

VC CLUJ oversees conduct of maiden Ph.D. Entrance Examination- 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) has achieved a significant milestone by conducting its maiden Ph.D. Entrance Examination - 2025, organized under the aegis of the Office of Dean, Research Studies, in collaboration with

CS reviews inter-departmental action plan to strengthen food safety in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a significant move to safeguard public health, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired an inter-departmental meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across Jammu and Kashmir. The review follows recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products, raising alarm over food adulteration. The Chief Secretary directed stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly those lacking ingredient details. The action plan, prepared by the Food Safety Wing in coordination with key departments, includes joint inspection teams, surprise checks, district-wise mapping of food businesses, and the establishment of cold-chain infrastructure at entry points. Key components include regulation of the 257.5 lakh kg meat deficit through safe supply mechanisms, mandatory hygiene standards at meat shops, deployment of veterinary officers, and construction of modern slaughterhouses. Awareness campaigns, public participation, and monthly reviews by District-Level Advisory Committees will further strengthen implementation. Chief Secretary Dulloo emphasized synergy among departments to ensure only safe and hygienic food reaches markets, calling for active support from citizens and food business operators to make the initiative a success.

the Office of the Controller of Examinations, Cluster University of Jammu under the pro-active guidance of Senior Professor, Vice - Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, K S Chandrasekar. On this occasion, Prof. Chandrasekar visited the Office of Dean Research Studies to review the academic and administrative arrangements for the successful conduct of the examination.

The Centre of Examination was established at the School of Engineering and Technology, Government College for Women (GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, where candidates aspiring for doctoral research across diverse disciplines of the University appeared for the test. During his visit, the Vice-Chancellor interacted with the faculty members and



VC CLUJ, K S Chandrasekar visiting examination centre.

examination staff, appreciating their collective efforts in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and smooth conduct of the examination.

He highlighted that the commencement of the Ph.D. Entrance Examination marks a new chapter in the research

journey of Cluster University of Jammu, strengthening its commitment to advancing higher education and creating a robust ecosystem of innovation and inquiry.

Prof. Dr. Satinder Kaur, Dean Research Studies, gave the briefing about the number

of applicants in both the Exempted and non - Exempted categories and plan of Examination along with Assistant Deans Prof. Paramjeet Singh, Dr. Avtar Changotra and Co-Coordinator of I.T Cell Prof. Anjed Khan Bhatti. She briefed the Vice-Chancellor about the arrangements and extended their gratitude for his encouragement and vision. The Controller of Examinations, in coordination with the supporting staff, also played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth execution of this historic examination.

This initiative reflects the University's growing emphasis on quality research, academic rigor transparency, and institutional excellence, aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

FICCI FLO JKL, J&K Police to host 'Run4Health' Half Marathon 3.0 on Oct 5

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh (JKL), in collaboration with J&K Police and powered by Munjal Auto, announced the third edition of the 'Run4Health' Half Marathon 3.0, scheduled for October 5, 2025.

The marathon will kick off at 5:30 AM from Gulshan Ground, Jammu, and is expected to attract widespread participation from across the Union Territory.

At a press conference, FICCI FLO JKL Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary stated that the event is not just a race but a social movement promoting health, fitness, and awareness against drug abuse.

"Our motto is simple but impactful 'Say No to Drugs and Yes to Life.' We aim to channel youth energy into positivity and inspire healthier



FICCI FLO JKL Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary talking to reporters at Jammu.

lifestyle choices," she said.

Race Director Sudhir Anand emphasized that the marathon represents discipline, commitment, and unity. "This is a symbolic step towards a drug-free society. We call on youth, families, and communities to join hands and support this cause," he said. Event Director Kanupriya Garg highlighted the role of families in combating drug addiction. "The fight against drugs starts at home. Families must stand united to guide and protect the younger generation," she asserted.

Registrations for the marathon are now open, and the organizers assured that special arrangements are being made for a smooth and safe event. Citizens from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate.

Also present were Varuna Anand, Past Chairperson and National Initiative Head - Partnerships; Ruchika Gupta, Immediate Past Chair; Varsha Bansal, Sr. Vice Chairperson; Rupika Sahay, Sona Mehta, Shipra Aggarwal, Nandita Bajaj, and Pooja Dewan from the FLO team.

Vikram Puri demands urgent relief, infrastructure rebuild after flood havoc in J&K

Calls for Tawi Bridge reconstruction, farmer compensation, industry revival package, and stronger water supply systems

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Shri Vikram Puri, Chairman of the Trade and Commerce body of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has issued a strong appeal to the Central Government and the Lieutenant Governor of J&K to act urgently in the wake of the devastating floods that have crippled the region's economy.

