

IIM Jammu inaugurates HR Conclave 8.0, focuses on People-Centric Transformation and Future-Ready Talent

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated its flagship HR Conclave 8.0 at the Mandapam Auditorium, Jagti Campus, under the theme "People-First Organizations: Culture, Capability & Change."

The two-day conclave brought together a distinguished panel of HR leaders, industry experts, and academicians to explore the evolving dynamics of workplace culture, leadership, and people-centric strategies.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, Saraswati Vandana, and the felicitation of the Chief Guest, Vermeen Kapoor, Managing Director - Risk, Finance & Treasury Technology at Bausch.

In her address, Kapoor emphasized the need for organizations to foster a culture of psychological safety, allowing teams to "fail faster and learn faster."

She underlined the critical balance between human capital



Vermeen Kapoor, Managing Director - Risk, Finance & Treasury Technology at Bausch lighting a lamp.

and technological transformation, especially in the age of GenAI. Kapoor also stressed the importance of internal mobility, capability building, and celebrating cultural heroes in shaping resilient, innovative workplaces.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, spoke about the transformation of the region under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted the establishment of three Institutes of National Importance - IIM, IIT, and AIIMS in Jammu. He reiterated

ed IIM Jammu's mission in nation-building through innovative initiatives like CITAG, Mission YUVA, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and Anandam: Center for Happiness.

Prof. Sahay also proudly mentioned the institute's achievement of two prestigious international accreditations - BGA and EFMD - within a year, making it one of the top five IIMs in the country.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean of Faculty & Research, welcomed delegates and emphasized the

institute's journey and strong industry-academia partnerships. Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean of Academics, reflected on IIM Jammu's expansion from one to five programs, stressing its global vision and digital transformation focus.

Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson-Placements, highlighted the institute's growing placement success, while Prof. Sanjay Gupta and Dr. Baljeet Singh extended the welcome address and vote of thanks respectively. The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

The first day featured three engaging panel discussions. The first panel, "Aligning HR with ESG Goals: People & Planet Priorities," moderated by Prof. Jabir Ali, focused on integrating sustainability into HR strategies. Industry leaders from Emcare, Menarini, Techno Brain, IQVIA, RoboSoft, and Bausch & Lomb emphasized the importance of diversity, climate-conscious policies, and ethical governance.

The second panel, "Workforce

2030: Skills, Mindsets, and the AI Revolution," moderated by Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, addressed the role of AI in shaping future workforces. Panelists stressed the need for emotional intelligence, adaptability, entrepreneurial thinking, and ethical AI integration, asserting that AI should augment human creativity rather than replace it.

The third panel, "Shift to Skills: Rethinking How We Hire and Grow Talent," moderated by Prof. Sanjay Gupta, emphasized that in today's dynamic business world, skills matter more than degrees. The discussion revolved around the T-shaped model of learning, the need for emotional agility, cross-domain expertise, and lifelong learning.

The day ended with a vibrant networking session and cultural evening, encouraging deeper collaboration between students, faculty, and industry experts. The conclave reaffirmed IIM Jammu's growing stature as a national hub for thought leadership and future-ready management education.

LIC of India hands over Dividend cheque to GoI



R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC of India, presenting Dividend cheque of Rs.7324.34 crore to Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC of India, presented the Dividend cheque of Rs.7324.34 crore to Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, as the Government of India's share of Dividend, approved by the Shareholders in the Annual

General Meeting held on 26th August, 2025.

Nagaraju M., Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, Dr. Parshant Kumar Goyal, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India were present along with the officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India, Sat Pal Bhanoo, MD, Shri Dinesh

Pant, MD, Ratnakar Patnaik, MD and J.P.S. Bajaj, ZM (I/C), Northern Zone.

LIC is completing 69 glorious years since its incorporation and as at 31.03.2025 has an asset base of Rs. 56.23 Lakh Crore. It continues to be the market leader in the Indian Life Insurance market.

JKSS demands early restoration of Jogi Gate cremation ground

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President, J&K Sewa Samiti Jammu (JKSS), Sumit Saharan expressed deep concern over the extensive damage caused to the Cremation Ground at Jogi Gate due to the recent floods.

The meeting was largely attended by committee members including Chairman Chander Mohan Sharma, General Secretary Rakesh Sharma, Secretary Mannu Sharma, Vice Presidents Aman Deep and Sanjay Gupta, Senior Vice President Sardar Darshan Singh, Senior Vice President Girdari Lal Balgotra, Sidharath Sharma, Gaggan Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Mohinder Paul Gupta, and several other members.

Addressing the media,



JKSS Chairman Chander Mohan Sharma talking to reporters at Jammu on Saturday.

