

# Gaurav discusses City's beautification, development projects with JMC Commissioner

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry met with Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, at his office in Town Hall, Jammu today. He congratulated Yadav on assuming the position of Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), expressing confidence in his leadership for the city's growth and development.

During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta highlighted several crucial issues regarding the beautification and modernization of Jammu city. He emphasized



Former General Secretary CCI Jammu, Gaurav Gupta meeting with JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

the need for a focused approach to enhance the city's infrastructure, particularly through the various projects

initiated under the Jammu Smart City Mission. He discussed the importance of streamlining these ongoing

projects to ensure they meet deadlines while maintaining quality standards. He underscored that improving urban aesthetics, public amenities, and waste management would play a vital role in boosting the city's appeal to both residents and tourists.

Gaurav also proposed the implementation of citizen-friendly initiatives aimed at improving the daily lives of people in Jammu. He advocated for the creation of more green spaces, better traffic management, and ensuring that heritage sites are preserved as part of the city's development plan.

The JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, appreciated Gaurav Gupta for his valuable suggestions and assured that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to working diligently toward the city's beautification

and infrastructure development. He also laid emphasis on holding dialogue with the community to address their concerns and incorporate their feedback into municipal plans. Additionally, he acknowledged the need to address chronic water logging issues to improve the quality of life for residents. Looking ahead, he outlined a comprehensive plan for the next 40-50 years, focusing on the city's expansion to accommodate future growth and ensure sustainable development.

The JMC Commissioner also mentioned that several projects under the Smart City Mission are in progress, including road renovations, the installation of modern traffic signals, and the development of multi-level parking facilities, all of which are aimed at transforming Jammu into a model urban center.

# JU-CEO Office, J&K ink MoU to enhance electoral awareness and participation



Registrar JU, Prof. Rahul Gupta and Media Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Sapna Kotwal signing MoU.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant stride to enhance electoral awareness and participation, the University of Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), J&K.

The MoU was signed, in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU, and Sapna Kotwal, Media Nodal Officer for SVEEP, along with Akthar Hussain Qazi, Nodal Officer SVEEP, J&K, representing Pandurang K Pole, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

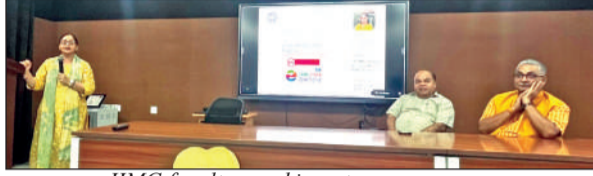
This collaboration aims to strengthen the visibility, outreach, and effectiveness of SVEEP activities. This partnership will utilize the University's Community Radio Station, Dhvani JU 91.2 FM, and also offer students from various departments of the University valuable internship opportunities.

These internships will involve tasks such as data collation, research, and supporting the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, with the aim of increasing voter knowledge and turnout. Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai

highlighted the significance of this new partnership as a major step towards enhancing democratic engagement.

He highlighted the role of Community Radio Station Dhvani JU 91.2 FM in reaching diverse audiences and the importance of involving students in creating educational content. Prof. Rai expressed confidence that this initiative would significantly improve voter awareness, particularly among first-time voters, marginalized communities, and rural areas, fostering greater inclusivity and positively contributing to the democratic process. Among others present on the occasion were Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sethi, Convener of CRS Dhvani JU, and Mr. Ranjeet Kalra, a faculty member of MMTTC and UT Level Icon for Assembly Elections, and Dr. Nitin Sharma, Faculty, The Law School, University of Jammu.

# Sensitization program towards ragging free campus at IIMC Jammu



IIMC faculty speaking at a programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In observance of Anti-Ragging Day and Anti-Ragging Week, IIMC Jammu conducted a crucial anti-ragging session in adherence to the University Grants Commission's (UGC) regulations designed to eradicate ragging in higher education institutions. The event, held on campus, saw participation from key figures including Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director at IIMC Jammu; Prof. Anil Saumitra; Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor of English Journalism; Vishv, Assistant Professor; and Rajeev Kumar and Gulshan Kumar, Academic Associates, among others. Dr. Dilip Kumar addressed stu-

dents about the dangers of ragging, emphasizing its sensationalism and the critical role of discipline, particularly punctuality, in personal and professional growth. Dr. Raviya Gupta delivered a compelling presentation on creating a ragging-free campus, drawing from her own experiences. She advocated for the mentor-mentee system to foster supportive relationships between juniors and seniors and stressed the need for empowering anti-ragging cells with legal support to handle cases effectively. Her impactful statement, "Ragging doesn't break the ice, it breaks lives," underscored her message of mutual respect and support. The session included a review of

