

## On PM's call, IIM commences 'One Day as a Scientist' week

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting upon the call made by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during his 119th Mann Ki Baat address, wherein he encouraged students to visit research laboratories, planetaria, space centres, and science institutions to nurture their curiosity and foster a scientific temperament, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, a premier research institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Union Ministry of Science & Technology, has actively engaged the young students in the 'One Day as a Scientist' initiative.

The One Day as Scientist program which commenced at CSIR-IIIM on Monday has provided aspiring minds with an immersive experience in scientific research, offering them first hand exposure to laboratory work, advanced equipment, and the integration of traditional medicine with modern scientific advancements.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM,



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, Jammu lighting a ceremonial lamp.

Jammu during his inaugural address emphasized the importance of early exposure to the scientific research.

Dr. Ahmed further stated that the One day as Scientist (ODAS) initiative would be a week-long activity, aims to inspire the next generation of scientists by giving them a real taste of laboratory life and innovation, nurturing the scientific temperament and providing the school students with an immersive laboratory insights and knowledge.

More than 500 students from various schools of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh have registered with

this innovative programme, which offers them a unique opportunity to explore CSIR-IIIM's research facilities and participate in the interactive training modules, added Dr. Ahmed.

Pertinently, the One Day as Scientist (ODAS) programme was simultaneously launched by all the 37 labs. Of CSIR wherein the main inaugural event was coordinated online by Dr. Geethavani Rayasam, Head CSIR-Human Resource Development Group, New Delhi, who formally welcomed the participants who joined online across all CSIR labs/Insttts.

The programme was virtually inaugurated by Dr. Vinay Kumar Nandicoori, Director of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad who encouraged the students to embrace scientific learning and innovation.

Dr. Nandicoori, further informed that Dr. Jitendra Singh Union Minister of Science and Technology, GoI and Vice-President, CSIR would be the Chief Guest at the Valedictory event on 25th July, 2025 which is to be held at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) New Delhi.

In his address Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head, RMBD & IST Division, highlighted the role of hands-on learning in building student confidence.

He remarked, "Experiencing real-time lab activities boosts curiosity and builds a strong foundation in science and technology.

During the week-long event, students will get the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in various labs, discussion and interactions with the scientists, popular talks, fun activities and other scientific related activities.

The programme is being coordinated by Dr. Asha Chaubey, Senior Principal Scientist of Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Division & Nodal Scientist, CSIR Jigways Programme, appreciated the enthusiasm of the young minds, and said that such engagement at an early stage transforms interest into lifelong passion and paves the way for future researchers. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Vidhushi Abrol and Poonam Choudhary presented vote of thanks.

## Yudhvir visits landslide-affected area in Peer Kho, Ward 3

### Take up matter with Admin, assures all possible support to affected shopkeepers

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, on Monday raised serious concern over the significant losses suffered by shopkeepers due to a sudden landslide in Ward No 3, Peer Kho area of Jammu. The landslide, triggered by continuous rainfall in the region, caused debris and mud entered into the shops, damaging goods, infrastructure, and disrupting business activity.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Yudhvir immediately reached the site to personally assess the damage and extend moral support to the affected shopkeepers. He interacted with the victims, listened to their grievances, and assured them of all possible help from the administration and his office. Taking prompt action, Sethi contacted the concerned Tehsildar and the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) to seek an immediate response to the situation. He



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi inspecting damages.

urged the concerned authorities to carry out a detailed survey of the affected shops and provide relief without any delay. Sethi said that such natural calamities not only cause financial loss to small traders but also severely impact their livelihoods. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the administration to respond quickly and compensate those affected. "I will personally follow up with

the higher authorities to ensure that adequate compensation is provided to the affected shopkeepers and that preventive measures are taken to avoid such incidents in future," he said. He also requested the district administration to identify landslide-prone areas and implement necessary safety measures to protect both public and private property in vulnerable zones.

