

India's Flag flies high in space - Powered by science, guided by Modi's vision: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, said that India has etched a golden chapter in its space history with the safe and successful return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from his trailblazing mission to the International Space Station (ISS). As the first Indian astronaut to visit the ISS, Captain Shukla's journey is not just a personal triumph but a proud national milestone that showcases the rise of New India under the transformative leadership and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji.

Gupta said that this historic space mission, which witnessed India's direct involvement in advanced microgravi-



ty experiments aboard the ISS, is a testimony to Modi Ji's foresight in nurturing indigenous scientific capabilities, promoting global collaborations, and inspiring the youth of the nation to dream beyond boundaries. The success of this mission reflects India's emergence as a Vishwaguru in science and technology, driven by the Prime Minister's unwavering

commitment to making India self-reliant and future-ready in frontier domains.

During his two-week stay aboard the ISS, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla conducted seven sophisticated space experiments, involving Indian strains of tardigrades, cyanobacteria, methi and moong seed germination, microalgae, and biological display systems. These groundbreaking experiments, conducted in microgravity, have opened new frontiers in space biology and will contribute significantly to future long-duration space missions. Gupta emphasized that such achievements would not have been possible without the clear direction, strategic investment, and encouragement provided by PM Modi Ji,

whose governance model places science, innovation, and youth empowerment at the heart of national progress.

Gupta further added that this moment is historically significant as it marks India's return to human spaceflight after four decades, following the iconic 1984 mission of Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma. The successful splashdown of the SpaceX Dragon capsule, carrying the Axiom-4 crew including Captain Shukla, symbolizes India's growing stature in global space exploration and its readiness to play a leadership role in future international missions.

He said, this mission is more than just a scientific milestone-it is the realization of the dreams of 1.4 billion

Indians, who now see themselves as active participants in shaping humanity's future in space. Under the visionary leadership of Modi Ji, India is boldly stepping forward into the space age with confidence, clarity, and commitment.

Looking ahead to the Gaganyaan mission in 2027, Gupta remarked that India's space journey is on a remarkable trajectory. With PM Modi Ji's support and the expertise of institutions like ISRO, India is poised to not only build on its past achievements but to lead global efforts in peaceful and productive space exploration.

Chhibber congratulates Kavinder on appointment as LG Ladakh



Director J&K Bank, R K Chhibber congratulating Kavinder Gupta.

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JAMMU: Director J&K Bank, Member of Advisory committee on POJK and

Trustee VHP, R K Chhibber congratulated Kavinder Gupta on his appointment as Lt.

Governor of Ladakh. In his congratulatory message to Kavinder, Chhibber said, "There is no doubt that his long inking in J&K Politics, marked by challenges is a remarkable feat of political endurance. As a speaker of J&K Assembly as well as Dy. CM has been Marked by a blend of resilience and strategic manoeuvring. His political journey from Mayor of JMC for three times and now as Lt. Governor of Ladakh is really proud moments for him as well as people of J&K/Ladakh."

DC Jammu inaugurates Indian Overseas Bank's new Branch in Channi Himmat

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards expanding banking services in Jammu & Kashmir, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) inaugurated its new branch at Shastri Niwas, Sector-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu on Wednesday. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who formally opened the branch in the presence of senior officials and local residents.

This new branch marks the fifth branch of Indian Overseas Bank in Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting the bank's commitment to improving financial accessibility and customer outreach across the Union Territory.

The event was attended by IOB Regional Manager, Chandigarh, Anit, and Branch Manager Rajinder Kumar, who expressed enthusiasm about



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya inaugurating Indian Overseas Bank's new Branch in Channi Himmat.

extending the bank's reach in the region. Anu, a senior representative of the bank, was also present at the ceremony and welcomed guests on behalf of the institution.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya appreciated Indian Overseas Bank for its focused efforts in enhancing financial inclusion and bringing reliable banking services closer to people's

doorsteps.

He stated, "The opening of this new branch in Channi Himmat will greatly benefit the local residents by providing them with efficient, modern, and customer-friendly banking facilities.

Such expansions are crucial for empowering the public, especially in growing urban areas like Jammu."

