

# Vidya Pravesh Evaluation Study: Focused group discussion convened at SCERT Office

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

Pursuant to the directives issued by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoS&L), Ministry of Education, Government of India, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is spearheading the Vidya Pravesh Evaluation Study across various States and Union Territories. As part of this nationwide initiative, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir hosted its evaluation phase from July 23 to 25, 2025. A pivotal Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was convened under the astute leadership of Sh. Shantmanu (IAS), Financial Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary and Director SCERT, Jammu and Kashmir, and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office, Jammu today on 25th July



2025. The primary objective of the FGD was to critically examine the implementation, progress, and pedagogical impact of the Vidya Pravesh initiative within foundational learning classrooms. It served as a platform to solicit feedback from experienced practitioners, uncover exemplary practices, identify on-ground challenges, and articulate strategic recommendations for further enhancement. The deliberations were deeply aligned with the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the goals of the NIPUN Bharat Mission,

which collectively aim to fortify foundational literacy and numeracy across the nation. The discussion witnessed the active participation of national-level experts including Dr. Ritu Chandra, Professor, ECCE, NCERT, New Delhi, and Dr. Sukhwinder, Associate Professor, Educational Survey Division, NIE, NCERT, who provided insightful perspectives and guidance rooted in national policy frameworks and research-based findings. Participants from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir included Sh. R.

G. Dogra, Principal, DIET Jammu; Dr. Sanjeevani, Head, ECCE, SCERT Jammu and State Coordinator ECCE; Ms. Kamini Verma, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT Jammu; Ms. Vandana Gupta, Senior Lecturer, DIET Samba; Dr. Archana Parihar and Ms. Anupama Puri, Coordinators, Awareness Campaign from Samagra Shiksha, Ms. Jaswinder Kour, Senior Lecturer, SRML Higher Secondary School, Ms. Shashi Bala, Master, Middle School Lehnu and Ms. Geeta Bharti, DRG, DIET Rajouri. These professionals shared critical

insights and classroom-based experiences that significantly enriched the evaluative discourse. On this occasion, an exhibition was also organized, showcasing various modules, training manuals, resource materials, and research works. The NCERT team appreciated the efforts of SCERT Jammu, lauding the systematic documentation, academic rigor, and contextual relevance of the materials displayed.

The session culminated in the formulation of constructive and actionable recommendations, which will be compiled and submitted to NCERT for comprehensive analysis and possible inclusion in national-level policy discourse.

The discussion reaffirmed the region's commitment to foster collaborative, reflective, and evidence-based educational practices in the foundational years, marking a progressive stride toward the realization of the goals set forth by NEP 2020.

# Rakesh Mahajan visits Hakkal, vows to serve people with commitment, integrity

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

Rakesh Mahajan, the newly appointed Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir unit, visited the Hakkal area in Jammu South on his maiden visit after assuming his new responsibility. The visit was marked by warm felicitation from the local residents, including elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, who expressed their confidence and trust in the BJP's leadership. Mahajan was accompanied by Jammu South BJP District President Naresh Jasrotia, Vice President Kunti Devi, and Mandal Pradhan Pushkar Sharma. Several Sarpanches and Panches from the Hakkal area also attended the program. During the interaction with the people, Rakesh Mahajan listened to various local issues concerning development, basic amenities, road connectivity, and employment. He assured the gathering that the BJP, under the dynamic leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to addressing grassroots concerns and empowering every citizen through transparent and responsive governance. Speaking to the gathering, Mahajan said, "The BJP is a party of development and good governance. Our mission is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.' The Modi government has transformed India's development narrative through schemes that reach every corner of the nation—from villages to towns." He further urged the people to take full advantage of various flagship schemes of the Modi government such as PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and Jal Jeevan Mission. "Every citizen should be aware of and benefit from these welfare schemes, which have brought real change in the lives of millions," he said.

