CM launches J&K AI Centre of Excellence and dedicates Project Phoenix to people of J&K at IIT Jammu

Initiatives to advance AI-enabled governance, innovation, entrepreneurship and digital market access across J&K

Jammu Bulletin News
Jammu, Aug 7:

The Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir today launched the J&K Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (AI CoE) and dedicated Project Phoenix, a digital commerce platform, to the people of Jammu & Kashmir at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu.The initiatives aim to strengthen technology-driven governance, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, and expand economic opportunities across Jammu & Kashmir through the adoption of emerging technologies and greater digital market access.

The launch was held in the presence of Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Shri Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K; and Shri Saurabh Bhagat, Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, along with other dignitaries and stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted the importance of harnessing emerging technologies to improve governance and public service delivery while creating meaningful opportunities for local entrepreneurs, artisans and enterprises. "Artificial Intelligence must ultimately translate into better outcomes for people. The Centre of Excellence at IIT Jammu will enable us to harness technology for more efficient, responsive and citizen-centric governance, while Project Phoenix will create new avenues for our artisans, self-help groups, startups and MSMEs to access wider markets. Together, these initiatives represent our commitment to using technology for inclusive growth and creating greater opportunities for the people of Jammu & Kashmir," the Hon'ble Chief Minister said.

The J&K Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence, established at IIT Jammu with the support of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and the Information Technology Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, will serve as a hub for AI research, benchmarking, solution evaluation, technology customisation and deployment support.

The Centre will collaborate with government departments, academic institutions, startups and industry partners to develop and deploy AI-enabled solutions addressing real-world challenges in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, disaster management, governance and citizen services. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to translating research and emerging technologies into solutions that contribute meaningfully to regional and national development. "At IIT Jammu, our endeavour is to ensure that research and emerging technologies translate into solutions with tangible societal impact. Through the AI Centre of Excellence, we look forward to working closely with the Government, industry, startups and academia to develop, evaluate and deploy AI solutions for real-world challenges. Project Phoenix further complements this vision by leveraging technology to strengthen entrepreneurship and expand market opportunities for local producers and enterprises," Prof. Gaur said.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also dedicated Project Phoenix to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The digital commerce platform has been designed to connect artisans, self-help groups, cooperatives, startups, brands and MSMEs from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh with wider national and global markets. The platform will simplify digital onboarding, product listing, discovery and market access. Its future-ready architecture will progressively integrate AI-enabled features, including multilingual interfaces, intelligent search, automated cataloguing, translation, customer support and business analytics, helping participating enterprises strengthen their digital presence and reach new customers.

The launch of the J&K AI Centre of Excellence and Project Phoenix marks an important step towards building a knowledge-driven and innovation-led ecosystem that brings together government, academia, industry, startups and entrepreneurs to address real-world challenges while promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.IIT Jammu has invited startups, MSMEs, artisans, self-help groups, cooperatives and brands from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to register with Project Phoenix and bring their products to wider digital markets.

Arvind Gupta inaugurates 36 lakh drain project in Ward-40

Reaffirms commitment to better civic infrastructure

Jammu Bulletin News
Jammu, Aug 7:

Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West and senior BJP leader, inaugurated the construction work of a drain worth rupees 36 lakh in Ward-40 under Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Division-III, strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public amenities in the Shankar Vihar, and Vishal Nagar areas of Talab Tillo. J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Talab Tillo Mandal President Anil Angral, former corporators Neelam Nargotra and Chaman Lal Bhagat, Mandal General Secretary Arun Dubey, Paramjeet Kour, Sonali Gupta, Raj Kumar Raji, senior party leaders, and a large number of local residents, were present on the occasion.

Arvind Gupta, addressing on the occasion, said that providing quality civic infrastructure and ensuring better living conditions for the people remain the top priorities of the BJP. He said that proper drainage is essential for maintaining sanitation, preventing waterlogging, and protecting public health, particularly during the monsoon season. He added that the ?36 lakh project will provide lasting relief to the residents of Ward-40 and significantly improve the overall civic environment.

Gupta emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, development has reached every section of society, and the BJP remains committed to ensuring that every deserving locality receives the benefits of development without discrimination. He assured the people that all genuine public issues would continue to be addressed on priority.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, speaking on the occasion, said that the BJP believes in development-driven politics and has consistently worked to fulfil the aspirations of the people through visible and meaningful projects. He said that the completion of such civic works reflects the party's commitment to improving the quality of life of citizens. Anil Angral said that the drain project was a long-pending demand of the local residents and thanked Arvind Gupta for ensuring its approval and execution. He stated that the people of the area have full faith in the BJP's commitment to development and public welfare.