## "COLLECTIVE-An Educators/Principals Conclave" held, highlights educational transformation

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark event for the education sector of the region, "COLLECTIVE-An Educators/Principals Conclave" was held here. The conclave brought together over 90 eminent education leaders, making it one of the most comprehensive and diverse gatherings of its kind in the region.

The event was organized by Radha Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to career awareness and educational development, especially in remote and underprivileged areas. The Foundation's Founder, S.S. Nathyal, and Head of the Management Committee, Rajesh Mishra, addressed the participants, sharing insights on the Foundation's impactful work and outlining future plans focused on empowering students and strengthening the



Dignitaries at a conclave in Jammu.

educator ecosystem.

Two high-impact panel discussions formed the core of the conclave. The first panel focused on the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), critically analyzing its advantages and the challenges it poses for students and institutions, especially those in rural and underserved regions. The second panel explored the National Education Policy (NEP), particularly emphasizing the

hurdles in its implementation across remote areas. Each panel was prefaced by compelling keynote addresses from domain experts, setting the tone for thoughtful and engaging discussions. What made the conclave truly unique was the inclusive participation of school leaders from a wide array of institutions-Private, Public, International, Government, Army and Sainik Schools, Christian Missionary Schools,

Kendriya Vidyalayas, and State Board-affiliated schools. Principals and chairpersons from these institutions engaged in lively dialogue, sharing diverse perspectives and ideas for collaborative progress. AMAR UJALA served as the Main Media Sponsor; playing a crucial role in amplifying the event's message of educational reform.

Academic support came from Panipat Institute of Engineering and Technology (PIET) and MIT-World Peace University (MIT-WPU), both of which are committed to promoting quality education and innovation.

The conclave also saw widespread appreciation for efforts to promote the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for students of Jammu and Kashmir. The event reaffirmed the united resolve of educators to bring about meaningful change in the educational landscape, ensuring inclusive and progressive learning opportunities for all.

## Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas organises Prashikshan Varg

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas, Jammu Kashmir, and Ladakh Prant organised two days Prashikshan Varg at Bhargav Degree College Samba under the patronship of Jagram Sanyojak (Convener) North Zone and West Uttar Pradesh were also present and speak on the occasion.

The program began with traditional rituals, including the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and Saraswati Vandana by Dr. Roshi Charak. All dignitaries were warmly welcomed with Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta by Dr. Neetu Kumari Cluster University of Jammu, Vipin Upadhyay, Kuldeep Singh, Sunil Kumar and Uttam Singh.

A total number of seven sessions were held in the 2-day program in which different devotees spoke and focused on the complete establishment of Indian education, regional language in education system, freedom in education and self-reliant India. Professor KS



A dignitary speaking at Prashikshan Varg.

Chandrasekhar vice chancellor cluster University of Jammugrace the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Professor Sudhir Singh, Director (Academics) Jkbose was the Special Guest. The Keynote Address was delivered by Professor Satinder Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Law university of Jammu. vote of thanks delivered by Ranvijay Singh controller of examination cluster university of Jammu President Shiksha Sanskriti uthan Nyas Jammu Kashmir Ladakh prant.

Dr. Akshay Kumar, Sanyojak of the Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Prant, Sah Sanyojak Bhupinder Singh, and Principal P.K. Dhar Bhargav Degree

College Samba welcomed the guests and provided a brief overview of the program.

In her address Professor KS Chandrasekhar, emphasized the importance of reviving the Indian education system, particularly highlighting the need for reforms in the evaluation process and the integration of traditional Indian knowledge systems into modern education.

He emphasized to character building of the youth and People speak more in their mother tongue.

Professor Sudhir Singh underscored the value of India's ancient texts Ramayana and Mahabharata, as foundational sources of wisdom

and the art of living. He highlighted the crucial role of education in nation-building. Professor Satinder Kumar presented a comprehensive overview of the Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas's work and progress.