In a media interview, Puri said the collapse of the Tawi bridge stands as a grim reminder of the fragile state of infrastructure. He urged its immediate reconstruction along with rapid restoration of damaged roads, power, and public assets. "Connectivity is our lifeline. Without it, trade, industry, and daily life come to a standstill," he stressed.

He pointed out that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway closure for days stranded thousands of trucks carrying essentials and fruit, causing losses running into crores. Horticulture, particularly apples, and pears, has suffered massive damage, while paddy fields have been washed



away, leaving farmers devastated. Local communities, as well as Gujjar and Bakarwal families, he said, have lost livestock, their only livelihood and need urgent compensation. Traders and households too have lost food stocks and storage facilities, worsening the crisis.

Highlighting another critical issue, Puri noted that water supply systems collapsed in large parts of Jammu during the floods due to old and damaged pipelines. "This is a wake-up call. We need immediate replacement of outdated pipelines, better flood-control measures in low-lying areas, and backup systems to ensure safe drinking water in times of disaster," he said.

On the industrial front, Puri

demand a revival package for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including restructuring of loans, rationalization of electricity tariffs, and marketing support local industries to promote local products nationally. He also criticized the repeated exclusion of Jammu from Parliamentary committee visits, despite being home to most industrial units in the UT.

Appealing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Puri said: "Flood-hit families, farmers, Gujjars, traders, and industries cannot wait. Relief must be immediate, compensation must be transparent, and infrastructure rebuilding must begin without delay."

Concluding, he reminded that while the people of J&K have always shown resilience, "Resilience must be matched with responsibility. He called on the central government to act swiftly to prevent long-term economic collapse and to restore hope among the people.

Sadhotra calls for safety audit, reconstruction aid in land sinking areas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, has urged the administration to conduct a comprehensive safety audit and survey in areas affected by land sinking across Jammu and Kashmir.

He also called for immediate financial and logistical assistance to families whose homes have been destroyed due to recent torrential rains, cloudbursts, and flash floods.

During his visit to Sundla village in Block Khoon, Tehsil Majalta of Udhampur



NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra interacting with flood-hit residents.

district, where over 30 houses were submerged due to land sinking, Sadhotra met with affected families at a relief camp and expressed deep anguish over their plight.

He appreciated the efforts

of the administration but stressed that temporary measures like tents were inadequate, especially as they have been damaged by continued rains, leaving families exposed to harsh weather.

"Natural calamities should not force people to live in fear and distress. These victims have not only lost shelter but also their belongings, and their lives have been thrown into chaos," he said.

Sadhotra called for urgent financial assistance and comprehensive rehabilitation, including allocation of five marla plots for each affected family. He assured the people that he would take up the issue with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for early resolution.

He urged the government to frame a policy for the reconstruction of damaged houses ahead of winter and

emphasized that merely shifting families to temporary camps does not resolve the crisis. He called for long-term planning, proactive disaster management, and preventive measures in vulnerable zones.

Sadhotra reaffirmed the National Conference's commitment to standing with the common people, particularly during natural disasters. "It is our duty to ensure these families are not just housed again, but given back their sense of dignity and security," he said. He was accompanied by several party leaders and workers during the visit.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu (JU), organised an insightful online public lecture on "Nepal Crisis and its Impact on India." The lecture was delivered by Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal, a renowned scholar from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), specialising in South Asian studies and Nepalese politics.

Prof. Thapliyal provided a comprehensive overview of Nepal's political transition from monarchy to a republic, focusing on the fragile nature of coalition politics, frequent governmental changes, and the challenges in implementing the 2015 Constitution. She highlighted issues such as federal restructuring, identity-based demands, and governance deficits as key

stress points in Nepal's evolving democracy.

She also examined Nepal's complex geopolitical positioning between India and China. While China has expanded its influence through infrastructure and connectivity projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), India shares deep-rooted historical, cultural, and socio-economic ties with Nepal. Prof. Thapliyal stressed that managing this trilateral dynamic requires diplomatic sensitivity, especially given ongoing border disputes and trade concerns.

The lecture also addressed Nepal's foreign policy strategy of balancing relations with India and China while engaging other global actors. However, she noted that domestic politicisation of foreign relations often complicates this balance.

She also discussed emerging political trends such as the increasing participation of youth, debates around inclusivity, and the importance of democratic consolidation.

An interactive session followed, during which participants raised pertinent questions on Nepal's federal future, external influences, and implications for India's regional security. Prof. Thapliyal responded with analytical clarity and depth.

Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, emphasised the importance of such discussions for enhancing understanding of India's neighbourhood. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mohd Monir Alam. Faculty members, scholars, and PG students from the department actively participated in the session.

