

MBS College organizes Employment Awareness Programme under Mission YUVA - Udham Jagriti 5.0

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mahant Bachittar Singh (MBS) College of Engineering & Technology, Jammu organized an Awareness Programme on Mission YUVA - Udyam Jagriti 5.0 in collaboration with the Directorate of Employment, Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), with the objective of sensitizing students about entrepreneurship, self-employment opportunities and various forms of support available from the Government for aspiring entrepreneurs. A team from the Directorate of Employment, comprising Navdeep Kaur, Career Counsellor, Employment Department, along with



MBSCET Jammu students and faculty at Awareness Programme.

Fayaz Lone and Sahil Singh, conducted the awareness session and interacted with the students. During the programme, the resource persons elaborated various aspects of entrepreneurship and enterprise development, particularly focusing on the

encouragement and support for innovative and viable business ideas with Government support through seed funding for selected ideas and opportunities available to trained youth under Government initiatives. The speakers encouraged the students to think innov-

atively, identify real-world problems and develop entrepreneurial solutions that could contribute to employment generation and economic development. The programme was coordinated by Surinder Kumar, In-charge, Institution's Innovation Cell, in coordination with Dr. Ritesh

Sharma, Training & Placement Officer (TPO) of the College. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, who actively interacted with the visiting team and sought information regarding entrepreneurship opportunities, financial support and the process of taking innovative ideas forward. The College authorities expressed their appreciation to the Directorate of Employment, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, for conducting the awareness programme and providing students with valuable insights into the opportunities available under Mission YUVA - Udyam Jagriti 5.0.

LEAD presents its 3rd Annual Edition of Smarika to LoP Sunil Sharma



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: LJK Economic Growth & Development Dialogue (LEAD) presented its 3rd Annual Edition of Smarika to Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP), Jammu & Kashmir, as part of its efforts to document developmental issues, emerging opportunities and

the socio-economic transformation of the region. The Smarika was presented by Harinder Gupta, Convenor, LEAD, and Sanjeev Sharma, Board Member, LEAD, who briefed the Leader of Opposition about the publication and the organisation's ongoing initiatives

across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The third edition brings together research, insights and developmental perspectives covering agriculture, entrepreneurship, tourism, education, infrastructure, livelihoods and economic development. During the interaction, LEAD representatives highlighted the organisation's efforts to promote constructive dialogue among policymakers, industry, academia, entrepreneurs and civil society. They emphasised the importance of practical, outcome-oriented solutions to address the region's developmental challenges and create new opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

CPCO reviews Census-2027 preparedness in Doda; emphasis accuracy, 100 pc coverage



CPCO and Director, DCO J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma chairing meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, on Thursday visited Doda and chaired a review meeting on Census-2027 to assess preparations and progress of Population Enumeration in the district. The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer and Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District

Census Officer) Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhtyal, Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar, besides Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Charge Officers, field trainers, supervisors, enumerators and other officials. Amit Sharma reviewed the overall preparations and stressed accuracy, completeness and reliability in data collection. He directed enumerators and supervisors to ensure every entry is correctly recorded, cross-

checked and verified, noting that accurate census data is essential for effective policy formulation and public service delivery. He called for intensified awareness campaigns through newspapers, pamphlets, social media, local influencers and community activities, particularly in snow-bound and difficult-to-reach areas, ahead of Population Enumeration scheduled from September 1 to 30, 2026. The CPCO directed regular field inspections, random

quality checks and strict adherence to census guidelines, with special attention to migratory populations, tribal communities, forest areas and other vulnerable or mobile groups. Technical challenges related to mobile devices were also discussed, with officials noting the prescribed requirement of minimum 8GB RAM and Android version above 13. Krishan Lal assured full administrative support, while Vijay Kumar briefed the meeting on Phase-I and Phase-II preparations, House Listing Operations conducted from June 1 to 30, deployment and training of census personnel, Self-Enumeration and identification of snow-bound villages. Amit Sharma called for coordinated efforts to ensure efficient, transparent and accurate conduct of Census-2027 across Doda.

