

# Dr Jitendra urges students to be good ‘learners’

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Wednesday delivered an inspiring keynote address at "The Week" magazine's "Education Conclave", calling upon the students to be good "learners" to harness the power of rapidly evolving. The Minister urged the nation's youth to rise to the demands of a rapidly changing technology landscape. He urged students to keep pace with emerging tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI), while emphasizing the equal importance of Human Intelligence (HI) - creativity, emotional insight, and ethical reasoning. "Technology is evolving faster than ever before, but it must not override our human values. An optimal combination of AI and HI will define the next wave of innovation," Dr. Jitendra stated. The Minister hailed India's National AI Mission, noting that India is now on an equal pedestal with other leading nations in AI technology development. He cautioned, however, against over-dependence on machines and advocated for a hybrid model



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an exclusive conversation during "Education Conclave" organised by "The Week" magazine, at New Delhi on Wednesday.

of learning and governance that balances algorithmic efficiency with human empathy. Dr. Singh highlighted India's growing role in global scientific collaborations, particularly in space exploration, climate tech, and biotechnology. He stated that Indian scientists and startups are now active partners in international missions and innovation challenges, thanks to initiatives such as BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) and IN-SPaCe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center), which facilitate student and private-sector participation. "Today, we don't just wit-

ness rocket launches-we bring 15,000 to 20,000 students to witness them live. We are building scientific temperament at scale," he emphasized. To make scientific research a preferred career path, Dr. Jitendra underlined the government's efforts through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), expanded fellowships, and structured mentorship programs. He pointed to an ongoing shift away from traditional career tracks like engineering and medicine, with students increasingly drawn toward biotech, clean energy, quantum computing, and robotics. "Research is no longer the preserve of PhDs-it starts in

school. Our mentorship programs help teachers identify and nurture potential early," he said. Marking the near completion of five years of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Dr. Jitendra celebrated the policy's transformative impact on subject choice, aptitude-based learning, and interdisciplinary education. He noted that NEP has created space for students to discover and realign their strengths, especially post-Class 10, allowing a shift from rigid tracks to purpose-driven learning. Highlighting the critical role of women in India's startup ecosystem, Dr. Jitendra described women-led development as one of the defining pillars of Viksit Bharat. He praised initiatives like USABHAR, which offer targeted support and incentives for young women entrepreneurs, particularly in cutting-edge sectors like biotech and AI. "Women are no longer just participating-they are leading, and that leadership is reshaping India's innovation story," he remarked. Responding to student concerns about access and equity, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the government's

focus on bridging the digital and scientific divide. Through rural outreach programs, digital access models, and schemes targeted at marginalized communities, the government is ensuring that geography no longer limits ambition. He recounted the story of a young girl from a terror-affected district in Kashmir who cracked the civil services exam by self-studying for 14 hours a day using only digital tools - a testament to the power of accessible technology and self-belief. Addressing questions about ethical challenges posed by disruptive technologies, Dr. Jitendra reassured the audience that India is proactively involving young minds in policy discourse. Missions such as the AI Mission and BIRAC have created platforms for youth engagement and feedback, ensuring that innovation is not only rapid but also responsible. Dr. Jitendra left the audience with a powerful message of being a good learner for self-growth and lifelong curiosity: "Each day, ask yourself-what did I learn? Degrees are temporary; curiosity is forever. Be a true learner and build a future where your mind leads your mission."

# Dr Navneet advocates for Women’s and Child Rights at UN’s 19th International Human Rights Summit

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW YORK: Representing India at the 19th International Human Rights Summit at the United Nations Headquarters, social reformer Dr. Navneet Kaur passionately championed women's and children's rights, highlighting both India-specific challenges and success stories. The summit, themed "Education for Peace," brought together youth delegates from 38 nations to address critical global issues, including human trafficking, nuclear threats, and state-sanctioned discrimination. The three-day event, hosted by United for Human Rights and Youth for Human Rights International, featured keynote addresses and panel discussions from renowned human rights advocates. Dr. Kaur, also the Vice Chairperson of the All India Sustainable Development Council, discussed India's ongoing strides in education and social reforms while emphasizing the power of grassroots human rights education. She underscored the importance of engaging youth in advocating for human rights through tangible actions rooted in the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The summit provided a platform for youth leaders to present their local initiatives. Participants shared inspiring stories and projects aimed at tackling human rights challenges in their communities, with a focus on education as a tool for fostering global peace. Dr. Kaur stated, "When youth, distin-