UGC guidelines, Supreme Court Committee recommendations on anti-ragging, and discussed various punitive measures for ragging at the institutional level. Anti-ragging posters and the short film "Regret," which was part of the UGC National Film Making competition, were also showcased to raise awareness. Students were encouraged to participate in the national contest and to report incidents via the UGC helpline. The event began with a pledge of mutual respect, promoting unity among students from various departments. In addition, students participated in a live broadcast from IIMC Delhi, where Professor Daya Kishan Thussu from Hong Kong Baptist University delivered a lecture on global media dynamics and China's rising influence. The session was moderated by Vishv, with Rajeev Kumar and Gulshan Kumar serving as event convenors.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Sikh Progressive Front (SPF), under the leadership of President Balvinder Singh, expressed strong concerns over the deteriorating state of hockey in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly criticizing the long-standing mismanagement by Hockey J&K.

Despite being declared a defunct body by the JKUT Sports Council, Hockey J&K continues to operate independently, leading to disastrous performances in national tournaments, he said in a press conference here on Thursday.

In recent events, he said, Hockey J&K's teams suffered

# SPF expresses concern over Hockey J&K's dismal performance, management



SPF President Balvinder Singh talking to reporters.

humiliating defeats. In the Sub Junior Men Women North Zone Hockey Championship held in Jhansi from July 15-22, 2024, the men's team was soundly defeated by Delhi (6-1), UP (18-0), and Punjab (15-0), conceding 39 goals while scoring only 1. The women's team, unable to field a team for the tournament, faced similar dis-

mal results in the Junior Women North Zone Hockey Championship from August 1-8, 2024. They lost to Delhi 39-0, Uttarakhand 25-0, and Haryana 30-0, conceding 94 goals without scoring a single goal.

These results, Balvinder said, underscore the rampant corruption and partiality in Hockey J&K's player selection

process, which SPF and former national and international players strongly condemned. The Sports Council's decision to declare Hockey J&K defunct was welcomed, as the body's actions have deceived and exploited budding players for years.

Despite being defunct, Hockey J&K has initiated the selection process for the upcoming Junior Men Inter Zone Hockey Championship in Jalandhar, Punjab, from September 9-19, 2024, causing confusion and concern among players and their parents about the legitimacy of the teams and participation certificates, Balvinder said. SPF and former players

have called on Hockey India to intervene immediately to prevent further exploitation of players and to restore order.

They urged Hockey India to establish an ad hoc body involving former national and international players from J&K, in consultation with the JKUT Sports Council, to ensure the proper management and promotion of hockey in the region.

Other prominent SPF members and former national players present at the press conference included Manjit Singh, Janak Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Ravinder Singh, Jasvinder Singh Kuku, M.S. Reen (International Umpire), P.P. Singh, and T.P. Singh.

# JKSTIC organizes study visit of students of GCW Udhampur at SKUAST-J

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Students from Government College for Women, Udhampur, recently visited SKUAST-Jammu, where they were introduced to the latest scientific advancements in mushroom biology and apiculture. Organized by JKSTIC, Udhampur, in collaboration with the Institution Innovation Council (IIC) of GCW Udhampur, the visit was held under the guidance of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, and Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The event was coordinated



Students from GCW Udhampur during visit to SKUAST-Jammu.

by Shruti Khanna from JKSTIC and Dr. Ravinder Singh Sudan from SKUAST-Jammu. During the visit, Dr. Ravinder Singh briefed the students about the university's activities and academic programs, encouraging

them to consider careers as agripreneurs. The students explored the Mushroom and Apiculture units, where they learned about various mushroom types, including medicinal varieties, their cultivation, and nutritional benefits. Dr. Moni Gupta

delivered a detailed presentation on the health benefits and biochemical properties of mushrooms. At the Apiculture Unit, students were introduced to the economic potential of beekeeping, including honey production and other bee-

related products. They also visited the Department of Sericulture, where Dr. Kamlesh Bali explained silk production and its significance for rural development.

This visit provided the students with their first hands-on experience of entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture and allied fields. Accompanied by Dr. Kamal Deep and Prof. Rukhsana Kousar, the students showed great enthusiasm. Discussions were also held between SKUAST-Jammu and JKSTIC authorities to explore future collaborations and similar educational visits.

# LIC of India hands over Dividend cheque to GoI



Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, LIC of India, presenting Dividend cheque to Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
Mumbai: Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO & MD, LIC of India, on Thursday presented the dividend cheque of Rs.3662.17 Crores to Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and

Corporate Affairs, as the Government of India's share of Dividend, approved by the Shareholders in the Annual General Meeting held on 22.08.2024.

