

IIM Jammu in collaboration with SDRF organizes awareness and disaster preparedness session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu conducted a critical awareness and disaster preparedness session in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) at its Jagti Campus. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Sahay emphasized that the courage and dedication demonstrated by the armed forces are truly commendable and send a strong message of the nation's resolve.

Referring to "Operation Sindoor" he described it as a symbol of justice-an enduring message of the nation's stand against terrorism.

He affirmed that IIM Jammu remains firmly committed to national interests and will continue contributing to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation.

He expressed his pride in the nation, and the leader-



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu along with others during the session.

ship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and extended his gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the State Disaster Response Force for conducting this important session at IIM Jammu.

He also mentioned that IIM Jammu will continue to follow the advisories issued by the Govt of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India from time to time and will remain steadfast in its support for Jammu and Kashmir and the nation. The session was

conducted under the guidance of Inspector Sanjeev Kalsi, J&K Police along with his dedicated SDRF team. He emphasized that with the rapid advancements in technology, responses to threats must be swift and informed.

Addressing the gathering, Inspector Kalsi shared that 13 awareness camps are currently being conducted across the Jammu and Kashmir region, with the session at IIM Jammu being a key part of these efforts to enhance disaster preparedness and community safety.

The objective of the session was to sensitize and train the IIM Jammu community-faculty, officers, staff, and students-on essential safety measures during emergencies, particularly in air raid and air strike scenarios.

Inspector Pavinder Singh, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu and Kashmir delivered a comprehensive training session covering essential protocols for air raids and air strikes, the importance of pre-hospital response time, and life-saving techniques.

Through live demonstrations, participants were trained in administering CPR, managing fractures, and executing casualty evacuation procedures.

The team also provided detailed guidance on actions to take during air raid alerts and airstrikes, including seeking immediate shelter, avoiding crowded areas, and adhering to blackout protocols such as turning off lights, shutting down invert-

ers, and refraining from usage of lights.

The session highlighted the significance of first-aid preparedness and community-level awareness in reducing casualties during emergencies. Various methods of transporting injured individuals-such as single-hand and multiple-hand seats, leg crutches, shirt drag, blanket drag, and Preliminary Stabilization and Positioning (PSP)-were also demonstrated.

Present during the session were Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics; CA Rajat Jain, FA-CAO; and Cmr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, along with the institute's faculty, officers, staff, and students.

The session was witnessed active participation from the institute community. It underscored IIM Jammu's steadfast commitment to proactive disaster preparedness and ensuring public safety in times of national emergencies.

Devote time to propagate teachings of Guru Ravidas: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Each one of us should devote time to spread the timeless teachings of Guru Ravidas, the revered 15th-century Indian saint, whose message of universal brotherhood and equality continues to shine as a beacon of hope and harmony.

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidas Vishva Mahapeeth, Indian Branch General Secretary of British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation and Member of Begampura Vishva Mahasabha, said this while making a fervent appeal for coming forward to contribute in propagating the teachings of Guru Ravidas. He was discussing the significance of the teachings of Guru Ravidas and the need to spread his message.

Balbir said that Guru Ravidas, a visionary social reformer and poet-saint of India, championed values that go beyond time and religious divisions. He advocated for a casteless society and



Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary, Guru Ravidas Vishva Mahapeeth interacting with party leader.

respect for all human beings.

"It is not enough to remember and respect Guru Ravidas on special occasions but we must carry his message into our everyday lives," Balbir said, adding that each one from among us should take pride in being followers of such a great Indian saint and become active participants in spreading his message.

The people should also read and reflect upon his hymns, many of which are included in the Guru Granth Sahib, and share them widely to promote mutual respect and unity.

He emphasized that engag-

ing the youth and educating them about the legacy of Guru Ravidas is crucial in today's times. Organizing seminars, social media campaigns, and community gatherings are some of the ways to ensure the message reaches a wider audience.

Balbir also urged the educational institutions to include teachings of saints like Guru Ravidas in school syllabus, so that the coming generations can build a more inclusive and just society. His message of dignity of labour, equality, and devotion to God remains as relevant today as it was centuries ago.

Residents of Kheri Village request road connectivity to Dev Sathan Mandir; DyCM assures action



Former CEO, MD J&K Bank Rajesh Kumar Chhibber meeting DyCM Surinder Choudhary.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant outreach effort, a delegation of villagers and representatives from the Chhibber Biradari of J&K, along with residents of village Kheri, Dharat, Tehsil Nowshera, led by Rajesh Kumar Chhibber, the former CEO and Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, met Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary to bring to his attention the urgent need for road construction to the revered Dev Sathan Mandir, located near the Line of Control (LOC) in District Rajouri.

The delegation, speaking on behalf of the devotees and local residents, highlighted that although initial earthwork for the road (about 1 km from the main road to the Dev

Sathan) has been completed, critical work like laying crusher stones and black-topping remains pending.

The Dev Sathan Mandir, a site of great religious significance for the Chhibber Biradari and devotees from J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi, regularly hosts thousands of pilgrims, especially during two major congregations ("Mails") held annually in December and April.

