

AIIMS Jammu with HUDCO's CSR support inaugurates 10 Electric Golf Carts to boost green mobility, patient care



Lt Gen (Dr.) C. S. Narayanan, President, AIIMS Jammu; Deepak Bansal, Regional Chief, HUDCO; and Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu inaugurating electric golf cart.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu on Wednesday marked a milestone in its journey towards sustainability and patient convenience with the inauguration of 10 eight-seater electric golf carts powered by lithium batteries, generously supported by HUDCO under its CSR initiative.

The inauguration was carried out by Lt Gen (Dr.) C. S. Narayanan, President, AIIMS Jammu; Deepak Bansal, Regional Chief, HUDCO; and Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta expressed heartfelt gratitude to HUDCO, stating that the new electric vehicles will redefine patient mobility within the campus, especially benefit-

ing the elderly, differently-abled, and those requiring assisted transport. He highlighted that the initiative is part of AIIMS Jammu's larger commitment to green practices and eco-friendly healthcare. Deepak Bansal reiterated HUDCO's commitment to social responsibility and applauded AIIMS Jammu for taking a visionary step in adopting sustainable solutions for healthcare. Lt Gen (Dr.) C. S. Narayanan praised the collaboration, noting that "such initiatives demonstrate how healthcare Institutions can lead the way in harmonizing patient care with environmental responsibility."

Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy J&K holds General Body Meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A meeting of the General Body of the Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy (BDSA), Jammu & Kashmir, was convened at the Roopnagar headquarters of the Akademy under the chairmanship of B.R. Kundal, President of the Akademy.



B.R. Kundal, President BDSA chairing a meeting.

The meeting began with a solemn tribute to those who lost their lives in the recent cloudbursts and devastating floods across the state. Members observed a moment of silence in remembrance and expressed solidarity with the affected families. During the deliberations, several crucial decisions concerning the future course of the Akademy were taken. The house reviewed the ongoing membership drive which has successfully brought about 100 new members into the primary fold of the Akademy in just the last two months. Members resolved to continue outreach efforts to engage prominent personalities and strengthen the voice of the Dalit community in the socio-cultural and literary

spheres. The meeting also took note of the urgent requirement for renovation and repairs of the Akademy's existing building. Members emphasized that the infrastructure is central to the Akademy's mission of cultural and educational upliftment and appealed to the concerned authorities to make adequate funds available at the earliest. Alongside, proposals regarding the upgradation of the building and its facilities were formally taken up for consideration. A significant part of the discussion centered on the pressing issue of climate change and its impacts on

vulnerable populations. Members highlighted that under changing climate scenarios, there is an urgent need for policy integration regarding climate adaptation to enhance the resilience of marginalized communities. Meeting took note of the efforts made by Govt to mitigate the problems of general population by timely intervention. View emerged to ask the Government to initiate measures immediately without waiting for the next disaster, to find long term solution by strengthening the embankments of all the rivers prone to floods and come out with a well thought of flood protection policy.

Members further recommended that alternative livelihood opportunities and short-term skill development courses should be introduced by the Akademy to empower rural and underprivileged populations in adapting to these emerging challenges. Another important matter discussed was the growing concern over the sale of adulterated fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meat within the state. Members expressed their duty to raise awareness on such public health hazards and appreciated the proactive role of the government in curbing these practices. It was informed to the house that the President

BJP legislators have set example by diverting Rs 35.5 cr for flood relief in Jammu: Dr. Pardeep

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Demonstrating strong commitment to humanity and people's welfare, BJP legislators including MLAs, and MPs from Jammu region have set example for others, by taking a historic step of diverting major portion of their funds for flood relief. All 28 BJP MLAs have pledged Rs 1 crore each from their Constituency Development Fund (CDF), totaling to Rs 28 crore, and party's MPs have added another Rs 7.5 crore, raising the total to Rs 35.5 crore.



