

PM, Ministers witness co-funding MoU between 'National Research Foundation', 'Wadhvani Pvt Foundation'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: In a significant move to accelerate the transformation of India's research ecosystem, the "Anusandhan National Research Foundation" (ANRF) and the "Wadhvani Foundation" exchanged a landmark "Letter of Intent" at the "Innovation Conclave" "YUGM" held at Bharat Mandapam here in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The partnership signals a first-of-its-kind collaboration between a government-backed apex research institution and a philanthropic private foundation, aimed at co-funding and scaling up research that can drive tangible societal impact. The agreement is also the inaugural step in ANRF's strategy to foster expansive public-private partnerships across critical



cal sectors of national relevance.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, who has been at the forefront of India's science and innovation transformation, said the initiative reflects the government's resolve to create an enabling environment where research transcends academic silos and reaches the ground. "This is a step towards institutionalising synergy between government, industry, and philanthropy," he said, underlining the need for collaborative models that amplify both funding and out-

comes.

The ANRF, established under the National Education Policy 2020, was envisioned as a transformative body to democratize research, catalyze innovation, and bridge the long-standing gaps between academia, policy, and industry. With this new partnership, ANRF aims not only to fund cutting-edge science, but also to translate research into scalable, impactful solutions by aligning with national priorities and global challenges alike.

Wadhvani Foundation's

involvement adds a crucial layer of experience in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation-driven development, especially among youth and start-ups. Together, the two entities will work to raise the scale and impact of late-stage translational research-projects that are often closest to delivering real-world outcomes but remain underfunded.

The collaboration also marks a turning point in how research will be funded and delivered in India in the times to come-emphasising inclusivity, inter-

disciplinary, and grassroots reach. In line with ANRF's broader vision, this partnership aims to promote equitable access to resources and opportunities across the country, including tier-2 and tier-3 institutions, thereby fostering a more distributed and resilient research culture.

The announcement at Conclave, a platform designed to bring together thought leaders across government, academia, and industry, set the tone for a new era in Indian innovation policy. As India strives to become a global research hub, this partnership is expected to play a pivotal role in shifting the focus from fragmented efforts to outcome-oriented, collaborative science.

The move reinforces India's march toward becoming a knowledge-based economy, with Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" rooted not only in self-reliance but also in scientific excellence and societal good.

Billawaria voices concern over prepaid electricity billing system, seeks relief for rural, underprivileged consumers



Former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria briefing media.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Former Deputy Mayor of Jammu and senior BJP leader, Baldev Singh Billawaria, has raised serious concerns regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited's (JKPDCL) decision to shift from the traditional postpaid electricity billing system to a prepaid online model.

Addressing a press conference, Billawaria highlighted the growing public distress caused by this abrupt transition, especially among residents of slum and rural areas. He criticized JKPDCL for

its failure to distribute electricity bills on time and for the inconvenience caused to consumers struggling with online payments.

Billawaria revealed that he has been continuously approached by delegations from various communities voicing their frustration over the new system.

"The department was earlier advised not to implement this system hastily. A large section of our population remains unfamiliar with digital platforms. The sudden shift is creating unnecessary hardship," he said.

He stressed the need to continue providing printed electricity bills at doorsteps, enabling

hassle-free and timely payments. Billawaria warned that the lack of awareness and digital infrastructure could result in unintended power disconnections for many unsuspecting users. Further questioning the government's promise of providing 200 free electricity units, he stated that no beneficiary from any Panchayat or Ward has received the benefit so far.

"The government must clarify the current status of the scheme and ensure transparency in its execution," he demanded. Billawaria also condemned the frequent and unannounced power cuts affecting daily life. He urged the department to ensure prior intimation through newspapers or other communication platforms to avoid public inconvenience.

He appealed to the government and JKPDCL to defer the implementation of the prepaid billing system until proper awareness campaigns and supportive infrastructure are in place, especially for the marginalized population.

