

# IIM Jammu inaugurates second batch of MDP on Corporate Governance for GMs, DGMs of J&K Bank

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu inaugurated the second batch of the two-day Management Development Program (MDP) on Corporate Governance for the General Managers and Deputy General Managers of J&K Bank at its Vedanta MDP Block, Jagti Campus. The program is designed to strengthen governance frameworks, enhance leadership skills, and prepare senior executives for the rapidly evolving dynamics of the banking sector.

Present on the occasion were Narjay Gupta, General Manager, J&K Bank, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu; and Dr. Jaikamal, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. S a n d e e p Ananthanarayanan, CEO, CITA&G, IIM Jammu. Chief Guest Narjay Gupta, General Manager, J&K Bank expressed grati-



GMs and DGMs of J&K Bank posing with IIM Jammu faculty.

tude to IIM Jammu for curating such impactful programs on corporate governance. He acknowledged the positive feedback received from the first batch and expressed confidence that this program would also provide valuable insights and learning experiences.

He also extended his appreciation to the leadership of J&K Bank, particularly the MD and CEO, Amitava Chatterjee, for prioritizing governance-driven learning and development initiatives.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, in his remarks, underscored the importance of co-creating knowledge.

He noted that J&K Bank has carved a niche for itself through its inclusive practices and commitment to the region. He further emphasized that knowledge creation is a two-way process, and programs like these allow new ideas to be churned into the governance and banking ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged participants to take this opportunity to engage deeply, contribute, and embrace the role of being students again.

In his address, Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that this program was conceived to provide an inclusive platform for learning, where top management

comes together to exchange ideas and co-create knowledge. He emphasized that the changing times in the banking sector demand a continuous evolution of governance practices, and such initiatives allow participants to learn from each other in an academic yet collaborative setting.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu, extended a warm welcome to the participants and congratulated J&K Bank for its remarkable growth even in challenging market conditions. He further noted that the unique blend of classroom learning, peer engagement, and case-based dis-

cussions at IIM Jammu is aimed at fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation among executives.

The session culminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Jaikamal, Program Director, IIM Jammu followed by National Anthem. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from 29 senior executives of J&K Bank and will run from September 14 to 15, 2025. The two-day schedule will include interactive sessions on corporate governance, leadership strategies, and case-based exercises to equip leaders with practical frameworks for sustainable decision-making. The participants were also given a tour of the Campus which included Program Office, Smart Classrooms, and Nalanda Library.

This program, curated under the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) vertical of IIM Jammu, reaffirms the Institute's commitment to nurturing leadership and governance excellence in the region.

# Senior Citizens Joy Society celebrates Hindi Day with enthusiasm



Senior Citizens Joy Society members during Hindi Day celebration.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) celebrated Hindi Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, under the chairmanship of Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman SCJS. The event was presided over by B. B. Sharma, former State President of Bharat Vikas Parishad, while Ashok Gupta also addressed the gathering and shared his valuable insights.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Jain underlined the deep cultural and national significance of Hindi Day, observed every year on 14th September to mark the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as India's official language in 1949. He said the celebration is not merely symbolic but an opportunity to rekindle love and attachment for Hindi, which reflects the culture, history, values, and unity of the nation. By promoting Hindi, he added, India's identity and integration are further strengthened at both national and global levels.

Dr. Jain called for concrete steps to popularize Hindi in daily life and institutions. These included encouraging the use of Hindi

in official communication and government offices, making Hindi compulsory in schools along with English and regional languages, and organizing debates, seminars, essay competitions, and cultural events to inspire the younger generation. He also stressed the need for translating technical, scientific, and legal content into Hindi and promoting Hindi on digital and media platforms.

Other speakers highlighted that respect for the mother tongue is the foundation of cultural pride and national unity. They emphasized that Hindi Day serves as a reminder of every citizen's duty to preserve and promote the language for future generations.

