

# JKBOSE, JKACS organise UT Level Quiz Competition on HIV/AIDS

## ASCS Banihal selected to participate at Regional Level

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Academic Division of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), organized the Divisional & UT-Level Red Ribbon Quiz Competitions simultaneously at Jammu and Srinagar.

The 19 participating teams of the final competitions were drawn from school-level and District level rounds engaging about 700 across the UT, a testament to the event's wide-reaching impact.

One team each from 19 districts of the UT participated in divisional-level competitions. The final result at UT-level declared the team of Aalam Shah Convent School (ASCS) Banihal, Ramban at first place winning the cash prize of Rs. 10,000, followed by Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Arihal, Pulwama at second place with cash prize of Rs. 8,000 and D.S Education Institution, Rajouri in third place with cash prize of



Winner students posing for a photograph with dignitaries.

Rs. 6,000. The winner team will participate in the regional level test at Haryana on 22nd of this month.

Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Secretary, JKBOSE, inaugurated the competitions. He urged the students for compassion towards those living with the AIDS virus.

"The society must exhibit genuine concern towards AIDS victims. Those unfortunate people need our empathy not mere sympathy. They are integral members of society, worthy of equal respect and acceptance. Awareness is the best preven-

tive means to save the society from this menace," he added.

He also expressed his satisfaction over the collaborative effort of JKBOSE and JKACS to work for this important cause.

The Special Guest of Honor, Dr. Monica Wali, Medical Officer, I/c IEC, JKACS, emphasized the transformative role of knowledge in eradicating prejudice.

"Knowledge is the antidote to stigma, and initiatives like these are invaluable channels for spreading awareness," she observed.

Dr. Sudhir Singh, Director Academics, presided over the programme. He underscored the value of such programs.

"Each team displayed remarkable preparation and dedication to understand AIDS-related issues. The purpose of the programme is to educate the students to save society from this fatal disease. Students shall act as beacon of light in spreading awareness in society," he added.

The UT level event was dignified by the presence of Joint Secretaries JKBOSE Dr. Sanjeev Goswami, Fateh

Singh, Vijay Chanyal, Ashok Chopra, Shanaz Chowdhary, and Abdul Gani Dar; Madan Lal, CAO, Dr. Rumissa Shawl, Deputy Director; Rishesh Khajuria, Assistant Director (IEC), Rajesh Sharma, Assistant Director (Youth Affairs), JKACS & Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan, Assistant Director; JKACS, Asstt. Director JKBOSE Dr. Aliya Qayoom, and Academic Officers Ifikaar Inram, Zubair A. Khatlani and Yasmin.

Academic Officer Syed Kashif Hashmi was the Observer. Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics-JD, Sugandh, Academic Officer and Khurshed Bhat Sr. Lect. DIET Baramulla were quiz masters.

Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics-JD and Dr. Arif Deputy Director CDR KD were the organizers of the competitions. Chander Sharma, Academic Officer, was the scorer. Sugandh, Academic Officer, gracefully anchored the event.

# Screening of Documentary on Drug De Addiction held at GDC Kunjwani

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a powerful initiative aimed at raising awareness about substance abuse, a drug de-addiction documentary was screened today for the students of Government Degree College Kunjwani.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 50 students who engaged deeply with the content and received valuable guidance on the dangers of drug addiction.

The program was jointly organized by NCORD and the NSS Unit of GDC Kunjwani, under the banner of Shikshit Bharat, a national movement promoting education and awareness.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal Prof. Dr. Manisha Kohli, whose leadership continues to inspire impactful academic and social initiatives at the college.

The documentary screening and interactive session



Drug de-addiction documentary being screened at GDC Kunjwani.

were coordinated by Dr. Neeru Sharma and Prof. Risha Kumari, who ensured the event was both informative and engaging.

Their efforts were instrumental in creating a safe space for students to reflect on the challenges posed by drug abuse. The event was also graced by the presence of esteemed faculty members including Prof. Shrikant Sharma, Dr. Sehrish Gazal, and Dr. Ramnik Kour, whose sup-

port added depth and perspective to the discussions.

Students found the documentary fruitful and enlightening, gaining insights into the psychological, social, and health-related consequences of addiction.

The session concluded with interactive guidance and counseling, empowering students to make informed choices and become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

# IIIM Incubator receives 'Bharat Incubator Award 2025'



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM after receiving award.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, has been conferred with the prestigious Bharat Incubator Award 2025 at the 4th Bharat Entrepreneurship Summit held at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi.

The summit, organized annually by the Entrepreneurs Association of India (EAI), is a flagship national event that honours excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship.

This national-level recognition celebrates the significant role played by IIIM-TBI in

nurturing innovation, supporting startups, and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

Expressing pride in the achievement, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM and Chairman of IIIM-TBI, highlighted the institute's consistent efforts to empower startups across key sectors such as agri-tech, nutrition, healthcare, Phyto-pharma, aroma, and biotechnology.