Other dignitary speakers spoke in a different seven sessions were Dr. Parduman Singh, Prof. Jasveer Singh, Vipin Upadhyay, Prof. Bhav Kumar Sinha, Bhupinder Singh, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Singh, Prof. Neelash Kumar, Prof. Mohinder Singh. Programme conducted by Dr. Parduman Singh and Pawan Kumar.

Others present were Prof. Jasveer Singh rector Kishtwar campus university of Jammu Anil Kumar chairman galaxy college of education, Prof. N.K. Pankaj, Prof. Dinesh Kumar Diwedi, Dr. Vijay, Dr. Tirth Kumar, prof. Parminder Kumar, Dr. Vikas, Advocate Yash Pal, Sunil Kumar, Gopal, Ranjeet Singh, Prithvi Singh, Sunil Kumar, from School Education, and several other educators.

## DIG UR Range reviews security ahead of Budha Amarnath Yatra in Rajouri



DIG U-R Range Sarah Rezvi chairing a meeting at Sunderbani.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Top police officials on Monday reviewed the security setup for the upcoming Budha Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district and stressed the need for foolproof security measures for the pilgrimage.

The 13-day-long 'Budha Amarnath' pilgrimage in J-K's Poonch border district will begin on July 28 from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu. It will conclude on August 9.

"A high-level coordination and security review meeting was held by Sarah Rezvi, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Udhampur-Reasi range, at Sunderbani, for the upcoming Budha Amarnath Yatra," a police spokesperson said.

The meeting, which was also attended by DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma and the district police chiefs of Jammu and Rajouri,

besides officers from the Army and paramilitary forces, was briefed about the deployment and security scenario in their areas of responsibility.

DIG Rezvi mainly focused on ensuring foolproof security measures for the upcoming yatra, seamless traffic management, medical preparedness, sanitation and basic facilities for the yatriss, the spokesperson said.

The officer emphasised inter-agency coordination, real-time communication and round-the-clock monitoring of the yatra route. She directed all concerned officers to remain on high alert during the yatra period and ensure that standard operating procedures are strictly followed.

"Budha Amarnath Yatra is not just a religious event but also a symbol of communal harmony. It is the joint responsibility of all agencies to ensure that the yatra is conducted

smoothly, peacefully, and safely," said the DIG.

The DIG added that the movement of yatriss shall be in convoys only, with proper escort. "Stray vehicles shall be escorted in mini convoys. No yatra vehicle shall move without escort," she said.

She further called for the deployment of adequate security personnel along the entire route and at vulnerable points.

The DIG called for the installation of CCTV cameras and checking points for surveillance, besides the establishment of control rooms for continuous monitoring.

The officer appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders and called for constant review and real-time coordination throughout the yatra period.

She assured the public and yatriss of all possible support and appealed for their cooperation in making the yatra a grand success.

## Shantmanu inaugurates IGNOU LSC at GGM Science College, Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards enhancing access to quality higher education, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu, on Monday inaugurated IGNOU Learner Support Centre (LSC-12133) at Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, here.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Professor Romesh Gupta, Principal GGM Science College; Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu; Assistant Regional Directors, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh and Dr. Zeba, Deputy Registrar, S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Assistant Registrar, Dara Singh and Dr. P. S. Thakur, Coordinator of newly established Learner Support Centre. Earlier, with the approval of Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Professor Uma Kanjilal, based on the recommendations of Sub-Committee of Student Support Centre (SSC) in its 9th Meeting held on May



ACS Higher Education, Shantmanu after inaugurating IGNOU LSC-12133 at GGM Science College.

7, 2025, the Learner Support Centre (LSC) in the GGM Science College, Jammu was notified for BSCM (Bachelor of Science) and MSCZOO (Master of Science in Zoology) programmes. This is the first ever Learner Support Centre of IGNOU in the entire Jammu division to have been notified exclusively for Science based programmes.