guished officials, and activists come together, we build bridges, ignite movements, and commit to action that drives lasting change. It is crucial that human rights education becomes second nature to empower future generations." Among the speakers were Dr. Bertrand Ramcharan, former UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ira Helfand of ICAN, who warned about the dangers of nuclear war to the right to life. Dr. Kaur concluded by urging global youth to embrace the power of education for creating a more just, inclusive, and peaceful world. "Together, we can shape a compassionate, united world and turn hope into action," she said, reinforcing the summit's message that peace begins with education.

# Ajaz Choudhary reappointed as National Secretary IYC

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a proud moment for the Pir Panjal region and Mendhar's border belt, Ajaz Ahmed Choudhary from Kallar Mohra has been reappointed as National Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC). This reappointment, approved by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and recommended by Krishna Allavaru (AICC In-Charge of Youth Congress) and Uday Chib (IYC President), highlights Choudhary's unwavering dedication to public service and his deep connection with the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Choudhary's political journey spans years of hard work within the party structure. He has



held several key roles, including Vice President of J&K Youth Congress, State Secretary of PYC, Lok Sabha General Secretary, and President of AYC Mendhar. His leadership journey began as NSUI College President, steadily climbing the ranks through consistent fieldwork and a

strong understanding of grassroots issues. On the national stage, Choudhary has played a key role in elections across states like Delhi, Bihar, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, while also contributing to organizational reforms in NSUI. A proud member of the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribal community, Choudhary's commitment to service and leadership was inspired by his father, Haji Mohd Sharief, a former Sarpanch and BCC President of Balakote. In a message, Choudhary expressed gratitude to his supporters, thanking them for their trust and encouragement. He urged the youth to engage in

public life and politics not for power, but for purpose, pledging to continue his work with renewed energy to serve the people and strengthen the Congress party under the leadership of Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. He also extended special thanks to his colleagues and friends who have walked beside him through years of activism-Ajay, Nadeem Sharif Niaz, Jatinder Chib, Sandeep Sharma, Adv. Anuj Malhotra, Sahil Singh, Sikander Hayat, Romi Sharma, Zaffar Iqbal, Sajid Rashid, Asif Iqbal, Madasar Ahmed, Faiz Ahmed, Nasib, Bilal, Anirudh, Happy, Zulfiqar Ahmed, Qamar Ali Kazmi, and many more who have been part of his journey.

# 1st Women Bn conducts plantation drive at Pargalta

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In view of rainy season, an initiative towards environmental sustainability, the 1st Women Battalion conducted a plantation drive at Pargalta, Bajtala. The drive was attended by Vinod Kumar, DIG Armed/IRP Range, Jammu, alongside R.C. Kotwal, Commandant 1st Women Battalion, Vishal Manhas-Dy.CO, Anita Katal-DySP, Neeraj Gupta, Range officer social forestry Jammu and other officers and staff members of the Battalion. The event witnessed active participation from all ranks, underlining the battalion's commitment to ecological responsibility and community welfare. DIG AP/IRP Range Jammu appreciated the efforts of the 1st Women Battalion for organizing



Vinod Kumar, DIG Armed/IRP Range, Jammu planting a sapling.

the drive and urged all personnel to continue such initiatives across other locations. During the event, 250 number of saplings of various indigenous species were planted across the design-

ated area in Pargalta. The Battalion emphasized ensuring proper care and maintenance of the saplings to support long-term ecological benefits. The plantation drive is part of a series of community

outreach and environmental awareness programs being carried out by the 1st Women Battalion, reinforcing their dedication not only to duty but also to societal and environmental well-being.

# LG Kavinder Gupta pays obeisance at Shree Panch Mukhi Hanuman Mandir

Prays for peace & prosperity of people of Ladakh & the Nation

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, on Wednesday paid obeisance at the revered Shree Panch Mukhi Hanuman Mandir located on B.C. Road, Jammu. On the occasion, the Lt Governor along with Pawan Kumar Shastri, President, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust (JYBT) Jammu/Haridwar; Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary, JYBT; Raj Kumar, Trustee, JYBT; Leela Kiran, Trustee, JYBT; Koshal Kumar, Trustee, JYBT; and Sukhdev Sharma, Working Committee Member, JYBT performed special pooja and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Ladakh and the nation at



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta paying obeisance at Shree Panch Mukhi Hanuman Mandir, Jammu.

large. The spiritually uplifting ceremony was marked by devotion and communal harmony. The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the temple committee and JYBT members for their commendable service, particularly high-

lighting their initiative of providing free meals to attendants of patients admitted in five nearby government hospitals. He said such acts of compassion and service embody the true spirit of 'seva' and strengthen the social fabric of the region.