Neelam Nargotra said that the project would greatly benefit the residents by addressing the persistent problem of waterlogging and improving sanitation in the locality. She appreciated the continuous efforts being made for the development of Jammu West.

Chaman Lal Bhagat said that the BJP has consistently prioritized public welfare and infrastructure development. He expressed confidence that several more developmental projects would soon be taken up in the area to further improve civic amenities.

PSPS GCW celebrates Independence Day with patriotic competitions

Jammu Bulletin News
Jammu, Aug 7:

Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women (GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, organised a series of intra-college competitions as part of the Independence Day 2026 celebrations, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students representing various departments.The celebrations were aimed at fostering patriotism, promoting creativity and creating awareness about India's rich cultural heritage, democratic values and the sacrifices made during the freedom struggle. A range of academic, literary and cultural competitions was organised under the aegis of different departments and units of the college. The Department of Home Science conducted a Painting Competition on the theme "Important Events of the Freedom Struggle," encouraging students to depict landmark moments from India's journey to independence through art.

The Departments of Hindi, English and Urdu jointly organised an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Drug-Free India: Towards a Healthy and Empowered Nation," providing students with an opportunity to express their views on the importance of building a healthy, addiction-free society. The NCC and NSS Units jointly organised a seminar on the theme "Responsible Youth: Architects of a Strong Nation," highlighting the pivotal role of young citizens in nation-building, social responsibility and democratic participation. To strengthen students' understanding of India's freedom movement and constitutional values, the Departments of History and Political Science organised a Quiz Competition on "National Freedom Struggle and National Heroes." The event tested participants' knowledge of India's independence movement, Constitution and eminent freedom fighters. Adding a musical dimension to the celebrations, the Department of Music conducted a National Anthem Singing Competition in both solo and group categories. The participants showcased their patriotic fervour and musical talent through inspiring performances. The events were organised under the guidance of Principal Dr. Kulvinder Kour, who appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students and faculty members. She lauded the dedicated efforts of the organising departments and faculty coordinators for successfully conducting the competitions and making the Independence Day celebrations meaningful, educational and inspiring.The programme concluded on a patriotic note, reinforcing among students the values of national pride, unity, discipline and collective responsibility towards building a stronger and more prosperous India.

Baramulla Police hold 30 Thana Diwas meetings to strengthen community policing

Jammu Bulletin News
Baramulla, Aug 7:

As part of its ongoing community policing initiative, Baramulla Police organised 30 Police–Public Interaction Programmes (Thana Diwas) across the district to strengthen police-public relations and address issues concerning local residents. The programmes were held at various locations, including Whole Market Baramulla, Towheed Gunj, Noorbagh, Zoogiyar, Shaipora, Faqirwani, Kralpora, Rasrapora, Serwo, Kripal Garh, Takiya Tapper, Khore Sherabad, Magraypora, Burzawachan, Shirpora, Muran Tangwari, Nowpora Jagir, Chanpora, Kilwara, Panditpora, Gulabdaji, Kandwa, Pandoori, Hillen Pehlipora, Bodrali, Nowpora, Pringal, Bijhama AB, Dardkote and Sarai, witnessing active participation from local residents. During the interaction programmes, police officers listened to public grievances and suggestions. Residents highlighted issues related to drinking water supply, electricity, drainage, road connectivity, verification procedures, cybercrime and the growing menace of drug abuse. Police officers also sensitised participants about cyber safety, public security measures and the effective use of the Dial-112 emergency response service. The participants were assured that all genuine civic issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. Special emphasis was laid on creating awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse, particularly among the youth. Citizens were urged to remain vigilant and cooperate with the police in the collective fight against narcotics and other crimes.

Indian Army conducts Khairiyat patrol at Banj & Bhimdasa

Jammu Bulletin News
Ramban, Aug 7:

Reaffirming its commitment to the welfare of people living in remote and inaccessible areas, the Indian Army conducted a Khairiyat Patrol in the remote village of Banj Bhimdasa in Gool Tehsil, Ramban District.As part of the patrol, Indian Army personnel interacted with local residents to assess their well-being and address their immediate concerns. Basic medical assistance, health check-ups and essential medicines were provided to those in need, particularly elderly residents and other vulnerable members of the community who have limited access to healthcare facilities. The Khairiyat Patrol served as an important platform to strengthen the enduring bond of trust and mutual confidence between the Indian Army and the local population through meaningful interaction and timely humanitarian assistance.The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the people living in remote areas by extending humanitarian support alongside its operational responsibilities. Such initiatives continue to reinforce the spirit of 'Awaam Ki Fauj', ensuring care, compassion and assistance reach even the farthest corners of the region.