This decision of social cause, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge J&K BJP, said, proves that BJP public representatives place people's suffering above everything else and are determined to provide immediate relief to the flood-devastated population of Jammu region. Dr. Pardeep said the recent spell of incessant rains, cloudbursts, and flash floods have wreaked havoc in Jammu, almost paralyzing normal life. The region has witnessed tragic loss of lives, destruction of houses, livestock, and crops, along with unprecedented damage to public infrastruc-

ture including roads, bridges, electricity, water pipelines, and communication services. "At such a time, BJP representatives have risen to the occasion, unlike the callous NC-led government, which have failed to respond with urgency," he remarked. Dr. Pardeep stressed that the CDF is essentially public money earmarked annually for development works, but BJP legislators have shown political will to put every rupee of it to urgent use for relief and rehabilitation. "The Finance Department must now relax caps and procedural hurdles and allow full utilization of CDF in this emergency. People need immediate help, not paperwork and red tape," Dr. Pardeep asserted. Dr. Pardeep said while

the Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has acted with utmost sensitivity and speed, the NC leadership has once again exposed its indifferent and irresponsible attitude towards Jammu. "This contrast is clear to the people, while NC indulges in excuses, BJP delivers on the ground," he added. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra further said that BJP's decision is being widely appreciated because it is not just a political gesture but a moral responsibility fulfilled in the true spirit of public service. "By diverting Rs 35.5 crore for flood relief, BJP has shown that it stands as the first line of support for the people of Jammu in their hour of crisis," Dr. Pardeep emphasized.

JKEEGA Delegation Highlights Critical Vacancies in PDD to Chief Secretary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineers' Guild Association (JKEEGA), led by Er. Sachin Tickoo, General Secretary, Atal Dulloo called on the Chief Secretary of J&K at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to discuss the acute shortage of top engineering positions in the Power Development Department (PDD).



JKEEGA General Secretary, Er. Sachin Tickoo calling on Chief Secretary of J&K, Atal Dulloo.

The delegation highlighted that over 900 engineering posts out of 2,450 remain vacant in PDD, alongside thousands of technical non-gazetted vacancies. They emphasized that these vacancies have impeded long-term planning and infrastructure restoration, particularly after the flash floods that severely affected Jammu Province. Despite limited manpower, PDD restored nearly 1,000 MW of power within 12 hours on 26 August 2025, when supply had plummeted to 300 MW, demonstrating the dedication of existing staff under challenging conditions. JKEEGA

stressed the urgent need to fill 29 Superintending Engineer, 66 Executive Engineer, 177 Assistant Executive Engineer, 166 Junior Engineer posts, and 450 Assistant Engineer, to ensure administrative efficiency and timely decision-making in the department. With this intervention, a favourable outcome for filling key vacancies is expected, which will significantly improve the department's capacity to manage ongoing restoration works and future infrastructure development across Jammu & Kashmir.

Department under Cabinet Decision No. 94-JK(JSD)/2025, to enable faster appointments at higher levels. The Chief Secretary consented and directed the Principal Secretary to forward a proposal for prompt action, ensuring administrative efficiency and timely decision-making in the department. With this intervention, a favourable outcome for filling key vacancies is expected, which will significantly improve the department's capacity to manage ongoing restoration works and future infrastructure development across Jammu & Kashmir.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of YSS Dept

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal on Wednesday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) department.



Commissioner Secretary YSS, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting on Wednesday.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on department's budget, ongoing schemes, organizational structure, existing vacancies, budgetary provisions and expenditure incurred under various schemes. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Director General of Youth Services

and Sports (YSS), Secretary J&K Sports Council, Special Secretary YSS, Director Finance YSS, Additional Secretary, along with other officers from the Directorate and the Sports Council.

Addressing the officers, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the critical importance of human resource management for departmental efficiency, emphasizing the need to

update recruitment rules, seniority position and ensure timely conduct of departmental promotion committee meetings. In terms of revenue realization, the Commissioner

Secretary instructed both Heads of Departments to strive to exceed last year's revenue benchmark of ₹127 crore, reinforcing the department's financial targets. She further directed both the HODs to ensure timely completion of works and 100% utilization of funds under CAPEX, RAVEX, PMDP and SASCL. She also directed the Secretary J&K Sports Council to explore the feasibility of hosting a River Rafting Championship in Jammu as part of efforts to promote adventure sports. Both the Secretary and the Director

General were tasked with integrating tourism promotion into the department's outreach and promotional activities. Looking ahead to the fiscal year 2025-26, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the establishment of National Centres of Excellence at Dal Lake, Srinagar, and Basohli, Jammu, aimed at fostering a robust sports culture across the Union Territory. During the meeting, Director Finance presented a detailed overview of budgetary allocations and current schemes of the department.