He also encouraged the bank

officials to prioritize customer service, digital banking literacy, and financial empowerment initiatives for youth, women, and the elderly.

The DC emphasized that more banking access will strengthen the economic infrastructure of the area and support the broader developmental goals of the Union Territory.

The new branch is expected to offer a wide range of banking services including personal banking, loan facilities, digital banking assistance, and financial advisory support.

Residents of Channi Himmat and surrounding areas welcomed the move and expressed confidence that the presence of IOB will add value to the financial ecosystem of the region.

With this new opening, Indian Overseas Bank continues its mission of inclusive banking and responsive financial services across India.

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JAMMU: In a remarkable celebration of Sanskrit Month, Shri Kailash Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Jammu, organized a mobile Sanskrit Gurukul class outside the Jammu Press Club with the aim of connecting the divine language Sanskrit to the masses. The event was envisioned to make Sanskrit accessible beyond textbooks and bring it closer to everyday life.

The program was formally inaugurated by Y.V. Sharma, former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Advocate Baldev Singh, Vice President of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu. Their joint presence reflected the growing support from both professional and academic communities for the promotion of Sanskrit. Addressing the gathering, Y.V. Sharma lauded the campaign led by Mahant Rohit Shastri, calling it "a commendable and



Former CCI Jammu President, Y.V. Sharma inaugurating mobile Sanskrit Gurukul.

visionary effort." He stated, "Sanskrit should not remain confined to books but become the language of the masses. Mahant Ji's tireless work to preserve and promote Sanskrit is truly inspiring."

Echoing this sentiment, Advocate Baldev Singh emphasized Sanskrit's deep-rooted connection to Indian culture and heritage. "Sanskrit is the soul of Indian civilization," he said.

"Efforts like this cultivate cultural awareness and positive thinking in society. Shri Kailash Trust's initiative is truly exemplary."

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from several distinguished personalities including Dr. Vishva Gupta, Advocate Pawan Khajuria, Pramod Sharma, Advocate Nitin Gupta, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Professor Sharad Sharma, Amit Jamwal, Honey Singh, and

Vicky Kumar, among others. Their presence added further weight to the campaign's purpose of reintroducing Sanskrit into daily life. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries and participants. "Sanskrit is the original stream of India's knowledge and glorious tradition," he remarked. "Our goal is to revive Sanskrit and embed it in public life as a living language."

The mobile Sanskrit Gurukul turned out to be more than a symbolic event. It served as a dynamic platform to educate, inspire, and spark curiosity about Sanskrit among the public-especially legal professionals and city dwellers-demonstrating that learning this ancient language is not only possible but meaningful in modern times.

Review all SROs, circulars, notifications: JKPSA to Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To collect the stock of sufferings of small private schools of different districts of Jammu division a meeting of all district presidents along with their secretaries was convened by the central body of the Jammu & Kashmir Private Schools Association (JKPSA), Jammu here on Wednesday.

Members highlighted that government is hell-bent to demoralize all small private schools due to the unethical tools used by the officials of the different department at the district level while inspecting a school to submit a report to the higher-ups for the grant of NOCs/recognition/affiliation.

They said that Sub Divisional Magistrates of different areas use different types of nomenclatures for the grant of Chemical Lab Safety Certificate which differs from area to area, school to school and man to man.

Usually Patwaris, ZEOs,



Jammu & Kashmir Private Schools Association members during a meeting.

BMOs and sometimes police officials of particular areas where private schools is established harass owners of the small private school functioning in the far flung and rural areas on the one pretext or the other.

One has to move from pillar to post as government has intermingled the number of departments without any solid ground to check the viability of already established schools for the issuance of NOCs which are needed for the recognition/affiliation purposes. Now

small private schools are on the verge of closure due to the non availability of single window clearance system for obtaining NOCs, arbitrary increase in inspection fee by the JKBOSE, barring the old private schools from online access for migration or eligibility by the JKBOSE etc.

Ajay Gupta, President of the association told the gathering that the government adopts different rules for schools running in Jammu division as compared to the schools running in Kashmir division.

