

# Rekha highlights Modi Govt's commitment to affordable, high-quality medicines

Visits Jan Aushadhi Kendra, emphasizes vision for healthier India

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: On the occasion of Jan Aushadhi Divas, senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan underscored the Modi government's unwavering commitment to ensuring high-quality, affordable medicines for all citizens, aligning with the vision of building a healthier and fitter India.

In this regard, Rekha Mahajan visited a Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendra and purchased packs of 'Janaushadhi Suvidha' oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins, available at a nominal price of Rs 1 per pad, with an aim to raise awareness among women about afford-



BJP leader Rekha Mahajan during visit to a PMBJP Kendra.

able menstrual hygiene products. She also interacted with beneficiaries, highlighting the pivotal role of such initiatives in providing quality generic medicines at afford-

able prices. The widespread network ensures that affordable medicines reach even the remotest corners of India, embodying the government's commitment to universal healthcare.

Rekha Mahajan also asked the women folk to actively participate in the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) by opening and operating Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

She highlighted that over 35% of these centers are already managed by women entrepreneurs, reflecting the scheme's empowerment potential. She emphasized that such involvement not only promotes affordable healthcare but also fosters women's entrepreneurship and economic independence.

In her concluding remarks, Rekha Mahajan urged women to take full advantage of facilities available at Jan Aushadhi Kendras established by the Modi government to maintain their personal hygiene.

She emphasized that utilizing these resources is a significant step toward ensuring health and well-being for all women.

The initiative addresses the critical need for accessible healthcare, particularly for marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities. By offering generic medicines at prices 50-90% lower than branded alternatives, the scheme has significantly reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for countless families.

Expressing satisfaction with the availability and affordability of essential medicines, she remarked, "The Modi government's dedication to healthcare is evident through initiatives like the PMBJP. By making high-quality medicines accessible to all, we are taking substantial steps toward a healthier India."

Rekha highlighted the remarkable growth of PMBJP, noting that over 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been established across the country as of January 31, 2025. Notably, more than 35% of these centers are operated by women entrepreneurs, reflecting the scheme's empowerment dimension.

# Bhoomi Pooja of 250-bedded POWERGRID Vishram Sadan carried out at AIIMS Bilaspur

GRID along with several distinguished guests, including senior officials from POWERGRID, AIIMS

those who travel long distances for medical treatment, as it significantly reduces their overall expenses and



Union Minister J P Nadda performing Bhoomi Poojan ceremony Sadan at AIIMS Bilaspur on Friday.

This auspicious event signifies a major advancement in improving healthcare amenities for patients and their families.

The Vishram Sadan, a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), aims to provide affordable and comfortable accommodation for those traveling from distant regions for medical treatment.

The project is a testament to POWERGRID's commitment in supporting healthcare infrastructure and ensuring the well-being of the community.

The event was graced by Anurag Thakur, Member Parliament, Jai Ram Thakur, Ex-Chief Minister Himachal Pradesh, Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, POWERGRID, NR-II, Dayanand Sharma, Director (AIIMS-Bilaspur), Vinod P Baxla, General Manager (HR), POWER-

stress. He praised

POWERGRID's pivotal role in driving social and economic progress across the nation through its diverse CSR projects.

POWERGRID had earlier provided a state-of-the-art 128 Slice CT scan and a 1.5 Tesla MRI Machine to AIIMS, Bilaspur.

This significant contribution, amounting to Rs. 22.92 crores during FY 2023-2024, that highlights POWERGRID's unwavering commitment to advancing medical technology and improving patient care.

He stressed that providing affordable and comfortable accommodation is crucial for

# SHTM, JU organizes workshop on Calico Printing



Faculty members along with students during the activity.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: School of Hospitality & Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu, organized Exhibition cum Workshop under the theme "She Shines: Rural Women's Brilliance in Entrepreneurship" to commemorate International Women's Day, 2025.

The event aimed at empowering rural women by providing them with a platform to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and traditional craftsmanship.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies, congratulated SHTM for its unwavering commitment to organizing skill based activities which enable the students to make a mark.

She encouraged all the participants, especially students, to make the most of such

skill-based workshops and emphasized their role as forerunners in safeguarding and promoting the region's traditional heritage.

Prof. Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM in his address emphasized on the significance of such events which align with the University's commitment to social development and skill based learning.

