Strengthening legal protection for victims. White-Collar Crimes - Enhancing legal frameworks to counter financial fraud and corruption.

Emphasizing the significance of legal literacy, Dr. Mughal remarked "It has been a privilege to share my insights with young minds, equipping them with a deeper understanding of these pivotal legal reforms. As

responsible citizens, staying informed about these laws is not just beneficial-it is essential for ensuring justice and societal harmony."

Beyond criminal law, DIG Traffic Jammu also took the opportunity to educate students on traffic regulations, accident prevention strategies, and the latest advancements in traffic management. He elaborated on the recently introduced Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) and Intelligent Traffic Light System (ITLS) in Jammu city, emphasizing their role in improving road safety and reducing accidents.

Jaswant Singh, Registrar, CUJ expressed appreciation for the initiative taken by J&K Police, acknowledging the significance of such knowledge-sharing sessions in cultivating legal awareness and fostering critical thinking among students.

GCW Parade celebrates World Water Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Science Club of Govt. College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu, celebrated World Water Day with a strong focus on environmental sustainability. Under the patronage of Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo and the guidance of Prof. Anjali Abrol, Convener of the Science Club, the college organized a Poster Making Competition and PowerPoint Presentation Competition themed "Glacier Preservation."

The event aimed to educate students about the crucial role glaciers play in maintaining the planet's ecological balance and to inspire them to take action toward their preservation for the benefit of future generations. Students from a variety of academic disciplines participated enthusiastically, bringing their creativity and ideas to the forefront through their artwork and presentations. A panel of judges, including Dr. Balbir Singh (HOD, Physics), Prof.



Faculty members and students posing with posters.

Anita Sharma (Associate Professor, Mathematics), and Dr. Shally Chadha (Associate Professor, Chemistry), evaluated the students' efforts.

The Poster Making Competition saw remarkable talent on display, with Deepankshi securing the first prize, Amrita Sharma earning the second prize, and Saliha Sultan taking third place.

In addition, students Sonal Devi, Kanvi Hans, and Amrita Sharma delivered compelling PowerPoint presentations on glacier preservation, providing innovative solutions to combat environmental challenges.

All participants received trophies in recognition of their efforts, underscoring the college's commitment to encouraging active student

engagement in environmental causes.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Bhawandeep Kour. The organizing team, which included Dr. Usha Bhagat, Dr. Neha Gupta, Dr. Manjulla Gupta, Dr. Sushma Sharma, and Dr. Atiya Syed, played a pivotal role in ensuring the program's success.

Through this initiative, the Science Club of GCW Parade Ground, Jammu, showcased its dedication to raising awareness about climate change and the need for conservation efforts.

The event served as a reminder of the importance of student-driven solutions in preserving the natural resources that sustain life on Earth.