Dr. M P Tangirala, Additional Secretary, GOI,

Ministry of Finance, Dept of Financial Services was present along with Officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India. M Jagannath MD, Tablesh Pandey, MD, Sat Pal Bhano, MD, R Doraiswamy, MD and J.P.S. Bajaj, ZM(1/C), Northern Zone.

LIC also paid Interim Dividend of Rs. 2441.45 Crores on 1st March 2024, thus totaling to Rs. 6103.62 Crores paid as dividend to Government of India for the year 2023-24. LIC is completing 68 glorious years since its incorporation and as at 31.03.2024 has an asset base of over Rs.52.85 Lakh Crores. It continues to be the market leader in the Indian Life Insurance market.

# Bukhari urges people to use their vote wisely in upcoming assembly polls



Apni Party President S.M.A Bukhari interacting with people.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, urged people to use their votes wisely in the upcoming assembly elections. He was speaking to reporters while he was continuing his poll campaign in Chanapora constituency. Bukhari pointed out that "the assembly polls are being held after a decade in Jammu and Kashmir, and during this period the people have suffered hugely, facing deaths and destruction here."

He emphasised the importance of these elections and said that "these elections must lead to tangible positive change on the ground, providing solace to the people in Jammu and Kashmir." "This change," he remarked, "will only happen if voters choose the right representatives, rather than those they have trusted for decades and who have repeatedly betrayed them."

"Speaking with residents at various locations, he urged them to vote and sup-

port him in the upcoming elections. He shared his vision for the development of the Chanapora constituency and the prosperity of its people. He said, "People have the right to choose their representatives and place them at the helm of affairs. No one can take this right from you; however, I request you to use your vote wisely. These elections must bring about tangible positive change on the ground, and I assure you that if Apni

Party is elected to power, it will ensure a positive and transformative change in J&K." He explained, "We have a clear vision for the protection of the fundamental and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir; in addition to ensuring prosperity and development in this region. We are committed to ensuring the political and economic empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, hosted a group of enthusiastic students from 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of International Daily Rising School (IDRS), Jammu, along with their teachers, for an educational visit to its Jagti campus.

The visit, led by Ruchi Manhas, Vice-Principal of IDRS, aimed to provide the students with insights into



Arup Bhattacharya, Administrative Officer, Academic interacting with students.

higher education and inspire them through interactions

# CS takes overview of IT initiatives for public utilities, services

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a meeting of different stakeholders to take firsthand appraisal of different IT interventions contemplated by the Health, Jal Shakti and other Departments to make their services reliable and accessible to the public.

Besides ACS Jal Shakti and ACS Forest, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PDD; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary Health; Secretary Revenue; Secretary Planning, MD, JJM; MD, HADP; SIO, NIC; representatives of BISAG-N and other concerned officers.

Outstation officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had a detailed discussion with the stakeholders about the technological interventions that could bring effi-



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Thursday.

ciency in the working of their Departments and make them more accessible to the end users.

In order to make the process more fruitful and time-bound, the Chief Secretary advised that each Department should first identify the problem statement to develop the respective workflows for creating solutions with utilization of modern technology available in the market.

He further enjoined upon the concerned Departments to colate the requisite contents for uploading and its integration

with the system. He also asked them to look for available options developed elsewhere so that same could be replicated here.

Besides this, the Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the concerned to constitute a dedicated team of professionals to work in close coordination with BISAG-N for commencing their work instantly with regular follow-up by the higher-ups in the Department.

Regarding the concept of developing IoT/SCADA based

Smart Water Measurement & Monitoring system, the ACS Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, apprised the meeting that such arrangement should address the concerns of end users along with help the administration in making right decisions.

He revealed that this IT initiative is aimed at ensuring timely and adequate water supply to consumers along with addressing the disruptions and maintenance of water supply schemes in an automated fashion.

Jammu." He covered concepts such as global citizenship, diversity, social justice, and sustainable development. His presentation included the "Leadership Equation," which highlights the importance of education, experience, and exposure.

He encouraged students to improve their communication skills and broaden their perspectives through diverse experiences.

The visit was coordinated by the PR office at IIM Jammu.

Arup Bhattacharya, Administrative Officer, Academics, presented on "Higher Education and Outcome-Based Teaching and Learning at IIM

The meeting also took appraisal of the working of recently launched Samadhan portal developed for public grievances management and redressal.

Secretary, Public Grievances Department, Aijaz Asad apprised the meeting about the status of grievance redressal through this application. He also highlighted certain areas which needs intervention from BISAG-N for making the system more efficient, prompt and user-friendly for general public.