

IIM Jammu hosts valedictory ceremony of MDP on Corporate Governance for Senior Executives of J&K Bank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu conducted the Valedictory Ceremony of its specialized second batch of Management Development Program (MDP) on Corporate Governance for GMs & DGMs of J&K Bank designed exclusively for General Managers and Deputy General Managers of J&K Bank on Monday at Jagti Campus. The program aimed to equip senior executives with advanced insights and best practices in corporate governance, enhancing their ability to drive ethical, transparent, and sustainable business practices. The program consisted of 29 participants.

Present during the valedictory ceremony was Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. Jaikamal, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy; Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, EE & C; Dr. Ashish Kumar, Assistant Professor, IIM



Dignitaries at the valedictory ceremony of specialized second batch of Management Development Program at IIM Jammu.

Jammu; Dr. Sandeep Ananthanarayanan, CEO, CiTaG, IIM Jammu.

The session began with a warm welcome, followed by a detailed program report presented by Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Participants shared their reflections, highlighting the transformative learning experience and the applicability of corporate governance principles in strengthening J&K Bank's leadership and operations. Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, in his address, spoke about his discussions with the MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee, on the way for-

ward for J&K Bank. He emphasized that IIM Jammu would partner in this journey and work collectively towards its growth to becoming the topmost bank in the country. He expressed his interest in hearing feedback from participants and noted that the responses shared were both valuable and encouraging. Concluding his remarks, he reiterated the shared vision of making J&K Bank a leading institution across India and the globe.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, EE&C, IIM Jammu, spoke about the training program for

J&K Bank and suggested planning dedicated sessions for junior employees with a focus on areas such as portfolio management. He emphasized the role of program directors in designing a well-structured curriculum and remarked that this marks the beginning of a meaningful collaboration between IIM Jammu and J&K Bank.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Jaikamal, Program Director, IIM Jammu, who acknowledged the active participation and enthusiasm of the executives from J&K Bank. He emphasized the collective

responsibility to curate and cultivate better practices in governance that can positively contribute not only to organizational excellence but also to the larger goals of government and society. This was followed by the National Anthem.

The MDP, held from September 1 to 15, 2025, featured sessions on best practices in corporate governance, leadership strategies, and case-based discussions relevant to the banking sector. The two-day training program brought together senior leaders of J&K Bank to strengthen governance practices, leadership skills, and sustainable decision-making frameworks. The program was coordinated and executed by the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) division of IIM Jammu. It reaffirmed IIM Jammu's vision of contributing to nation-building by creating socially responsible, globally aware, and ethically grounded leaders, while fostering strong partnerships with leading organizations like J&K Bank.

Become job givers, not just job seekers: Rekha Mahajan asks youth



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan after inaugurating 'SM Glembox' Makeup Studio.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly believes that India has a lot of latent entrepreneurial energy, which needs to be harnessed so that we become a nation of job givers, more than job seekers. This was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu and Kashmir Vice President Rekha Mahajan while inaugurating the 'SM Glembox' Makeup Studio in Jammu. Rekha Mahajan accompanied by Ankit gupta Spokesperson Bharatiya Janata party Jammu & Kashmir .

Rekha Mahajan, as the chief guest, said that under the leadership of PM Modi, the NDA Government has created an enabling environment for entrepreneurship by launching flagship initiatives such as Startup India, Skill India, Stand-Up India and Make in India. These programmes, she

noted, are empowering youth, particularly women, to convert their skills into opportunities and emerge as job creators.

She emphasized that the opening of SM Glembox Makeup Studio is a reflection of this larger vision, where young entrepreneurs are contributing to both economic growth and employment generation.

"The Modi Government is committed to nurturing the spirit of enterprise in every sector, including beauty and wellness, which has vast potential to grow as a vibrant industry," she said.

BJP spokesperson Ankit Gupta lauded the efforts of the new entrepreneurs and highlighted the recent GST slab cut on beauty parlours by the Modi Government. He said this reform will provide major relief to small and medium business owners and encourage more

investment in the sector.

"The GST reduction is not only financial support but also a strong recognition of the growing importance of the beauty and wellness sector in India's economy. It will help entrepreneurs expand their businesses, generate employment, and provide better services to customers," Gupta added.