GDC Majalta hosts writing competition on India's journey from freedom to progress

Jammu Bulletin News
Majalta, Aug 7:

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College, Majalta, organised a Writing Competition today under the inspiring theme "From Freedom to Progress: India's Journey in Eight Decades."The event was conducted under the patronage of Dr. Alpana Vohra, Principal of the College, as part of the institution's ongoing commitment to promoting patriotism, critical thinking, and creative expression among students in the run-up to the celebration of India's 80 years of Independence. Through their well-researched and insightful essays, the participants reflected upon the country's achievements in democracy, education, science and technology, women empowerment, economic development, social justice, and its vision for a developed India. Dr. Alpana Vohra, Principal of the College, appreciated the efforts of IQAC in organising meaningful academic activities that inspire students to develop a deeper understanding of the nation's rich history and its journey towards progress. She observed that such competitions provide an excellent platform for students to articulate their ideas while strengthening their writing and analytical skills. Mr.Manjeet Kumar of Semester V emerged as one of the outstanding performers, while Disha Rani, Neha Devi, and Afreen of Semester I also secured Certificates of Merit for their commendable performances. The event was organised by Dr. Chander Mohan, Head, Department of English and Convenor, IQAC, who highlighted the importance of writing as a powerful medium for preserving history, expressing ideas, and inspiring social change.

Sat Sharma raises J&K's industrial growth in Rajya Sabha

Piyush Goyal highlights 12,665 Cr domestic, 500 cr foreign investment proposals

Jammu Bulletin News
Jammu, Aug 7:

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) raised an issue regarding accelerating foreign investment and industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir, seeking details on proposals received from international investors, sectors attracting foreign investment, and initiatives taken by the Union Government to promote industrial and manufacturing growth in the Union Territory in the Rajya Sabha. Replying to the question, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal informed the House that the Government of India has undertaken a series of major initiatives to strengthen the industrial ecosystem across the country, including Jammu & Kashmir. These include flagship programmes such as Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, Startup India, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes, One District One Product (ODOP), the Industrial Information System, the Single Window System for investment clearances, and the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), aimed at creating world-class manufacturing hubs with modern infrastructure. The Minister further informed that the recently launched Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) seeks to develop 100 investment-ready industrial parks across the country with a financial outlay of Rs 33,660 crore, providing assistance of up to Rs 1 crore per acre for eligible infrastructure components. Jammu & Kashmir will also benefit from this nationwide initiative.

Giving specific details about Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister stated that the Government has implemented Special Package I & II, the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS)-2017, and the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS)-2021 to accelerate industrialization, attract investment, and generate employment. Under NCSS, 918 industrial units have registered with proposed investments worth Rs 12,665.47 crore. Out of 398 eligible units, 292 have already commenced commercial production after grounding investments of approximately Rs 3,415 crore, generating employment for nearly 29,000 people.

The Government also informed that Jammu & Kashmir has notified the Industrial Policy 2021-30, Industrial Land Allotment Policy, Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, and the Policy for Promotion of Foreign Investment in the Industrial Sector to create a favourable investment climate. Under this policy, three foreign investment proposals worth Rs 500 crore have already been received. During FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, foreign investment inflows were reported in sectors including food processing, computer software and hardware, pharmaceuticals, trading, hotel & tourism, and services. Sat Sharma said that the reply reflects the Union Government's sustained commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant investment destination. He said the Centre's focused industrial policies, infrastructure development, and investor-friendly reforms are opening new avenues for employment generation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, and economic growth across the Union Territory.

He reiterated that the BJP-led Government remains committed to ensuring that the people of Jammu & Kashmir fully benefit from the region's growing industrial potential and the increasing confidence of both domestic and foreign investors.

DG Rural Sanitation reviews SBM(G) progress in Poonch

Jammu Bulletin News
Poonch, Aug 7:

Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra (JKAS) today chaired a high-level review meeting in Poonch to assess the progress of key initiatives under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and review the implementation of rural sanitation projects across the district.The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Poonch, Block Development Officers (BDOs) of all the blocks of the district, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, consultants of the Directorate, and other concerned officers.

The review focused on the status of rural sanitation assets, door-to-door waste collection services, tendering of sanitation infrastructure, operation and maintenance of existing assets, and other SBM(G)-related interventions being implemented across the district.During the meeting, the Director General conducted a detailed block-wise review of ongoing projects and directed all Block Development Officers to expedite the implementation of sanctioned works.