He appreciated Dr. Minna Dubey, Managing Director, Silpini Calico Printing Works Handicrafts ICS Ltd. for her commendable initiative in uplifting rural women by equipping them with skills for sustainable livelihoods.

He also extended his appreciation to all exhibitors for their relentless efforts in preserving and promoting the rich handicraft heritage of the Jammu region.

Dr. Suvidha Khanna,

Associate Professor, SHTM informed that this workshop has been organized to showcase the importance of collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in reviving the lost heritage of Calico Printing from Samba, a traditional craft that holds immense cultural value.

The exhibition featured a diverse lineup of exhibitors, including Silpkari Bazar, Guruji Art Collection, Rajni Craft Store, Shree Gokul Gadham, Mini Aura, Happy Heart, Calico by Silpini, and Handicrafts by N.S., each showcasing different handicrafts of Jammu.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Nikita Dogra, Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Dr. Poonam Sharma, Dr. Honeyka Mahajan, Tapas Tandon and Taniya along with the staff and research scholars of SHTM.

# IIM Jammu inaugurates Epyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated its flagship cultural festival, Epyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey, at its Jagti Campus.

The three-day festival, running from 7th to 9th March 2025, promises a spectacular celebration of music, dance, fashion, and artistic expression, uniting students and artists from across the country in a vibrant cultural extravaganza.

The star-studded lineup for Epyrean 2025 features some of the most celebrated names in the entertainment industry, including Playback Singer Jubin Nautiyal,



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurating the event.

Music Composer and Performer Rauhani Malik, and electrifying sets by DJ Carnivore & DJ HOLY C. Alongside these exhilarating performances, the festival showcases a diverse range of competitions and activities, including Battle of Bands, Street Battles, a Gaming Arena, a Fashion Show,

Cultural Performances, and a variety of food stalls and experiences. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that Epyrean 2025 is more than just a cultural festival; it is a confluence of talent, creativity, and passion. He emphasized IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering holistic development and nurturing the cultural vibrancy of its students. He expressed that with a

dynamic lineup of performances and competitions, Epyrean 2025 is set to be an unforgettable experience for everyone.

The inaugural event commenced with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, marking the grand opening of the much-anticipated festival.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized the spirit of creativity and discipline, highlighting that the event embodies fun and creativity at its best. He noted that the grand beginning sets the tone for an even grander festival and encouraged everyone to enjoy every moment while maintaining discipline and upholding the institute's name. He extended his best wishes to all participants.

Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, CAO, IIM Jammu, encouraged stu-

dents to embrace the festival's energy while upholding the values of IIM Jammu. He emphasized that the institute belongs to the students and urged them to interact with their peers, enjoy the event to the fullest, and maintain discipline. He extended his best wishes for an exciting and memorable Epyrean 2025.

The event also featured performances by State Awardee Suraj Singh, Romalo Ram (Padmashri), Dogri Folk Singer and Sars Bharti, Dogri Singer along with their group.

As the countdown to the main events begins, anticipation is at an all-time high for Epyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey. With a dynamic fusion of culture, passion, and entertainment, the festival is set to be the biggest cultural spectacle of the year at IIM Jammu.

# RPP JK condemns derogatory remarks against Maharaja Hari Singh by Dy CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad (RPP) today vehemently condemned the derogatory remarks made by the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who referred to the late Maharaja Hari Singh as a "dictator."

The RPP, a prominent national organization, expressed deep outrage over these comments, calling them not only an affront to the legacy of the nationalist and secular Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir but also an insult to all those who have fought for the dignity and honor of the country. President of the RPP, Pt Jeevanand Sharma, led the strong condemnation, stating, "Such statements are deeply disrespectful, not just to Maharaja Hari Singh, who is revered as the true crown of Jammu and Kashmir, but to every nationalist force that has



President RPP, Pt Jeevanand Sharma briefing media.

contributed to the freedom struggle of our great nation. Maharaja Hari Singh was a visionary leader, and his contributions to India's freedom movement are undeniable. In 1931, he was one of the first leaders to actively participate in the Round Table Conference, symbolizing his commitment to the nation's future and his role in shaping the course of Indian history."

Pt Sharma further emphasized that the Maharaja's legacy is one of pride for

every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Maharaja Hari Singh was not just a king; he was the soul of Jammu and Kashmir, a secular ruler who stood for unity and progress in a time of division. His leadership transcended boundaries of caste, creed, and religion, and such comments serve only to disrupt the harmony that our state holds dear," he remarked.