On the occasion, H. C. Vaid, C. M. Sharma, Narinder Wadhwa, Prof. Virender Gupta, Anju Bansal, and Monika Khajuria expressed their views. Anju Bansal also recited a melodious song dedicated to Hindi, while Khajuria presented the formal vote of thanks.

The function concluded with a collective resolve by the participants to continue promoting Hindi in daily life, institutions, and society at large, keeping alive its role as a symbol of unity, identity, and cultural pride.

# Weekly Sanskrit Pathshala at Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir promotes Sanatan Dharma among youth



President JYBT, Pawan Kumar Shastri with participating students and others.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant step towards preserving and promoting the spiritual and cultural heritage of Sanatan Dharma, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust (JYBT) organized the weekly Sanskrit Pathshala - Gyan-Yagy Patshala at Shree Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir, BC Road, Jammu. The session was led by Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Trust, with Nareish Sharma and Anuradha Sharma as principal guests. Now in its seventeenth session, the Pathshala has emerged as a beacon of Vedic learning for young minds. Over 60 students, primarily under the age of 15, enthusiastically participated and were taught to recite and understand the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Hanuman Chalisa, and Sundarkand, along with essential teachings on Dharma and Karma.

What stood out was the students' ability to recite complex Sanskrit verses and then translate them fluently into Hindi and English, showcasing not only their devotion but also a deep understanding of the scriptures. Their performance earned heartfelt appreciation from all in atten-

dance.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kumar Shastri emphasized the importance of introducing spiritual education at an early age. "By teaching our children the timeless values of Sanatan Dharma, we empower them to embrace their roots and become proud bearers of our cultural legacy," he said.

Shastri, a well-known religious and social figure, has been instrumental in leading the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust. Under his leadership, the Trust's Haridwar Bhawan offers luxurious accommodation and free Langar Seva to 600-700 devotees daily since 1995.

The Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir in Jammu has similarly become a spiritual center, where 500-600 pilgrims partake in free meals daily and three elaborate Puja Archana ceremonies are held in honor of Lord Hanuman.

Notable Sanskrit scholars Arun Shastri and Dr. Ajay Shastri also reiterated the Trust's commitment to continue Vedic classes. The Trust extended gratitude to all devotees and staff for making the event a resounding success.

# Spellbound performance marks release of Dogri songs

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A mega cultural event dedicated to the promotion of Dogri language and culture was held at Abhinav Theatre under the banner of the Senior Citizens SS Club, Chowadi.

The programme witnessed the release of three Dogri songs, including a bhajan and a rap number, sung by eminent Bollywood playback singers Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota, Sadhna Sargam, and Kailash Kher.

The lyrics were penned by Padma Shri Mohan Singh, Yash Pal Yash, while the compositions were crafted by renowned music director Brij Mohan.

In his welcome address, Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, Chairman of Senior Citizens SS Club, who sponsored the event, expressed concern over the declining use of Dogri in households and markets. He urged Dogras to take timely steps to safeguard their mother tongue before it faces extinction.

The event was graced by Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS, Principal Secretary,



Dignitaries at cultural event at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Department of Culture, J&K, as the chief guest, who lauded the relentless efforts of the Senior Citizens SS Club in promoting Dogra culture and language. Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL, was also present on the occasion.

A highlight of the evening was the stage presentation of the songs, conceived and directed by noted writer and theatre personality Dr. Sudhir Mahajan. With dances choreographed to Dogri folk and classical styles, the performances kept the audience spellbound. The proceedings were conducted in a professional manner by Dr. Mahajan himself.

Addressing the gathering, Maj Gen SK Sharma, AVSM, President of the

Club, criticized CBSE schools in J&K for not implementing the National Education Policy 2020, which mandates teaching in the mother tongue. He stressed the importance of introducing Dogri as a subject in schools and encouraged Dogras to proudly speak their language in homes, workplaces, and markets.