"This award validates our unwavering commitment to innovation and sustainable economic growth in the region," he said.

Dr. Ahmed also acknowledged the visionary leadership of Dr. Jitendra Singh,

Union Minister of Science and Technology & Vice President CSIR, and credited the broader success of the startup movement in India to the "Start-up India, Stand-up India" initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the ceremony, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Sr. Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator of IIIM-TBI, informed that CSIR-IIIM currently operates three incubators: the BioNEST Incubator at Jammu, the BioNEST at Industrial Biotech Park, Kathua, and the Atal Incubation Centre at IIIM Branch, Srinagar.

Together, these centres have supported over 125 startups, with more than 20 products successfully commercialized.

The summit was graced by Chief Guest Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister of Industries, Food Supplies, Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Govt. of Delhi. Distinguished attendees included Manoj Kumar Singh, former Chief Secretary of UP, and senior EAI members.

CSIR-IIIM expressed gratitude to EAI for the honour and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing science-led entrepreneurship and fostering inclusive growth across J&K.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, visited the cloud-burst and flash flood-affected villages of Sadi Kala, Sadi Khurd, Jakhan, Soura, Lipera, and Sahano in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency to assess the situation first-hand and express solidarity with the affected families.

During his extensive visit, Sadhotra interacted with locals who have suffered substantial losses due to torrential rains and cloud-bursts, which caused massive damage to infrastructure, utilities, and private property. He assured the residents that their concerns would be taken up with the administration on priority.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Sadhotra pointed out severe disruptions in road connectivity, electricity supply, water sources, and damage to residential homes.

He immediately contacted Chief Engineers of Roads & Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Power Department, and the Director of Rural Development, urging them



NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra visiting flood-affected village.

to expedite restoration works, especially in the remote belts of Nagrota, including Jindrah to Sadi Gali and Karai Dhar Narsoola. He emphasized the need to restore road access to Gujjar and Bakerwal Bastis, which remain isolated and depend heavily on connectivity for livelihood and supplies.

He also stressed the urgent repair of access roads to Mata Kali Ji Ashapath, a significant religious site attracting large gatherings.

While appreciating the efforts of the administration, Sadhotra acknowledged that the response so far has been in line with the people-centric approach advocated by former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He urged line departments

to pool their resources and speed up the pace of

restoration to bring normalcy at the earliest.

# Lt. Col (rtd) among four convicted in Rs 13.36 lakh Oriental Insurance Fraud Case

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases), Jammu, Pawan Kumar Sharma, today convicted four accused in a long-pending case of insurance fraud registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2007. The case pertained to fabrication of documents and submission of a fraudulent insurance claim amounting to Rs 13.36 lakh. According to the prosecution, the accused, in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy, fabricated insurance documents in the name of a non-existent person, T.K. Raina. They fraudulently claimed that Raina's residential house had been gutted in a fire and raised an insurance claim with the Oriental Insurance Company. To camouflage the fraud, the conspirators manipulated records by changing addresses and used the genuine fire incident of Devki Devi, widow of Tara Chand Bhat of Bougam, Kulgam, whose house had been burnt by militants in October 2000. False reports and forged documents were submitted to establish a claim of ₹13.36

lakh, which was processed and sanctioned by the Insurance Company. The CBI investigation established that the claim was entirely bogus as neither T.K. Raina nor the insured property existed. The survey report prepared by M/s Saraf Investigators Pvt. Ltd. and further supported by co-accused officials was found to be fabricated. The Court held the following accused guilty under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B RPC and provisions of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act are Darbari Lal, Teacher, Govt. Middle School, R.S. Pura, Manoj Kumar Dhar, resident of Upper Barnai, Jammu, G.K. Rangroo, then Assistant Divisional Manager, Oriental Insurance Company, Jammu and Lt. Col. (Retd.) Charanjit, Proprietor, M/s Expert Investigating Services, Jammu. The prime accused, Subash Saraf, Surveyor of M/s Saraf Investigators Pvt. Ltd., died during the pendency of trial. Darbari Lal and Manoj Kumar Dhar: Sentenced to terms of imprisonment for three years, along with fines up to ₹50,000 each. Lt. Col. (Retd.) Charanjit: Considering

his advanced age and ill health, the Court awarded reduced punishment-six months under Section 419 RPC, one year each under Sections 420, 467, 468 RPC, and six months each under Sections 471 and 120-B RPC, besides fines. All sentences shall run concurrently.

G.K. Rangroo: Pronouncement of sentence has been deferred due to his hospitalisation. Sushil Negi, Senior Public Prosecutor (CBI), argued that the accused committed serious economic offences and cheated the Oriental Insurance Company by producing forged documents. He maintained that "such offences corrode public confidence in institutions and deserve maximum punishment." Advocate Vinod Wali, appearing for the accused, pleaded for leniency citing prolonged trial, old age, and family responsibilities of the convicts.