The inauguration was attended by a number of locals and well-wishers who appreciated the launch of a modern grooming studio in Jammu. The new venture is expected to provide professional services while also creating job opportunities for skilled youth. "SM Glembox Makeup Studio aims to offer high-quality beauty and grooming services while also generating employment opportunities for trained professionals in the region," owner of the Studio asserted.

Sadhotra calls for long-term flood mitigation plan in Jammu Region



NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra visiting flood-hit area.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, has called for a comprehensive and well-planned flood mitigation strategy for the Jammu region in light of this year's unprecedented rainfall, flash floods, and widespread damage.

During a visit to Katal Batal in the Nagrota Assembly constituency, Sadhotra expressed concern over the extensive destruction caused by heavy rains, particularly the damage to the Jhulla bridge, which has disrupted pedestrian movement and affected access to the historic Pedh Devta shrine, visited annually by over ten lakh devotees.

"The disruption is not just about infrastructure-it's about preserving our cultural heritage," Sadhotra emphasized, urging the authorities to prioritize timely repair and strengthening of the damaged bridge.

Interacting with local residents, he was apprised of the urgent need for constructing protection bunds to shield the area from recurring monsoon flooding. Villagers raised concerns about the annual damage to crops, homes, and local infrastructure due to lack of embankments, which has pushed many to the brink.

Sadhotra strongly advocated for scientific and climate-resilient planning, highlighting the failure of the so-called "double engine government" to

act on these concerns over the past decade.

He expressed hope that with a popular government now in place, experts and engineers would be engaged to draft a time-bound action plan for implementation in mission mode.

He lauded the proactive and compassionate approach of the Omar Abdullah-led government, recalling its swift and people-centric responses during past natural disasters. He also appreciated the Jammu District Administration for providing relief to those whose homes were damaged.

Responding to the locals' demand for interim connectivity to the Pedh Devta shrine, Sadhotra urged the authorities to provide boat services until the bridge is restored. He also contacted the Chief Engineer, R&B Jammu, for the early preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a new bridge connecting Katal Batal to the shrine.

Sadhotra assured continued support from the National Conference in raising flood-related concerns at every relevant forum.

He was accompanied by senior party leaders including Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghubir Singh Manhas, Gurnam Singh, Ashwani Charak, and others.

10th Asian PGPR Society India Chapter National Conference inaugurated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 10th Asian PGPR Society India Chapter National Conference on "Fostering PGPRs for Secondary Green Revolution towards Soil and Crop Health Management" was inaugurated today at the Auditorium of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Canal Road, Jammu. The three-day event is being jointly organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), the Asian PGPR Society, and its Indian Chapter for Sustainable Agriculture.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Chief Patron of PGPR-2025. The function was graced by Dr. Vishnuvardhana, Vice Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and others at a conference.

Jammu was the Guest of Honour.

The program began with the traditional lighting of the lamp. Dr. Brajeshwar Singh, Professor & Head, Division of Microbiology, SKUAST-Jammu and Local Organizing Secretary, presented an overview of the conference. Key addresses were delivered by Prof. V. Devappa, President, Asian PGPR Society for Sustainable Agriculture and Prof. M.S. Reddy, Founder & Chairman of the Society from Auburn University, USA.

In his presidential address, Prof. Tripathi emphasized the role of Plant Growth

Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPRs) in enhancing soil fertility, reducing dependency on chemical fertilizers, and leading the way towards a sustainable "secondary green revolution." He described the conference as a platform for scientists, farmers, industry experts, and policymakers to collaborate and chart a roadmap for microbial innovations in agriculture.

Chief Guest Dr. Vishnuvardhana appreciated the efforts of SKUAST-Jammu and the Asian PGPR Society in fostering international collaboration and stressed the need to translate microbial technologies to the

field for the benefit of farmers. Guest of Honour Dr. Zabeer Ahmed highlighted the importance of academia-industry partnerships in developing PGPR-based solutions.

Prof. S.K. Gupta, Convener of the Conference and Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, underlined the significance of PGPR research in addressing global agricultural challenges and called for stronger ties between researchers, industry, and farming communities.

Over the next three days (September 15-17), the conference will feature keynote lectures, invited talks, oral and poster presentations, and a panel discussion, with participation from eminent scientists and delegates from across India and abroad, including the USA, UK, and Hungary.

The function concluded with remarks by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu, followed by the National Anthem.