Due to the lack of a proper road, access to the Mandir becomes extremely difficult-particularly during the monsoon season, causing hardship to elderly devotees, women, and children who are forced to walk the distance on foot through muddy, unsafe paths.

The delegation emphasized that a well-constructed road would not only improve accessibility for pilgrims but also benefit surrounding villages by improving overall connectivity and local development. The demand also included a request for proper water supply arrangements for the area.

In response, Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary gave a positive assurance, stating that the matter will be taken up on priority. He expressed his commitment to addressing the long-standing demand of the locals and facilitating development that respects the religious and cultural sentiments of the community.

The residents have expressed deep gratitude to the Deputy CM and hope for swift allocation of funds and commencement of the pending work, underlining confidence in his leadership and responsiveness to public needs.

SCJS organises workshop on Cosmos Energy Science

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Senior Citizens' Joy Society (SCJS) successfully organised a thought-provoking workshop on Cosmos Energy Science, featuring renowned expert Ravinder Jaju from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

Jaju, an authority on Vastu Shastra, Cosmos Energy, and Agnihotra, has been practicing and promoting these disciplines for over 30 years. His deep Vedic knowledge and real-world applications have uplifted countless commercial, residential, and industrial projects across India.

Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, extended a warm welcome to Jaju and the participants. He set a light-hearted tone by reciting a poem on Laughter Yoga and shared insights about the objectives and structure of the workshop.

Surinder Gupta, former Chief Engineer, and B. B. Sharma, two-time State President of Bharat Vikas Parishad, felicitated the chief guest in a warm gesture of appreciation.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and



Society members during the workshop.

Chairman of SCJS, introduced Jaju to the attendees, elaborating on his extensive contributions in the fields of Scientific Vastu and Agnihotra, including lectures delivered at prestigious institutions like IIT Kharapur, IIT Guwahati, and NBAGR Karnal.

During his keynote session, Shri Jaju provided an in-depth explanation of Vastu Shastra-the ancient Indian science of architecture that harmonises structures with cosmic and natural energies.

He highlighted its foundational principles, historical significance, practical guidelines, and modern-day relevance. He also discussed key concepts such as directional energy, the

Panchabhutas (five elements), and the importance of Brahmasthan, kitchen placement, main entrance, and sleeping positions in a Vastu-compliant home.

In the second session, he demonstrated Agnihotra, a Vedic fire ritual performed at exact sunrise and sunset.

Participants witnessed the process using traditional ingredients such as a copper pyramid, cow dung cakes, pure cow ghee, and rice grains, accompanied by specific Sanskrit mantras. Shri Jaju explained Agnihotra's scientific and spiritual benefits, including its potential

to purify the environment, enhance mental focus, improve soil and plant health, and promote holistic healing.

The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants including H.C. Vaid, Dr. Jain, Vijay Sharma, Rakesh Misra, S.K. Gupta, Yesh Paul Sharma, B.B. Sharma, Pardeep Khajuria, Abhinandan Jain, Narinder Wadhwa, C.M. Sharma, Dr. Nirmal Kamal, Meenakshi Gupta, and Anju Bansal actively engaged with the speaker.

C.M. Sharma delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating Jaju's enlightening presentation and the enthusiastic participation of the attendees.

Fair Price Shop dealers of J&K UT announce strike over long-pending demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Fair-Price Shop (FPS) Dealers Association of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has announced the resumption of a statewide strike, citing the government's failure to address their long-pending demands dating back to 2019.

The decision follows multiple reminders submitted to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), J&K UT, which, the association claims, have gone unanswered.

In a strongly worded statement, the association alleged that despite the availability of funds for the financial year 2024-25, the department has shown indifference toward the concerns of FPS dealers. The dealers accused officials of misappropriating funds for personal gains while neglecting the settlement of dues owed to them. The FPS Dealers

Association highlighted the following key demands including release of pending Centre Share and Mid-Day Meal commissions since 2019 in favor of FPS dealers across J&K, immediate sanctioning of handling losses (wastage) compensation, which dealers incurred during daily operations, clarification and rectification of alleged fund misappropriation in transportation charges: The association claims that while the Government of India sanctioned Rs 100 per quintal, the FCS&CA Department inflated this figure to Rs 262 per quintal, diverting an excess of Rs 162 per quintal; Settlement of dues from the COVID-19 period, during which dealers had to secure emergency loans with interest from banks to maintain operations. Despite the passage of over five years, these arrears remain unpaid.

The FPS dealers warned that they will resume the strike ini-

tially suspended in March 2025 unless their grievances are addressed promptly. They appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration and central government to intervene and ensure transparency and justice for grassroots-level ration distributors.

The association emphasized that continued neglect could severely disrupt the public distribution system in J&K, impacting thousands of beneficiaries across the Union Territory.

Arya Pratindhi Sabha supports Armed Forces successful strike strikes on terrorist camps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Arya Pratindhi Sabha Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Narendra Trehan, firmly stands in support of the Government of India and the Armed Forces for the successful and strategic strikes conducted today on terrorist camps operating from across the border in Pakistan.