IHSA skater Achintya shines at 54th KVS Nationals



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a proud moment for Jammu and the Indian Hawks Sports Academy (IHSA), young skating prodigy Achintya Munde has emerged as a national champion at the 54th KVS National Championship held in Pondicherry, clinching one gold and one silver medal in nail biting competitions. Achintya's performance stood out as a shining example of what focused training and hard work can achieve. His stellar performance on the national stage is not just a personal triumph but also a major milestone for IHSA, which has consistently nurtured talent and provided young athletes with world-class training and support. The Indian Hawks Sports Academy has once again proven its mettle as a cradle of champions. With its professional coaching staff, structured training programmes, and

emphasis on holistic development, the academy continues to raise the bar for sports excellence in the region. Achintya's success is a testament to the Academy's unwavering commitment to grooming future stars. Speaking on the achievement, Ashok Gandotra (Retd Chief Engineer) Patron IHSA said, "Achintya's victory is a result of years of hard work, perseverance, and passion. We are incredibly proud of his dedication and the way he represented both the academy and the region at the national level. This is just the beginning of a promising journey." As celebrations pour in from well-wishers, Achintya's achievement is expected to inspire many budding skaters in Jammu and beyond. With talent like his and institutions like IHSA leading the way, the future of skating in Jammu looks brighter than ever.

Omar-led Govt committed to relief, rehabilitation of flood-hit families: Sadhotra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra visited several rain and flood-affected areas in Jammu and its outskirts, including Mangu Chak and Khandwal, to assess the damage and understand the immediate needs of the affected families.



NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra distributing blankets at Mangoo Chak a flood hit village.

During his visit, Sadhotra interacted with flood victims and assured them that the Omar Abdullah-led government is fully committed to their relief and rehabilitation. He stated that on the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the administration has been put on high alert and is working round-the-clock to provide safety, medical aid, and essential supplies. Drawing a parallel to the 2014 floods, Sadhotra said that Omar Abdullah has always responded to crises with compassion and determination. "This government's priority is not just immediate relief but also

long-term rehabilitation of those whose lives and livelihoods have been disrupted," he said. He also appreciated the efforts of field officers for identifying worst-hit families and providing them urgent support. Sadhotra urged the administration to coordinate effectively to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases in submerged areas. Expressing solidarity with the affected, he highlighted that the National Conference stands united

with the people in this hour of crisis. He reiterated that Omar Abdullah's leadership has always prioritized people's welfare and that all possible measures are being taken to restore normalcy. Sadhotra emphasized the need for infrastructure corrections, urging the administration to take up with the NHAI the issue of realignment of the Ring Road, which has caused severe waterlogging in Mangu Chak and nearby areas. A local committee led by Jatinder Singh Lucky

organized the distribution of blankets to affected families. Sadhotra was accompanied by senior party leaders including Naresh Bittu, Chandar Mohan Sharma, Raghuraj Singh, Randhir Singh Chib, and others, along with several Block Presidents and youth leaders. He urged people to remain hopeful and resilient, assuring them that both the government and NC leadership are standing firmly with them.

Shailendra Kumar reviews crop damage across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, on Wednesday convened a high-level meeting to review the extent of crop damage caused by the recent spell of heavy rainfall and landslides across Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the Directors of Agriculture Kashmir/Jammu and Heads of allied departments, along with representatives from SKUAST. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on reports of crop losses, soil erosion, and damage to agricultural assets. Expressing deep concern over the hardships faced by farmers, Shailendra Kumar directed the department to undertake immediate field assessments in affected areas and prepare comprehensive loss reports. He emphasized the urgent need to mobilize technical

teams for on-ground support, ensure timely distribution of seeds and critical inputs where necessary, and extend advisory services to farmers on crop restoration measures. The ACS also urged scientists from SKUAST to work in close coordination with the Agriculture Department to provide scientific solutions, including the introduction of short-duration crop varieties in severely affected regions. He further instructed all departmental heads to maintain close coordination with district administrations and prepare contingency plans to support farmers in managing the impact of natural calamities. Reaffirming the government's commitment, Shailendra Kumar assured that every possible step would be taken to safeguard the interests of the farming community and strengthen agricultural sector across Jammu & Kashmir.