The validity of NOC building

safety in Jammu division is one year while in Kashmir it is five years. In Kashmir, the details sought in CID verification are much less as compared to Jammu. Such type of discriminatory attitude for the schools functioning in Jammu division is condemnable and is not tolerable.

He appealed to the government to review all SROs/circulars/notifications viz SRO123/SRO292 (amended)/SO 177/SO233/ circular 02 etc. to categorize the schools in

different categories because considering small private schools with big schools, schools functioning at far flung/rural areas with schools functioning in urban areas, schools having high enrollment with the schools having low enrollment and schools established by the capitalists with schools established by a poor educated unemployed at par is unjustified, irrational and arbitrary in nature.

Those who spoke in the occasion included Ajay Singh, Gourav Charak, Siddheshwar Sadotra, Sanjeev Luthra, Dr MM Sharma, Kanika Sharma, Lal Chand, Rashpal Singh, Chain Singh, Laddi Sharma, Vishal Jamwal, Naresh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Parshotam Bhardwaj, Anil Choudhary, Deep Dayal, Sham Vaid, Rajeev Jasrotia, Shabir Ahmed, Subash Chander, Satya Pal, Naresh Verma, Bodh Raj, Rajat Karna and Ashok Sharma.

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JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) today held a protest outside the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) office against the deferment of the Naib-Tehsildar recruitment notification.

As per the direction of the Central Administrative Tribunal, JKSSB was directed to allow aspirants belonging to five languages according to the Jammu Kashmir Official Languages Act 2020.

Instead of this JKSSB deferred the whole recruitment process due to this those aspirants who have filled Naib Tehsildar Form are in confusion regarding their fees they have paid to fill the form of Naib Tehsildar and JKSSB should clarify the Aspirants about their fees status whether they are going to adjust in next notification or they are going to refund.

ABVP demands that the recruitment process should start at the earliest and



ABVP activists raising slogans during a protest outside JKSSB office in Jammu.

JKSSB doesn't put the future of youth at stake.

Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary, ABVP Jammu Kashmir said, "CAT had ordered a stay on the mandatory Urdu paper; and allow all aspirants without any discrimination to fill the form and not to defer the recruitment process. We demand that the JKSSB should proceed with the recruitment process without further delay. JKSSB should take immediate action to clear the issues of aspirants who have faced problems with payment and multiple transactions. We demand that JKSSB should provide a clear solution for

these aspirants and proceed with the recruitment process."

Raman Khajuria, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Secretary further emphasized, "The aspirants have been waiting for this recruitment process for a long time. We urge the JKSSB to find a solution and initiate the recruitment process at the earliest."

ABVP warned the authorities to take immediate action and initiate the recruitment process, ensuring that the aspirants are not further suffer and allow all the aspirants of linguistic backgrounds according to the Languages Act 2020 as directed by the CAT.

Dogri Sansthan playing vital role in nurturing local talent, language: Yudhvir MLA felicitates artists at Kuppar Bajalta



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi with several local artists at a programme.

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Wednesday felicitated several local artists during a vibrant cultural programme organized by Dogri Sansthan at Kuppar Bajalta. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of the local community, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Dogra region.

Yudhvir Sethi, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, lauded the contribution of Dogri Sansthan in preserving and promoting the Dogri language, art, and culture. A series of captivating performances by talented artists added colour and charm to the func-

tion, drawing loud appreciation from the audience.

Addressing the gathering, Sethi praised the relentless efforts of Dogri Sansthan in nurturing Dogra identity and emphasized the importance of passing on cultural values to the younger generations. He said, "Dogri Sansthan has been a torchbearer in safeguarding our linguistic and artistic traditions. Their commitment deserves not only recognition but also all possible support."

The MLA assured the members of Dogri Sansthan that their development-related concerns raised during the programme would be taken up with the concerned authorities on a priority basis. "As your

elected representative, I stand committed to resolving the issues highlighted today, including infrastructure upgrades and better support for cultural activities," he added.

Prominent personalities present on the occasion included Ashok Sharma (Chairman), Subash Ji (President), and the programme was held under the overall supervision of Randheer Singh Raipuria.