President Sumit Saharan stated that the devastating natural calamity had lashed out and damaged most of the infrastructure and property at the cremation ground. He informed that a detailed list of the damaged and washed-away items has already been submitted to the concerned

police authorities for record and investigation.

Saharan further expressed hope that the matter will be investigated promptly and necessary support will be extended by the administration to restore the cremation ground facilities for the general public.

JU mourns demise of Prof. R.R. Sharma, former Vice Chancellor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu today mourned the demise of Prof. R.R. Sharma, an eminent academician, visionary leader, and former Vice Chancellor of the University (Dec 1996 - Nov 2002).

Expressing shock and deep grief over the sad demise, Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai hailed the immense contribution of Prof R R Sharma in steering the University of Jammu on the path of academic excellence.

"Demise of Prof Sharma is a

great loss for Jammu and Kashmir in general and the JU in particular ", the Vice Chancellor said, adding that his passing away has left the academic fraternity and the University community deeply shocked and profoundly saddened. "Prof Sharma's departure has created a huge void in the academic arena of Jammu and Kashmir, which is hard to fill", Prof Rai said.

Educated in the Soviet Union, Prof R R Sharma was a distinguished scholar, who served with great distinction as a Senior Professor at the

Centre for Russian, Central Asian, and East European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from 1973 until his retirement. He was later conferred the title of Professor Emeritus in recognition of his outstanding academic contributions and also served as Dean of the School of International Studies. His intellectual depth, scholarly rigor, and global perspective shaped generations of students and researchers, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in

international studies.

As Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, Prof. Sharma's tenure was marked by remarkable academic growth and institutional advancement. His vision, integrity, and tireless efforts laid a strong foundation for the University's continued progress. In recognition of his lifelong dedication to education, he was honoured with the Gold Medal and Cash Award for Eminent Personalities of Jammu & Kashmir by the State Government in 2002 and 2006-a fitting tribute to his towering contributions to academia and public life.

Prof. Sharma is survived by his beloved wife, Vijay

Sharma, an alumna of the Department of Political Science, and their two children.

The University of Jammu extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and all who mourn this irreparable loss.

"Prof. Sharma's vision and leadership will continue to inspire generations of scholars and administrators. His legacy is deeply interwoven with the growth of this institution," the University said in its condolence message.

"May his noble soul rest in eternal peace, and may his life's work continue to illuminate the path of learning and leadership", the message read.

BJP leadership reviews flood-hit situation, calls for special relief packages



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir held a meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here, under the leadership of J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, and BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul.

The meeting was attended by office bearers, party MLAs, District Presidents, and senior leaders from Jammu and Samba Districts to take stock of the massive losses inflicted by the recent incessant rains, cloudbursts, and flashfloods across the Union Territory. The leaders noted with deep concern that widespread damage has been caused to lives, livestock, standing crops, residential houses, public infrastructure, roads, bridges, electricity and water supply lines. This unprecedented situation, they said, has gravely disturbed the daily life of people in both rural and urban belts. Sat said that the calamity has left many families shattered and immediate relief is the foremost priority. "The government must act swiftly and release adequate funds to provide timely compensation to the affected families. BJP demands a special relief package, over and above the sanctioned funds, so that every victim gets justice. Our party cadre will stand shoulder

to shoulder with the distressed families in this hour of crisis," he asserted.

Sunil Sharma urged the elected representatives and party leaders to persist with their dedicated efforts in serving the flood-affected families, as they have been doing relentlessly since the very first day of the tragedy. He said that the party MLAs and cadre should act as a bridge between the public and administration. The people must feel that BJP is with them in every difficult situation. We will ensure that the government machinery moves quickly to restore normalcy and mitigate the suffering of masses, he said.

Koul emphasized that BJP workers have always led relief efforts in times of natural calamities. He said that BJP cadre must once again rise to the occasion. Along with the administration, NGOs and other agencies, BJP cadres will extend every possible assistance to the needy. The nation-first spirit of the party demands that we remain vigilant and proactive until complete normalcy is restored, he said.

While discussing the assessments and inputs provided by the MLAs and other leaders, it was also stressed to vigorously pursue the release of SDRF funds at the earliest and press for additional central assistance to rebuild the affected regions.

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LEH: Calling Health, Education and Tourism the three lifelines of Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday said that all-out efforts are being made to strengthen these sectors to ensure holistic and sustainable development of the Union Territory.

"Unprecedented development is taking place across Ladakh. From health to education and tourism, new infrastructure is coming up at a rapid pace. It is important to highlight these achievements so that people know about the transformation being made possible by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UT Administration," the Lt Governor said while chairing a review meeting on development projects under the Special Development Package (SDP) and state components.