She emphasized that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) remains a priority programme and called upon the field functionaries to ensure timely and quality execution of all projects.Stressing the importance of efficient service delivery and sustainable sanitation systems, Malhotra underscored the need to strengthen door-to-door waste collection services and make sanitation assets, including Plastic Waste Management Units, Segregation Sheds, and other solid and liquid waste management infrastructure, fully functional for the benefit of rural communities.

Reiterating the government's commitment to achieving sustainable rural sanitation, the Director General said that effective planning, regular monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and timely execution at the block level are crucial to realizing the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and ensuring cleaner, healthier, and more resilient villages across Poonch district.

A detailed technical session on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026.The session focused on the principle of buy-back responsibility, highlighting the obligation of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) to establish effective mechanisms for the collection, channelization, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of post-consumer waste generated from their products and packaging.

Vinay Gupta chairs BJP District Akhnoor meet, reviews Tiranga Yatra, Samrasta Abhiyan preparations

Jammu Bulletin News
Akhnoor, Aug 7:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Prabhari District Akhnoor, Vinay Gupta, today chaired an important organisational meeting to comprehensively review and finalise preparations for the Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Ji Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan, Tiranga Yatra and the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The meeting was organised under the leadership of District Akhnoor President Kuldeep Banotra and witnessed enthusiastic participation of senior party leaders, office-bearers and grassroots workers from across the district.

The meeting was attended by Inderjit Khajuria, Vistarak Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency; MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, Seh Parbhari Vaishno Sharma, former MLA Rajeev Sharma; Krishan Lal Bhagat; former DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh; former DDC Bhushan Bral; former BDC Chairperson Sushma Sharma; Urban Local Body Co-Convenor Rakesh Malhotra; Surinder Singh; Shakti Bhagat General Secretaries; along with Mandal Presidents, Morcha District Presidents and a large number of other party functionaries and karyakartas. Addressing the gathering, Prabhari District Akhnoor Vinay Gupta emphasised the need for meticulous planning, disciplined execution and complete coordination at every level to ensure the successful implementation of all programmes down to the booth level. He stated that the BJP leadership is closely monitoring every activity so that the campaigns achieve their intended impact from the district headquarters to the remotest mandals and booths of Akhnoor. Gupta underlined that the party remains fully committed to executing both the social harmony initiatives and the national unity programmes with utmost dedication, ensuring that the messages of national integration, social samrasta and patriotic fervour reach every household. He particularly guided the party Karyekartas of Akhnoor district to participate with full enthusiasm in the ongoing fortnight-long programmes.

Vinay Gupta urged karyakartas to effectively carry out all assigned responsibilities under the Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Ji Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan and the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, taking these initiatives directly to the people. He said this sustained public contact would enable citizens to witness how the BJP continuously works among the masses for the nation's development and progress while upholding the ideals of social harmony and national pride.

MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat and District President Kuldeep Banotra, Inderjit Khajuria Vistark Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, Seh Parbhari Vaishno Sharma, Ex MLA Rajeev Sharma, Ex MLA Krishan Lal Bhagat also addressed the meeting and boosted the morale of the party workers. They called upon all office-bearers and karyakartas to work with renewed energy, coordination and a spirit of service so that every programme is implemented in a time-bound and impactful manner.

Indian Army conducts youth career counselling at Dharmari

Jammu Bulletin News
Reasi, Aug 7:

As part of its continued commitment towards empowering the youth and promoting education and career development in remote areas, The Indian Army organised a Youth Career Counselling Programme at Dharmari, Reasi, on 06 Aug 2026.The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring youth, teachers and members of the local community. The interactive session provided a valuable platform for participants to gain insights into various career opportunities and educational pathways. During the programme, detailed guidance was provided to students of Class X, XI and XII on making informed career choices. The session was conducted by suitably qualified officers, who guided the students on career opportunities in the Defence Forces, higher education, vocational training, skill development programmes, Government employment opportunities and competitive examinations.

Students were encouraged to identify their strengths, enhance their skills and pursue their aspirations with confidence, thereby contributing towards nation-building and the overall development of the region. Session provided a valuable platform for participants to gain insights into various career opportunities and educational pathways.

The participants appreciated the Indian Army's initiative in organising the counselling programme and acknowledged its continued efforts in supporting the educational aspirations and overall development of the youth. The event further strengthened the bond of trust and cooperation between the Indian Army and the local community.

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