Those who were present during the event included Mandal President Shiv, General Secretary Bishan, Swami Narayan, Ravi Pal, Sheikh Fayaz, Mohan (Ex-Sarpanch), Madan, Anuradha, Rakesh, and Rampal.

Day 3 of IIM Jammu Orientation 2025: A Confluence of Leadership, Alumni Wisdom, and Industry Insights

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The third day of the Holistic Orientation Programme 2025 at IIM Jammu unfolded with an enriching mix of leadership insights, alumni engagement, corporate wisdom, and cultural celebration, further empowering the new cohort of students.

The day commenced with a revitalizing session titled "Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness" by renowned yoga guru Shri Sahil Mehra, conducted under the aegis of Anandam - The Center of Happiness. Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, and Brig. Neeraj Soni (Retd.), Co-Chairperson, Anandam, welcomed the participants, setting a reflective tone for the day ahead.

Maj. Gen. Mukesh Bhanwala, General Officer Commanding, 26 Division, delivered a stirring address on leadership, drawing parallels between military and



corporate life. Emphasizing resilience, adaptability, and ethical conduct, he stated, "You cannot be great if you cannot operate in chaos," encouraging students to lead with integrity and thrive in uncertain environments.

The day featured parallel sessions for Group A and Group B. Group A participated in outbound experiential learning, while Group B engaged in an impactful Alumni Panel Discussion organized by

the Alumni Relations Committee. The panel featured Ms. Manisha Srivastava, Associate Practice Director, Birlasoft, and Mr. Jeevan Arepally, Senior Product Manager, Nielsen. The alumni shared insights on aligning academics with industry needs, building strong networks, securing PPOs, and sustaining a balanced, purpose-driven career.

In another key session, Shri Dhooop Mittal, CFO, Hero Housing Finance, shared his professional journey and advised students to prioritize behavior over knowledge, emphasizing integrity, adaptability, and purpose-led leadership.

Shri Shafat Ahmed, Chief General Manager, POWERGRID, focused on the transformational power of technology in the energy sector: "Technology doesn't give us a chance; there is no chance. You need to take up technology," he stated, urging students to embrace

innovation and sustainability.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean (Faculty and Research), introduced students to the case-based teaching methodology used at IIMs, drawing from his experience at Harvard Business School. The session promoted decision-making and contextual analysis as central to classroom learning. Abhishek Gupta, CMO, Edelweiss Life Insurance, delivered an inspiring talk on leadership, life insurance's societal role, and his "10 Rules for Success," emphasizing empathy, resilience, and purpose.

The day concluded with "Rang Tarang - A Festival of Theatre and Dance" led by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, celebrating cultural vibrancy and student creativity. The Orientation Programme continues until 18th July with more sessions featuring eminent leaders from across India.

JKCA to conduct U-14 Boys Inter-School tourney to tap talent at grassroots level

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With an aim to tap the young cricketing talent and give boost to budding cricketers rather catching them young and coaching them, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) is organising Under-14 Boys Cricket Tournament in Jammu to commence on July 21, 2025.

The 25-Over matches will be played at three different venues in Jammu namely Birla Open Minds School, Heritage School, JK Public, GD Goenka, Jodhamal School, DPS Jammu and JKCA Tigers.

International School, Birla Open Minds School, Heritage School, JK Public, GD Goenka, Jodhamal School, DPS Jammu and JKCA Tigers. "JKCA has framed an 8-member organising committee headed by Mithun Manhas, Member Cricket Operations and Development, to conduct the tournament in a most

befitting manner. Member CAC Meenu Singh Sathia and former cricketer Sandeep Singh (Sunny) have been appointed as the Coordinators, while Vijay Dogra, Vishal Manhas, Avinash, Akash Choudhary and Ankit, representatives of the participating schools will be the other members of the organising committee," informed Brig Anil

Gupta, Member Administration JKCA. "We believe in catch them young and coach them policy," added Brig Gupta.

He further said the matches will be played in white clothing and red balls will be used, adding the toss will be held at 7:15 am sharp and super substitutes will be allowed for both the innings in the match.