While speaking at the event, Shantmanu underscored the importance of accessible and flexible education in today's rapidly evolving academic landscape. He added that the Department of Higher Education is making continuous efforts to strengthen

the teaching-learning ecosystem across all institutions in the UT. Establishing this support centre is yet another step in our learner-centric approach to empower the students from all walks of

life. He assured all cooperation and support from the Higher Education Department to IGNOU by way of expansion of Learner Support Network in the region.

Professor Romesh Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, lauded the initiative and stated, that, this IGNOU centre will open new avenues of learning for both our students and the wider community. It will significantly enhance the academic engagement by offering services such as counselling, tutorials and examination support.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta,

Regional Director, IGNOU RC Jammu, elaborated on the broader impact of IGNOU in strengthening higher education in the region. This collaboration with GGM Science College reinforces our mission to bring quality distance education closer to learners, making it more accessible and inclusive, he further remarked. The newly established Learner Support Centre aims to serve as a vital academic and administrative hub for IGNOU learners across the Jammu region, furthering the goals of inclusive and lifelong education.

## Omar Govt playing vital role in preserving spiritual heritage: Vikramaditya

### Hails Govt for approving development funds for Mata Sarthal Devi Temple

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman of the Sarthal Devi Management Council Trust and former MLC, said that the present Omar Abdullah led Govt playing vital role in preserving the spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former MLC has expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for according administrative approval to the much-awaited development and beautification project of Mata Sarthal Devi Temple in Kishtwar.

Pertinent to mention that the approval sanctioned under Government Order No. DAA&M-478 of 2025 dated July 21, 2025 entails a comprehensive development plan estimated at Rs. 435.24 lakhs. This major step marks a significant push under the larger scheme for Revival,



Restoration, and Preservation of Ancient Religious Shrines and Heritage Structures in J&K.

Vikramaditya Singh, who had earlier written to CM Omar Abdullah urging for the early approval of the project citing its cultural and religious importance, lauded the timely response of the Omar led Government in realizing the aspirations of the people of Kishtwar and devotees of Mata Sarthal Devi. "This shrine is a beacon of ancient Dogra spiritual heritage and holds immense religious value for

the entire region. Its beautification and upgradation will not only strengthen local tourism but also safeguard a vital cultural landmark," he said. He also appreciated the Department of Culture and Archives, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar and members of the Sarthal Devi Management Council for continuously raising the matter at the right forums.

"I hope the execution of the project will commence at the earliest in accordance with the laid-down procedures," he added.

The former MLC reiterated his commitment, as Chairman of the Sarthal Devi Management Council, to continue monitoring the progress of the project and to ensure that the sanctity and architectural heritage of the shrine is preserved for generations to come.

## Randhawa inaugurates 'Pearl's on Leaf' Day Care Centre at Gandhi Nagar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards promoting quality early childhood care in the region, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa on Monday inaugurated a modern Day Care Centre named 'Pearl's on Leaf' at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The centre is an initiative by Satish Bindru and Sons, aimed at providing a safe, hygienic, and intellectually stimulating environment for children.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of several prominent personalities includ-



MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurating a modern Day Care Centre.

ing Rahul Kumar (Mandal President), Daljeet Singh, Sunil Jain, Arun Sharma, Satvir Singh, Sanjay Gupta, Bhushan Verma, Rajesh Sharma, and many other respected dignitaries and local residents.

Randhawa lauded the initiative and said, "In today's world, where both parents are often working professionals, such centres play a vital role in supporting families. It's heartening to see responsible citizens like Satish Bindru and his family stepping forward to contribute to the social infrastructure of

our city."

He also highlighted the importance of quality early education and safe care services in a child's overall development and appealed to other entrepreneurs to take inspiration from such socially beneficial ventures.

The day care centre is equipped with child-friendly infrastructure, educational toys, trained caregivers, and follows modern safety protocols. It aims to become a trusted name for parents seeking reliable day care services in the Gandhi Nagar and surrounding areas.