The Court observed that corruption has polluted every sphere of public life and strict punishment is necessary to deter such crimes. However, limited leniency was extended to certain convicts on account of mitigating.

# Is Rahul dancing to tune of 'Deep State' Chugh



### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that Rahul Gandhi seems to be playing into the hands of the "deep state" by spreading a disruptive and misleading narrative in the country.

Taking strong exception to the unsubstantiated claims Rahul Gandhi made at a media interaction, Chugh said the Karnataka High Court had already delivered a big blow to the shallow campaign on the voters' list being built by the Congress leader.

Chugh pointed out that the Karnataka judgment, which has set aside the election of a Congress MLA, has put the Congress on the defensive and comprehensively established that Rahul Gandhi is calculatedly trying to run down constitutional institutions.

He asked Rahul Gandhi to explain his repeated secret overseas sojourns and to clarify before the nation whether George Soros is engineering his political script.

# Multi Media Exhibition of CBC under on BNS-23, Mission LiFE, SHS and CSSs at Sunderbani



Participating students posing for a photograph with faculty.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: As a part of ongoing Nationwide awareness campaigns on Centrally Sponsored Schemes an Integrated Communication Outreach programme (ICOP) will be organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Rajouri, (J&K), Ministry of

Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India at Govt. Higher Secondary School, (GHSS) Bajabain, Sunderbani, Rajouri on 19th & 20th September 2025 in coordination with District Administration Rajouri.

The Exhibition showcases various Centrally Sponsored

Schemes through display panels. Selfie corner; Seminar (Expert Lectures on Centrally Sponsored Schemes), open quiz, cultural programmes and 'New India Samachar' magazine of Govt of India will be the main attraction for the youth. People are requested to visit the exhibition (free entry) which helps

them in knowing various schemes and their benefits and avail schemes.

In order to mobilize masses to visit Multimedia Exhibition a pre-publicity event was organized at Govt. HSS, Bajabain. Vijay Mattoo, I/c CBC Rajouri in his address during morning assembly, urged the Students to spread the message among common masses regarding the event.

In a drawing competition about 40 students from GHSS Bajabain and International Public School Bajabain participated.

Winners and participants of the competitions will be honoured by CBC, Rajouri in the main event.

# Nukkad Natak on drugs abuse organised

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A "Nukkad Natak" Show was organized in the Billwar area i.e (GHSS Billawar, GDC Billawar, GHSS Pallan & Phinter Chowk) under Civic Action Programme 2025-26 by PS Billawar whose main aim is to create awareness about "Drug Abuse" among the youth. The show was a huge success and drew attention to the rising drug abuse problem in our society.

The performance of "participants covered various aspects related to drug abuse, including the adverse effects of drug addiction on an individual's health, its impact on society, and the various meas-



Police officer speaking at awareness programme.

ures that can be taken to prevent it. The play, which showcased various scenarios related to drug abuse, was highly informative and left a lasting impact on the audience.

The performance was attended by the police team of PS Billawar, School Staff, students as well as large

number of community members and was organized under the guidance of SDPO Billawar Neeraj Padyar, Insp. Zaheer Mushtaq SHO PS Billawar under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saksena. It was highly appreciated for its informative and thought-pro-

voing nature, which helped spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

The General Public thanked #Kathua Police for initiating and organizing the Nukkad Natak Show and hope that this will inspire others to organize such initiatives in the future.

# Div Com reviews implementation of National Clean Air Program in Jammu City



### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of action plan for improvement of Air quality in the district and implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Jammu, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Joint Commissioner JMC.

The Divisional Commissioner was apprised

about the expenditure of funds under NCAP for 2024-25 with sector wise interventions to reduce the air pollution in the city. The key focus areas included end to end paving of Roads for dust control, greenery development, mechanical road sweeping, greening of open areas and traffic corridors, improvement of traffic junctions for decongestion.

He was also apprised on the involvement of schools and colleges for mass awareness and public outreach programs.

Reviewing the proposals of projects for the year 2025-26, the Divisional Commissioner was informed that a total of 14 road improvement works

worth Rs 868.14 lakh and eight projects for development of green spaces at the cost of Rs 721.26 lakh have been taken up by the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The new projects include end to end pavement of different roads in the city, lying of concrete interlocking tiles and beautification of garbage vulnerable points. Projects under Green spaces development include landscaping and construction of Green strips along different major roads.

Enquiring about the tendering process of the projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officials for expeditious implementation of all projects with focus on quality of works and timely competition.

He issued directions to ensure downward flow of water from the drains along the roads and construction of water soaking pits to avoid water logging.