Health Camp and Sensitization Program held



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A successful health camp and sensitization program was organized at Bright Candle High School, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu by Pankh Ek Udaan under the patronage of Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Sansthan, in collaboration with Diva Foundation. The day-long event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community and aimed at improving healthcare access while promoting early disease diagnosis and public health awareness. Medical professionals from J&K Medicity, Sood Eye Care Centre, and Ujala Cygnus J&K Medicity Hospital provided free consultations, health assessments, diagnostic tests,

and distributed medicines. The initiative, conducted under the Swasth Nari Shashakt Parivar Abhiyan, focused particularly on empowering women through health awareness. Advocate Pooja Uppal, Chairperson, Pankh Ek Udaan; Kamal Gupta, Patron-in-Chief; and Adv. Shakti Kumari, Vice President, expressed gratitude to all medical partners and contributors, including Amardeep Singh, Founder Diva Foundation.

They affirmed that such collaborative health outreach programs will continue in other areas to extend both healthcare services and social awareness, especially for vulnerable populations.

CLUJ elects new Students Cultural Council for Session 2025-26

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Students Welfare (DSW), Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) conducted elections for the Students Cultural Council for the session 2025-26, followed by a felicitation ceremony held in a simple yet impressive function.

The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor, CLUJ, Sr. Professor K. S. Chandrasekar in the presence of Dr. Twinkle Suri, Dean Academic Affairs; Ankur Mahajan (KAS), Registrar; Nageshwar Jamwal, Financial Advisor; Prof. D. S. Manhas, Dean DSW and Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director, Physical Education & Sports.

In the elections, Akash Katoch (MAM College) was elected as Secretary, Cultural Council, while Mohd. Zaigham Salariya (GGM Science College), Pranav Verma (SMPR College), and Sunny Topno (School of Humanities & Liberal Arts) were elected as Joint Secretaries.

To represent the female wing, Palkin Verma (School of Humanities & Liberal Arts)



Newly elected CLUJ's Students Cultural Council for Session 2025-26 with faculty.

and Medhavi Raina (PSPS-GCW) were nominated as Joint Secretaries. Additionally, 12 other contesting students were designated as members of the Students Cultural Council.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar highlighted the significant role of the elected Cultural Secretary and Joint Secretaries as key stakeholders in steering cultural and literary activities of the university.

He emphasized that the Cultural Council is not only a platform for nurturing talent but also a catalyst for fostering inclusivity, leadership, creati-

ty, and teamwork.

He further remarked that the Cultural Council must work as torchbearers of innovation and diversity, ensuring that Cluster University continues to shine at the state and national level through vibrant cultural and literary endeavors.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. D. S. Manhas, Dean Students Welfare, underlined the pivotal role of the Students Cultural Council in representing the cultural wings of constituent colleges and PG Schools.

He added that the Council shall work closely with the DSW office to propose, plan,

and execute cultural and literary activities for inclusion in the annual calendar; thereby enriching campus life and making it more vibrant and inclusive.

Among others present were Prof. Amit Pal Kour, Coordinator NSS; Dr. Ashaq Hussain, Associate Dean DSW; Dr. Sumita Kumari and Dr. Paramjeet Singh, Assistant Deans DSW; and Prof. Sugandha Mahajan, Incharge Drama & Performing Arts.

The proceedings were conducted seamlessly by Dr. Revika Arora, Cultural Coordinator, CLUJ.

Crime Branch to organize 3-day Mega Exhibition on New Criminal Laws on Sept 22

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In line with directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Jammu is set to organize a three-day mega exhibition on new criminal laws. The event will be held at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, from September 22 to 24, 2025, running daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SSP Benam Tosh, the designated Nodal Officer for the exhibition, shared that this is the first time such a large-scale event is being organized in Jammu under the supervision of DGP J&K Nalin Prabhat and IGP Crime J&K Sujit Kumar Singh.

A similar exhibition was earlier held in Srinagar on September 11, 2025, where the Lieutenant Governor of J&K was the chief guest.

The exhibition aims to create public awareness about the recent reforms in the criminal justice system, presented in simple, layman's language.

It seeks to educate stu-

dents, scholars, educationists, and all stakeholders involved in implementing the new criminal laws-Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA).

Various departments including District Police, Health Department/ MedLEaPR Portal, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Prisons, Police Control Room (PCR), Women Police Station, Cyber Police Station, Prosecution, ANTF, CICE, SCW, Economic Offences Wing Crime Branch Jammu, Fingerprints Bureau J&K, and Crime Record Bureau/CCTNS will showcase their roles and functioning in line with the new laws.

The event will see participation from dignitaries of the Judiciary, Police, and civil administration. Thousands of students, scholars, educationists, and members of the public are expected to attend this highly educative and informative exhibition.