Yasha Mudgal emphasizes strengthening of Coop Credit Institutions, PACS Computerization, Rural Credit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Thursday chaired a meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) to review the performance, functioning and developmental initiatives of Cooperative Credit Institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Vikas Mittal, General Manager/Officer-in-Charge, NABARD; Ram Swaroop, Deputy General Manager, RBI; Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKStCB); Managing Directors and CEOs of District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and senior officers. Vikas Mittal presented a detailed overview of the financial and developmen-



tal performance of cooperative banks. Ram Swaroop stressed robust corporate governance, regulatory compliance and effective supervision, besides expediting constitution of the Boards of Directors of J&K Central Cooperative Bank and JKStCB. Yasha Mudgal said cooperative institutions have a crucial role in inclusive economic growth and rural livelihoods. She directed

banks to expand financial inclusion, improve customer services and provide timely, affordable credit to farmers, rural households and entrepreneurs. Reviewing the PACS Computerization Project, she stressed adherence to implementation timelines, including T-7 and T-1 requirements, and directed slower-performing districts to accelerate reconciliation, training and technical support in coordination with NABARD. She also reviewed issues concerning Sahakar Sarthi Private Limited and called for their time-bound resolution. Regarding newly established Multipurpose PACS, she directed institutions to make them functional and economically viable by increasing rural credit,

agricultural term lending and suitable non-agricultural portfolios. The Commissioner Secretary called for strict compliance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, KYC norms and DEAF requirements, besides timely disposal of non-banking assets. She directed linking future recapitalisation with measurable performance indicators and called for early convening of the SGM for subsequent elections to the JKSTCB Board. Mudgal further stressed reducing NPAs, improving Credit-Deposit ratios, strengthening recovery, mobilising deposits and expanding quality lending, while promoting digital banking, transparency and member-centric services.

No cover-up, no compromise; BJP backs full paper leak probe: Adv Purnima

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and former Jammu Deputy Mayor Adv. Purnima Sharma on Thursday said the BJP and Narendra Modi-led government would not allow "political ego" to obstruct a fair investigation into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, asserting that everyone involved must face the law. Sharma said the CBI chargesheet against 13 accused reflected the government's commitment to accountability and protecting students' interests. The agency has alleged a coordinated conspiracy involving three NTA-appointed subject experts, intermediaries, coaching-linked individuals and candidates, while stating that no government official or NTA office-bearer was



involved. "The BJP has no ego when the future of students is at stake. If a paper has been compromised, the entire conspiracy must be exposed and every culprit punished without fear, favour or political interference," she said. Sharma stressed that merit must remain non-negotiable and called for stronger examination-security measures, including secure paper-setting and transportation, multi-layered verification,

digital surveillance, real-time monitoring and strict accountability for confidential material. She said those responsible for compromising students' futures, irrespective of their position or influence, must be dealt with firmly. "This is not about political point-scoring; it concerns the careers and trust of lakhs of young Indians," she said. Sharma also urged the opposition not to undermine the investigation for political mileage, asserting that the government had allowed agencies to follow the evidence. "There will be no ego, no cover-up and no compromise-only transparent investigation, meaningful reform and strict punishment for the guilty," she concluded.

Special Rakhi Envelopes available at Jammu Tawi Head Post Office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ahead of Raksha Bandhan, the Department of Posts has introduced special Rakhi Envelopes at the Jammu Tawi Head Post Office to facilitate the safe, convenient and timely transmission of Rakhis to family members and loved ones across the country. The special envelopes are now available for sale at the booking counters of Jammu Tawi Head Post Office. The initiative is aimed at providing customers with a dedicated and reliable packaging option for sending Rakhis through the postal network, particularly during the festive period when the volume of Rakhi-related mail increases. Senior Postmaster, Jammu Tawi Head Post

Office, Shravan Kumar Bhati, said that the special Rakhi Envelopes have been designed keeping in view the requirements of customers sending Rakhis by post. The envelopes are water-resistant and tear-proof, providing added protection to the contents during handling and transit. The Senior Postmaster said that the specially designed envelopes would also facilitate secure handling, faster sorting and timely delivery of Rakhis through the postal network. Customers can purchase the special envelopes from the booking counters of Jammu Tawi Head Post Office and avail themselves of the postal services for sending Rakhis to their loved one.