BJP Kisan Morcha condemns Naresh Tikait's statement; calls for public apology and boycott



Sarbjot Singh Johal, President of BJP Kisan Morcha (J&K) briefing media in Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: In a strongly worded press conference held at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Sarbjot Singh Johal, President of BJP Kisan Morcha (J&K) and DDC member, condemned the recent remarks made by self-proclaimed farmer leader Naresh Tikait regarding the Government of India's decision to cancel the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. Johal termed Tikait's statement as "seditious" and "deeply hurtful" at a time when the nation is mourning the brutal killing of 26 Hindu pilgrims in Pahalgam by Pakistan-backed terrorists. "There is a nationwide outrage against Naresh Tikait's rhetoric. His statement, at a time of national grief and unity, is nothing short of an insult to the martyrs and their families," Johal said. Highlighting the Centre's firm response, Johal stated that under the decisive leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has ended political ties with Pakistan and begun the process of abrogating the Indus Water Treaty, 1960. He emphasized that this action sends a clear message that India will no longer tolerate terrorism under any circumstances. Referring to Tikait's statement that "Indian and Pakistani farmers are the same" and that "the treaty

should not have been cancelled," Johal questioned the misplaced sympathy. "We ask Naresh Tikait - should we continue to support a nation that continues to kill our innocent citizens? If he feels so much love for Pakistan, he is welcome to go there," he added. Johal also criticized Tikait's comment that "terrorism has no religion." He countered by saying, "If that's the

case, why are most terrorists caught affiliated with the same ideology? Go and ask the grieving families who lost their loved ones in the name of religion."

Concluding the press conference, Johal demanded a public apology from Naresh Tikait and urged the farming community and society to socially boycott individuals who make anti-national statements. "Such people must be shown that there is zero tolerance for anti-India sentiments. Their hookah-paani must be stopped," he said firmly. The BJP Kisan Morcha reiterated its unwavering support to the government's national security measures and stood united with the people in demanding justice for the Pahalgam martyrs.

ICAI organizes seminar on New Income Tax Bill 2025

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Tuesday organized a seminar at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu, focusing on the upcoming New Income Tax Bill, 2025. The event provided an in-depth analysis of the proposed legislation, its implications, and strategic insights for professionals.



Resource persons and officials of ICAI during the workshop.

CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman of the J&K Branch of ICAI, welcomed the speakers and emphasized the importance of keeping abreast with legislative developments in the dynamic field of taxation.

The seminar featured three technical sessions led by distinguished experts in the field of taxation.

CA Aseem Chawla, a

renowned international taxation expert with over two decades of experience, initiated the seminar with a presentation on "New Income Tax Bill, 2025 - Repeal and Savings". He is the Founder & Practice Leader at ASC Legal, Solicitors & Advocates, and holds certifications from

Harvard Kennedy School and WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.

CA Raj Chawla, Past Central Council Member of ICAI and a respected voice in the MSME sector, led the second session on "Impact of Budget, 2025 on Section 43Bh". With extensive experience in taxation and enterprise development, he has previously

chaired ICAI's Committee on MSMEs.

Dr. CA. Girish Ahuja, a veteran in direct taxation with over 35 years of teaching experience, delivered the final session titled "Income Tax Bill, 2025 - A Comprehensive View". A Fellow of the ICAI and a Ph.D. holder from Delhi University, Dr. Ahuja has authored numerous books on direct taxation and has

been a member of various government-appointed committees.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Chartered Accountants and senior members of the profession across the region, who engaged actively in discussions and interactive Q&A sessions. CA Jatin Malhotra (Secretary) ably conducted the seminar and led the sessions to a successful conclusion. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the distinguished speakers and participants.

The J&K Branch of ICAI continues its commitment to providing high-quality professional education and staying aligned with evolving regulatory frameworks, ensuring its members are equipped to lead with knowledge and integrity.

Tourism & Cultural Heritage Society condemns Pahalgam attack, urges national unity, policy reform

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: In the wake of the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam, Anantnag on April 22, where 27 innocent tourists from across India and one brave local lost their lives, the Tourism & Cultural Heritage Society, led by its President Raminder K. Sanhotra, held an emotional and press conference on Tuesday.



President Raminder K. Sanhotra addressing media.

The Society expressed its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and strongly condemned the horrific act of terror that has shaken the collective conscience of the nation.

"Baisaran has fallen silent, the mighty Himalayas that once echoed with laughter now mourn in solitude," said

Sanhotra.

Sanhotra urged both the Jammu & Kashmir Administration and the Union Home Ministry to bring the perpetrators and sponsors of this heinous act to justice.

He emphasized that terrorism in all its forms must

be eradicated, and protecting the lifeblood of J&K's economy-tourism-should be a national priority.

Sanhotra raised concerns over the negative ripple effects on Jammu's tourism economy, especially with upcoming religious pilgrimages like the Shri

Amarnath Ji Yatra and visits to Mata Vaishno Devi.