Mahajan also emphasized the role of local representatives and workers in strengthening the BJP's presence at

the grassroots level. He appreciated the efforts of the party cadre in Hakkal for staying connected with the people and working for their welfare.

Naresh Jasrotia said, "Rakesh Mahajan's visit has energized the party cadre in the region. His dedication and leadership will further strengthen BJP's grassroots reach. Under PM Modi's vision, we are committed to addressing local issues and ensuring that every citizen benefits from government welfare schemes." The people of the area felicitated Rakesh Mahajan with garlands and traditional welcome, appreciating his humility and dedication. Community members expressed hope that their concerns would be resolved under the BJP's effective leadership. The visit concluded with a resolve from the party leaders and local representatives to continue working together to strengthen the BJP's mission and serve the people with commitment and integrity.

# India-UK free trade deal marks a new era of economic diplomacy: Gaurav

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson, said that the signing of the historic India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on July 24 marks a transformative moment in India's global trade journey under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. This landmark agreement—India's first major FTA with a Western developed nation and the UK's biggest trade deal post-Brexit—is a resounding testament to India's growing economic strength and diplomatic credibility. Gupta said the FTA is expected to boost bilateral trade by USD 34 billion annually, while adding £4.8 billion to the UK's GDP. He noted that the deal will grant duty-free access to 99% of Indian exports, providing a massive push to labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, footwear, gems & jewellery, auto components, and marine products. With zero tariffs on key Indian exports such as shrimp, tuna, and textiles, this deal will

uplift countless MSMEs, artisans, weavers, and daily-wage workers across India.

He further said that the agreement opens up new doors for Indian professionals and youth. With temporary work visas of up to 3 years for IT, finance, legal, and engineering sectors, and mobility provisions for Indian chefs, yoga instructors, and artists, the deal is a major win for India's skilled workforce.

The exemption from double social security contributions for up to 75,000 Indians working in the UK will save Indian professionals and companies around £300 million annually. Gupta also highlighted that the FTA would make British goods like Premium Spirits, luxury cars, medical devices, electronics, and cosmetics significantly more affordable in India, thanks to sharp tariff cuts. He praised the inclusion of futuristic sectors in the India-UK Vision 2035 roadmap—ranging from semiconductors, AI, and clean energy to space tech and joint research—which

will deepen strategic and innovation-based ties between the two nations.

He noted that Indian firms will now enjoy access to 36 service sectors without Economic Needs Tests and gain equal footing in UK government procurement, enabling them to compete for major tenders. UK firms will similarly benefit from simplified processes in sensitive sectors such as renewables, education, AI, and infrastructure. In conclusion, Gupta said this Free Trade Agreement is not merely about reducing tariffs—it is about building a future of shared prosperity, trust, and innovation between two leading democracies. It is a shining example of Modi Ji's dynamic foreign policy, which puts India's economic interests and global standing at the forefront. This agreement also strengthens India's hand in future trade negotiations with the EU, Canada, and other global partners, further positioning India as a reliable and rising force in international trade diplomacy.

# PM Modi a visionary leader, revived nationalism, restored global pride: Rekha Mahajan

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, Rekha Mahajan extended heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving non-Congress Prime Minister, surpassing the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She hailed this milestone as a historic moment that reflects the immense trust and unwavering support of the people of India towards Modi's visionary leadership.

In her message, Rekha Mahajan said that PM Modi's governance has redefined Indian politics with a focus on transparency, nationalism, development, and welfare of the poor. She stated that his consistent electoral victories and sustained public approval are a testimony to the transformative impact he has made across the country.