# JMC Association felicitates Billawaria for new appointment

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, as the General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP. To mark the occasion, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Association President Rinku Gill, along with his team, felicitated Billawaria at BJP Headquarters in Jammu. He was presented with a bouquet, shawl, and memento in recognition of his unwavering dedication to public service and the party's values. The event witnessed the presence of senior party leaders, including J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul and Vice President Rekha



JMC Association members felicitating former Dy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria.

Mahajan. "Baldev Singh Billawaria is a seasoned and committed karyakarta of the BJP. His rise from humble beginnings to this key organizational role reflects his integrity, dedication, and

alignment with the party's principles," said Koul. Koul emphasized that the BJP's strength lies in its disciplined cadre and described Billawaria as a prime example of that tradition.

Referring to the central government's initiatives, Koul said that the removal of Article 370 had restored equal civil rights to Safai Karamcharis in J&K, reflecting the Modi govern-

ment's commitment to dignity and justice. Expressing gratitude, Baldev Singh Billawaria thanked the party leadership, especially Ashok Koul, for their continuous support. "This appointment is not a position of privilege but a responsibility. I assure the leadership of my continued dedication to uphold the BJP's ideals and serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Billawaria said. Rinku Gill, in his congratulatory address, commended Billawaria's proactive approach during his tenure as Deputy Mayor. "We are confident that in his new role, he will continue to be a strong voice for JMC employees and citizens alike," Gill said, pledging full support on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Union.

# Jammu Club organises Plantation Drive under PM Modi’s ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a heartfelt tribute to the environment and motherhood, the Jammu Club organized a plantation drive under the central initiative of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event took place in the lush green lawn of the Jammu Club and witnessed enthusiastic participation from the club committee members, staff, and dignitaries. The plantation drive, aimed to promote environmental awareness and deepen the emotional connects of people with nature by dedicating each planted tree to one's mother.

Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Anuradha Jangid, wife of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Vice President of the Club, lauded the initiative. A versatile artist known for her contributions to the preservation of heritage and culture in Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan besides work for religious art, she personally planted a sapling and called upon women and youth to spearhead such green movements. "Every tree we plant is not just a sapling-it is a legacy. This initiative weaves together love for our mothers with the urgent call to protect Mother Earth. It is a truly beautiful step towards a



Jammu Club Committeer members during a plantation drive.

more compassionate and sustainable world," said Anuradha Jangid. Speaking on the occasion, Honorary Secretary

of Jammu Club, Gaurav Gupta emphasized the importance of environmental responsibility in today's times.

"This campaign is a beautiful initiative that connects personal emotions with ecological well-being. Planting a tree in

the name of our mothers not only honors them but also contributes to a greener and healthier tomorrow," he said.

Appreciating the efforts of Club committee members for promoting eco-friendly initiative, Gupta said that Jammu Club will continue such activities efforts in the future and encourage more members to actively participate. He also appreciated the tireless effort of Kavita Gupta, Chairperson of the Garden Sub Committee of Jammu Club, for maintaining the green cover in the Club's lawn and to ensure that the Club remains a green, vibrant, and serene space. The plantation drive ended with a group pledge to protect nature and contribute to sustainability. Refreshments were served to all participants following the event. The Jammu

Club's initiative under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign has set an example of how local organizations can contribute meaningfully to national environmental goals. Managing Committee Members present on the occasion were Er. Ashok Gandotra, Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, Indu Puri, Ashwani Gupta, Sidharth Samnotra, Dr. Hema Gandotra Jandial, Dr. Ritesh Gupta, Vikram Dhawan besides Dr. Yudhvir Gupta, Manish Gupta, Neha Gupta, Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Ashok Kumar Angural, Ashok K. Vaid, Er. Rakesh Baru, Er. Sanjeev Mohan, Anil Aggarwal, Dr. Kuldip Singh, Ashwani Khullar and others.