The occasion also saw the felicitation of 30 distinguished personalities of Jammu for their contribution to the promotion of Dogra culture. Among them were Monika Kohli (Sr. Additional Advocate General), Dr. Sanjeev Gupta (HOD Ortho, GMC Jammu), Anoop Verma (President Saraswati Dramatic Club), Dr. Om Goswami, Aarti Sharma, Sunita Jandial, Sourab

Mehta (CA), Dr. Shafika Bano (Gynecologist & Obstetrician), Pratibha Priyadarshani Dutta, Neena Gupta (Ex-Corporator), Rattanprabha (Inner Wheel Club), Reeta Khadyal (JKAACL), Rama Gupta, Sunny Mujju (folk singer), Dr. Meetu Meania, Lalita Sharma, Mrs. Indu Puri (Swadeshi Jagran Manch), Vanita Kohli (Inner Wheel Club), and Hira Lal Abrol (Healthy India Stronger India).

From the education sector, awardees included Dr. Pragya Khana (Principal, GDC Hiranagar), Sonika Mahajan (Principal, The Shree Ram Universal School), Rajni Sarangal (Principal, Naveen Shiksha High School), Neeru Puri (Principal, SD

Tarapuri High School), Amita Sharma (Ved Mandir), Raehna Sharma (Jammu Sanskriti School), Gurpreet Handa (Tiny Tots Hr. School), Usha Slatthia (Creativity Crew), Sheetal Gupta (Perfect Foundation Public School), Dr. Padam Dev Singh (University of Jammu), and Rama Gupta (Environmentalist, DPS Jammu).

The musical compositions were prepared by Sh. Brij Mohan, while Sunny Mujoo choreographed the dances, blending folk and classical traditions. The performances by Sunny Mujoo, Amit Rana, Arun Dev Verma, Sahil Narwalia, Rohit, Suhani, Musrat, Suneha Angural, Palshin Dutta, and Radhika Khajuria received high acclaim from the audience.

The technical aspects were efficiently handled by Pankaj Sharma (lights), Lokesh Chander (sound), and Ravinder Sharma (video execution). The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Vijay Sharma, General Secretary, Senior Citizen Services Support Club Chowadi Jammu.

# Natrang presents Hindi play ‘Shrimaan X’

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the occasion of Hindi Day, Natrang presented a thought-provoking Hindi play "Shrimaan X" under its weekly theatre series Sunday Theatre at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu.

The play was written by noted playwright Giriraj Sharan Aggarwal and ably directed by Neeraj Kant. "Shrimaan X" is a sharp social satire highlighting the clash between human values and mechanical efficiency.

Set in the futuristic "Vigyaan Colony", the story revolves around wealthy Seth Giridhari Lal, who dismisses his servant Gopal and replaces him with a robot that works tirelessly, without error, and with punctual precision. While Giridhari Lal



celebrates this technological leap, Professor Dr. Shrimali, Gopal's mentor, sees it as a dangerous symbol of misplaced priorities. He remarks that India lives in three centuries at once where bullock carts and robots exist side by side.

The conflict escalates into a gripping debate between progress and humanity. A comical yet telling incident

occurs when Giridhari Lal hosts a lunch: the robot, bound by its programmed timing, clears the food away, leaving the guests hungry. The satire sharpens further when the robot, working in a sugar factory, blindly attempts to push a human supervisor into the crusher once it runs out of cane supply. Though disaster is averted, the robot is arrested,

leading to a courtroom climax.

In the end, Giridhari Lal realizes that while machines can excel in efficiency, they can never replace human judgment, empathy, and understanding. The play closes with a powerful question for the audience: Should progress mean replacing people with machines, or should it seek harmony between the two?

The play featured impressive performances by Kananpreet Kaur, Supria Gorka, Aryan Sharma, Kushal Bhat, Krishay Bhatia, and Kartik Kumar. The lights were designed by Neeraj Kant, sound was scored by Kartik Kumar, presentations were made by Kushal Bhat, and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# YRS holds public meeting ahead of Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary celebrations

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A massive public meeting of the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) was held at Gharota village in Jammu district on Sunday in preparation for the upcoming 130th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Leh-Ladakh, and Tibetan Desh, to be celebrated on September 23.