Strongly criticizing the misgovernance of the

Congress party, highlighting its decades of negligence, corruption, scams and policy paralysis that held back the progress of the nation, Rekha Mahajan praised the BJP-led government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ushering in a new era of development, transparency, and public welfare. Rekha Mahajan stated that the Congress ruled the country for over 70 years but failed to provide even basic infrastructure and services to the common people. She pointed out that scams like Coal scam, 2G spectrum scam, Chopper scam, Tatra truck scam, CWG scam, S Band Spectrum scam and many more, dynastic politics, and weak policies defined Congress regimes, which widened the gap between the rich and the poor and left rural areas largely underdeveloped. She asserted that since the BJP took charge under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented

growth in various sectors, especially infrastructure, digital transformation, and women empowerment.

"Schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Jal Jeevan Mission are transforming the lives of the poor and marginalized," she said.

Mahajan also mentioned the government's strong stand on national security, the abrogation of Article 370, and the implementation of welfare schemes without discrimination as key achievements that reflect the BJP's commitment to "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas." "PM Modi is not just a leader; he is a visionary who has revived the spirit of nationalism and restored the global pride of Bharat," Rekha stated. Rekha concluded by expressing confidence that India will achieve Viksit Bharat @2047 under Modi's dynamic and progressive leadership.

# Crime Branch registers FIR against Anantnag man for Apple plant fraud

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR, JUL 25:**

The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) has booked Shahid Rehman Bhat of Tulbagh Shangus, Anantnag, for allegedly defrauding several people of large sums of money on the pretext of providing high-density apple plants.

Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) registers FIR against an individual namely Shahid Rehman Bhat S/o Ab. Rehman Bhat R/o Tulbagh Shangus, District Anantnag accused of defrauding numerous innocent people under the false promise of providing High Density Apple Plants.

The case pertains to several complaints received by Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir), alleging therein that one Shahid Rehman Bhat S/o Ab. Rehman Bhat R/o Shangus, Nowgam, District Anantnag (Proprietor of M/s AR Trading Agri Services

Pvt. Ltd) has cheated them on the pretext of providing High Density Apple Plants, it reads.

The complainants further alleged that the accused after receiving huge amount of money neither provided them High Density Apple Plants nor returned the money, and after receiving the money he has gone into hiding. The perusal of the bank transaction statements submitted by the complainants reveal that the alleged accused has grabbed amount in crores from the innocent complainants/ farmers, it reads.

The criminal act on the part of the accused Shahid Rehman Bhat S/o Ab. Rehman Bhat R/o Tulbagh Shangus, District Anantnag (Proprietor of M/s AR Trading Agri Services Pvt. Ltd) prima facie discloses commission of offence punishable U/S 318 (4) BNS 2023. Cognizance is taken and case is accordingly registered at P/S Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir), reads the statement.

# ACB traps & arrests Patwari for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 20000

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely Chuni Lal, Patwari Patwar Halqa Dansal, demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for providing demarcation report. The accused Chuni Lal, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Dansal, demanded the bribe amounting to ₹1,00,000 from the complainant for providing report of demarcation and after negotiation, the accused Chuni Lal has agreed to receive ₹75,000 and demanded 1st installment of ₹25,000 as bribe. However, the complainant could not arrange ₹25,000 as 1st installment and instead he managed to arrange ₹20,000 only. Since, the complainant didn't want to pay bribe he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law. On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 15/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up. During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of ₹20,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, searches were also conducted in the office and in-laws house of the accused in presence of independent witnesses and Magistrates. Further investigation of the instant case is going on.

# Manawar Yodha Brigade organizes motivational lecture on Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, JUL 25:**

On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025, the Manawar Yodha Brigade organized a highly motivating and inspiring lecture at Govt Senior Secondary School Khour. The session focused on highlighting the various career opportunities in the Indian Army, including officer-level entry schemes and the innovative Agniveer policy framework. Special emphasis was placed on encouraging girls to pursue their dreams of joining the prestigious NDA and CDS, breaking barriers and inspiring young women to take bold steps towards serving the nation. The event was graced by the active participation of 84 students and 5 teachers, who were captivated by the insightful content and impactful delivery of the session. The students were introduced to the multifaceted opportunities available within the Indian Army, gaining a deeper understanding of the significance of military service and the honour it entails. The lecture concluded with a dynamic and interactive Q&A session, allowing students to engage directly with the speakers, ask questions and clarify their doubts. The event was not only a resounding success but also a ground breaking initiative that left a lasting impact on the students.