Yudhvir Sethi holds Janata Darbar, reaffirms people-centric governance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency Yudhvir Sethi held a Janata Darbar at the BJP office in Kachi Chawani, Jammu, where he interacted with a large number of people and listened to their grievances and concerns. Residents from different areas of the Jammu East Constituency attended the public interaction programme and apprised the MLA of issues related to civic amenities, roads, drainage, electricity, water supply, sanitation, development works and other public services. Several people also raised individual and community-related matters seeking timely intervention from the concerned departments. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the people and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action. He directed party workers and representatives



MLA Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues.

accompanying him to coordinate with the relevant departments and ensure that issues requiring immediate attention are followed up. Speaking on the occasion, Sethi said that regular interaction with the people is essential for understanding problems at the grassroots level and ensuring responsive governance. "The Janata Darbar is an important platform where people can directly share their problems and seek solutions. My priority is to remain accessible to the people and work sincerely for the development and welfare of Jammu East," Sethi said. He maintained that public representatives must remain connected with the people and address their concerns through sustained efforts rather than limiting interactions to formal meetings. He assured the people that every genuine issue brought before him would be pursued with the concerned departments. He said that the BJP remains committed to serving the people and strengthening public outreach at the grassroots level.

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RTC VRS employees hold Dharna over long-pending dues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All J&K RTC Volunteer Retired Employees Association, Jammu and Kashmir UT, held a demonstration and sit-in near Press Club Exhibition Ground, Jammu, on Thursday, demanding settlement of their long-pending financial dues. The protest was led by Association President Dev Raj Bali, who alleged that the RTC management had failed to address the grievances of retired employees despite repeated representations. He said the retirees had approached the authorities several times but were yet to



RTC VRS employees raising slogans during protest.

receive a concrete resolution. The Association stated that S. Anrik Singh Sasan, former Chairman of Retired Employees of RTC, had raised the issue with the Transport

Minister, who, according to the protesters, directed the Managing Director, RTC, to place the matter before the Board of Directors. The protesters alleged that despite the

direction, their demands remained unresolved. The major demands include COLA arrears from 1999 to 2005, 6th Pay Commission arrears from January 1, 2006

to April 2012, and pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears. The Association appealed to the Central Government to intervene and issue appropriate directions to the J&K Government for settlement of their claims. The demonstration was attended by Chief Organiser Sat Bhushan Singh, Vice President Balvinder Singh, General Secretary Surinder Singh, P.P. Singh and Romesh Singh Bau, besides other members. The protesters urged the authorities to initiate dialogue and ensure early settlement of their legitimate dues.

Inner Wheel Club Jammu Sampark celebrates Teej Festival



Inner Wheel Club Jammu Sampark members at Teej festival celebration.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Inner Wheel Club Jammu Sampark celebrated the vibrant festival of Teej along with General Body Meeting and Friendship Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. The celebration signified the spirit of womanhood, tradition, and togetherness. Members were dressed in traditional green attire symbolizing prosperity, happiness and the joy of Teej. The occasion was also marked as a celebration of true friendship, the core value of Inner Wheel. On this special occasion, Friendship Bands were distributed among all mem-

bers to strengthen the bond of friendship and fellowship, which is the very foundation of Inner Wheel. President IWC Jammu Sampark, Reva Raina along with her entire team graced the occasion. In her address, Reva Raina highlighted the significance of Teej as a festival of love and devotion and Friendship Day as a reminder of the power of togetherness. She appreciated the active participation of members. The meeting concluded with joyful Teej songs, fun activities and a pledge to continue serving the society with love and friendship.

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IIT Jammu engages with Jammu region industries to strengthen industry-institute collaboration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Central Workshop, IIT Jammu, had an interaction with industry representatives from the Jammu region to explore opportunities for industry-academia collaboration and industrial problem solving. The interaction was facilitated by LEAD - LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue, supporting engagement with the regional industrial ecosystem. The session was led by Dr. Akash Subhash Awale, PIC, Central Workshop, along with Arun Kumar, Workshop Officer, and Vivek R. Sharma, Assistant Workshop Officer. Industry representatives Praveen Pargal,



IIT Jammu faculty honouring resource person.

National Executive Member for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for Laghu Udyog Bharati Rajesh Jain, Alankrit Mahajan, Deepak Gupta, Anshul Gulati, Rishabh Gupta, Yogesh Verma, Sandeep

Gupta, and Ankit Gupta participated and shared their views on industrial needs and collaboration opportunities. Discussions focused on key technical challenges faced by industries and how

IIT Jammu's expertise and facilities can help in providing practical solutions. IIT Jammu also shared its vision of developing a Centre for Industrial Problem Solving, with the Central Workshop playing a key role in design, prototyping, manufacturing, testing, and technology development. The interaction also highlighted possible collaboration in R&D, consultancy, skill development and innovation activities, especially benefiting MSMEs in the region. The initiative is a step towards building a strong Industry-Institute Innovation Ecosystem that converts industrial challenges into opportunities for joint development and innovation.