These operations were a resolute and necessary response to the recent Pahalgam attack, orchestrated with the support of Pakistan-based elements.

The Sabha believes that India's action was both measured and justified, aimed solely at neutralizing the infrastructure of terror that poses a grave threat to national security and civilian life. Such targeted operations reflect the maturity and strength of our defence forces, who continue to uphold the dignity and sovereignty of the nation with unparalleled professionalism and courage.

We commend the Government of India for taking a firm yet responsible approach in addressing these provocations. It is a clear demonstration of the nation's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and its commitment to ensuring peace and stability within its borders. The Arya Pratindhi Sabha Jammu and Kashmir extended its unwavering solidarity to the brave men and women of our armed forces.

Nation stands with armed forces: Tara Chand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former Dy. Chief Minister and Working President Pradesh Congress Committee, Tara Chand appreciated the action of Indian Forces targeting terrorist base camps in Pakistan & POK with well planned coordination within forces.

Termed the action as successful specific strike, Tara Chand said that it was necessary in interest of nation and came in the wake of the



barbaric Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22th April in which 26 tourist were killed in a daylight in presence of their kins. He reiterated

Pahalgam attack was cowardly and painful act and every condemnation was not enough. Senior Congress leader Tara Chand said that our whole leadership including leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge stand with armed forces who struck terror camps in Pakistan and POK. They also applauded their resolute resolve and courage. National unity and solidarity is the need of the

hour and country stands with armed forces, Tara Chand said.

He also appealed to the villagers of the border areas to pave full support to the forces and also provide the necessary backup in this crucial time. He said during war like situation every citizen should behave like a Soldier.

Condemning the recent attack by Pakistani Rangers over civilians in Poonch Sector, Tara Chand said that

Indian forces always attacked terrorist camps without harming the civilians but today morning Pakistan's unprovoked firing and mortar shelling targeted residential areas in and around Poonch City and did not spared even women and children.

This kind of civilian slaughter by Pakistan should not go unanswered and Tara Chand urged the Central Government to give befitting reply to Pakistan.

Randhawa inaugurates drainage system upgradation work at Sector 4 Sanjay Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step towards improving civic amenities, the upgradation work of the drainage system at Sanjay Nagar Sector 4, near the tubewell, was inaugurated today by MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa. The project aims to address the persistent problem of water-logging and improve sanitation conditions in the locality.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and senior leaders including Naresh Singh (District President), Madam Ritika (Mandal President), Narinder Koki, Pankaj Bral, Sunny Bakshi, and other prominent dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa reiterated his commitment to providing timely and compassionate assistance to those in need, fostering peace and solidarity in the region.



MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa upgradation of civic work.

drainage upgradation work will provide much-needed relief to the residents of Sanjay Nagar, who have been facing severe water-logging issues, especially during the monsoon season. Our focus remains on timely completion of all such projects that directly impact the daily lives of the people."

Officials from JMC assured that the project would be executed using quality materials and completed within the stipulated timeframe to minimize

inconvenience to the public. Local leaders present at the event also expressed their gratitude to Randhawa for taking swift action to resolve this long-pending issue. They pledged their continued support to development initiatives that benefit the community.

The event concluded with enthusiastic participation from local residents, who welcomed the move and appreciated the leadership's proactive approach toward public welfare.

GGF J&K calls for people's initiative in reaching affected people on LOC



GGF members after the meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) Jammu & Kashmir convened a meeting of its office bearers to address the pressing humanitarian needs of residents in the border regions (LOC) of Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara and Baramulla.

The meeting, led by Dr. S.P. Varma, President of GGF J&K, and the meeting was presided over by Robert Robin Gill, Advisor to GGF Jammu, outlined immediate relief initiatives to support communities affected by cross boarder fire.

The planned interventions

include the distribution of essential medicines, dry rations and the organization of blood donation and awareness camps. These efforts will be carried out through GGF's dedicated network of volunteers operating in these regions.

In this connection, Dr. S.P. Varma has appealed to all volunteers of the Gandhi Global Family J&K to actively participate in the relief work by adhering to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Government of India.

He further appealed to women activists and volun-

teers to form women's groups to reach out to affected individuals in their communities, offering assistance (seva) through kindness, compassion and nursing support.

The meeting was attended by several prominent members, including Ram Mohan Rai General Secretary GGF New Delhi, Dr. Dinesh Gupta General Secretary GGF J&K, Dr. Alka Sharma President GGF Jammu Women Wing, Sunaulla Tamiri GGF J&K Advisor, Ghuham Mohd Dar, Dr. Mehajabin Nabi GGF Kashmir President, Noor-ul-Malik, Summi Seth, Dr.

Punit Kaur, Joginder Kaur, Ved Verma, Rajinder Singh, Bhanu Pratap Singh and others.

During the meeting, participants discussed the prevailing situation and shared their views to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the initiatives, ensuring that no affected person to be left behind during this time of crisis at LOC and International Border (IB).

This initiative underscores GGF's commitment to providing timely and compassionate assistance to those in need, fostering peace and solidarity in the region.