The RPP President also criticized the Deputy Chief Minister's remark as not

only a personal affront but as an unfortunate and irresponsible statement coming from a leader, particularly one belonging to Jammu province.

"It is beyond comprehension that such words have been spoken by a leader from Jammu, a region where people hold Maharaja Hari Singh in the highest regard. His vision for a united and progressive Jammu and Kashmir is something that every proud citizen of this region cherishes."

Pt Chandan Dutta, the Paradesh Mantri of RPP, also strongly echoed these sentiments, calling for unity in defending the legacy of Maharaja Hari Singh.

"Every member of the legislative assembly, who claims to represent the true aspirations of the people, must rise above party lines and speak in defense of Maharaja Hari Singh's honor. He was not only a secular and national-

ist leader but also a symbol of integrity and resilience for Jammu and Kashmir," Dutta said.

In a collective call to action, the RPP appealed to all patriotic citizens and political representatives to stand against any attempts to tarnish the memory of Maharaja Hari Singh, a leader whose contributions to the nation's unity and sovereignty are immeasurable. "We will not tolerate any insult to Maharaja Hari Singh's legacy," the RPP stated firmly.

The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad, reaffirming its commitment to preserving the integrity and honor of Jammu and Kashmir's history, urged the government and the people of the region to rise above divisive politics and recognize the importance of respecting the contributions of such great leaders in shaping the identity of the state and the nation.

# Shahid Saleem takes over as Vice Chairman, JKLCMA

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Shahid Saleem, a JKAS officer serving in Jammu & Kashmir administration since 2004, on Friday took over as Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA).

Shahid Saleem holds a Master's degree in Development Studies, major-Governance and Development Policy with a specialization in Public Policy Management from the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University, Rotterdam situated in the Hague, Netherlands.

He is a law graduate with Bachelor of Sciences from University of Jammu. He



VC, JKLCMA Shahid Saleem inspecting lakes.

has also done two years course in the Arabic language from Madina University, Saudi Arabia.

Besides he has done certificate course on Corruption from University of Pennsylvania, course on

Religion, Peace and diversity from Harvard Divinity School and Course on Forensic Sciences from Nanyang University Singapore. Prior to this assignment he was posted as DC Shopian.

# CLUJ unveils Honour Board of Vice Chancellors, Registrars



VC JU Prof. Umesh Rai and others during the programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) unveiled the Honour Board of Vice Chancellors and Registrars who have served the University, in a ceremony held today.

The Honour Board recognizes the significant contributions of these distinguished individuals in the growth and development of the institution.

The unveiling ceremony was graced by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, who did the honours along with Prof. Anju Bhasin, former Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, and Dr. Jatinder Khajuria, former Registrar of Cluster University

of Jammu. They were joined by Prof. K S Chandrasekar, the current Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu.

The occasion was attended by Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, along with various Deans of Cluster University and Principals of the Constituent Colleges.

The function highlighted the pivotal role played by the Vice Chancellors and Registrars in shaping the University's journey and legacy.

The Honour Board will stand as a testament to the leadership and commitment of these esteemed individuals who have dedicated their efforts.

# Daily-rated workers call on LG Brig Mishra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: A delegation comprising daily-rated workers from Leh and Kargil led by Phuntsog Angehuk called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, and Director, Finance, Dr Safdar Ali, IRS, were present in the meeting.

Phuntsog Angehuk, representing 1900 daily-rated workers working in different departments of UT Administration, for whom benefits of consolidated guidelines on casual workers of DoPT was recently extended and various benefits such as enhancement in salaries along with dearness allowances leaves among other benefits announced, expressed their gratitude for the LG's intervention in helping them achieve their long-pending demand. He informed the LG that



Delegation members calling on LG Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

extending the benefits, particularly enhancing their salaries, would immensely help the families of all the 1900 employees.

The LG congratulated them and informed them about efforts being

made by the Administration to extend benefits to left-out employees from the list of 1900 daily-rated workers who are working in various government departments. He stated that a committee has

been constituted to include all the employees excluded from the list of 1900 daily-rated employees to look into their issues and to provide minimum wages to them to ensure that they don't face any inconvenience in their lives.

He also asked the daily-rated and casual employees to perform their duties diligently and help the citizens of Ladakh.

The LG also apprised the delegates of various welfare schemes introduced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi for the poor and needy, such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)-Urban and Grameen, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), etc.

He also informed them about steps taken by the Government of India for the representation of women through one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies, etc.