"Tourism was already on a ventilator post-COVID. This attack shuts down the little hope that was returning. Stakeholders in Jammu, who rely heavily on footfall from Kashmir-bound travelers, are now staring into economic darkness," Sanhotra lamented.

The Society called on the Department of Tourism and Ministry of Home Affairs to launch publicity campaigns assuring tourist safety and to involve stakeholders directly in policy-making.

This, Sanhotra asserted, is the only way to rebuild trust and revive the tourism sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

TNWS organizes public interaction meeting

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A public interaction meeting was held on Tuesday at the TNWS Complex, Main Market, Trikuta Nagar Colony, Jammu, where the Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS), Jammu extended a warm welcome to key officers of the Jammu South Police Division. Present at the event were SP Jammu South, Ajay Kumar Sharma, SDPO South, Shezan Bhat, and SHO Inspector Rajesh Jasrotia, who interacted directly with the residents in a spirit of mutual respect and community collaboration. The session commenced with a heartfelt welcome by Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of TNWS Jammu. In a symbolic gesture of reverence and spiritual unity, he presented Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and a Pink Chumar-ya-representing blessings from Lord Krishna-to SP Sharma. SDPO Bhat was offered a floral bouquet as a token of appreciation. Following this, Kakkar introduced the TNWS team members to the guests, setting the tone for an open and meaningful dialogue. During the interactive session, the President



SP Jammu South, Ajay Kumar Sharma interacting with TNWS members.

presented a series of issues and demands raised by the residents of Trikuta Nagar Colony. The foremost concern was the growing menace of drug abuse, with residents urging the police to expose abusers in public forums and TNWS social media groups to encourage community involvement and information sharing. They believed such transparency would help law enforcement crack down on offenders more effectively. Another key issue raised was the rash driving by outsiders, often with triple riding and modified silencers, especially in the inner lanes of the colony. This behavior has created both noise pollution and safety hazards for the elderly and children in the area. Residents requested stricter patrolling

and action against such riders.

The TNWS team also called for better coordination with law enforcement, specifically by sharing the beat constable names and contact numbers sector-wise, and increasing police presence in the colony. This, they said, would significantly improve response times and enhance public confidence in policing. While acknowledging the commendable work done by police in curbing thefts and drug activities since the last meeting, residents highlighted that drug hotspots continue to shift frequently.

They appealed for random surprise nakas in the internal lanes to keep offenders on edge and discourage the spread of addiction. Security during night hours was another pressing concern. The resi-

dents demanded enhanced night patrolling and proper verification of chowkidars, as there have been reports of fake guards collecting monthly charges without offering any real protection. This is especially troubling in a colony populated largely by senior citizen couples and retired pensioners.

The issue of unverified tenants living in vacant plots was also raised, with residents fearing these spaces could harbor criminal elements, including drug users. A demand for mandatory tenant verification was strongly voiced. Additionally, TNWS members requested that fruit and vegetable vendors (rehri-walas) be shifted from main roads into lanes to ensure smoother traffic flow and avoid congestion in key areas. In response, SP Ajay Kumar Sharma addressed each concern with patience and sincerity. He assured residents that all genuine problems would be tackled promptly, but emphasized the need for cooperation between the police and the community.

He shared valuable insights from his experience and encouraged residents to be

proactive. Importantly, he announced that his team would hold a monthly press conference on the last date of each month to maintain transparency and keep the public informed about actions taken.

SDPO Shezan Bhat also spoke with compassion and clarity, sharing insights into how drug addicts fall into the trap of substance abuse and the sensitive yet strategic methods police use to save both the individual and their families. To conclude the gathering, Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta, General Secretary of TNWS, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks. He urged more residents to join TNWS as life members to stay informed, benefit from government facilities, and be an integral part of building a stronger, safer colony.

Among the many respected community members in attendance were Indu Puri, Shailja Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Varinder Kapoor, Deepak Daftari, Kewal Sher, O.P. Sharma, Anil Sharma, N.K. Bali, Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, S.N. Kaul, Er. Ravinder Kaul, and Kulveer Singh.

HQ J&K Police, Jammu

No: UE-17/2023-24/10597-602 Dated:- 16-04-2025
ORDER NO 144/OF 25

Subject: Blacklisting of M/S Modern Furniture, 374, Latoo Mistri, Daryapur Khairatali, Chankya City, Patna Bihar, Email ID: jyotikm0@gmail.com.