The meeting witnessed participation from thousands of members of the Rajput community, including dignitaries, former sarpanchs, biradari representatives, and community leaders. Prominent among



Yuva Rajput Sabha members during a meeting.

them were Langeh Biradari President Ramesh Singh, Chief Patron Bhabishan Singh, DDC member Joginder Singh, along with several YRS members.

The programme began with tributes paid to a portrait of Maharaja Hari Singh, following which the local community honoured YRS President Sanjeev Singh Rinku with a traditional turban and a sword, symbolizing bravery and justice. Other members of the Sabha were also felicitated for their contributions to the society and the community.

Speaking on the occasion, former YRS spokesperson Vishal Singh briefed the media about the agenda and highlighted the preparations for the forthcoming celebrations.

YRS President Sanjeev Singh Rinku, along with former president Surinder Singh Gilli, Rajveer Singh, Rajan Singh Happy, Vikram Singh Vicky, founder member Rajinder Singh, Ranjit Singh, and Rajesh Singh, addressed the public and shared their views.

In his address, Sanjeev Singh reiterated that YRS will continue to raise its voice for the welfare of the Rajput and Dogra community. He said, "As long as I remain the president of YRS, I will stand with every member and fight for the rights of our society."

He also recalled the far-sighted contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, particularly his historic decision to accede Jammu and Kashmir to India on

October 26, 1947. "Because of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's vision, today we proudly call ourselves Indians. On his birth anniversary, the people of Jammu and Kashmir should unite in joy and reverence to honour his memory," Singh added.

The Sabha members invited the public to participate in the Dogri cultural programme scheduled on September 22 (8 pm - 12 midnight), where Dogra artists will perform and highlight the contributions of Dogra rulers and warriors. They also appealed for massive participation in the mega rally on September 23, which will begin from MD Resort, Keran Bantalab and conclude at Bikram Chowk Tawi bridge, where the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji stands.

The Sabha urged participants to attend in traditional Dogra attire-white pachama kurta, saffron turban, and swords (sheathed)-to showcase pride in Dogra culture.

The gathering pledged wholehearted participation in the upcoming programmes, vowing to sing praises of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji across Duggar region and uphold their Dogra pride.

# NMC urges PM to release pending installments of DA

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) President Subash Shastri on Sunday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce and release the pending instalment of 3% DA due from July 1, this year in favor of both central/state governments employees and pensioners in view of increasing inflation and price hike of essential commodities and take decision in this regard at the forthcoming meeting of the

union cabinet as the festival season about to begin from 22 of September 2025.

In a memorandum sent to the Prime Minister, Shastri while giving facts and figures said the price index which was 6.89 per cent in December 31 Last year has now increased to 12.49 per cent in June 30, 2025.

The rate of compensation was revised every six months based on average of the consumer price index for previous months.

He said prices of all

essential commodities had gone up considerably, there was no justification on the part of Central Government for withholding this installment for their employees and pensioners.

He urged Modi to declare Jammu and Srinagar B-1 City also. He said giving B-1 cities status to both capital cities would ensure more flow of funds for upgrading infrastructures and modernizing civic amenities.

While pleading the cause

of sixty one thousand daily rated workers working in various departments of the JKUT Government, Shastri also urged Modi to immediately grant special package to the tune of Rs 2000 crore per annum for at regularization of 61000 casual/seasonal labourers in one go.

Restore old pension scheme (OPS) as a confidence building measure, release of 18 months pending DA arrears, like UT Ladakh the amount of should be increased to Rs.1000 per month in

favour of JK UT pensioners from April 2020, computation period should be reduced to 12 years, pension should be increased @ 5,10 and 15 percent after completion of 65, 70 and 75 years of age of pensioners, beside issue the notification of appointment of chairman and members of 8th pay commission so that commission would submit its report to the central Government in appropriate time were other demands highlighted in the memorandum.