Drawing from his recent visit to Daman & Diu UT, Kavinder Gupta proposed the introduction of a



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a review meeting.

Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) at SNM Hospital, Leh and District Hospital, Kargil. The advanced system, widely used in modern hospitals, allows rapid transport of lab samples, medicines, and critical documents across departments, ensuring faster and more efficient patient care.

He also stressed the need to establish model schools on the lines of Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir - one of the largest government schools in India - and encouraged exploring Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to boost edu-

cation and infrastructure growth in Ladakh.

On tourism, the Lt Governor underlined the importance of implementing the Ladakh Mountaineering Policy in letter and spirit to safeguard the lives of mountaineers during expeditions and treks in the high-altitude region. "Strict enforcement of safety protocols will not only save lives but also enhance Ladakh's image as a responsible adventure tourism destination," he said.

Earlier, Dr. Tashi Thinles,

Director Health Services, gave a detailed presentation on upcoming projects including a new Medical College and Nursing College, a Cardiac Cath Lab and Sewage Treatment Plant at SNM Hospital, upgradation of District Hospital Kargil, procurement of a 3 Tesla MRI machine, and construction of health centres across Ladakh.

Administrative Secretary, Bhanu Prabha, presented updates on projects in School Education, Higher Education and Technical Education. Administrative

Secretary, Sanjit Rodrigues, outlined the key initiatives of the Tourism Department, including the Bhimbat project, Droupadi Kund project, Penzi La development, Trans-Himalayan Cultural Centre at Leh, Sindhu Ghat Expansion, Chowkhang Vihara project, and restoration of Balti Bazar in Kargil.

He also highlighted Ministry of Tourism-funded projects such as the Julley Leh Biodiversity Park, Hunderman Village Experience, Water Screen Projection Multimedia Show at Kargil, Sound and Light Show at Leh Palace, and the promotion of Mushkoh Valley as a sustainable tourism hub.

Rodrigues further apprised about new policy frameworks - Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023, STP Incentive Policy 2024, and the Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024 - aimed at promoting responsible, community-driven and sustainable tourism across the region.

Directors CSIR-IIIM, Horticulture review Tissue Culture, Virus Indexing and Bio-Control Laboratories at Chakroi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, and Gul Sayed, Director Horticulture, Jammu Division, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, jointly conducted a comprehensive review of the Plant Tissue Culture, Virus Indexing, and Bio-Control Laboratories established at the Mega Fruit Plant Nursery, Chakroi, RS Pura, Jammu, here on Saturday.

These state-of-the-art laboratories have been strategically established under HADP of APD of Jammu & Kashmir Govt. with the objective of producing disease-free planting material through tissue culture-based

mass multiplication of superior fruit varieties while maintaining genetic uniformity.

The virus indexing laboratories are equipped with advanced equipment for comprehensive testing of plant material for the presence of viruses through ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay) and Real-Time PCR technologies.

The bio-control laboratories are designed for the production of eco-friendly bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers, aimed at reducing reliance on chemical inputs and promoting sustainable, environmentally responsible farming practices in the region.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed assured the Director Horticulture



Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed and Director Horticulture, Jammu Division, Gul Sayed with other officials.

that CSIR-IIIM will continue to provide comprehensive technical support and all possible assistance for the successful operationalization

and sustained functioning of these advanced laboratory facilities.

This collaborative initiative represents a significant mile-

stone in modernizing the region's horticulture sector and promises to enhance the production of high-quality, disease-free planting materi-

al for the benefit of farmers and the agricultural economy of Jammu & Kashmir, he added.

Gul Sayed, while speaking

on the occasion, appreciated the full technical support extended by the CSIR-IIIM in setting up of these laboratories.

He further offered to work in close collaboration with CSIR-IIIM for large scale production of bio-control agents and bio-fertilizers, at the state-of-art pilot scale fermentation facility.

Earlier, CSIR-IIIM Scientists Dr. Sumit G. Gandhi and Dr. Srinivas Kota had arranged comprehensive hands-on training programs at CSIR-IIIM for officials of the Horticulture Department in plant tissue culture and virus indexing techniques.

These specialized training sessions were designed to familiarize the Officers and

Technicians of the department, with advanced procedures and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), enabling them to effectively operationalize the laboratories established at the mega fruit plant nursery.

During the meeting the modalities for future research collaboration on prioritized areas, and to make these laboratories fully functional were discussed and finalized.

The meeting was attended by Virinder Kumar, Parminder Singh, Sunil Mehnouri, Abhinav Gupta, Zia-ur-Rashid, Sunil Gupta, Pardeep Dhingra from the horticulture department and Dr. Sumit G. Gandhi & Dr. Srinivas Kota from CSIR-IIIM.