- Whereas, PHQ J&K floated bid No GEM/2024/IB/4880087 dated 18-05-2024 for procurement of (120) theft proof rifle racks.
- Whereas, M/S Modern Furniture, 374, Latoo Mistri, Daryapur Khairatali, Chankya City, Patna Bihar emerged as L-1 at the unit price of ₹ 23,100 at a total cost of ₹ 27,72,000.
- Whereas, M/S Modern Furniture was requested through PHQ letter dated 07-10-2024 to deposit the advance sample, within seven days and a reminder was also sent vide letter dated 08-11-2024 for submission of the advance sample.
- Whereas, DSP Police Central Store Jammu communicated that M/S Modern Furniture deposited the advance sample of theft proof rifle rack at Police Central Store Jammu on 11-11-2024 for examination.
- Whereas Technical evaluation committee subsequently examined the advance sample. The examination revealed that the sample did not meet the specifications outlined in the GeM bid requirements, moreover certain observations were raised:
 - The lock system was found to be unreliable and improperly fitted.
 - The handle was loose and did not meet the required standards.
 - Consequently, the sample was not approved.
- Whereas, the rejection of the sample was conveyed to M/S Modern Furniture vide PHQ letter No. UE-17/2023-24/15030-34 dated 28-11-2024, and an opportunity was again given to deposit a fresh sample for quality check and approval.
- Whereas, additional reminders were sent, including PHQ letter No. UE-17/2023-24/15781-85 dated 20-12-2024, and a final opportunity was issued via letter dated 24-01-2025 for the submission of a fresh sample.
- Whereas, supply order under contract number GEMC-511687775684046 dated 16-Jan-2025 was awarded to M/S Modern Furniture on GeM, for the supply of 120 theft-proof rifle racks.
- Whereas, M/S Modern Furniture was required to complete the supply by or before 2nd March 25. M/S Modern Furniture did not deposit the fresh sample of theft proof rifle rack in spite of repeated requests.
- Whereas, vide PHQ letter No UE-17/2023-24/2182-86 dated 21 Feb 25 a show cause notice was issued to M/S Modern Furniture to explain the reasons for failing to deposit the fresh sample as per GeM bid specifications. Accordingly, Incident vide No 2096689 was also raised against M/S Modern Furniture on GeM.
- Whereas, DSP Police Central Store Jammu vide letter dated 27-02-2025 intimated that M/S Modern Furniture has deposited a fresh sample at Police Central store Jammu on 27-02-2025 for examination.
- Whereas, Vide PHQ letter dated 1st March 25 directed the TE Committee headed by AIG (Training / Policy) PHQ to examine the fresh sample deposited by M/S Modern Furniture with GeM bid specifications and a report with regard to approval or disapproval on the bid specific parameters be furnished to PHQ J&K.
- Whereas, as per the communication received from the AIG (Training / Policy), Chairperson of the Technical Evaluation Committee, dated 18-03-2025, the fresh sample of the Theft proof rifle rack deposited by M/S Modern Furniture has been rejected. The details of the discrepancies are as follows:
 - Material used for manufacturing of shelves for housing the weapon has found poor quality and strength.
 - Locking system is not working properly.
- Whereas, M/S Modern Furniture has breached the terms and conditions of the contract, thereby for causing significant inconvenience to the department, as these items were required urgently for field formations.
- Whereas, no response has been received from M/S Modern furniture, Patna Bihar which implies that the firm has nothing to say in its defence.
- Therefore, taking into account the facts enumerated above, it is ordered that:

M/S Modern Furniture, 374, Latoo Mistri, Daryapur Khairatali, Chankya City, Patna Bihar, Email ID: jyotikm0@gmail.com is **debarred** from participating in any procurement process of this department for a period of two years from the issuance of this order in terms of rule 151 of GFR-2017 and in concurrence with "Guidelines on debarment of firms from bidding" issued by Government of India, Department of expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Procurement Policy Division 169-A, North block, New Delhi, under No F.1/20/2018-PDD dated 2nd November-2021, for supply of sub-standard material, non-supply of material, abandonment of works, sub-standard quality of works, failure to abide tender / contract terms and conditions.

This issues with approval of the competent authority.

DIP/J-706/25
Dated:- 29/04/2025

Sd/-
Mohita Sharma
AIG Provisions
For DG-P