# NIT Srinagar selected as spoke institute under ANRF-PAIR-B grant in collaboration with IIT Kanpur

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR, JUL 25:**

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, along with five other institutions, has been chosen to receive a prestigious grant of ₹2.3 crore under the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR), Category B, scheme by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). The project will be executed in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, the designated hub institution.

The PAIR initiative aims to strengthen collaborative research efforts through a hub-and-spoke model. Under this project, the network will focus on two themes, including Advanced Research and Education in Cancer Diagnostics and Therapeutics (CARE-CaDat) and Synergistic Development of Semiconductor and Digital Technologies for the Automotive Sector. NIT Srinagar is participating under the second theme and will contribute to the development

of indigenous solutions in semiconductor and automotive technology.

The one-year collaborative project is led by Dr. Sheikh Aamir Ahsan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, who serves as the Principal Investigator (PI) for NIT Srinagar. Others include Prof. (HAG) Mohd Farooq Wani, High Temperature Tribology Laboratory, and Head MED, NIT Srinagar, Prof. (HAG) G A Harmain, from Mechanical Engineering, Prof. Adnan Qayoum, (MED), Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Farhad Ilahi Bakhsh, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering Department, Dr. Mohammad Ahsan Chishti, Associate Professor & Associate Dean (Research & Consultancy), Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Dr. Anshul Gupta, Assistant Professor, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Dr. Ikhlq Hussain, Assistant Professor, Electrical

Engineering, Dr. Harkirat Singh, Assistant Professor, Physical Sciences, Dr. Azher Jameel, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Hareesh Myneni, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering. Others include Dr. Janibul Bashir, Assistant Professor, Information Technology, Dr. Gh Rasool Begh, Associate Professor, Electronics & Communication, Dr. Brajendra Singh Sengar, Assistant Professor, Electronics and Communication, Dr. Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering and Dr. Mohd Nadeem Bhat, Scientific Officer, Central Research Facility Centre, Meanwhile the sanctioned amount of ₹2.3 crore will be administered by the hub institution, IIT Kanpur, for collaborative activities proposed under the PAIR scheme. While the funds will remain with the hub, spoke institu-

tions like NIT Srinagar will actively participate in all research and development components of the project.

Congratulating the NIT Srinagar team, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director, NIT Srinagar, said that the prestigious collaboration with IIT Kanpur is a testament to the growing research strength of NIT Srinagar. "The PAIR scheme reflects the national commitment to drive innovation through institutional synergy and thematic research. The semiconductor and automotive sectors are strategic pillars for India's technological future, and we are proud to contribute to this national mission," he added.

Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar, NIT Srinagar, said this project showcases the strength of our multidisciplinary faculty and the collaborative spirit that defines NIT Srinagar. "I congratulate the Principal Investigator, co-investigators, and all involved for securing this highly competitive grant. Such initiatives will enhance our research visibility at national and interna-

tional levels," he said.

Dean Research and Consultancy Prof. Roohie Naaz said that this collaboration will catalyze interdisciplinary research and open new doors for innovation-driven growth. It is a significant milestone in our pursuit of becoming a research-intensive institute aligned with national priorities," she said. Apart from NIT Srinagar, other spoke institutions under this PAIR-B network include Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Kanpur University, Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una, King George's Medical University (KGMU) Lucknow, NIT Arunachal Pradesh, and Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. The PAIR scheme, launched by the ANRF, is designed to boost research in Indian institutions with limited infrastructure by connecting them with established research hubs. It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and emphasizes mentoring, capacity building, and collaborative innovation across academia, industry, and policy sectors.