BJP organizes free medical camp for flood-affected families in Jeevan Nagar



Former Dy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurating free medical health check-up camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant outreach effort, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, inaugurated a one-day free medical health check-up camp at Jeevan Nagar, located in the R.S. Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency.

The initiative aimed to provide timely medical aid to families affected by the recent floods.

The camp was organized under the leadership of Bharat Bhushan, Convener of the J&K BJP Tourism

Cell, and supported by BJP J&K Convener of All Cells, Ved Raj Sharma, Narinder Gupta (Kokki), and other senior party workers.

A large number of local residents attended the camp, which saw the participation of a dedicated team of qualified doctors and paramedical staff who offered free health consultations, diagnostic tests, and distributed essential medicines and hygiene kits.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to public welfare, stating, "The party stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the people in

every hour of need. This camp is a step towards providing immediate relief to flood-affected families who are facing both health and livelihood challenges."

He emphasized that such initiatives are vital in reducing post-disaster health risks and ensuring that vulnerable families receive the support they need to begin recovery. "This is a small contribution towards helping people regain normalcy. BJP is determined to carry out similar camps in other affected areas as well," he added.

Ved Raj Sharma highlighted that the initiative reflects BJP's broader vision of community welfare beyond politics. "Our programs are rooted in humanitarian values, and we aim to be present wherever people need us," he said.

Locals appreciated the initiative, thanking BJP leaders for their timely intervention and compassionate outreach during a time of crisis.

CCI raises alarm over poor roads, damaged services in Jammu; seeks permanent solutions



CCI President Arun Gupta chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) today expressed deep concern over the worsening condition of roads, drainage, and essential services in Jammu, calling for urgent and lasting government intervention. In a meeting of office bearers, CCI President Arun Gupta highlighted the urgent need for a permanent solution to the ongoing infrastructure crisis. "Almost all the roads, lanes, and the drainage system, including the national highway, are in a bad condition. Continuous heavy rains and flash floods are severely hampering the free movement of vehicular traffic and the general public," Gupta said. He acknowledged that the administration has been making temporary efforts, such as filling ditches with muddy waste material, but cautioned that such stop-gap arrangements would not last. "This will simply wash away during the next rainfall. The government must implement permanent corrective measures to find a lasting solution," he stressed. Gupta also raised alarm over the disruption in water supply across Jammu, which has compounded the hardships of the people. "The water supply system has been completely damaged in and around Jammu. People are suffering badly," he said, urging the authorities to act on a war footing. The CCI President appealed to the government to prioritize road restoration, proper drainage, and water supply repairs to ease the difficulties being faced by residents. The Chamber has requested immediate action to restore normalcy and ensure that such crises are addressed with long-term planning and durable solutions rather than short-term fixes.

Delphic Council of J&K holds executive meeting, plans interstate cultural event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Delphic Council of J&K (Registered Society), dedicated to promoting art and culture in the region, held its Executive Body meeting at Jammu Club on Monday. The meeting focused on the upcoming three-day Interstate Cultural Event scheduled to be held in Srinagar from October 14 to 16, 2025, in collaboration with Jammu

& Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The meeting was presided over by Er. Ashok Singh, President of the Delphic Council J&K and National Director of Membership, Delphic India. During the session, three distinguished members were inducted into the society: Ramesh Chander (JKAS Retd.), Dr. Geetika Kohli (Entrepreneur & Writer), and



Rakesh Anand (Renowned Flutist & Mouth Organ Player). Er. Singh emphasized the role of culture in

fostering peace and unity across states. Several event committees, including a core committee, were formed to ensure smooth execution. Members also took a pledge to make the event a grand success. 22 members present in the meeting were Vijay Puri, Narendra N Thussu, Dr. Amrish S Kohli, Naseem Akhter, Dr. Sushma Rajput, Dr. Deepali Wattal, Ramesh Kumar

JKAS (Retd.), Dr. Geetika Kohli, Er. Pankaj Sharma, Er. Kulbushan S Bhau, Rakesh Anand, Er. Surjeet S Manhas, Er. Vinod Verma, Asha Kesar, Er. Nirmal S Chouhan, Darmesh Nargotra, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Varinder Puri, Er. Bal Bushan Bali Baynam, Sheetal Verma DD, Media and others. The vote of thanks was presented by Vijay Puri.